



Founded in 1959
by Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson
PREVENTION *and* TREATMENT of CHILD ABUSE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Chapters

There is no Childhelp program or facility in my area? Can I still form a Chapter?

Yes. Follow the guidelines provided by Childhelp, and work with the National Headquarters to bring other interested parties in your community or state together. Forming a Chapter requires a minimum of 25 dedicated volunteers with a passion for eradicating child abuse. This group may include your personal friends, teachers, business leaders, healthcare professionals, government officials . . . anyone with an interest in child abuse prevention, treatment and advocacy.

How is the Chapter to be governed?

Each Chapter operates under a set of bylaws provided by Childhelp. Officers are selected for each group . . . President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair, Fundraising Chair, Publicity Chair, Village Liaison (where applicable), Parliamentarian, and Chaplain. Additional volunteers are needed to produce the Chapter newsletter, keep historical records, make telephone calls, and fill a variety of roles on committees formed under the Chairs.

Do I pay dues?

Yes, each Chapter member is assessed dues annually, usually in April. Members may join as an Individual for \$50, as a Family for \$75, as a Corporation for \$250, or as a Lifetime member for \$1,500. A \$10 Student membership is also available for high school and college students. Dues may be paid in increments, if necessary; and these funds provide for the Chapter's operational expenses. The National office provides printed materials to the Chapter at no cost, however . . . letterhead, envelopes, membership packets, brochures, Hotline bookmarks, etc.

How often does the membership meet?

Chapters meet as often as needed to accomplish their program and fundraising goals, but we encourage monthly meetings. Because of today's fast-paced life, each meeting is conducted with an agenda put together by the Chapter President, encouraging a limited meeting time.

Do I have to attend meetings in order to be an active member?

Chapter members are encouraged to attend scheduled meetings in order to carry out the goals of the group, but meeting attendance is optional. Volunteers are welcome at any level of support they can offer.

Will I be working directly with abused children?

If there is a Childhelp facility in your area, you are most welcome to go through the screening process to become a volunteer at a Village, Group Home or Advocacy Center. We also encourage Chapter members to become actively involved as mentors and “Special Friends” to the children at the Villages.

What other Childhelp programs are available if there are no facilities or programs in my area?

Childhelp’s prevention and education program, Good Touch/Bad Touch, will soon be introduced in schools across the country and will require trained facilitators to present the classroom materials. Volunteers can also assist Childhelp in gaining access to the school system.

Does a Chapter do fundraising; and if so, what kind?

Chapters put on a variety of creative special events to provide the funding for Childhelp programs and facilities, such as black tie galas and silent auctions, motorcycle rides, golf tournaments, fashion shows, wine festivals, celebrity Monopoly tournaments, holiday boutiques, casino nights, art and antique auctions, and celebrity Pictionary, to name a few. Corporate sponsorship, along with ticket sales, provides the majority of the dollars raised.

I don’t have any experience in fundraising? Will I get support from the National Headquarters?

Yes. Our corporate office will provide each Chapter with a Resource Manual that gives detailed instruction for each step involved in planning a special event, as well as phone support from our Special Events Department. This manual will also be available on our website in the near future. Childhelp can also connect you with other volunteers who have extensive experience with special events and corporate fundraising.

How much money is a Chapter required to raise annually?

Childhelp will work with a Chapter to set an attainable monetary goal, and funds raised by the Chapter will be used to support existing Childhelp programs and services provided by the National Headquarters, including our 24-hour crisis Hotline.

Will there be a local advisory board in my state to help provide corporate support for Chapter fundraisers?

It will be the decision of the National Board of Childhelp to determine the need for a state advisory board.

Will the funds raised by my Chapter stay in my community or state?

All funds raised by a Chapter are sent to our National Headquarters where they are disbursed to fund our existing programs and facilities, the support services provided by corporate office and our 24-hour crisis Hotline, 1-800-4-A-CHILD. When new programs in your community are approved by the National Board of Directors, funding for these programs will be provided from funds raised in your state.

Corporate donors want their contributions to be used in this community. What can I tell them to satisfy this requirement?

Childhelp's 24-hour Hotline provides services for children in all 50 states, in Canada and the Caribbean. When introduced into the schools in your community, our prevention program, Good Touch/Bad Touch, will identify and help children currently in abusive situations and prevent others from suffering abuse by teaching them how to speak out. When new programs in your community are approved by the National Board of Directors, funding for these programs will be provided from funds raised in your state.

Our new Chapter wants an advocacy center or village in our area. Where do we start?

Building a village or advocacy center is a lengthy process and requires a comprehensive needs assessment of your area. Are there other programs in your community already providing these services? What are the state regulations regarding the placement of abused children in long-term care? What financial assistance will be provided by the state? If it is determined that a Childhelp facility would be beneficial to the community, years of dedicated fundraising will be needed to not only build the facility but maintain it. Strong connections with the business community, as well as ongoing special event fundraising by the Chapter will be needed to sustain these programs.

How can I help if I'm not close to a Childhelp Chapter?

As a person interested in the prevention of child abuse, you are encouraged to host fundraising events in your community to support our 24-hour Hotline and other Childhelp programs. If there is a state Chapter where you live, you may send those funds to their local address or directly to Childhelp's National Headquarters.

What percentage of the funds raised for Childhelp go directly to help abused children?

91%

I want to become a foster parent for abused children? What steps do I take?

Becoming a foster parent for Childhelp requires training from our professional staff. Check with the Department of Social Services in your state to determine their licensing requirements, and then contact Childhelp. Our staff will work with you to provide the training you need.