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Priority Kids Takes Action to Protect Children in Nova Scotia as a Darkness to Light “Partner in Prevention”

Staff Members Trained in Award-Winning Stewards of Children® Program for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Port Williams, NS – December 11, 2020 – Priority Kids, a local training company, has achieved Partner in Prevention status, a designation awarded by the non-profit, Darkness to Light. The designation is given to organizations which take extra steps to protect the children they serve by training staff to understand the issue of child sexual abuse, identify unsafe situations and practices, and react responsibly in the best interest of the children they serve.

34% of children in Canada will be sexually abused before the age of 18. Priority Kids has earned the Partner in Prevention designation by providing Stewards of Children® training to over 90% of its management, staff, and volunteers. This evidence-informed program is scientifically proven to help participants prevent and respond to child sexual abuse.

Partner in Prevention was created as a standard to help parents and caregivers recognize organizations that take child protection seriously by implementing policy and training staff to prevent child sexual abuse.

Priority Kids is the first organization in Nova Scotia to acquire the status. CEO and Lead Trainer, Angela Johnston, is on a mission to help other organizations to achieve the designation and promote strategies that protect children from sexual abuse.

Johnston has been an Independent Authorized Facilitator, trained by Darkness to Light, for the past decade. She has trained over 400 adults. But, as 2020 approached Johnston says she was frustrated with that number, not proud of her accomplishment. “I have over 400 knowledge tests and evaluation forms, so I know that participants learn new information and that they like the training”. Johnston says that a popular comment she receives is ‘everyone should have this training’.

Johnston says that she agrees, but her focus is on training staff and volunteers who work with and serve kids. “These organizations and professionals have an influence on our children and when they are trained, the learning will be passed on to the families that they serve” says Johnston.

Johnston says her mission is to eradicate childhood sexual abuse. This is a significant goal and Johnston says it is why she founded Priority Kids, a training and advocacy company.

“When I was an Independent Facilitator, I didn’t have the infrastructure in place to encourage organizations to consider this training option, and I didn’t have a way to support participants who completed the training and were motivated to do more”.

Johnston created Priority Kids to solve these problems. With a team of trainers, administration and marketing support, Priority Kids is equipped to offer resources and support to the broader community.

“We know that this topic is difficult and uncomfortable for people and we are committed to helping organizations navigate the issue and understand the role they have in prevention”.

Darkness to Light is an international organization that leads the movement to end child sexual abuse by educating and empowering adults in education, youth serving organizations, and communities to protect children. Darkness to Light has affiliates across the United States and in 17 international locations.

“I continue to admire Darkness to Light’s approach to prevention. There is something about training adults to protect children that is often overlooked but has such a powerful impact. Darkness to Light has really captured an understanding of this complex issue. Their training helps demystify and prioritize our prevention efforts.”

Johnston says that transitioning to virtual trainings and virtual presentations was unexpected but has not hindered her ability to promote prevention strategies or provide training. “I hear people becoming exhausted with virtual meetings, but our training tends to create a sense of enthusiasm and optimism which are nice feelings to have at the end of a Zoom call”.

To learn more about child sexual abuse prevention training or to enroll your organization in Darkness to Light’s “Partner in Prevention” program, please contact www.prioritykids.ca.

About Priority Kids Training Programs:

Priority Kids is a training and advocacy company on a mission to eradicate childhood sexual abuse. Based in Nova Scotia, CEO and Lead Trainer, Angela Johnston has been facilitating prevention training for over 10 years. She was a regional coordinator with the provincially funded Sexual Violence Project and was appointed to the Provincial Public Awareness committee that produced an award-winning campaign.

About Darkness to Light:

Darkness to Light is a non-profit organization with the mission to empower adults to prevent child sexual abuse. Through education and awareness, the organization seeks to create a safer world for children to grow and thrive. Darkness to Light’s flagship program, Stewards of Children®, is a one-of-a-kind, award-winning training that teaches adults to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. More than 2 million adults have been trained using the program. For more information, visit www.D2L.org.

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