



**YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT
PROJECT**



BEAU BIDEN FOUNDATION®
FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

The Beau Biden Foundation Partners to Provide the Youth Empowerment Project Staff with Stewards of Children® Trainings

The two-hour training teaches adults practical actions to prevent child sexual abuse or intervene if abuse is suspected

NEW ORLEANS, LA – The Beau Biden Foundation for the Protection of Children (BBF) is partnering with the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) to provide the YEP staff and mentors in New Orleans with Darkness to Light's *Stewards of Children®* child abuse prevention and intervention training. These trainings are intended to provide YEP staff and mentors with the tools to identify instances of child sexual abuse and how to intervene if abuse is suspected. One in ten children will be abused before the age of 18.

This training is being conducted as part of YEP's participation in the Foundation's *Shield of Protection Initiative®*, a larger examination of YEP's policies, procedures, and processes regarding the protection of the children from physical and sexual abuse.

WHO:

Patricia Lewis Dailey, Esq.

Executive Director

Beau Biden Foundation for the Protection of Children.

Melissa Sawyer

Co- Founder and Executive Director

Youth Empowerment Project (YEP)

WHAT:

Stewards of Children® is based on Darkness to Light's *5 Steps to Protecting Our Children™* and is brought locally into communities by a network of over 9,000 volunteer facilitators. Darkness to Light, like the Beau Biden Foundation, believes that every child has the right to grow up healthy, happy, and safe. It is guided by its vision to create a world where child sexual abuse does not exist. BBF and Darkness to Light believe that protecting children is an adult responsibility, and education is critical for prevention of child sexual abuse.

WHEN:

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 from 10:30AM – 12:00PM EST.

WHERE:

1529 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70113

PRESS AVAILABILITY: Please arrive at 1529 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70113 by 11:00 am for stand-up interviews and to capture b-roll of the training.

About YEP:

Founded in 2004, the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) is a community-based nonprofit organization engaging underserved young people through mentoring, education, employment readiness and enrichment services. In 2018, YEP served 1,262 young people through a total of 11 programs at six sites. To learn more visit: www.youthempowermentproject.org or follow YEP on social media: @YEPNOLA.

About the Beau Biden Foundation:

The Beau Biden Foundation for the Protection of Children (BBF) was established in June 2015 as an operating non-profit to continue Joseph R. “Beau” Biden, III’s commitment to protect children from the threat of abuse — either at the hands of a predator or a peer. The Foundation believes that child abuse can be prevented through effectively educating adults and children, developing the next generation of child welfare professionals, and strengthening child protection laws around the country.

To learn more about the Foundation, visit www.BeauBidenFoundation.org and follow the Beau Biden Foundation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (@BeauBidenFdn).

QUOTE SHEET

“Child sexual abuse happens every day, but no one wants to think about it. I’m a retired cop I’ve seen first-hand people’s denial. This program teaches adults what it looks like, how to stop it, and what to say when a child divulges they’ve been abused.”

- Claudine Malone
Program Coordinator
The Beau Biden Foundation

“The best way to explain this, is that it is literally an ‘emotional rewarding roller coaster.’ First, you start off nervous, looking to make sure you stay on task. Second, is dealing with the awkward silence that happens during the discussions. I wondered ‘Is this really helpful?’ But finally, when you have audience members say, ‘Thank you’ and you see them walking out with resources in hand...the nervousness subsides, and you feel the belief that you planted a seed of empowerment in a participant who will help a child and their family.”

- Alfonso Jones
Delaware State Police, School Resource Officer and certified Stewards of Children® facilitator

“I never imagined how much of an impact this training would have on me, setting me free from many thoughts I had. I now feel confident to speak to not just my child, but to any child about abuse.”

- School nurse for MACCS, Philadelphia area charter schools

“I spent the majority of my career in major crimes, so I looked forward to taking this training. I highly recommend it as a tool to instruct teachers, as well as law enforcement officials.”

- Member of the National Association of School Resource Officers

“Most of our time together in opening faculty meetings this year focused on the safety and wellbeing of our students. Our entire faculty and staff went through the Stewards of Children program. This program, and its outstanding facilitator, was at once compelling and sobering, but also enlightening and empowering. Weighty issues surrounding school safety and student wellbeing are unfortunately part of the modern reality of our education system. BBF’s programs and resources provide a great support to what is arguably the most important counter to this reality: the knowledge base and preparedness of our people who are entrusted to care

for kids. Confronting these realities with the right support only serves to prepare and focus us on our most important priority providing a safe, healthy and happy experience for our children.”

- Dr. Daniel Hickey
Upland Country Day School

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