Dear Hope of Survivors Family,

What a hectic month it has been already! For many of you, August brings back-to-school schedules and obligations. Here at The Hope of Survivors, August brings exhibit opportunities.

At the ASI Convention held in Grand Rapids earlier this month, we were blessed to come in contact with many people who expressed a desire to know more about The Hope of Survivors and the issue of clergy sexual abuse. We received a very favorable response and several requests for seminars in the future. This will really help us to educate others about clergy sexual abuse and, thereby, prevent some future occurrences.

As always happens when we exhibit somewhere, victims will find The Hope of Survivors for the first time. It can be a very emotional time for them, as it starts to sink in that they are not alone. That there is help. That, maybe, just maybe, there is also hope. This time was no exception, as several new victims (out of 2,000-3,000 attendees) found us. One couple drove from several hours away to meet with us. Once there, the victim was so scared she almost didn't speak to us. Thankfully, God enabled us to talk and pray together and now we look forward to having her and her husband attend an in-house program sometime in the future.

Speaking of the Renewal Center, we have several victims who have applied for scholarships to attend. Will you help sponsor one of more of these victims so they can obtain the help they need? Thank you for your consideration.

But, ASI isn't the only venue where you would find The Hope of Survivors this month! We also had a booth at the Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, WI. At this event, held once every five years, there were over 50,000 youth and chaperones present. This kept staff busy at the booth and barely enabled Vivionne to grab a bite to eat.

Thank you for helping victims find hope. These exhibits, though costly, are some of the best ways in which to reach out to victims and raise awareness. Through your prayers and financial support, you are empowering and equipping clergy and church leaders to take a strong stand against this devastating abuse. You are giving survivors a new lease on life as they are assisted on their healing journey. You are helping save others...
from becoming victimized by enabling us to provide educational seminars and resources. Truly, YOU are saving lives. Thank you! Here are some of the responses we received from Michigan:

"Thank you again for all you and Steve are doing!! It was such a blessing to finally meet you and be with someone who truly understands what I've been through! A bond that is indescribable. I'm looking forward to finally getting the help and support I've needed for so long but it's also a little scary too!"--MI

"I listened to your interview with Shelly [on 3ABN] this morning, Wow, so powerful and so informative! I can't wait to listen to more of them. Your Ministry is so well organized and very professional. I just wanted to take the time and thank you for responding to my email and referring me for help so quickly. I was called the same afternoon!! That said a lot to me and that I mattered!"--MI

On a lighter side, it was neat to share some laughter as one victim was said she wished The Hope of Survivors had been around when she was abused and needed it, to which I replied, "I wish The Hope of Survivors had been around when I needed it too!" Thankfully, The Hope of Survivors is here now and has already helped thousands of victims worldwide. To God alone be the glory!

God bless you,
Samantha Nelson
Vice President & CEO