



Cherish All Children's mission is to educate, equip, and engage churches and communities to prevent child sexual exploitation and trafficking. Throughout the pandemic, there has been a *significant* increase in online exploitation. Cherish All Children's work is addressing this with youth, parents, and all concerned adults to provide young people with the skills to keep themselves safe online.

- In 2021, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's CyberTipline received 29.3 million reports of suspected child sexual exploitation, an increase of 35% from 2020.

Here's how Cherish All Children responded in 2021 to support churches in keeping children and youth safe in our communities:

- In January, we hosted a community event "Online Safety for Youth" via Zoom, inviting Mpls & St. Paul Synod churches and the general public.
- We created a 4-session [Safe & Healthy Relationships Youth Guide](#) for middle school and high school youth groups, with engaging activities, video and conversation to guide youth in making safe choices for themselves and their peers.
- We presented to church youth groups, adult forums, and Zoom worship throughout the year, focused especially on online safety and healthy relationships.
- 70 walkers/runners participated in a virtual Cherish All Children 5K in June, helping to raise \$22,000 for our work – thank you for all the support and fun!

We have a dedicated St. Paul Area Synod Ministry Team reaching out to congregations to engage in this critical work, and we'd love to add Minneapolis Area Synod members to partner with us – reaching more youth and families to keep them safe.

- Visit cherishallchildren.org to find resources and learn more, or contact joy.mcelroy@cherishallchildren.org.

Thank you for your faithfulness and commitment to cherishing all children!

Joy McElroy
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A service of Lutheran Social Service of MN