

Safe Kids. Sound Futures.



Safe Kids.

Our Services

Our History



Since 1985, PEI Kids has served the Greater Mercer County community with the mission of promoting and maintaining a safe environment for all children. PEI Kids began as Prevention Education, Inc., when our founders, who worked at a rape crisis center, discovered there were no prevention programs for children in Mercer County regarding child sexual abuse and child assault prevention. Among the organization's initial successes was implementing one of the first

Child Assault Prevention (CAP) projects in New Jersey, which the Governor's Task Force on Preventing Child Abuse selected as the first primary prevention program in the State. Since that time, our services have expanded to include programs relating to personal safety, child sexual abuse counseling, school safety and bullying, anger management, juvenile intervention and gang prevention, and support services for children in foster care.

Our Clients



Working each day toward the aspiration of "Safe Kids, Sound Futures," PEI Kids serves more than 14,000 Mercer County children and their families each year. Whether our client is a pre-adolescent child being molested; a toddler in foster care eager to visit his siblings; a shy middle-schooler being lured by gang culture; or a new student being bullied by classmates, PEI Kids counsels and supports children at some of the most vulnerable times in their lives.

PEI Kids serves children in the Greater Mercer County area regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or disability. Our office is handicap-accessible and bilingual staff provide services in English and Spanish. Clients are referred through a large network of community partners and organizations, as well as family and community members. We encourage those in need to contact our office to seek program information and support.

Prevention Services

PEI Kids' Prevention Education Services seek to prevent violence and abuse in the lives of children. As the New Jersey *Child Assault Prevention (CAP)* program designee in Mercer County, PEI Kids presents prevention and education programs to pre-K through 8th grade students, as well as parents and educators. These school-based workshops address critical topics, including child assault and sexual abuse prevention, bullying prevention, personal safety, and cyber-safety. Also, as the lead agency of the *Greater Mercer Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse*, PEI Kids seeks to teach

every adult in Mercer County how to prevent, identify, and respond appropriately to child sexual abuse. Using the national Enough Abuse campaign, workshops are targeted toward lay people as well as child-serving organizations and professionals.

Intervention Services

PEI Kids' Intervention Services seek to end violence and abuse in the lives of children and helps them heal from the trauma. Through our *Crisis Intervention for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse* program, PEI Kids provides counseling to child victims of sexual abuse and their non-offending family members. The only program of its kind in Mercer County, therapeutic components include one-on-one trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy for victims, as well as counseling for parents and support groups for victims and non-offending family members. Our *Juvenile Intervention Services* provide at-risk and adjudicated youth with the resources necessary for redirecting their lives. These programs provide violence prevention and conflict resolution skills, gang culture education, tolerance, empathy and critical thinking skills, anger management techniques, and training in respect for authority.

Support Services

For more than 20 years, PEI Kids has provided *Supervised Visitation* services for children in foster care and their families. Through this program, children living in foster care and out-of-home placement visit regularly with their biological family members. Parents are provided with consistent opportunities to bond with their children and demonstrate improved parenting abilities. Through our *Transportation Plus* program, PEI Kids provides transportation for children and family members and for clients receiving counseling in our *Crisis Intervention for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse* program. *Transportation Plus* enables clients to attend visitation, therapeutic, and other important appointments, receive needed services, and meet family and legal obligations.



Our Mission

PEI Kids is dedicated to promoting and maintaining a safe environment for all children. PEI Kids works with the child, family, and caregiver to provide prevention, intervention, and advocacy programs relating to personal safety, sexual abuse, and the overall well-being of the child.

Sound Futures.

Contact Us / Get Involved

PEI Kids receives client referrals through the courts, social services and community organizations, and through family and personal referrals. Community members are encouraged to contact us to seek program information and support as needed.

PEI Kids is supported by government grants and the generosity of foundation, corporate, and individual donors. We welcome additional partners to share in our mission of promoting and maintaining a safe environment for all children. Please contact us to learn more about how you can advance our mission as a donor, volunteer, or community advocate.



Testimonials



"I prayed for the right person to help Jennifer put the pieces of her life back together, to help her get beyond what has happened to lead a normal teenage life. Jennifer is on her way—thanks to you. How can I find words to thank you for giving us back our daughter? PEI Kids is an unbelievable resource for hurting families!" – Mother of a teenage girl in the Crisis Intervention for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse program

"With one program where they were talking about sexual abuse, a little girl came up to me afterward and said that she wanted to talk to me. That afternoon, after telling me her story, the alleged perpetrator was apprehended. I just don't think you can put a price on changing or saving a child's life in the way that this happened!" – Ewing school teacher of 2nd graders in our Child Assault Prevention (CAP) workshop

"... Programs such as CJOOS, led by experienced, personable, and knowledgeable staff ... provide both hope and structured alternatives for youth whose poverty, milieu, and family brokenness have led many of them to say to my colleagues and myself ... 'we don't expect to live past the age of 18.' The value of ... a program such as CJOOS cannot be underestimated." – Greg Rossi, LCSW, community partner of the Comprehensive Juvenile Offender Outreach Services (CJOOS) program



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