



No More Stolen Childhoods

2nd Annual Gala



On October 18, 2008, No More Stolen Childhoods held their 2nd Annual Gala at Oxford Hill Manor. The Rice family, owners of Utz Snack Foods, opened up their magnificent home to help raise awareness and spread the word about childhood sexual abuse. Throughout the evening, guests enjoyed beautiful surroundings, great music, fine foods and a powerful program.

The program highlighted the importance of awareness and education through personal experiences. The emotional journey began with an introduction from Jane Rice, who shared a story about abuse throughout her childhood and the impact it has on her today. Her message was followed by a video presentation from Monty Roberts, the Horse Whisperer. Monty spoke out about his own rocky childhood and his dedication to helping others like Wayne Coffey survive and eventually grow from their pain. Wayne Coffey, founder of No More Stolen Childhoods, continued by sharing his personal story of childhood sexual abuse and his ongoing journey and healing. His talk reinforced the importance of enlightenment and conversation about abuse so that the cycle can be broken and future abuse eliminated. To conclude the moving program, Kelly Willie shared her beautiful and inspirational song "No More Stolen Childhoods."

The 2nd Annual Gala was a great success for No More Stolen Childhoods. We had over 150 attendees and raised over \$50,000 for the organization. No More Stolen Childhoods will use the money raised to hire an executive director. An executive director will help the organization grow, so more people can spread the word.

What's Happening Now?

Wayne Coffey recently spoke at the Woodbourne Center, a home for troubled children. Wayne speaks at the center a few times a year to encourage them and help with their healing process.

Wayne Coffey also joined the board of directors for the Good Shepherd Center, a home for abused girls.

No More Stolen Childhoods just made financial contributions to the Woodbourne Center and the Metro Maryland Counseling Center.

No More Stolen Childhoods is currently working with the AmberWatch Foundation to help spread the word.

The Board of Directors is currently searching for an executive director to help spread the mission to a larger audience.

For more upcoming events and news please visit www.nomorestolenchildhoods.org.

Here are a few responses from guests who attended the Gala.

"It was a touching event where in many cases the emotions were just below the surface of the discussion. There were those in the audience who were open about being directly affected by the issue of abuse; others who could reference only indirect experiences; and many who seemed shocked and concerned about the prevalence of this issue (although they had no specific experiences themselves). There were also quite a few folks who were quiet and somewhat solemn throughout the evening and I won't hazard to guess what was going through their minds. It wasn't an upbeat night, but it also wasn't a depressing event either. Instead, there was a general sense of warmth and compassion for Wayne and what he is trying to build through No More Stolen Childhoods. All in all, I walked away with a larger sense of the issue and comforted that so many good people were there that night to show their support and care about something so difficult yet important to address. Just as with last year, it is an evening I won't soon forget." - Ed Robinson, Vistage Chair

"The personal journey of Wayne Coffey is a profile in courage. The decision to publicly disclose his painful experience as an abuse victim, his powerful testimony about the love of his family and his sensitive portrayal of the ups and downs of his ongoing process of healing have been an inspiration to me. Courage is a crucial gospel value. In Wayne's story of courage, he overcame the tyranny of silence in his own life to help his own healing and to inspire other victims to believe that facing the truth of their abuse will help to set them free. I can only think that Wayne's courage was an inspiration to our hosts as they shared their moving story with us. No More Stolen Childhoods is a beautiful mission, and I hope to be associated with it in the years ahead." - Rev. John W. Swope, SJ, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School

"No More Stolen Childhoods annual event is one that is a must to attend. The Utz family home is a venue that is beautiful and welcoming. The guests are able to venture from room to room enjoying excellent food and wine while learning about the mission of Wayne and his team. Wayne Coffey is a man who is dedicated to saving the spirit and dignity of children whose lives have been interrupted by sexual abuse. It is not only the children of poverty that suffer but also those of wealth. It is a night that will always be remembered not just for the Utz's gracious hospitality but for the bigger picture of educating society against abuse." - Jeanne Gildee

To change the public perception about childhood sexual abuse and to help those abused find fulfillment in their permanently scarred lives.