

A SAFE PLACE

WHAT IS MEANT by a “safe place”? The term “safe space” generally means “a place or environment in which a person or category of people can feel confident that they will not be exposed to discrimination, criticism, harassment, or any other emotional or physical harm” (Oxford Dictionary).

ACTION has safe places around the world for children—places where they can stay and be protected from evil in the streets.

In the Philippines, a ministry called the Lighthouse is run by Andy and Doreen Zuberbuehler. The Lighthouse is a safe and loving home where children can live until they are adopted, reunited with their biological family, or placed with a foster family. It houses children in crisis.

Recently, the Zuberbuehlers received a call, asking if they could accept three children who had been in an online sexual abuse situation. Andy and Doreen gave their OK and enthusiastically welcomed these siblings, one of whom is disabled, moving them from a negative situation to a positive one.

How did this unfold? A special police unit received a tip from a US agency that had arrested a child abuser, who had browsed the internet, looking for potential victims. And who was responsible for the plight of these children? Their mother!

The mother was the go-between, and not only did she make her own children available to abusers, but she also tried to induce other mothers to join her. She was earning a significant amount of money for these mafia-style activities. An investigation has now begun, with



Finding love and nourishment in a safe place.

the aim of putting an end to this unfortunate situation.

For the first time, the siblings are feeling real love and receiving care that includes daily meals, clean clothing, and beds. The Lighthouse has become their safe place.

ACTION has safe places for children throughout the world. Would you consider joining ACTION and helping minister to children at risk in these safe places?

For more information, please contact info@actionintl.org.

The Big Bad Wolf

THE SONG “The Big Bad Wolf” is about three pigs who were trying to protect themselves from a vicious wolf. The wolf’s agenda was to consume at least one of them. It pursued this agenda by blowing down the houses of two of the pigs—houses made of straw and twigs. Those pigs escaped to the house of the third pig, which was made of brick. The wolf wore itself out trying to blow that house down.

There are many “big bad wolves” in society who want to abuse children. They come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. Many are known to the children and do not need to blow hard to gain entry into a child’s life.

In their ministry of safeguarding children, children’s workers are guided by six principles:

1. **Empowerment:** Supporting and encouraging people at risk to make their own decisions and to insist on informed consent.
2. **Prevention:** Endeavoring to act before harm occurs.
3. **Proportionality:** Choosing the least intrusive appropriate response for the risk presented.
4. **Protection:** Supporting and representing those in greatest need.

5. **Partnership:** Pursuing solutions through local services in the communities where they are serving. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting, and reporting neglect and abuse.
6. **Accountability:** Practicing accountability and transparency.

(Source: Social Care Institute for Excellence)



There will always be “big bad wolves,” but safeguarding programs can help knock the wind out of them. ACTION has a safeguarding program. *The safeguarding of children is a responsibility that all organizations have to protect children from abuse by their own staff, programs, operations, and partners.*

Jeremiah 22:3 (NIV): “This is what the LORD says: ‘Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.’”

For more information, please contact info@actionintl.org.

After ministering for many years in Colombia, Phil and Mariela Legal now minister to needy people on the U.S./ Mexico border.

Find out more!

Contact us through any of the following:



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