



“BE BRAVE”
Samantha Runnion
July 26, 1996 - July 15, 2002

Samantha’s
Protection **R**esponsibility **I**nclusion **D**ignity **E**mpowerment
NEIGHBORHOOD CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAM

UNITING AND UPLIFTING COMMUNITIES IN THE PROTECTION AND WONDERMENT OF ALL CHILDREN

Adults who want to join their Neighborhood PRIDE program to help prevent child sexual abuse and abduction sign this Oath and agree to a background check.

PRIDE Member OATH

Protection: If I see or hear anything that makes me suspect that a child is in danger of being hurt or victimized, I will write down the specific concerns and report them to law enforcement and/or Child Protective Services. I will notify fellow PRIDE Members and a child’s parent or guardian if I am concerned that someone may be spending time alone with a child in my PRIDE that would allow an opportunity for inappropriate behavior; *especially* if the person is a PRIDE Member.

Responsibility: I only wear my PRIDE Member vest when I am on PRIDE child watch duty with a partner to ensure that children are safe. If I have to leave a child outside, unattended, I will suggest the child go home and call their parent to let them know that I am no longer on “child watch.” If I volunteer at a PRIDE event or activity I will work with another PRIDE Member and together we will watch until all children have returned home. If a child needs to come into my home for any reason I will notify their parent and at least one additional PRIDE Member when the child arrives and leaves my home. I will never give or loan my PRIDE Member vest to anyone and will notify my PRIDE and TJCF if it is ever lost or stolen.

Inclusion: I understand that children who are alone, or feel as though they are not included in their peer group, are especially vulnerable to predators. I will make every effort to include all of the families in PRIDE events and activities. I will treat all people with respect and will be vigilant in the protection of all children regardless of their age, race, color, ethnicity, religion or religious affiliation, gender, sexual preference, disability, income, physical appearance, nation of origin or any other trait.

Dignity: I will treat all children, teens and adults in my PRIDE with respect and dignity. I will not use profanity or aggressive language around children. I will accept a child’s hug, but will never ask for or solicit physical affection from a child. I will never try to force a child to participate in an activity of any kind.

Empowerment: I will encourage children to assert themselves and verbalize their feelings. I believe children have a right to defend themselves if someone tries to hurt them. I will not emotionally, verbally or physically hurt another person unless someone is trying to hurt me. I will support efforts to bring safety training to the children and families in my community. I will encourage children to trust their instincts and tell a trusted grown-up if anyone tries to hurt or trick them or makes them feel scared, hurt, or unhappy inside.

TOGETHER WE CAN STOP CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN



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WHAT IS THE JOYFUL CHILD FOUNDATION (TJCF)?

The Joyful Child Foundation—In Memory of Samantha Runnion (TJCF) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization founded in 2002 after the abduction, molestation and murder of five-year-old Samantha Runnion. TJCF is dedicated to raising awareness about child sexual abuse and abduction while facilitating proactive community organizing to give everyone an opportunity to participate in the national movement to stop these horrible crimes against children.

WHAT IS Samantha's PRIDE?

Launched in California in January 2004, Samantha's PRIDE is the first program of TJCF. Samantha's PRIDE is a neighborhood child protection program with free training and materials to empower neighbors to protect children from sexual abuse and abduction. Parents volunteer to wear PRIDE Member vests to watch children outside in public view, at neighborhood events, playing or walking to or from school.

THE ONLY KNOWN DETERRENT TO A PREDATOR IS THE RISK OF GETTING CAUGHT.

5 STEPS TO STARTING A Samantha's P.R.I.D.E. NEIGHBORHOOD CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAM

1. Identify two non-related adults to be in the Neighborhood PRIDE.

Please assign a leader as the contact between the PRIDE, the PRIDE Facilitator and TJCF Foundation.

2. Contact TJCF to facilitate a Neighborhood Child Protection Meeting.

A PRIDE Facilitator will share information every parent should know about child sexual abuse and abduction. Attendees are introduced to the PRIDE Program and invited to join their own Neighborhood PRIDE.

3. Volunteers must complete and return a background check application and PRIDE Oath.

Prospective PRIDE Members must present a valid State ID, Drivers License, Military ID or United States Passport to the PRIDE Facilitator in person to verify their identity.

4. Approved volunteers are invited to the PRIDE Vesting Meeting to create a Neighborhood PRIDE Plan, distribute the PRIDE phone tree and present the red PRIDE vests.

To be vested in something means to have the right of ownership. Thus, the PRIDE Vesting meeting is the commencement of the Neighborhood PRIDE and the Members collectively own their PRIDE.

5. PRIDE Members put on red PRIDE vests and watch children in teams, in public outdoor areas; e.g. before and after school, at the park or other community venues and events.

In addition, your Neighborhood PRIDE will have at least two meetings per year and one **annual PRIDE safety event** to share the program with the community. The PRIDE Leader sends TJCF photos of PRIDE activities, monthly logs of volunteer hours and event summary forms.

The tools and information from Samantha's PRIDE are **FREE**.
Endorsed by the National Major Counties Sheriff's Association.

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