



the WatchHouse

KEEPING AN EYE ON SEX OFFENDERS

We Want to Hear From You! Tell Us What You Think About The Watch House.

E-mail us at info@thewatchhouse.org or call 720-273-7441.

A NEWSLETTER FOR SUPPORTERS OF THE WATCH HOUSE

SPRING 2008

The Watch House Overview

The Watch House initiative was created by professionals who work every day to find a solution for the problem of sex offender management. The Watch House will be a secure, 300-bed residential facility in the metro-Denver area. Sex offenders will live there for life, until their sentence is up, or until they are cured. Unfortunately right now, there is no proven cure for sex offenders.

The Watch House will be the first private non-profit organization to monitor repeat

sex offenders 24 hours a day, seven days a week under a zero-tolerance policy. This way, sex offenders have less free time and less privacy, both of which are necessary for them to recommit their crimes. Residents will go to work, pay taxes and earn money to cover the costs of their living and management.

Where sex offenders are the problem, The Watch House is the solution. Now it's time to build it.

A Message From Greig Veeder, Executive Director



Concerned citizens meet to discuss sexual offenders living among them and search Web sites to locate sex offenders' homes and work places. The public is scared, but few understand the full threat sex offenders pose to our communities.

Research shows that the rate of recurrent sex abuse, especially among those who molest children, is extremely high. By the time a sex offender is caught, he likely abused many people, many times. Sex offenders are like the rest of us in one way – they continue to do what they like.

Repetitive sex offenders have a personality disorder. Their moral development is low and their sexual interest is deviant. Not surprisingly, mental health professionals

know of no cure. But mental health treatment is critical to ensure public safety. Only through frequent conversations with and constant monitoring of sex offenders can we hope to control their behavior and keep our communities safe.

Despite the high stakes of allowing sex offenders to live freely, a solution has been elusive, until now. The Watch House is the answer – a way to protect our communities and provide a humane but controlled existence for sex offenders.

Few sex offenders spend their entire lives in prison. In fact, most convicted sex offenders never go to prison. Convicted sex offenders live among us. Controlling sex offenders' behavior begins by talking



with them. While psychotherapy is an essential part of managing their impulses, therapy is powerless without a safe residential setting to operate from.

Until we create a secure, monitored place for sex offenders to live within our communities, treatment (even with polygraph and GPS monitoring) cannot make our communities safe. The Watch House provides the only complete protection from sexual offenders. Now that we have a solution, citizens must act – tell your legislators to build The Watch House.

Isn't it time we manage sex offenders, lest we turn them loose on ourselves?

You are the KEY to controlling sex offenders



5 Things You Didn't Know About Sex Offenders

1. Access to Victims

They almost always have established a level of trust and have access to their victims. The predators are family, friends, neighbors and trusted members of our community. Rarely are they strangers to their victims. In fact, according to the Colorado Convicted Sex Offender site, 80 – 95 percent of the victims know their abuser prior to the offense. Most offenders do not act compulsively. They usually plan out their crimes carefully.

2. Anyone Can Be a Victim

Sex offenders frequently cross over from one kind of victim to another kind of victim. Crossover refers to an offender who abuses children and adults, or an offender who abuses males and females, or

all of the above. Statistically, heterosexual males are a greater threat than homosexuals of either gender.

3. Most Were Not Sexually Abused as Children

The majority of sex offenders were not abused as children. Most studies agree that fewer than 30 percent of convicted sex offenders were actually abused as children.

4. Half Recommit Their Crimes

More than 50 percent of sex offenders continue to recommit their crimes. Most sex offenders feel they can control themselves and stop whenever they want, but the truth is – they do not want to control themselves, and most of them are

not willing to take responsibility for their actions. Even when sex offenders truly want to change, it is difficult for them to understand how distorted their reality is.

5. Long-term Therapy Isn't Enough

When we do long-term therapy, most of the time it ends up in making a smarter, better equipped sex offender. Therapy does not cure them. That is why monitoring coupled with therapy is essential to protecting our community, because there is no other way to ensure a sex offender won't recommit his crimes. The Watch House isn't just a necessity, it is a requirement for effective sex offender management.

Erin Dolgan M.A., LPC, SOMB provides counseling services to sex offenders and victims of sexual abuse

Volunteer Information

Become a Watch House KEY and get sex offenders out of your neighborhood and into The Watch House. The best ideas in government come from outside experts who have grappled with sex offender management issues. The criminal justice system cannot build The Watch House on its own. Politicians hesitate to endorse a solution without popular support of the people. As a citizen, your support is paramount to assure the politicians who support The Watch House that their

careers won't be risked by backing the initiative. Now that we have a solution, we need to demand it be used!

You are the KEY to building The Watch House. There are many ways you can help. The goal of The Watch House KEY Volunteer Initiative group is to enlist members of society to donate their time, expertise and money to promote The Watch House project. The ultimate goal is for a substantial number of citizens to



influence government officials to build The Watch House and control where they live.

7 Ways to Volunteer

Volunteers can participate in the following activities:

1. Sign a scripted letter about The Watch House and send it to government contacts.
2. Introduce The Watch House to friends at a home event.
3. Meet with our fundraising group to help host a fundraiser.
4. Introduce The Watch House to influential business leaders.
5. Introduce KEY connectors to neighborhood groups.
6. Help The Watch House staff with routine tasks as needed.
7. Respond to editorials about sex offenders that The Watch House is the key.

The key to any nonprofit organization's success is the strength of its volunteer base. The Watch House KEY Volunteer Initiative will recruit active participants dedicated to protecting the community from repeat sex offenders.

T.H.E.

The Watch House was founded by the non-profit organization, Teaching Humane Existence (T.H.E). The mission of T.H.E. is to prevent further victimization by sex offenders. Established in 1983, T.H.E. has a proven track record of methods for effective sex offender management.

Board of Directors:

- Brenda Abdilla
- Erin Dolgan
- Tess Henry
- Suzanne Juarez
- David Miller
- Gerald Moore
- John Patzman
- Greig Veeder



A Special Thank You

The Watch House would like to extend a special thank you to Section 45 Advertising and Design and 1K Robots Design. They volunteered their time and resources to The Watch House and designed our Web site for us. They did an excellent job, and we look forward to continuing this special relationship with them!

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