



## PCA GEORGIA GSU STUDENT AWARENESS EVENT

On Monday November 26, PCA Georgia held a student awareness event at Georgia State University. The two-part event included a morning coffee and donuts hour in the GSU courtyard and a PCA Georgia table at the GSU Men's Basketball Game later that night. In all, 350+ students received information about the mission of PCA Georgia and our presence on the Georgia State campus in the Center for Healthy Development.



## KSU HOSTS WORLD DAY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE CONFERENCE

Nearly 400 people attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse Conference on November 19, 2012 held at Kennesaw State University. It is a collaboration between the Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia and the Department of Social Work and Human Services in the WellStar College of Health and Human Services at Kennesaw State. The conference brought together students, alumni, and professionals involved in various phases of the child welfare process, from investigation to prosecution.

"What you do every day is the most important thing anyone can do," Kennesaw State Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Ken Harmon said in his welcoming remarks. "You will change the world because you change children's lives."

The special guest speaker for the conference was Elizabeth Smart who was kidnapped 10 years ago, held captive for nine months, and sexually abused. Smart, 14 years old at the time, was looking forward to going on a trip with friends to celebrate graduation from junior high school the night her world was forever changed.

### SAVE THE DATE!

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia  
Regional Meeting

Thursday February 7, 2013

Location TBD

For more information, contact  
Carol Neal Rossi at [cnealrossi@gsu.edu](mailto:cnealrossi@gsu.edu)



With poise beyond her years, Smart recalled how Brian David Mitchell, a handyman who had worked at her family's Salt Lake City home, kidnapped her in the early morning hours of June 5, 2002.

While she was held captive, Smart was threatened and abused on a daily basis. "I decided that no matter what happened, if it was within my power, I would live," she said. "That decision saw me through nine months of a lot." She was rescued on March 12, 2003. Mitchell was sentenced to life in prison in 2011.

"It's that resiliency that makes Smart an inspiration for victims and victims' advocates," Kennesaw State Assistant Professor of Social Work Lisa Johnson said. "She really epitomizes resiliency. She is an incredible inspiration to anyone who has suffered abuse, and is an example that even when bad things happen, you can go on and lead a successful, happy life."

"I hope they (participants) come out of this (conference) with a renewed passion and sense of purpose," Johnson said. "We are the voice of these children. We work to prevent things like this from happening, but if it happens, we need to be a safe haven for them."



Left to Right: Cynthia Howell, CEO of Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia; Elizabeth Smart, Ted Hall of 11 Alive News, Jinger Robbins, Chair of the CACs of Georgia Board of Directors & CEO of SafePath Children's Advocacy Center.

## RESOURCES

**Voices for Georgia’s Children:** “Guide to Georgia’s Child-Serving Agencies 2012.” Provides an overview of 21 state agencies and includes details about their structure, governance, and services offered. [Read here.](#)

**Prevent Child Abuse America:** Three new guides for single parents about co-parenting, dating as a single parent, and more. For more information, [click here.](#)

**Family Resource Information, Education and Network Development Services (FRIENDS):** Fall Parents and Practitioners Newsletter focuses on fathers’ roles in parenting. Also included is a summary of the report “Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention: Accomplishments and New Directions, 2011.” FRIENDS has also released “Putting the Pieces Together: Guidebook for Fact-based Decision Making to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families.” The guide focuses on using data to develop effective programs. [Click here to view.](#)

## TRAINING

**Governor’s Office for Children and Families:** Free online mandated reporter training. Learn about indicators of child abuse and neglect and recent changes to mandated reporter laws in Georgia. [Access by clicking here.](#)

**Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta:** “The ‘New Normal’? A Close Look at Teen Dating Violence” Webinar. Learn more about teen dating violence and how current social trends can both contribute to, and help solve the problem. 12/19/2012 at 10:00 a.m. For registration information, [click here.](#) CHOA is also holding 5 Darkness to Light Stewards of Children Trainings from January to April. [Click here to find out more.](#)

**Georgia Center for Child Advocacy:** Darkness to Light Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Trainings. For information and a link to register, [please click here.](#) [View schedule here.](#) To search for future trainings near your community, [click here.](#)

**National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC DV):** Online training for professionals, students, and the public at large. “Domestic Violence: Understanding the Basics” covers factors that increase the risk of domestic violence and what resources are available to advocates and communities. Access training [by clicking here.](#)

**Missing and Exploited Children’s Program (MECP):** Trainings and technical assistance for child advocates, non-profit organizations, and other professionals. To view their November webinar “Keeping Kids Safe and Resilient”, [please click here.](#) The next MECP training, “Missing Children with Special Needs,” will be held on December 19, 2012. For registration information, [click here.](#)

**National Citizen Review Panel Advisory Board Webinar:** “Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect: Looking at the Laws after Penn State” Tuesday, January 15, 2013 12:00 p.m. Webinar will cover how states have changed their mandatory reporting laws and how child welfare organizations can ensure they are following new laws put into place in their states. For additional information about this webinar, [click here.](#)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 16:** PCA Georgia Conference Call, 1:00 p.m.

**February 7:** PCA Georgia Statewide Prevention Network Regional meeting.

**February 12:** Interfaith Children’s Movement Day at the Capitol, “Have a Heart for Children”. 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. For more details see the ICM website: [www.interfaithchildrensmovement.org](http://www.interfaithchildrensmovement.org)

**February 26:** Voices for Georgia’s Children “Children’s Day at the Capitol.” 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Read more at [www.georgiavoices.org](http://www.georgiavoices.org)

### NEWS FROM JUST GEORGIA



JUST Georgia is a coalition of statewide agencies working to strengthen Georgia’s Juvenile Code.

Among the benefits of updating the state’s juvenile code are focusing on community and family-based interventions for children considered unruly and consolidating dependency and delinquency hearings. The rewrite in conjunction with the Child Protection and Public Safety Act would streamline Georgia’s juvenile justice system and save taxpayer dollars.

For more information from JUST Georgia about the Juvenile Code Rewrite [click here.](#)

## BRETT SHANLEY MEMORIAL FUND ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT PCA GEORGIA

Jenelle established the Brett Shanley Memorial Fund to support Prevent Child Abuse Georgia's work after her husband died this past April. For her it was a way to move forward and help others. "Brett was a survivor of long-term childhood abuse resulting in complex trauma," Jenelle says. "Brett silently carried his trauma with him into adulthood and never had a chance to really process it."

For Jenelle, this is where her professional life and personal life have overlapped, quite literally. Jenelle Shanley, Ph.D., is the Associate Director of Training at the National SafeCare Training and Research Center and an Assistant Professor in the Institute of Public Health at Georgia State University. In fact, she provided the Positive Parenting training at the PCA Georgia conference this past September. Earlier in her career, when she was working with parents of young children with behavioral problems, she quickly made the connection to child abuse and shifted her post-doctoral study work to child maltreatment prevention and completed an inter-disciplinary training program at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center.

"Brett and I were together for 13 years before he revealed the extent of his personal story of abuse to me. I'm sure I never heard the whole story, because he wasn't willing to reveal it to himself," said Jenelle. "We did our best to alleviate his pain. And we had wonderful, amazing times together, filled with joy and love. He was an incredibly creative person, musician and writer. But, eventually, the pain surfaced and he turned to substance abuse to numb it." Brett went to therapy and completed an intensive substance abuse rehabilitation program, but the professionals were focused on treating the symptoms, not the root cause, his trauma. In the end, it was too much for him.

"My hope," says Jenelle "is that we can help others. We need to continue to educate. We need to continue to de-stigmatize abuse so that people can talk about it more freely and process their traumatic experiences. We need to support all efforts for prevention. I know we can do better, for Brett's sake."

PCA Georgia will be offering trainings in the spring in Brett Shanley's memory.

If you would like to make a donation to the Brett Shanley Memorial Fund, please send a check to GSU Foundation, PCA Georgia, PO Box 3995, Atlanta, GA, 30302-3995 and write, "Brett Shanley Memorial" in the memo line.



*Jenelle and Brett atop a peak in the Olympic Mountains.*

### PCA AMERICA LINKS

- **PCA America Homepage:** [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org)
- **Healthy Families America:** [www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org](http://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org)
- **Pinwheels for Prevention:** [www.pinwheelsforprevention.org](http://www.pinwheelsforprevention.org)
- **National Movement for America's Children:** [www.movementforchildren.org](http://www.movementforchildren.org)
- **PCA America Blog, *Changing the Way We Think About Prevention*:** [preventchildabuseamerica.blogspot.com](http://preventchildabuseamerica.blogspot.com)



#### PCA Georgia Executive Director Conference Call

*Wednesday January 16 1:00 p.m*

**Call-in number:** (559) 726-1000

**Participant Access Code:** 824094#

**Feature keys:** \*3 – Exit the call

\*4 – Instructions \*6 – Mute/Unmute your phone



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