

Is your child safe?

By Claire Silva



Claire Silva has worked in Massachusetts and Rhode Island - providing substance abuse and violence prevention since 1991. She is currently the Executive Director of the YWCA of Greater RI and a Consultant for Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention. Her expertise has been developing and implementing programs for

minority and low-income children and their families. Throughout her career, she has witnessed the strong link between children who were sexually assaulted and their lifelong battle of self medicating through drugs and alcohol. Through her own family's trauma, Claire hopes that people can learn more about sexual abuse of children and how to prevent the crime.

Editor's Note: 02835 applauds the courage of this mom, author & child advocate to go public with her story. We encourage our readers to question the motives of any adult - even parents of our children's friends - who seem to take a special interest in our children. Always question the appropriateness of an adult who reaches out in extraordinary ways to build

relationships with our kids. The Dateline predator special "To Catch A Predator" focused its' attention on this very topic in recent weeks. Remember - one in every four Jamestown children will be approached by a predator in their young lives - via the internet, in a friend's home, on a social outing - anywhere kids can be found.

In "A Child's Heart Speaks: Surviving Sexual Abuse," Claire Silva describes the tragedy that happened to her two young children who were sexually abused by a juvenile perpetrator.

"I searched for help for my children, my husband and myself, but there was nothing. Agencies and systems that should have assisted us were abusive and dysfunctional. We were often left feeling vulnerable and alone."



While trying to find help for herself and her family, Silva discovered that speaking with adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse became her best source of support. Through the information she gained in interviews with these survivors, she exposed the tactics commonly used by adult and juvenile perpetrators in her book.

"The fear of a child being sexually abused - is a fear all

parents have. Yet, we don't discuss it openly. Since we don't discuss it, families don't learn how to prevent it, and the crime continues. I was driven to write this book - to give parents the information they need to keep their children safe. No child should ever experience what my children suffered."

To learn more, please visit www.claresilva.com.



**JOIN THE WOMEN
IN NETWORKING
FOR THEIR HOLIDAY EXPO
AT
THE PACC**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD • 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

FREE ADMISSION
~
DOOR PRIZES
~
LOTS OF
GOOD STUFF




**SHOP AT HOME FOR
THE HOLIDAYS.**

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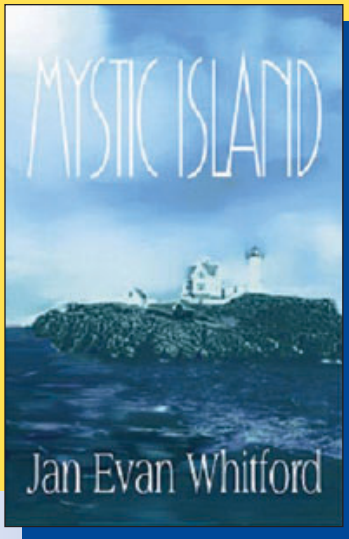
**18th Annual
Free
Christmas
Concert**

Wednesday, December 14, 2005 7:00 pm
Newport Marriott Atrium
25 America's Cup Avenue, Newport, RI

Featuring:
Lafayette Band of North Kingstown
and
Astor's Beechwood Mansion
Presents
The Beechwood Theatre Company




Please bring a non-perishable food item to benefit the Salvation Army



Mystic Island
by Jan Evan Whitford
www.janwhitford.com

Copies will be sold @ The Melrose School
Craft's Fair - Saturday, December 3rd