

Stalking Victims News

Feel Safe Again, Inc... "Be Strong, Be Safe and Be Heard!"... Vol. 4, Issue 6 - Nov. 2007

Dear Friend,

Happy Holidays! Welcome to your next issue of "Stalking Victims News!" As always, I hope this newsletter finds you all well.

This is a bi-monthly newsletter, with the most current and up-to-date information about stalking and the effects it has on victims.

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*\*\*\*\*Congratulations!!\*\*\*\* We would like to extend a warm welcome, to all of the newly elected and reelected board members of Feel Safe Again, Inc. We truly appreciate your commitment to helping victims of stalking become survivors, and as always, thank you for your continued support. Copy and paste link below...and go to our Board Members page.*  
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"REFLECTIONS OF A LIFE WITH FREEDOM AND PEACE"

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Feel Safe Again, Inc. was officially established September 2003, incorporated in December, and publicly announced January 2004 during a press conference at the Statehouse in Boston. We are a statewide grassroots 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization for Victims of Stalking.

Our goal is to provide potentially life-saving information and support group services to victims and survivors of stalking. Our hope is that no other victim has to live their life in fear. We want to help you "Feel Safe Again" by teaching you how to be safe again. Together we CAN make a difference!

If you are interested in online support, click on the link below to our website. You can join our support group at [VictimsofStalking@yahoo.com](mailto:VictimsofStalking@yahoo.com).

Copy and paste link below to our Web site...

[www.feelsafeagain.org](http://www.feelsafeagain.org)

## **Internet Harassment or Cruel Hoax?**

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Although the events surrounding the "MySpace suicide" took place in October 2006, this disturbing story has only recently been published in newspapers, featured on news stations and

talk shows almost daily. Megan Meier, a 13-year-old girl from Dardenne Prairie, Missouri, who suffered from depression and attention deficit disorder, made a new friend, or so she thought.

"Josh" wanted to be friends, and was really nice to Megan for about a month before he suddenly turned on her. He began calling her horrible names, which he posted for others to see. In the end, Megan hanged herself. About six weeks later, her father found a message from Josh, telling the girl she was a bad person and the world would be better without her. Recently, because of Megan's death, city officials have unanimously passed a measure making online harassment a crime in Missouri City.

According to Jayne Hitchcock, founder and president of Working to Halt Online Abuse (WHOA), "What happened to her was horrible, don't get me wrong, but what needs to change is the accountability of sites such as MySpace, not creating laws that will do nothing like this one. MySpace, Yahoo, Hotmail, Facebook, etc., need to have some sort of safeguard so that fake profiles can NOT be opened up and used to demean, harass, or be forged in someone else's names. That is the answer." For more information or assistance, go to www.haltabuse.org. Please take a few minutes to listen to Jayne's recent radio interview regarding Megan's death...

Copy and paste link below...

<http://www.560wgan.com/upload/november2007/jaynehitchcock112307.mp3>

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**Victims/Advocates Speak Out: Wal-Mart Stops Nationwide Sales of "Stalking T-Shirt"**  
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Feel Safe Again, Inc. joins the Stalking Resource Center in commending Wal-Mart for recognizing the seriousness of stalking and removing stalking T-shirts from their store shelves.

Back in September, a victim in North Carolina contacted her local newspaper regarding a T-shirt which read, "Some Call It Stalking, I Call It Love" being sold at Wal-Mart. After reading about the T-shirt, we forwarded our concerns to the Stalking Resource Center, contacted the newspaper reporter and drafted a letter to Wal-Mart. This was not simply an opinion, freedom of speech, or the least bit funny. Stalking is NOT love! To harass, torment, target and potentially kill someone...is not love.

Copy and paste link below...

<http://www.ncvc.org/src/main.aspx?dbName=DocumentViewer&DocumentID=43923>

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**Stalking: Psychiatric Perspectives & Practical Approaches Edited By Debra A. Pinals, MD**  
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Over the last two decades, stalking has received increasingly widespread attention. The establishment of anti-stalking legislation has helped to spur interest in stalking research and the forensic assessment of stalkers. Popular representations of stalking have made the public more aware of this phenomenon.

Debra A. Pinals, MD, is the Director, Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship and Training, Department of Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Copy and paste link below...

<http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/Medicine/PsychiatryPsychology/?view=usa&ci=9780195189841#>

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***Charmingfare Farm Fundraiser***  
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We are selling tickets for the Charmingfare Farm's "Lighted Winter Wonderland" and the "Encore of Lights" in Candia, New Hampshire, to help us raise additional funds this holiday season.

Tickets can be purchased through our Online Store for \$18.00 per person (Children 1 year and under FREE). Feel Safe Again, Inc. will receive 50% of the total sales. These would make a great gift for the whole family. Tickets are only available until December 15, 2007...so get yours today!

Copy and paste link below...

<http://www.feelsafeagain.org/store.html>

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***Inspirational Thoughts***  
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"If you become a victim...don't allow the traumatic experience to further victimize you; you can shape your attitude to give you the courage to get back up again." ~*Author Unknown*

"We truly believe knowledge is power...therefore, prevention is our ultimate goal."
Remember...YOU'RE NOT ALONE! ~*Cheryl*

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***Note From The Founder...YOU'RE INVITED!!!***  
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To All Family and Friends of Feel Safe Again, Inc...

We are planning our "Third Annual Christmas Party" for mid-December. Join us for a buffet dinner and an old-fashioned Yankee Swap! If you are interested in attending, please contact us at (888) 99B-SAFE or info@feelsafeagain.org.

Copy and paste link below...

<http://www.feelsafeagain.org/News.html>

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**email:** [CDarisse@feelsafeagain.org](mailto:CDarisse@feelsafeagain.org)

**voice:** (617) 389-0002 or (603) 889-1110 or toll-free at (888) 99B-SAFE

**web:** [www.feelsafeagain.org](http://www.feelsafeagain.org)  
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