



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Making the Internet Safer for Children and Families

Internet Safety 101 Launch

February 17, 2010

Rene, Mother of Porn Victim

I'M RENE, WITH A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT YOU'VE JUST HEARD.

TEN YEARS AGO, WHEN OUR SON WAS STILL IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WE HAD NO FILTERING PROGRAM ON OUR COMPUTER BECAUSE WE DIDN'T THINK WE NEEDED ONE YET.

THEN THROUGH A MINIMIZED PORN SITE AND OUR COMPUTER'S HISTORY, WE LEARNED THAT OUR PRECIOUS 11 YEAR OLD SON HAD BEEN TO HUNDREDS OF INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY SITES DURING SEVERAL NIGHTS IN A ROW!

HE TOLD US A SCHOOL FRIEND HAD GIVEN HIM THE FIRST SITE, BUT WHEN WE WENT TO THAT FRIEND'S PARENTS TO ALERT THEM, THEY INFORMED US THAT THEY DIDN'T EVEN OWN A COMPUTER!

THAT LIE BY OUR SON, THE FIRST OF MANY THAT FOLLOWED OVER THE YEARS, IS NOT UNUSUAL. INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY PLANTS SEEDS OF SHAME, DECEPTION, AND LIES IN ITS USERS.

AND IT IS ADDICTIVE, LIKE DRUGS, BUT WHILE DRUGS EVENTUALLY LEAVE THE BODY, THESE IMAGES GET IMBEDDED IN THE BRAIN AND CAN NEVER BE ERASED.

AND THESE IMAGES AREN'T THE "AIRBRUSHED PHOTOS OF BEAUTIFUL NAKED WOMEN" OF OLD. THESE ARE HARD CORE PORN MOVIES THAT SHOW LIVE SEX WITH EVERY COMBINATION OF PEOPLE YOU CAN IMAGINE, PLUS WITH ANIMALS, WHIPS, CHAINS AND WORSE. NO CHILD SHOULD BE EXPOSED TO THIS, YET IT'S AVAILABLE RIGHT IN OUR HOMES, AT NO CHARGE, AND WITH JUST A CLICK.

WHEN WE TRIED TO TALK TO OUR SON ABOUT THIS, HE WOULD SHUT US OUT. AND HE FOUND WAYS AROUND EVERY ATTEMPT WE MADE TO RESTRICT HIS ACCESS TO THE INTERNET.

FOR INSTANCE, WE WOULD ONLY ALLOW HIM TO BE ON THE COMPUTER WHEN WE WERE WITH HIM, AND WOULD EVEN SEND HIM OUT OF THE ROOM WHILE WE TYPED IN THE PASSWORD. AFTER ONE OF THESE TIMES OF RESTRICTED ACCESS, I DISCOVERED THAT HE HAD BEEN UP VIEWING PORNOGRAPHY AGAIN. HE HAD BALANCED MY VIDEO CAMERA ON THE BOOKSHELF ABOVE THE COMPUTER KEYBOARD AND FILMED MY FINGERS TYPING IN THE PASSWORD. THEN HE SPENT HOURS REPLAYING THE VIDEO UNTIL HE WAS ABLE TO "DECODE" MY FINGER STROKES FOR THE PASSWORD.

WE HAVE SPENT THE LAST TEN YEARS TRYING TO KEEP OUR SON AWAY FROM THIS "DRUG," WITH LITTLE SUCCESS, SEEKING COUNSELORS WHO COULD HELP HIM, AND BEING FRUSTRATED AND ANGRY THAT WE COULDN'T PROTECT OUR CHILD.

I'M HERE TODAY TO TELL PARENTS THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO US COULD HAPPEN TO ANY FAMILY.

THE INTERNET IS AN INCREDIBLY USEFUL TOOL THAT HAS GIVEN US MANY GOOD THINGS, BUT IT COMES WITH DANGERS AS WELL. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THOSE HARMS ARE PREVENTABLE AND THAT'S WHY THE INTERNET SAFETY 101 PROGRAM IS SO IMPORTANT.

I'M ENCOURAGED TO SEE THE "INTERNET GIANTS" AND OTHER PROMINENT SPONSORS WHO ARE PARTNERING WITH ENOUGH IS ENOUGH IN THIS ENDEAVOR. IT SHOWS THEY CARE.

INTERNET SAFETY 101 IS THE RESOURCE PARENTS NEED TO BE AWARE OF THE DANGERS AND TO KNOW WHAT TO DO TO PROTECT THEIR FAMILIES BECAUSE "AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE."

I JUST WISH IT HAD BEEN AVAILABLE TEN YEARS AGO.