

# Media Alert



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**Media Contact:** Janet Conners  
Conners Communications, Inc.  
636-779-0709

## Child Abuse Survivor, Change Catalyst Laurie Calzada to Speak at CAPA Symposium

*"I fight the demons so others can see the light. That is my mission."  
- Laurie Calzada*

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**ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, February 26, 2008** — The Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA) is hosting its *Community Change for Children* breakfast on April 10, 2008 at the Ararat Temple (5100 Ararat Drive) in Kansas City, Missouri. The symposium will begin at 7:30 a.m. and will feature Laurie Calzada, a true survivor in every sense of the word. This event is designed to increase the communities' awareness of Jackson County's child abuse issues during April's National Child Abuse Prevention Month. CAPA believes its can work together to prevent child abuse in the area by putting Passion in Action.

Missouri statistics of child abuse are staggering:

- A report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds. Every hour, a child in Missouri is confirmed as having been severely neglected or abused.
- It costs \$1,800 a day to care for a severely abused child.
- 3 million reports of child abuse are made every year in the United States; experts estimate that the **actual number** of incidents is **3 times greater** than reported.

- In Missouri, there were **59,169 reports** made to the children abuse and neglect hotline in ***2004 alone***; these reports involved **85,133 children**. That's approximately **233 children per day** in Missouri.
- Every day, two children will die before their first birthday.
- Abused children are 38% more likely to abuse their own children.

*Sources: St. Louis Crisis Nursery and Childhelp.*

Motivational speaker Laurie Calzada learned at an early age that if she could survive her childhood, then she could survive anything. Laurie was raised by a single mother in a very low income environment, abandoned by her father, sexually abused by an uncle for many years, beaten repeatedly with a belt throughout her childhood, raped by a teenage boy in High School – and then kicked out of her home at the age of 18.

Born in Butler, MO, and after an abundance of moves in her early childhood, Ms. Calzada landed in Lee's Summit at age 5. Immediately after graduating from Lee's Summit High School, she married an Air Force Airman because she had to get out of her home. In 1987 she moved overseas, and in 1990, Calzada returned to Kansas City for a few months before moving to St. Louis in 1991 to launch "ExecuTrain," a franchise that provided corporations with training in computer and business skills. Ms. Calzada later expanded, owning a Kansas City ExecuTrain franchise from 2002-2004. Calzada sat on the Atlanta-based franchise board from 2002-2005. Calzada has owned a total of seven (7) different businesses in the European, Kansas City and St. Louis markets. In 2007, Ms. Calzada was inducted into the Lee's Summit High School Hall of Fame.

The entrepreneurial Calzada is now an International Author and Speaker, helping people find their passion in life and teaching them to embrace change and opportunity. Her mission in life is to tell people to "**Never quit.**" She is currently the author of "Inspiring Passion in Others" and "180 Ways to Effectively Deal with Change." Ms. Calzada is writing her third book, "Nine Principles to Living Your Life with Passion."

“I believe you should never give up, and never let the trials of your past dictate the blessings of your future,” Calzada reminds others. “People like me fight the demons so others can see the light. That is my mission.”

A book signing will be held at CAPA’s *Community Change for Children* breakfast symposium. Those interested in attending should call CAPA at (816) 252-8388, ext. 313.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

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