



# Character Council of Indiana

*Building Cities of Character One Person at a Time*

July 2000 Newsletter

## No Profanity Initiative Nets Rewards

*Dr. Larry Hensley-Marschand, Principal, Southport High School, Indianapolis*

Since August of 1998, Southport High School has focused much time and attention on ridding its hallways, classrooms, cafeteria, gymnasiums and even its locker rooms of profane, abusive, and inappropriate language.

What has happened since that time is an example of what can happen when character expectations are raised in general throughout a school.

Designed to reduce the amount of casual profanity being heard during passing periods and at other times prior to the 1998-99 school year, the *No Profanity* initiative targeted parental involvement from the start.

*"In the 2nd year alone, the number of fights.... declined 31%."*

Even on the first offense for casual use of profanity, students were sent to the Dean's

office and their parents were immediately contacted and told what their children had said. The school experienced no objections from parents. Quite the contrary, few students ever became repeat offenders.

*"...working together to 'raise the bar' for behavior expectation...."*

What happened over time was a good example of teachers and parents working together to "raise the bar" for behavior expectation in general. With the assistance of a new block class schedule that creates fewer passing periods during the day and longer classes, the first two years of the *No Profanity* initiative have seen dramatic changes in negative behaviors. The number of students sent to the Dean for disruptive conduct, combative

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Indiana's Newest City of Character

*Scot Jefferies, Sturgis, Michigan*

On May 25, 2000, the Shipshewana Town Council passed a resolution declaring their community a City of Character, becoming the third such city in Indiana. The town is already gearing up to implement the **CHARACTER FIRST!**<sup>®</sup> training and curriculum with their elected officials, employees, and volunteers. A local steering committee has been named to plan and develop character implementation methods for businesses, organizations, and families in the Shipshewana area.



*The Shipshewana City Council and administrators, shown here with their City of Character resolution, are as follows: Front Row LIR ~ Judy Yoder, Daryl Bontrager, Chris Yoder, Ruth Ann Downey; Back Row LIR ~ Kurt Bachman, Roger Yoder, Norm Kauffman.*

*Each summer, Shipshewana hosts millions of visitors to their auction and summer flea market. The town hopes to provide character awareness opportunities for these visitors, emphasizing the value of character in the success of families.*

## Upcoming events

*July 18*

6:30 AM ~ 8:00 AM  
Business Leaders Breakfast  
*Indianapolis Training Center*

8:00 AM ~ 9:30 AM  
CCI State Council Meeting  
*Indianapolis Training Center*

*July 20*

8:30 AM ~ 4:00 PM  
**CHARACTER FIRST!**<sup>®</sup> Training  
*Indianapolis Training Center*

*July 26*

8:00 AM ~ 9:30 AM  
Elkhart Steering Committee  
*Elkhart Chamber of Commerce*

## In this edition

No Profanity Standard  
New Character City  
Trap of "Anonymity"  
New CCI Employee

# JULY character focus

## From the CCI Office



*New CCI employee Peggy McMillan will be utilizing her background in elementary education to assist CCI's efforts to promote character implementation in the greater Indianapolis area schools.*

As of June 26th, CCI has a new employee. Peggy McMillan is a native Hoosier with a background in education. She received her B.A. in Elementary Education from Cedarville College and has held positions in public and private schools as well as teaching her three children at home.

Most recently, Peggy served as a permanent building substitute at Harrison Hill Elementary School in Lawrence Township. She gratefully acknowledges Tom Warmke, school principal, and the Harrison Hill staff for giving her a vision for the possibilities of character implementation in a public school.

Questions? Comments? Please feel free to contact us.

### Character Council of Indiana

Call: (317) 543-4870  
Fax: (317) 543-4871  
E-mail: [info@charactercouncil.org](mailto:info@charactercouncil.org)

# DISCERNMENT

vs. Shortsightedness

*"Understanding the deeper reasons why things happen"*

## Don't Be Trapped By "Anonymity"

*Compiled by Stephen Leckenby, CCI Program Coordinator*

Last June, Forbes magazine carried a story on the main streaming of pornography, a \$56 billion dollar business and growing. Two years ago, 8,948 hard-core videos hit the U.S. generating about \$5 billion in sales last year alone, reported Forbes.

Online sex addiction is a growing epidemic that is tearing partners apart and creating a dangerous new compulsion affecting everyone from housewives to corporate executives. Recent surveys have shown that cybersex is equally popular with women and men because it provides an anonymous outlet for image conscious

individuals.

But the Internet's anonymity has created in some a compulsive need that can choke the life out of a marriage. The pain that this habit can create is profound, and relapse is just a click away.

This addiction should be treated seriously. As an organization, you can implement policies to effectively deal with this issue (*see attached*). There are many small steps, not the least of which is being honest with your marriage partner. The relationship can only heal when these addictions are no longer "your secret."

## No Profanity Means Just That

*(Continued from page 1)*

acts and gesture, insubordination, gross insubordination (usually involving abusive language toward teachers or staff), and even fighting, declined anywhere from twenty to forty per-

cent. In the second year alone, the *number of fights* at Southport *declined thirty-one percent.*

Some cafeteria supervisors could not remember the last time a fight occurred there. What we hoped to see might indeed have happened - that when "verbal violence" is reduced or eliminated, then physical violence becomes less frequent.

The other benefits have been a more positive hallway atmosphere, students feeling safer and less intimidated at school, and a general boost in the levels of respect for authority, respect for others, and basic common courtesies. We've encour-

aged students to smile more often and be more pleasant to each other and to teachers. Sometimes a smile and a hello are the best thing to happen to some students all day, and we shouldn't miss that chance.

We feel that the Southport experience is about character and values more than anything else, and that this school owes it to the local community to prepare students for life with the most positive values. Appropriate language has for us been a springboard to reinforcing other important character traits, and we will certainly continue that.

The *No Profanity* initiative has been the subject of a great deal of local media attention in Indianapolis, and was recently reviewed for an upcoming feature on CNN.



# CHARACTER COUNCIL OF INDIANA

---

## *Essentials for a computer policy with character*

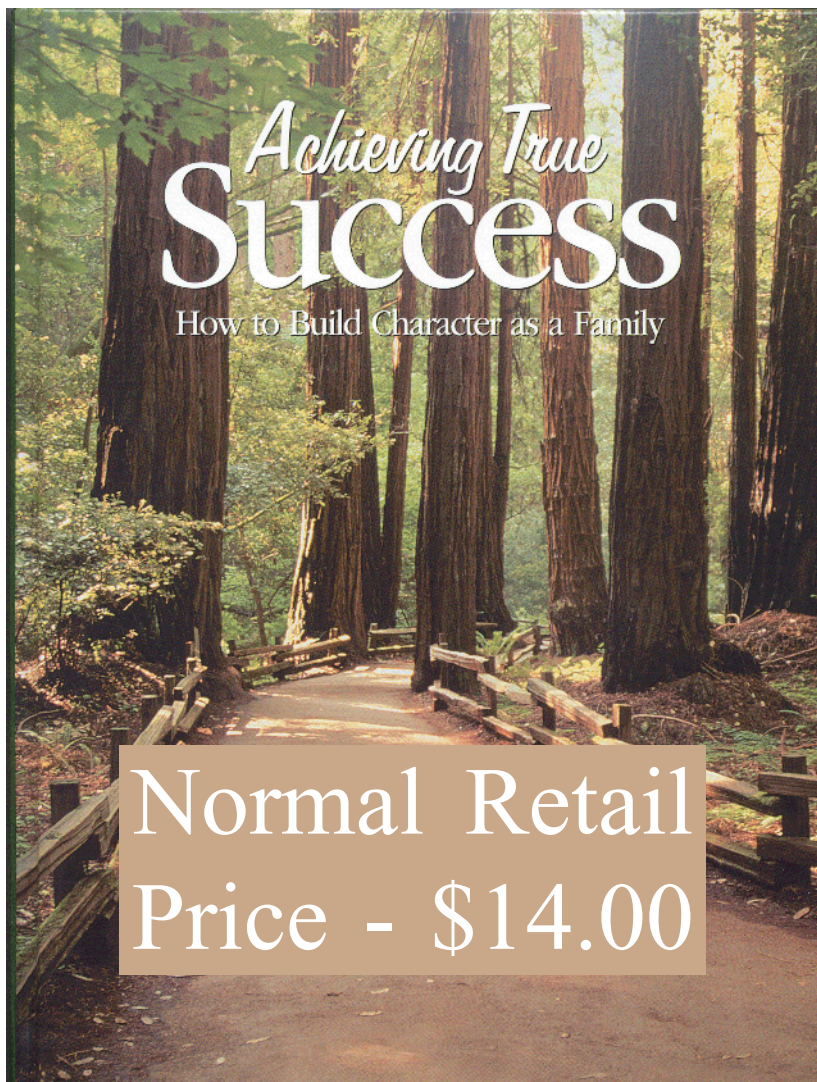
1. Define what type software is not allowed to be loaded onto the computer or accessed over the internet such as games or pornography. If the information systems belong to the business, then usage should be allowed for “approved business purposes” only.
2. Protect against data theft. Point out that using company data outside of approved company use or providing company data to outsiders without the company’s authorization may constitute theft. Share that the company will not shield employees guilty of theft from prosecution. (If the company has a separate theft policy, you may want to include a “data theft” paragraph in that policy also.)
3. E-mail guidelines. Employees must understand the unique nature of e-mail. E-mails cannot be deleted once sent and they can be forwarded without the sender’s knowledge or approval. Certain type messages simply will not be tolerated. Define what type e-mail content is prohibited such as “obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy or indecent with intent to annoy, abuse, threaten or harass another person”. Include a comment appealing to the conscious of the employee to remain in the “spirit of good character” in all their actions.
4. Monitoring. Specifically address that the company plans to randomly monitor employee computer usage to prevent misuse. Install blocking that prevents pornography sites and unauthorized chat room use. Also, install tracking software and procedures to assure the integrity of your blocking system.
5. Employee Sign-off. Require employee to sign and date the policy and acknowledge that they understand violations may result in disciplinary action including termination.
6. Piracy of software. Learn licensing agreement guidelines. Develop software and hardware log to ensure compliance.



IACC™

# CHARACTER COUNCIL OF INDIANA

## Family Book Pricing Information



\* Volume pricing available only for incremental orders of 21 (box size)

---

<i>Pricing</i>	
Individual	\$10
Boxes	Book Price
1 to 3	\$8*
4 to 5	\$6*
6 & up	\$5*

---

<i>Shipping</i>	
Individual	\$4
Box of 21	\$15

---

<i>Sales Info</i>	
No sales tax	
No cash sales	

---

For more information, please call Peggy at extension 125



IACC™