



SEX, LIES & STEREOTYPES: PROFILES OF FEDERALLY FUNDED ABSTINENCE- ONLY GRANT RECIPIENTS

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WHY KNOW

“Could condoms be just another stupid idea?”

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum*¹

Why kNOw is an abstinence-only educator based in Chattanooga, Tennessee and its abstinence-only curriculum is used in 37 states. It began as an offshoot of a crisis pregnancy center, or fake abortion clinic, and its growth over the past decade was fuelled by copious amounts of federal funding. In addition to its extremist anti-abortion origins, why kNOw’s curriculum contains dangerous and outdated gender stereotypes as well as inaccurate and misleading sexual health information.

What You Should Know – Overview

Founded: 1991

Budget: \$935,189²

Government Contributions or Grants:
\$480,480³

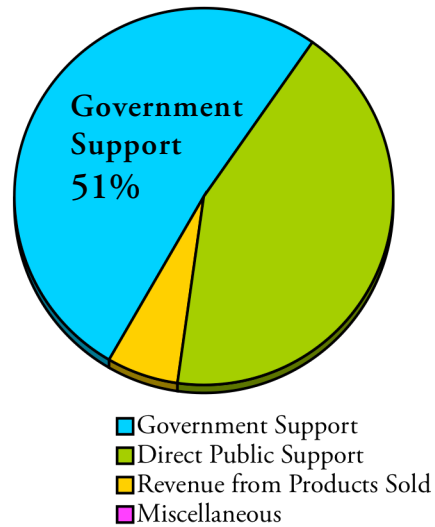
Website: <http://www.whyknow.org>

Religious Affiliation: None avowed, but also produces a Christian abstinence-only curriculum and program.

Key Programs: Core Public School Program; Faith-Based Program; One Night Stand (Drama Program); Advocates for Teens (Fundraising and Community Involvement Program)

Key Publications: Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum; Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Christian Curriculum; Road to Excellence Curriculum; Sex Was Never Meant to Kill You

Why kNOw 2004 Budget



History

Why kNOw was originally founded as an abstinence-only education program within AAA Women's Services, a Chattanooga-based Christian crisis pregnancy center best known for shutting down a neighboring abortion clinic and constructing a vigil to the "unborn" on its site. In 2003, why kNOw officially separated from AAA Women's Services and is now an independent organization.⁴

Currently, the organization's main program is its 5-day abstinence-only curriculum, which is taught by why kNOw abstinence educators in 57 public schools in Georgia and Tennessee and is used by other organizations in 37 states and 9 foreign countries.⁵ Why kNOw also runs a separate faith-based program used in 27 states, a drama troop, a "Road to Excellence" extracurricular program and a book club. Though founder Kris Frainie was the organization's driving force for many years, she stepped down in 2005. Cathi Woods, who previously worked at several crisis pregnancy centers, is now President while long-time why kNOw employee Lesley Scarce is CEO.

Key Staff

Kris Frainie, Founder

Frainie started the why kNOw abstinence-only program while working at AAA Women's Services, a Chattanooga crisis pregnancy center. In 2001, Frainie sat on the Tennessee state evaluation panel of Title V abstinence programs and was a consultant for the National Coalition for Abstinence Education.⁶ Frainie stepped down from why kNOw in 2005, but remains involved as a consultant.⁷

In Their Own Words

Gender Roles

"It is sad that our society causes most of this by exposing the teenager to a constant barrage of sexual messages. To the young man trying to learn self-control and the young woman trying to understand her identity, these sexual messages can cause severe pressure. Magazines tell young women how to dress 'sexy' so they can 'catch' their guy... The young girl learning to understand her changing body has no idea the effect it can have on surrounding males. Signals she doesn't even know she is sending can cause big problems."

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum*⁸

"Ask the students to give examples of responsibilities a mother and father may have in order to help a family run smoothly. Examples may include keeping the house clean, cooking meals, employment, paying bills, fixing breakfast, getting the children ready for school, etc. Write each responsibility named on a square token chip. Have the students decide which role is more likely to be played by the mother or father. If the students feel the role is equally shared by the mother and father place a token in both jars. Explain to the students that some activities may be done by both parents, but ask which parent is more likely to cut grass, wash clothes, decorate the home, etc.

If the class appears divided, decide by a show of hands. In your home who washes clothes most often? Mother or Father? Who fixes the car? Who cooks the meals?"

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum* ⁹

"It is easy for an older boy to take advantage of a younger girl. Girls should understand that often older guys who ask young girls for dates are interested in their bodies – not their minds or emotions."

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum* ¹⁰

"In his best selling book, *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus*, John Gray captivated readers with age-old truths. These long-standing truths, however, had been almost forgotten in the age of politically correct thinking. Now it is considered improper to consider men and women anything but equal...men and women are equal but vastly different. Ignoring this fact will doom many a relationship to failure. There are a variety of books written on today's subject matter. Encourage students to familiarize themselves with this material. Knowledgeable authors on this subject include Gary Smalley, John Gray, Laura Schlessinger, Gary Chapmen, Ed Wheat, David Nicholson, James Dobson, and Roy Mossholder."

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum* ¹¹

"In the last thirty years there has been a great movement to 'equalize' men and women. Unfortunately, a distinction has not been made between 'equal' and 'different.' Thus, if you said that women were different from men, it was automatically assumed you meant that women were inferior to men. This is NOT true! Men and women are equal, but they are very different in the ways they approach life, love, and relationships."

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum* ¹²

"Girls tend to flirt naturally. They start with their daddies and continue on until they have husbands of their own. Unfortunately some of them don't stop there! Because girls are usually more talkative, make eye contact more often than men, and love to dress in eye-catching ways, they may appear to be coming on to a guy when in reality they are just being friendly. To the male, however, he perceives that the girl wants him sexually. This lack of understanding and communication between the sexes has caused extreme problems in many areas. Men need to set their own limits and standards and women need to realize what they may be communicating. Asking herself what signals she is sending could save both sexes a lot of heartache"

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum* ¹³

"Females have the uncanny ability to remember the most insignificant details about past experiences. This terrifies the average male."

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum* ¹⁴

"Since males tend to think concretely, they respond better to concrete questions and answers than hypothetical ones. 'Can' or 'Could' refers to his ability to do something. He may respond 'yes' and not see the action through because he is responding to his ability, not the actual request. 'Can you' or 'Could you take out the trash?' is a vague question because it asks if he is physically capable of

doing the job. He answers ‘yes’ and continues to do whatever he is doing, not thinking much more about the subject. This may cause the female undue stress, because she interprets his lack of action as a refusal to help her at that moment. Concrete statements are more likely to get the response the female wants. Statements such as: ‘I need you to take out the trash now’ or ‘Will you please take out the trash now’ work much better on males.”

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum* ¹⁵

“Women can tell their deepest, darkest secret to a stranger in the restroom; men do not like to share their problems. Men tend to be more task and goal-oriented. If a problem presents itself, men want to solve the problem without outside influence. It is an ego thing as well as a man thing...Understanding that men need to be able to work problems out on their own will greatly enhance the quality of many relationships. If he cannot find a solution, he will look for a trusted confidant to share his concerns with. Remember men are problem solvers; they don’t like loose ends.”

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum* ¹⁶

“In practically every teenage girl’s bedroom you will find dried, dead flowers, torn ticket stubs, boxes of notes, cards, and mementos of past or current experiences. These little treasures bring confusion to fathers, brothers, and other males. They don’t understand why anyone would like dead flowers in their room. But to the girl those dead flowers are a cherished remembrance.”

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum* ¹⁷

“Women gauge their happiness and judge their success by their relationships. Men’s happiness and success hinge on their accomplishments.”

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum* ¹⁸

“Even though men may think of sexual involvement as a type of commitment, they usually do not put the same emphasis on it that women do. Women may become pregnant; they expect, if pregnancy occurs, that men will be committed to them. This is why some women become sexually involved in order to keep their men with them. Many women mistakenly believe that by having a baby, they will have some type of hold over the man. Statistics and broken lives prove otherwise.”

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum* ¹⁹

Sex

“Star Trek kissing is the final stage before intercourse. Many people do not recognize this as sex...sex is any activity that causes genital arousal. One stage will eventually lead to another.”

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum* ²⁰

Sexual Activity Outside of Marriage

“There is no wrong side of the tracks anymore. The tracks are gone. There is no social stigma attached to being sexually active.”

- Kris Frainie, founder of why kNOw, lamenting sexual freedom²¹

“Sex is a beautiful gift from God, meant for marriage. When the husband and wife unite, the act of sex allows them to experience the oneness and gives them a glimpse of what it was life in Eden.”

- Kris Frainie, explaining the true purpose of sex²²

“I’ve heard a lot of people that have had lots of premarital sex, and they don’t believe in anything. Their hearts have become hardened. Sex is a spiritual matter.”

- Kris Frainie, describing the detrimental societal effect of premarital sex²³

“Fifty years of cultural terrorism.”

- Kris Frainie, in reference to the sexual revolution²⁴

Inaccurate or Misleading Information

“In heterosexual sex, condoms fail to prevent HIV approximately 31% of the time.”

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum* ²⁵

Marriage

“The Groom is the initiator of the covenant of marriage. Traditionally, he was the one who asked for the Bride, and he is the one who assumes responsibility to protect her and their marriage vows. In the age of women’s lib., this tradition doesn’t sit well. However, there is much to be said for the man who provides for his family. It was understood in those days that when a man made a promise, he kept it – this is called Honor.”

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum* ²⁶

“The father gives the bride to the groom because he is the one man who has had the responsibility of protecting her throughout her life. He is now giving his daughter to the only other man who will take over this protective role.”

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum* ²⁷

“Notice how often purity comes up throughout these traditions. One reason it was so important to the groom for the bride to be pure was lineage. The groom wanted to be sure any children she bore were his. It’s interesting that even today when students are asked, ‘What is the first question most guys ask when a girlfriend tells him she is pregnant,’ is: ‘Are you sure it’s mine?’ Times haven’t changed much, have they?”

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum* ²⁸

“This activity is designed to help students ask why we expect certain traditions, even though we may not know why they exist. Ask two students to come up to the front of the class...First have the ‘Groom’ dress in the cummerbund and bow tie and turn his back on the girl who will be his ‘Bride.’ While you are raving about what a beautiful bride she makes, pull the gown that is *not* white over her clothing. There will be some concern expressed because the bride is not wearing the traditional

white gown. Question why she should wear a white gown. If you were at a wedding and the bride wore a different colored gown, what would you think? Why?”

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum* ²⁹

“Women enjoy all the special trappings that surround reaching a specific goal. A perfect example of this is the wedding ceremony. The goal of the ceremony is to unite the couple in marriage. For the man all that is necessary is a place, a legal document, and a clergyman or justice of the peace. For the woman, every detail before, during, and after the ceremony must be perfect, fulfilling the dreams she has always had of her wedding day.... Fathers of brides and grooms don’t understand why all this is necessary. The father of the bride is looking at the bottom line cost, and the mother of the bride is trying to fulfill her daughter’s dream of what this day should be. Women never outgrow the excitement of the process!”

- *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Program: Public School Curriculum* ³⁰

Sources

- ¹ Kris Frainie, *Why kNOw Abstinence Education Programs: Curriculum for Sixth Grade Through High School* (Teacher's Manual), 90 (2002).
- ² *IRS 990 Form, FY 2004: Why kNOw*, available at <http://www.guidestar.org/FinDocuments/2005/680/533/2005-680533402-01d571b3-9.pdf>.
- ³ *Id.*
- ⁴ Kimberly Starks, *Teenagers Promote Abstinence Through Ads*, Chattanooga Free Press, Oct. 29, 2003.
- ⁵ *Programs: Core Curriculum*, Why kNOw Website, available at http://whyknow.org/www/docs/104/public_school_abstinence_curriculum.html.
- ⁶ Karen Nazor, *Children at Risk*, Chattanooga Times Free Press, Jan. 14, 2001.
- ⁷ Kris Frainie, *The Journey Continues...*, In the Know Newsletter, vol. 2, iss. 2, available at http://whyknow.org/downloads/V2_I2196.pdf.
- ⁸ *Supra* note 1 at 17.
- ⁹ *Id.* at 4.
- ¹⁰ *Id.* at 106.
- ¹¹ *Id.* at 119.
- ¹² *Id.* at 120.
- ¹³ *Id.* at 121.
- ¹⁴ *Id.* at 122.
- ¹⁵ *Supra* note 12.
- ¹⁶ *Supra* note 13.
- ¹⁷ *Id.*
- ¹⁸ *Supra* note 14.
- ¹⁹ *Id.*
- ²⁰ *Id.* at 108.
- ²¹ *Id.*
- ²² David Cook, *60 Here Study Why kNOw Abstinence Program*, Chattanooga Times Free Press, July 29, 1999.
- ²³ *Id.*
- ²⁴ Kris Frainie, *Fifty Years of Cultural Terrorism*, In the Know Newsletter, vol. 1, iss. 2, available at http://whyknow.org/downloads/V1_I2433.pdf.
- ²⁵ *Supra* note 1 at 90.
- ²⁶ *Id.* at 60-1.
- ²⁷ *Id.* at 60.
- ²⁸ *Id.* at 61.
- ²⁹ *Id.* at 59.
- ³⁰ *Supra* note 13.