



## A Shared Responsibility

**Shield the Vulnerable is dedicated to raising awareness and prevention of mistreatment of children and the elderly by training young people and adults about abuse, neglect, predators, bullying, boundaries, respect, and the perils of cyberspace.**

This online course is part of the Safe Environment for Children Project (SECP). The SECP was created in response to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which was written by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Charter acknowledges that the sexual abuse of children by some clergy, and the ways in which these crimes and sins were addressed, have caused enormous pain and anger. It also reaffirms the Bishops' deep commitment to creating a safe environment for children. **Every Diocese and Archdiocese in the United States is taking steps to implement the goals established in the Charter.** In addition to providing training to all volunteers and employees, our SECP includes: -- *curriculum development for children and parents on child safety* ---*employee and volunteer screening* ---*establishing parish-based committees focused on child safety*

**We all hope to create God-centered loving environments for our children, whether they're at home, school, or in religious education classes.** The goal of this training is to create a larger community of adults who are committed to the safety of children, aware of the problem of abuse and neglect, and prepared to protect children from harm. The Diocese of Pueblo has adopted an on-line training program for parents/children/teens for 4-12th grades entitled **Shield the Vulnerable**.

**WHEN SHOULD I COMPLETE THE TRAINING?** Please have the sessions completed before December 14, 2014. Please remit the Certificate of Completion to the Parish Coordinator.

### **HOW DO I TAKE THE TRAINING?**

To access the course, please sign on to [shieldthevulnerable.org](http://shieldthevulnerable.org). When you sign on for the first time you will be asked to create a login ID and a password. Because you are not required to complete the entire course all at once, when you sign in subsequently you will be able to return to the precise point in the training that you left off.

When you sign in you will note that it asks you to identify your status in the Diocese (e.g. clergy, volunteer, employee, parent, teen, youth). You will also identify a location (parish, school or organization affiliation).

### **HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?**

\* It takes about 45 minutes--Please print and remit completion certificate to Parish Coordinator.

\*Students will have access to any of the courses up through their current grade registration.

### **Shield the Vulnerable Sessions by Grade:**

Safety Smarts for Kids (Grade 4)	Block the Bully (Grade 5)	Be Safe, Stay Safe (Grade 6)
Bullying, Not Cool (Grade 7)	Digital Citizenship (Grade 8)	Teen Safety (Grade 9)
Dating Abuse (Grade 10)	Cyber Safety (Grade 11)	

**WHAT IF I WISH TO OPT OUT?** Parents are the first Catechists of their children and understand their child's needs and unique personalities. If parents desire to teach their child in their own way, please be sure to complete the "Opt Out" form attached. For auditing purposes, this is to be one file at each Parish/School.

**WHAT IF THIS INFORMATION IS COVERED ELSEWHERE?** If you wish to opt out-- due to you your child having received similarly based resources (from Schools Public/Private, etc) please note this on the Opt Out form.

**WHAT IF MY CHILD IS YOUNGER THAN 4TH GRADE?** Ida Rhodes from Catholic Charities will be coming soon to teach both parents and children (in age appropriate and non-graphic language) about personal safety and steps to take. (NOTE: If parents wish to teach their child privately, materials from Catholic Charities will be available)