

Making a Difference

Newsletter for Maryland Coalition
Against Pornography, Inc.



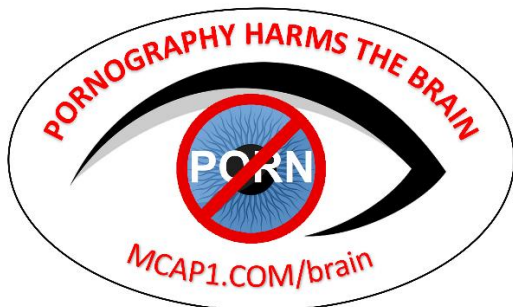
MCAP Hotline: 301-439-8475

www.mcap1.com or en Espanol: www.mcap1.com/Espanol

TOGETHER WE CARE

Vol. 35, No. 3 Montgomery and Prince George Counties

Summer 2020



Did you know that
pornography harms the
brain?

See

www.mcap1.com/brain

THIS YEAR, PORNOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK RUNS FROM OCTOBER 25TH - NOVEMBER 1ST!

Pornography Awareness Week brings together hundreds of national, state and local groups, along with driven concerned citizens in a massive effort to educate the public on the harms from pornography and the many resources available to aid those affected. [National WRAP Week](#) always starts the last Sunday of October. Religious and civic leaders – we urge you to take a stand, share resources, preach a sermon to enlighten people about porn's many harms. See <https://endsexualexploitation.org/wrap/> for resources.

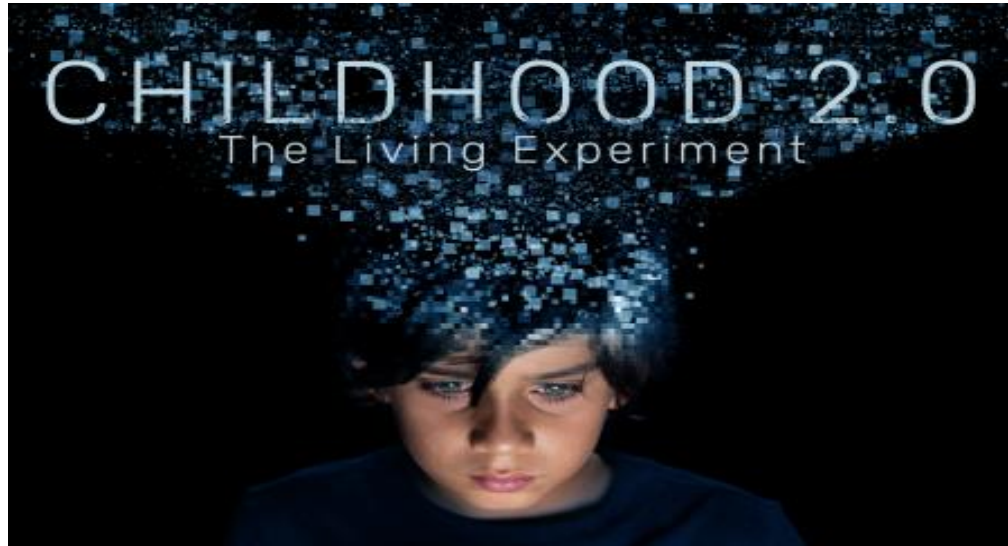
White ribbons are being phased out as the icon for this week, so 2020 will be the last year you will receive these (see inside enclosed envelope). Moving in a different direction, we are offering a decal with many possibilities for where it can be displayed – on your laptop, tablet, cell phone, car, notebooks, etc. Let's get the word out, with particular emphasis on the growing evidence of how porn harms the brain. To that end, see our web page, www.mcap1.com/brain.

We said good-bye to former MCAP President, our long-time friend, protector of children and Legislative Chairperson, **Eva Murphy**, who moved to St. Louis in July to be nearer family. She already is sorely missed! This photo was at an Annapolis bill signing with our sponsor, Md. State Senator Chris Van Hollen, and Governor Parris Glendening.



Parents! Please watch this highly recommended video

MCAP members attended the virtual [CESE \(Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation\) Summit](#) in July this year, and learned about many groundbreaking developments and resources. One newly released video is this one:



[Childhood 2.0: the Living Experiment](#) is required viewing for anyone who wants to better understand the world their children are navigating as they grow up in the digital age. Featuring actual parents and kids as well as industry-leading experts in child safety and development, this documentary delves into what is affecting the mental health of our children, which is statistically at an all-time low. Kids spend more time online and less engaging in real life, free play and autonomy. Childhood was more or less unchanged for a millennia, this is Childhood 2.0. For the first time in history, mental illness and suicide have become one of the greatest threats to school-aged children in America. This video explores the dramatic technological and cultural shift since the rise of social networks and mobile devices. Childhood 2.0 dives into the issues of addiction and withdrawal, anxiety and depression, online abuse and bullying, the pervasiveness of pornography, the culture of sexting and unforeseen consequences, the rise of online pedophilia and sexual predators, and the rapid growth of suicide among youth. It was released in August, 2020, and MCAP thinks it is better than “Screenagers” and covers a wider age range than just middle- or high school-aged youth, not to mention it is *free*! The web site, www.childhood2movie.com, also has links to other helpful resources, such as *Handbook for Raising Kids in a Digital Age* for families, schools, and community organizations which provides information on how to handle these troublesome issues, as well as guidance on how to help them thrive. It also points to a Facebook group that MCAP has previously recommended, as of this writing, a very helpful, interactive community of parents providing

advice, warnings, anecdotes and commiseration.



Case in point about online predators, note this current local news story. Malachi Thomas, a Northern Virginia 18-year-old, accused of raping a juvenile, was already under investigation for child pornography in Prince William’s County when Fairfax County police arrested him. Thomas, 18,

contacted the victim via Snapchat and solicited that victim to send him photos. Once Thomas had the photos, he forced the victim into an encounter. Thomas is charged with rape and three counts of sodomy in connection with the Fairfax County crime. There may be more victims. Police say Thomas used a number of handles online, including "carlaaa33cx," "King Stannis," "Renly," "the Golden Company," "Lord Ceaser," "Grand Kublai Khan" and "victorialuvss." Anyone who might have additional details that might help police in their investigation should call at (703) 246-7800, option 3.

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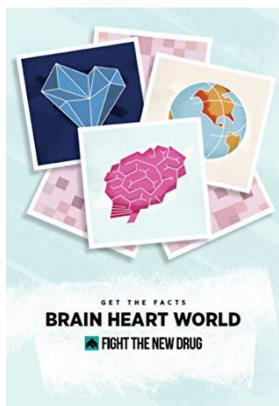
Thank you to all those who donated to our no-show Fourth of July fundraiser. The GOOD PICTURE, BAD PICTURES book by Kristen Jenson is in the process of distribution, and we have had 1 opportunity to cooperate with the screening of the movie "Screenagers" through the Prince William County Public Library in September. We hope next year we will again be able to host in-person events.

[Controversial "Cuties" creating trouble for Netflix](#)



Sign the [petition](#) to Attorney General William Barr and Netflix CEO Reed Hastings, asking for the immediate removal of the film "Cuties" from Netflix and an investigation by the U.S. Dept. of Justice for criminal production and distribution of child pornography.

A Tyler County, Texas, grand jury indicted Netflix on Sept. 23 for promoting the "lewd" visual material "against the peace and dignity of the state." The one-page indictment states that Netflix promoted, distributed and exhibited material that "depicts the lewd exhibition of the genitals or pubic area of a clothed or partially clothed child who was younger than 18 years of age" for the "prurient interest in sex." The document also states that the film has no serious "literary, artistic, political, or scientific value." Netflix released "Cuties," originally titled "Mignonnes," last month to strong national reaction. The French-language film centers on 11-year-old Amy, who becomes a member of a dance group dubbed the "Cuties." Tracking reports in September say that Netflix saw an uptick in cancellations amid the controversy over this film, which critics say sexualizes young girls. The offense is a "state jail felony," according to the statement.



Host a Virtual Screening of Brain, Heart, World
As the world has spent more time isolated and online due to COVID-19, there has also been an increase in pornography consumption across the globe. Gather your friends, family, or community for a virtual screening of **Brain, Heart, World**, a three-part documentary series from the *Fight the New Drug* organization. It might make you laugh, it might make you cry, but it will definitely make you think about how porn affects consumers, relationships, and our world. Host a free screening for free at brainheartworld.org. Use the episode worksheets and discussion guides provided to engage in a conversation about the adverse effects of pornography.

ACTION BOX

MCAP needs board members! Please call Peggy Cairns, 301-439-8475, or email mcapinc@juno.com if you wish to volunteer. For now, our monthly meetings are easy to attend as they are virtual, on Zoom. With Eva's departure, we could especially use someone with advocacy skills and passion. The issue of sexting by minors will undoubtedly come up again in 2021. Please volunteer to help review the bills proposed to penalize teens, or not, and programs to provide educational remediation. We would welcome and train new speakers, and need admin help.



FB keeps you current on developments on issues we are following.

Please pass this newsletter on to a friend, and if you don't want the decal, give it away or return it to MCAP.

Making a Difference is published quarterly online and printed once a year. Editor: Peggy Cairns. A membership in MCAP is \$15 per year. This entitles you to receive the annual printed newsletter. All contributions to MCAP are tax deductible. Your subscription expiration month appears in the upper right of your mailing label. Please send renewal payments to: M.C.A.P., P.O. Box 2868, Silver Spring, MD 20915-2868. Please [donate](#)! Any donations are much needed and appreciated!



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Maryland Coalition Against Pornography