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[www.ChildproofAmerica.org](http://www.ChildproofAmerica.org)

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**A**s promised in our previous newsletters, we will list our questions with answers at the top of each newsletter through the end of 2018. The rest of each newsletter will let readers know how they can support the new Family Guides Program, COMING EARLY 2019. Thank you for your support.

This week we are talking with a survivor who is sharing her wisdom about the impacts of social media with us, specifically Instagram.

*Kelly Litvak*

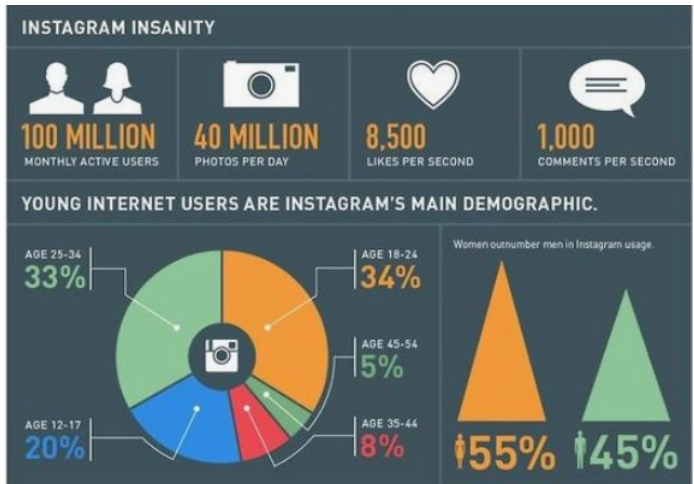
Executive Director, Childproof America

# Q&A

**Q. Reports show that Instagram has become the #1 PREDATORY APP! What should you be looking for?**

A. Predators have immediate access to users with a "public setting", therefore when using Instagram, ensure your setting is "private". Content that may draw unwelcome attention to your child include suggestive pics and language, discussion of money, conflict with parents, recent breakup with a boyfriend, vulnerable mental state and talk of wanting a "change in scenery". Predators who troll social media, looking for vulnerable targets are very clever at gaining trust by presenting themselves as the solution to your child's problems. If your child suffers from self-esteem issues, like most teens do, predators will play on that need with "likes", compliments and affirmation. Groomers are patient and can spend months or even years to strategically manipulate a young person's thinking and behavior.

Local law enforcement has confirmed a significant increase in predators on Instagram, following the shutdown of sites such as Backpage. A vulnerable youth is no match to a skilled online predator who is looking to profit off immaturity and vulnerability. Talk, talk, talk to your child if you feel he/she is ready for Instagram. Encourage them to consider the content they are posting about their locations and hardships. Beware of strangers asking to take the conversation to DM (Direct Messaging) where there is a threat of risky conversation. Not all communication is done through words, some messages are presented through emojis. Here are the ones linked to human trafficking.



**2 More Questions and Answers!**

## What is The Family Guides Program?

This first-in-nation program matches parents in crisis with a trained and vetted Family Guide who will serve as the point of contact when their child is missing and deemed a victim of trafficking. The Family Guide will help parents navigate the traumatic and fast-paced process with law enforcement, social media, schools, local and statewide resources. The priority role of the Family Guide is to provide immediate and accurate information that will enable parents to make educated decisions to significantly increase the probability of a successful outcome for the victim and family.



### Volunteer Role

The role of volunteer guides will be to “advise” not direct. They will use information contained within **Childproof America’s** inventory to suggest and offer advice on parents’ options and to provide an emotional support system for crisis trauma. Volunteers are not professional counselors but lay advisors assisting families with a review of options before them. All Family Guides must clear a national criminal database and complete the training program successfully.

### Phase One Service Area

The first target communities for the Family Guides Program in Harris, Fort Bend and Montgomery counties include Katy, Sugar Land, Kingwood and The Woodlands.

### Program Components:

**Recruitment** – The sensitivity of advocacy support requires a special personality to walk alongside a family in crisis. **Childproof America** has established criteria that a volunteer candidate must meet to qualify for this role. Those called to serve must have a genuine sense of compassion for the family and may have been a former parent survivor themselves. All candidates must complete an extensive application and interview process.

**Matching** – After vetted volunteers have completed training and cleared through a national criminal database, they will be assigned geographically with a family in crisis. Families requesting support must complete an online application and qualify for services.

**Monitoring** – Every family served will have a direct channel to **Childproof America** to provide feedback on their Family Guide and/or suggestions on how we can improve our program. In addition, Family Guides are required to submit weekly progress reports and maintain verbal communication with the Director of Programming.

I WANT  
TO VOLUNTEER!

If you would like volunteer as a Family Guide, please send a request for info to [ChildproofAmerica@gmail.com](mailto:ChildproofAmerica@gmail.com)

The current funding needs for *The Family Guides Program* are:

- ⇒ Full-time Program Staffing \$61,200
- ⇒ Private Investigator \$10,000
- ⇒ Emergency Family Support \$7,500
- ⇒ Remaining Family Guides Program need \$43,700



*A huge thank you to The George Foundation for their support of \$25,000 and to Fort Bend Charities for their support of \$10,000 towards our Family Guides Program!*



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*Ways You Can*



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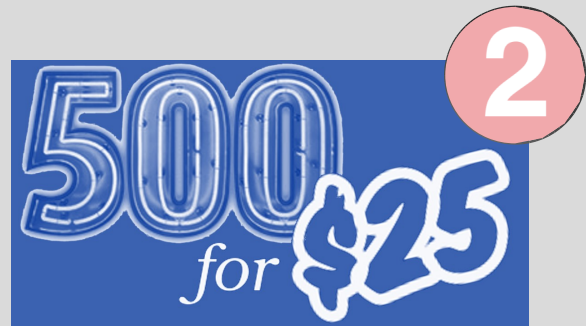
Click on the button to donate or scan this QR code with your phone:



*\*You do not need a PayPal account to donate.*

**Be a part of our 500 for \$25 Campaign!**

[Click here](#) to visit our site and sign up for the 500 for \$25 campaign. This is a recurring \$25 monthly pledge to help us fund the Family Guides Program and the important work it provides for the community. For the small price of one dinner out a month, you could help a family desperately in need of this specialized help to get their child back home. We rely on our wonderful partners to support us monthly so that we can always provide services to families in need FREE OF CHARGE. Would you consider helping to-day?





*From all of us at Childproof America, we hope you and your families are having a wonderful holiday season so far.*

[www.ChildproofAmerica.org](http://www.ChildproofAmerica.org)

*Childproof America empowers families in the battle against sex trafficking. Our mission is to educate, equip and support America's parents in the protection and defense of their children, and improve the quality of aid to impacted families. As advocates, we provide legislative pathways for concerned Americans to enforce harsh penalties to those violating the innocence of our children.*