



*Vice President Biden kicks off the Kid's Fun Run at the Beau Biden Foundation's trail race at Granogue in March 2017. This year's race is March 17, 2018. Learn more at [www.beaubidenfoundation.org/trailrace](http://www.beaubidenfoundation.org/trailrace).*

## NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT: **Beau Biden Foundation**

BY CLAIRE ARMANN

» Joseph R. "Beau" Biden was committed to protecting children from the threat of abuse. The Beau Biden Foundation was founded in 2015 to honor the memory of Beau Biden and to continue his legacy. The Beau Biden Foundation's mission is to protect children through education, training and continuing the conversation about child abuse. One in ten children will be sexu-

ally mistreated by the time they are 18. The Beau Biden Foundation believes that this is preventable and wants to ensure that children are safe from sexual exploitation. They do this through various programs and events, including Stewards of Children and Shield of Protection Initiative.

Stewards of Children is a two-hour online or instructor-led course, brought

to Delaware in 2010 by Beau Biden. This training teaches the community to see the signs and symptoms of child abuse and how to act responsibly. Stewards of Children, based on Darkness to Light's 5 Steps to Protecting Our Children, aims to educate, raise awareness, and share resources. Darkness to Light is a nonprofit organization that educates adults on the signs and symptoms of child abuse.



*The Foundation partnered with the Wilmington Blue Rocks, The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation and local law enforcement to host a baseball and softball skills clinic at Frawley Stadium in August 2017.*

Businesses all over Delaware have employees volunteering with youth serving groups. However they may not have received proper training on child protection. By offering this training, businesses are enabling their employees to better their community by minimizing the threat of abuse in Delaware. The Beau Biden Foundation has trained 19,000 Delaware adults to be Stewards of Children.

The Shield of Protection Initiative is the Beau Biden Foundation's newest program, established in 2017. This program encourages a more holistic view of child protection policies. It helps organizations evaluate their child protection regulations to ensure that they are the most effective. A lot of organizations have policies in place, but they may not take the immediate need of the child into consideration. The appropriate way to report an incident or how to respond to a child are examples of what this program looks for. This program shows the community that

the organization's child protection policies are approved by an outside source.

The Delaware State Chamber of Commerce recently donated \$35,000 to the Beau Biden Foundation at the 181st Annual Dinner. "We're humbled by the financial support from Chamber members," said Patty Dailey Lewis, Executive Director of the Beau Biden Foundation.

"Delawareans look to the business community for leadership, and their support of our work means we'll be able to reach more adults, children and youth serving organizations with our programming. We must shine a bright light on child sexual abuse, and with these funds, we'll do just that."

Frequently, the topic of child abuse is only brought up after an incident occurs. Though talking about this topic is uncomfortable, the Beau Biden Foundation strives to start that conver-

sation and keep it going. To do this the Beau Biden Foundation holds public events throughout the year.

Some of their events include a trail race, golf outings and a road race. By continuing this discussion, the Beau Biden Foundation aims to show people that this ongoing issue is relevant long after an incident occurs. Children should be able to live free of

the threat of sexual abuse. Thanks to the work done by the Beau Biden Foundation, and those who sign up for their programs and events, Delaware is a safer place for children.

If you would like to bring either of these programs to your business, or to volunteer or donate, you can request more information at the Beau Biden Foundation's website.



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