

It's hard to keep your house standing when the foundation is crumbling out from underneath it.

Many Native American adults have lived through childhood abuse -- sexual, physical, and emotional.

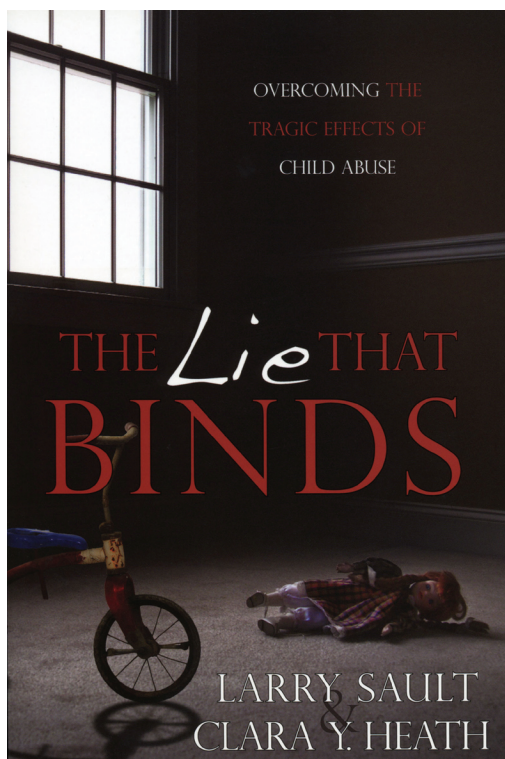
One in every four girls and one in every seven boys in the Native American community is sexually abused; and is the leading cause of substance abuse, alcoholism, homelessness and prostitution in adulthood.

It can be a difficult transition from victim to survivor and sadly, many don't live long enough to make it. How can a person go from an abused child to a happy, healthy and successful adult? Is it possible to get past the deep-rooted fears and anger to find success as a grown-up?

Claire Heath and Larry Sault, Native American adult survivors of childhood abuse, are the authors of a new book, "The Lie That Binds: Overcoming the Tragic Effects of Child Abuse," in which they share their story of abuse at the hands of their father while growing up on a small Ojibwa Indian Reservation in Ontario, Canada. Each and every member of the Sault family of sixteen brothers and sisters was brutally violated in a different, terrifying way.

"We wrote this book to give a voice to the millions of people who have had their innocence stolen from them."

Claire Heath
Larry Sault



U.S. Statistics on Sexual Abuse

An estimated 39 million survivors of sexual abuse exist in America today.

1 of every 4 females and 1 out of 6 males are sexually abused by age 18

The median age for reported sexual abuse is 9 years old.

We dedicate this book to our three brothers who died and were never able to heal," says Claire Heath and Larry Sault.

"We are living proof that the truth will set you free, and that it is never too late to find forgiveness and strength to get better," say authors Heath and Sault.

"As I healed, I came to grips with my shame and anger. The social service and foster care system in Canada was broken in the late 1960s and early 1970s when this was going on in our family. It was very hard for me understand how people didn't notice," says Heath.



Claire Heath



Larry Sault

Besides authoring the book, Heath and Sault are the founders of Divine Choices, a nonprofit located in Tustin, California, that helps transform the lives of adult sexual abuse survivors through its educational programs, workshops and conferences.

Divine Choices' 16-week program, which is currently held at a variety of locations throughout Orange County, provides sexual abuse survivors insight, healing, trust and great self-confidence.

Divine Choices also has a new program, "The Stewards of Children," dedicated to reducing the prevalence of systemic childhood sexual abuse in communities where registered sex offenders and youth serving businesses are highest. Government statistics show that registered sex offenders repeat sex crimes at a rate exceeding 5.3% in less than 3 years after release from prison.

For information about the "Lie That Binds" or Divine Choices' programs, go to www.divinechoices.org or call 949-940-8991.

