

THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER
OF NORTH AND NORTHWEST COOK COUNTY

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THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER
OF NORTH AND NORTHWEST COOK COUNTY SATELLITE OFFICE

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SAFE FROM THE START
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A HEALING PLACE FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

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A HEALING PLACE FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

WELCOME

NEW BOARD MEMBER

LAURIE STONE recently retired from the Schaumburg Business Association where she served from 2001 to 2010 as its Founding President. Stone also spent a decade as President and CEO of the Greater O'Hare Association of Industry and Commerce and the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce. In addition, she spent five years as Marketing Director of the Northwest Suburban Association of Commerce and Industry.

Laurie was elected to the Harper College Board of Trustees in 2001, and served as Board Chair from 2003 to 2010. She has been active in the Northwest Suburbs for 25 years serving as a director of the Woodfield Chicago Northwest Convention Bureau, and as a member of the Schaumburg Business Development Commission, PACE Community Advisory Board, and Roosevelt University Community Advisory Board. Her activity has also included a host of professional organizations and additional civic involvement.

Laurie Stone is a resident of Elk Grove Village. She is a mother of four and grandmother of eight.



This Battlefield is in Our Homes

by Laura Rutledge, Safe from the Start Family Therapist and Case Coordinator

For some that read this newsletter, you may be unfamiliar with the CAC's Safe from the Start program. Safe from the Start (SFTS) is a program aimed at reducing the trauma of exposure to violence in children, ages 0-5 years old. Exposure to violence can affect children in many ways including changes in eating, sleeping and toileting, as well as increased fear, anxiety, distractibility and aggression. Children are exposed to violence through child physical or sexual abuse, neglect and witnessing domestic violence or community violence.

Many families have come through the doors of Safe from the Start. An example of one of these families is the Campbell family. Jennifer and her five year old daughter Nina were referred to SFTS from a local Head Start preschool program. Jennifer reported that she had experienced years of physical, emotional and verbal abuse from her husband George. Jennifer said that George had threatened to kill her and had a past history of substance abuse. Although she was in the process of obtaining a divorce, the violence and intimidation seemed to be escalating. Jennifer reported that Nina would often be present while violence occurred and was experiencing many concerning problems such as night terrors, fearfulness, somatic complaints, angry outbursts and clingy behavior.

SFTS therapist, Laura Rutledge was assigned to the Campbell family and began by taking an extensive case history as well as assessing the child's behaviors and parental concerns. Laura and Jennifer worked on creating various goals for treatment that included helping Nina identify and process her feelings about the violence, providing education and support on how violence affects children, strengthening the parent/child relationship, developing a safety plan for future risks, and helping Nina find ways to cope with troubling fears and thoughts.

Jennifer was present at most sessions and would often participate in therapy that strengthened her relationship with Nina. Jennifer would practice "I Love You Rituals" and read various nurturing books with Nina. It was evident during these activities, that Jennifer had a loving and secure attachment with Nina. The presence of this allowed Nina to feel safe and comfortable throughout treatment. In many ways, their relationship provided the foundation for successful intervention.

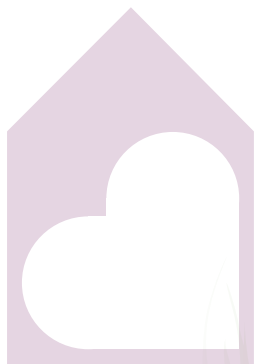
At SFTS, Nina was able to use various modes of therapy to express her feelings and reactions to the violence she had experienced and witnessed. Nina would often gravitate to the dollhouse; wanting to play with a figure she named, "yelling man." Nina would play out various family

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Mission Statement:



Recognizing the right of all children to a safe childhood, The Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook county continuously strives to reduce trauma and provide support to child victims of violence and their families. The Center serves as a community resource to facilitate the identification, intervention and prevention of child abuse.



Director's Corner



Dear Friends,


While we enjoy another beautiful summer day, it is tempting to try to forget the massive budget problem with which our state is currently faced. The numbers alone overwhelm us, and trying to understand the details of the budget are enough to confuse and frustrate the most learned among us.

In order to try to explain the current mess, I am including the following information as it was provided to the Center by Illinois Partners for Human Service. This non-partisan group includes representatives of a wide-range of human services agencies and organizations, including the Children's Advocacy Center. "The General Assembly recently passed several budget bills that gave lump sum appropriations to state departments and an additional appropriation to the Governor to spend as he chooses. The General Assembly also passed the Emergency Budget Act, which gives unprecedented power to the Governor to make changes to contracts, eligibility standards and programs at will until January of 2011; extends the time period of "lapsed spending" from August 31st to December 31st, meaning that some of FY10 bills will not be paid until the end of the year; and mandates that prior bills be paid before the FY11 bills".

However, the General Assembly failed to come up with the revenue it needs to pay for what it is planning to spend. What this means for our agency, and the children and families we serve, is more uncertainty about the availability of funding for needed services for abused children, and their families, and greater delays in payments for services provided.

We need your help – please contact your local state senator and house members and ask that they continue to work toward a comprehensive solution to the problem of the state budget deficit; a solution that does not include reducing funding for human services. As always, we appreciate the support we receive from local townships and municipalities, from our corporate and foundation supporters, and from concerned community members. Now more than ever, the lives of abused children and the services needed to help them heal depend on your continuing support.

Sincerely, Mark Parr



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CASINO NIGHT Here's your chance to volunteer in planning our Casino Nite scheduled for September 24th, 2010 at Millrose Restaurant and Banquets. We are looking for volunteers to help plan the casino games, solicit raffle prizes, and cashier at the bank.

Please call Susan at (847) 885-0100 or email at srcac@sbcglobal.net if interested. We are counting on our past volunteers and dealers to help us out again this year.

Champions 4 Children Walk MAY 15 2010

The Champions for Children Walk originated at our Center on May 15, 2010. It was a spectacular day for a 3-mile walk around the streets in Hoffman Estates and Schaumburg. Deerfield's bakery supplied yummy muffins, bagels, and sweet breads and Millrose Restaurant donated the water bottles. Fast Signs created the large banner hung in the front lawn of The Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County. Following the walk, National Karate and the children and parents were able to learn new safety moves in a wonderful demonstration. We thank all the sponsors, participants and donors who contributed pledges to our Center.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with Hoffman Estates Mayor McLeod, Trustee Ray Kinkaid, Village Clerk Bev Romanoff and Susan Reedquist, Director of Development at The CAC



This Battlefield (continued from page 1)

themes expressing how she might have been feeling about her experiences. Nina expressed on multiple occasions her fears that her father George would come and kill her mother. SFTS therapist Laura often used age-appropriate activities designed to help put words with scary and angry feelings and provide a safe environment to express them.

Throughout treatment, Jennifer and Nina developed safety plans that allowed Nina to feel safe and protected. Laura referred Jennifer to the Between Friends program at the Rolling Meadows courthouse to obtain an order of protection that prohibited George from coming to the house or Nina's school. When George violated the order of protection by vandalizing Jennifer's house and showing up at the 4th of July fireworks, Jennifer was able to contact the police department for assistance and support.

After over a year of weekly therapy sessions, Nina was able to process all the mixed feelings about the trauma she had experienced. Jennifer was able to understand Nina's troubling behavior and find ways to meet her needs through nurturing and healthy parenting. Their relationship has grown and is stronger than ever. There is a quote that says, "Domestic violence is America's hidden war. And the battleground is in all our homes." Although the Campbell family experienced war in their home and family, they were able to come out triumphant, free to live healthy and safe lives.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ERIC SU AND PATTY ERRERA!



Participants in Goality's Fun Run/Walk 2010

The Center received the donations from two fundraisers in April and May planned by supporters of the CAC.

On April 17th, Goality Fitness Club held their 3rd Spring 5K Fun Run/Fitness Walk with the donations coming to our Center. Owner, Eric Su, was proud of his 35 members who ran and walked for the CAC and contributed over \$450 to our Center. Thank you!

Another committed supporter of The Children's Advocacy Center, Patty Errera, has been making fleece blankets for our children for the past three years. One day Patty and her friends came up with the idea of planning a wine tasting party at Lynfred Winery in Roselle, IL and donating the proceeds to our Center. The guests enjoyed sampling 8 delicious wines, finger sandwiches and a chocolate truffle at the end of the party. Everyone had a wonderful evening and \$2,700 were raised in donations.

Community and Fundraisers past and future!

Once-in-a-lifetime Experience at The Driehaus Estate in Lake Geneva



The Children's Advocacy Center sincerely appreciates the Richard Driehaus Estate for hosting a majestic evening on the shore of Lake Geneva. Guests were able to tour the massive grounds of the estate as well as enjoy a gourmet buffet inside the mansion. The event raised over \$9,000 for the Center.

CAC Founder, Darwin and Annette Adams enjoying a relaxing moment in the patio of the Driehaus Estate

Put your company's name on a wall in

STARBUCKS

The newly renovated Starbucks Store at The Streets of Woodfield has donated a commemorative wall to The Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County. Acrylic plaques will be engraved with your personal message or with information about your business. This wall is permanent and your message will be viewed by the 6,000 customers who pass by this wall every week.

Order your personalized plaque by July 30th.

(The copy on the plaque should be 10 words or less.)

Donation is \$100/plaque

Mail your check to CAC:

Plaques

The Children's Advocacy Center
640 Illinois Blvd.
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

For information or to pay by credit card, contact:

Susan Reedquis at 847-885-0100 • email: srcac@sbcglobal.net



Your message could be here and viewed by 6,000 customers every week

OUR HATS GO OFF TO Our Townships

The Children's Advocacy Center sincerely thanks the following townships and municipalities for their donations over the past year. These donations are very helpful at a time when we have not been receiving our contractual funding from the State of Illinois.

- Arlington Heights
- Barrington Township
- Bartlett
- Des Plaines
- Elk Grove Township
- Glenview
- Hanover Park
- Hanover Township Mental Health Board
- Inverness
- Maine Township
- Mount Prospect
- New Trier Township
- Niles Township
- Northfield Township
- Palatine
- Prospect Heights
- Schaumburg
- Schaumburg Township
- Skokie
- Wheeling Township
- Wilmette