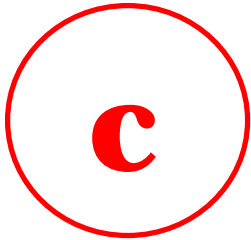


Child Abuse Network News

Working Together To End Abuse: A Continuum of Services for Families at Risk

By: Nancy Hatfield

*Stop the hurt...
begin the healing*



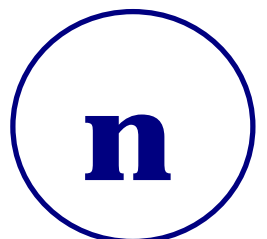
Special Events:

- ✓ *You CAN be a kid again*
 - *April 15, 2005*
 - *April 16, 2005*
- ✓ *Pennies From Heaven*
 - *March 26th – May 21st*



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Despite our best efforts, child abuse continues to be a reality. Every year more than 5,000 children are abused and neglected in Tulsa County. It is a profound tragedy that has to be understood before it can be dealt with. Addressing child abuse requires a comprehensive plan with multiple, coordinated strategies.

To this end, four local agencies join in a continuum of services for families at risk. Those agencies are The Parent Child Center of Tulsa, The Child Abuse Network, Family and Children's Services and Tulsa CASA (Court appointed Special Advocates). These four local agencies provide the resources in our community for child abuse prevention, intervention, treatment, and advocacy to serve children and families of alleged abuse.

Working together to address child abuse and neglect, these agencies provide differentiable services and programs to bring hope into the lives of children who need hope the most. Often I am asked the question, "What is the difference?" or "How do these agencies provide services to support our child abuse and neglect system in Tulsa County?" Listed below is a brief description of the agencies and their services in order to give you a better understanding of the continuum: Prevention, Intervention, Treatment and Advocacy.

When we think of the primary prevention agency we think of The Parent Child Center (PCC) of Tulsa. PCC offers parent education, home-based and center-based prevention for low/moderate/high risk families, family counseling, parenting education, treatment for abusive and neglectful parents, individual and family counseling, supervised visitations and exchanges, 24-hour crisis line, short-term crisis foster care, referrals to community resources, and child advocacy.

Next in the continuum is intervention, which is provided by The Child Abuse Network (CAN), Tulsa's accredited Children's Advocacy Center. CAN exist to reduce additional trauma that child abuse investigations can pose for children.

The Child Abuse Network co-locates multiple agencies at the Justice Center, a safe and comforting environment for children of alleged abuse. CAN's co-located partner agencies include OU Pediatrics, Tulsa Police Department, DHS Child Welfare, and the District Attorney's Office. Services provided at CAN include child abuse medical evaluations, crisis intervention, specialized forensic child interviews, case reviews, court school, referrals for therapeutic and community support services and community and professional training on child abuse.

For treatment, the Family and Children's Services agency provides counseling services, treatment for child sexual abuse and adolescent sex offenders, adoption home studies/swift adoption, parent aide, parenting skill development programs, crisis intervention, reunification, child trauma assessments, literacy programs, and marriage and family strengthening programs. The agency partners with families, schools, businesses, and other organizations to share resources and develop comprehensive solutions to problems that threatens the well being of families and the community.

Although all of the above mentioned agencies participate in child advocacy, Tulsa CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) trains community volunteers to speak in court for the best interests of abused and neglected children who are in state custody. CASA volunteers work on one case at a time to help assure the child/family receives services that the court has ordered to secure a safe, permanent, nurturing home. CASA volunteer advocates provide continuity to a child amid the chaos of the foster care and court systems.

Child abuse is a community problem and finding solutions depends on the involvement of people throughout the community. For many, it is simply too hard to imagine that innocent children are being victimized each and every day in our own communities. Working together we can make a difference in the life of a child. It takes a caring and dedicated community committed to ensuring that each child has a safe loving environment.

From the Desk of The Executive Director

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month



Barbara Findeiss

Every April communities across the nation observe child abuse prevention month. Activities are often focused on last year's child abuse numbers and prevention services that are designed to prevent child abuse from ever happening. Some of these services include Oklahoma's Children First, Healthy Families, and high-risk programs.

Unfortunately, stopping or reducing child abuse requires additional strategies and services. At the risk of over-simplifying a complex system, I often think of addressing child abuse through a three-pronged approach. Community support services and programs such as those listed above are our "first line of defense". Intervention Services make up the second line of defense. This is the work of the Child Abuse Network – assisting alleged victims and the investigation/prosecution. The third line of defense, treatment services, focuses on healing victims in order that they do not become abusers in later life.

From a local perspective, three levels of defense against child abuse sounds logical and manageable and therefore, somehow reassuring. That is until someone (Greg Burn, CAN Board member) looks at child abuse from a different angle:

- Oklahoma has 1.22% of the nation's child population AND 1.77% of all substantiated abuse and neglect cases
- During his/her lifetime a child molester will victimize between 117 and 360 children
- 60 million Americans have been sexually abused (1996 University of Michigan study)
- 1 in 4 girls and 1-6 boys have been sexually abused (Boston University School of Medicine)
- \$94 BILLION = annual cost of abuse and neglect (including investigation, prosecution, treatment, lost productivity)
- Americans can access immediate financial market data, yet data on child abuse is two to three years old.

Thank you Greg for putting our local problem into perspective. Child abuse has to be understood before it can be dealt with (Prevent Child Abuse America)...there is still a lot to do.

2004 CAN Services Statistics

October through December

New children were served at CAN

Ages of these children were:		
➤ 0-6 years		147
➤ 7-12 years		86
➤ 13-18 years		40
➤ Unknown		1

These children were seen for:

➤ Sexual Abuse	158
➤ Physical Abuse	110
➤ Witness to Violence	2
➤ Other	9
➤ Neglect	10

Children may have been seen for more than one type of abuse.



PENNIES FROM HEAVEN CAMPAIGN

Special PENNIES FROM HEAVEN "Banks" will be available for your donation at numerous locations in this area

Family and friends of SKYLA BROOKS (June 5, 1998-March 21, 2000) and The Child Abuse Network, Inc. (CAN) Staff, Board and volunteers who seek a safer world for all children

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Barbara E. Findeiss, MPH

Heartfelt “thanks” to the following individuals and organizations for their contributions: October 1, 2004 – December 31, 2004

Albertson's
Lamiaa & Khalid Ali
Diane Allen
Allergy Clinic of Tulsa
Anchor Gasoline Corp.
Barbara Gardner Anderson
Robert & Melanie Anderson
Anheuser Busch, Inc.
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Tulsa Past Matrons Club
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Tulsa University – Art Dept.
Julie & Howard Twilley
Regan Unruh
Walgreen's
Jennifer & Paul Walker
Roxanne & Kyle Whiteis
Arnold Wood
Rachel Zebrowski

APRIL IS FOR WEARING BLUE RIBBONS

In cities across the nation citizens are asked to wear a blue ribbon to signify the recognition that abuse and neglected children in their communities are not forgotten and that those children CAN be priorities for us all!



Use it, so we don't lose it!

If you have lost your card or do not have one please call us at 918.831.4550 and we will get one to you!

**THE MILLION DOLLAR RIDE FOR CHILDREN
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THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE
July 16-23, 2005**

Clubs, groups and individuals are welcome to join the Million Dollar Ride, which begins July 16, 2005 in Los Angeles and ends one week later in Washington, D.C. Each daily ride will cover 300 to 400 miles, and any sponsored rider may join the ride at any stopover location.

Registration/Information:

Ben and Jamie Caperton, 719-686-7775 • www.milliondollarride.org or email: jamie@milliondollarride.org

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CAN is Tulsa's
Children's
Advocacy Center



NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE[®]
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You CAN be a kid again!

Patron Party –
Friday, April 15, 2005
Tickets: \$75 Adult; \$35 Student
The Oklahoma Aquarium in Jenks, OK

Carnival –
Saturday, April 16, 2005
Tickets: \$5 each
Pavilion – Tulsa Fairgrounds

For more information contact CAN at
(918) 831-4550