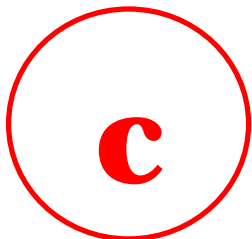




**Stop the hurt...
begin the healing**



The forensic interview is a crucial tool in child abuse investigations. The goal of the forensic interview is to obtain a statement from a child in an objective, legally defensible, and developmentally sensitive manner (Davies, et al., 1997).

The Child Abuse Network employs three professionals who conduct forensic interviews at the request of child welfare or law enforcement investigators. CAN's interviewers are specially trained to facilitate children's abilities to make accurate statements about their experiences regarding reported abuse. CAN requires that its interviewers have a broad base of knowledge that includes child development, family systems and the dynamics of abuse.



Michelle Brown, MSW, is CAN's full-time Forensic Interviewer. She began working at the Tulsa Justice Center in 1999 as a child welfare

investigator. In 2000 she attended the CornerHouse *Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview Training* Program in Minneapolis, MN. After four years Michelle left the Center to work at DHS' Laura Dester Children's Shelter, however, she continued to conduct forensic interviews on request. In May of 2005 CAN hired Michelle as the full-time forensic interviewer. She has completed over 550 forensic interviews at the Justice Center.

Michelle attended CornerHouse's *Advanced Forensic Interview Training* November, 2005. Coincidentally, one of the participating detectives from New Jersey recognized Michelle from a forensic interview involving a child who had been sexually abused while visiting relatives in New Jersey. The detective said the interview provided them with very accurate details of the incident and the environment in which the incident occurred. The man confessed to everything the child had disclosed in the forensic interview with Michelle. The Child Abuse Network has reached farther than we could have imagined!

Rose Perry, MSW, is the Managing Director for the Child Abuse Network (CAN), and provides back up for Michelle.



Rose received her Undergraduate degree in social work from Oral Roberts University and obtained her masters degree in social work from the University of Oklahoma. Rose has worked over 19 years in the field of social work with extensive work experience within the DHS child welfare system. Since coming to work for CAN, she has successfully completed CornerHouse's *Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview Training*. Completing the training and conducting forensic interviews has been a challenging yet exhilarating process for Rose. She says, "It is always exciting to maximize opportunities and acquire new skills to apply when interfacing with both children and adults as we attempt to provide safe environments for our children to grow up in." Rose feels fortunate to have been given the opportunity to complete the CornerHouse training and provide forensic interviewing services to CAN's partner agencies and the children of Tulsa County.



Melissa Gantz, LCSW, is CAN's Mental Health Specialist, and she also provides forensic interviewing back up for

Michelle. Before joining CAN, Melissa was a therapist for almost 10 years. She is very comfortable talking with abused children and adolescents about the abuse they have suffered. As a therapist she helped many deal with the effects of their abuse. This experience has been very helpful to Melissa in conducting forensic interviews. She said, "I believe early and appropriate initial intervention is one of the keys to a successful recovery."

In October of 2005 Melissa completed CornerHouse's *Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview Training*. Now, as a Forensic Interviewer, it is her job to focus less on the feelings and effects of the abuse while gathering all the details of the abusive events. Melissa states, "One thing that I like about being an interviewer is giving the children a safe and respectful setting in which to talk to an adult who can deal appropriately with this information. I enjoy being involved with the children in the initial stage of the abuse investigation giving them the clear message that they have done the right thing by talking about what happened and that it is not their fault."

Special Events:

- ✔ "You Can Be A Kid Again"
➤ March 24-25, 2006
- ✔ Pennies From Heaven
➤ March 21st – April 30th



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From the Desk of The Executive Director

An Opportunity



Barbara Findeiss

When I joined the Child Abuse Network in July 1995, Oklahoma was energized about new legislation that provided for multidisciplinary child abuse teams in all twenty-seven District Attorney Districts. The legislation was called the Ryan Luke Bill, named after a McAlester toddler whose abuse injuries were fatal. Today, ten years later, there is another toddler whose death has energized legislative interest. Her name was Kelsey Briggs, and the legislation is called the Kelsey Briggs Child Protection Act.

The proposed legislation addresses numerous issues including increased access to information and decisions regarding cases, review and amendment of Oklahoma's Child Protection laws, and new alternatives and avenues to review child placement decisions. At this point, the actual language and eventual passage/failure of the legislation is yet to be determined. Herein lies opportunity.

Having worked on child protection issues, I am somewhat of a cynic when it comes to looking to the legislature for improvements to Oklahoma's child protection system. However, this one little girl and the people who loved and cared about her...and the community that is outraged at her death... seem to have energized our legislative leaders. Could this be another milestone year for the legislature - one that triggers debate, discussion, motivation, and achievement? It is certainly a year to watch, get educated about local elections and get involved in protecting our children. Ryan, Kelsey, and all the others cannot do it alone.



Pennies from Heaven Campaign

*Special **PENNIES FROM HEAVEN** "Banks" will be available for your donation at numerous locations in this area from March 21st through April 30th.*

*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 appreciate your support.*

E-mail Addresses Requested

CAN is always seeking ways to provide the most efficient service to all. Please consider sending your e-mail address to mcopeland@childabusenetwork.org if you would be interested in receiving the quarterly newsletter and other important information electronically to help reduce mailing costs.

2005 CAN Services Statistics

July through September
New children served at CAN

Ages of these children were:

- **0-6 years** **298**
- **7-12 years** **134**
- **13-18 years** **55**
- **Unknown** **5**

These children were seen for:

- **Sexual Abuse** **240**
- **Physical Abuse** **178**
- **Witness to Violence** **5**
- **Other** **6**
- **Neglect** **118**

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

**Heartfelt "Thanks" to the following individuals and organizations for their contributions:
July 1, 2005 – September 30, 2005**

We apologize if we have mistakenly omitted your name. Please let us know.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Mr. and Mrs. David J. Adams | Ms. Stephanie Maclin |
| Albertson's | Mar-B Partnership dba McDonald's |
| Mr. Josh Baker | Mr. and Mrs. Donald F. Marlar |
| Bama Companies | Mr. Terry Martin |
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| Charles and Marilyn Buland | Northeastern OK Driving School |
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| Mr. and Mrs. Greg Burn | ONEOK Foundation, Inc. |
| Cheapo Depo #3 | Parent Child Center |
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| Jean Ellis | Michael and Marilyn Predovic |
| Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence L. Findeiss | Public Service Co. - Tulsa Office |
| Melissa Gantz | QuikTrip Corporation |
| Gldn Nugt, Inc. | Ms. Betty Redford |
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| Joy Hellard | Jack and Judi Schanck |
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| Mr. and Mrs. Frank X. Henke III | Dianne and Rex Shelton |
| Hille Family Charitable Foundation | Ms. Mary Ann Skinner |
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| Stephanie and Michael Knight | Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Teel, Jr. |
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| Linde BOC Process Plants, LLC | Mr. Daniel T. Wheeler |
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**SUTURE'S
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

SUTURE'S 10th Annual Charity Golf Tournament was held September 13, 2005 on the Stone Creek course at Page Belcher Golf Course. The LDF Companies and Larry Fleming were the presenting sponsors of this tourney that benefits the Child Abuse Network. A great time was had by all, and funds exceeded last year's total of \$23,000. Over 200 golfers participated in SUTURE'S 10th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. "I started this tourney as an excuse to get out and play some golf," said co-tourney director Dave Ingram. He, along with Kerry Tunnell and Dan Pollard, has helped raise more than \$92,000.00 for the Child Abuse Network, the benefactor of the tournament over the past six years.



Dave Ingram, owner of the Green Onion Restaurant and partner and co-owner of Suture's Bar and Grille, Barbara Findeiss, Executive Director of Child Abuse Network, Kerry Tunnell and Dan Pollard both partners and co-owners of Suture's Bar and Grille.



**April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.
Start planning your special efforts today!**



A simple and innovative fund-raising program for community organizations, Albertsons' Community Partners Card program is growing fast! The program has over 40,000 member organizations participating and gave more than \$15.5 million back to communities across America in 2004.

CAN receives quarterly donations from this program that are generated by our supporters' use of our Community Partners Card. You simply have the cashier scan your card when you check out to commit a percentage of your Albertson's purchase to CAN at no additional cost to you. To participate in this program benefiting CAN please contact Nancy Hatfield at (918) 619-4583 to request a card.

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**Child Abuse Network
2829 S. Sheridan
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74129**

**Phone: 918-619-4550
Fax: 918-619-4579**

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*Stop the hurt
begin the healing*

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Fax: 918-619-4579**

www.childabusenetwork.org



**Friday, March 24th - Patron Party at the
Air and Space Museum 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: (21 & over) \$50.00 or
(under 21) \$35.00 each.**

Call 619-4583 to order advance tickets.

Entertainment, Silent Auction, Food, and Fun

**Saturday, March 25th FAMILY CARNIVAL-
Union Multipurpose Activity Center (UMAC)
from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Tickets: \$5.00
Games, Food & Fun! Open to the Public
Advance tickets available.**

Mark the Date!

**CAN is Tulsa's
Children's
Advocacy Center**



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FOR CHILDREN OF
ALL AGES**