

# *National Volunteer Week April 9-15, 2000*



Volunteers make a difference! On behalf of the CARE Center board of directors and staff, thank you for touching the lives of thousands of children through your volunteering. It is through your efforts that the CARE Center's mission is fulfilled and a spirit of safety and support is created for the children and families who need us. Your work and dedication are appreciated.



**Visit our website at:  
carecenter-okc.org  
The Care center  
website was  
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Break the Silence  
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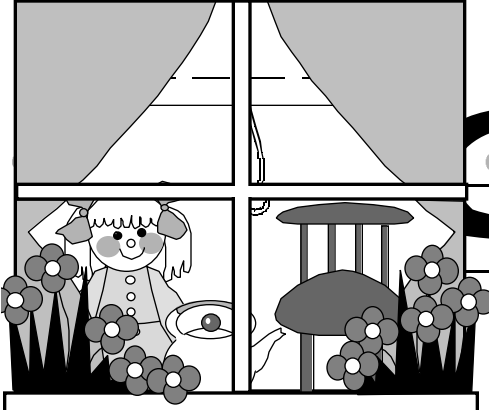
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# QUARTERLY

A Publication of the Child Abuse  
Response & Evaluation Center

Spring 2000



## Funding law signed



Funding for child advocacy centers like the CARE Center and multidisciplinary teams was signed into law April 7, 2000 by Gov. Frank Keating during a ceremony at the child advocacy center in Tulsa. Pictured during the signing are, from left, H.B. 2007 Senator Author Mike Morgan, D-Stillwater; House Community and Family Responsibilities Committee Chair Betty Boyd, D-Tulsa; House Author Rep. Mike Thornbrugh, R-Tulsa, and First Lady Cathy Keating. The bill will provide a source of stable funding to assist centers and teams in their fight against child abuse.

## Center Assists FBI, U.S. Attorney's Office on Federal Cases

by Andrea Grosvald, forensic interviewer

Many people are aware that the CARE Center serves abused and neglected children throughout Oklahoma County. Less known is that many law enforcement agencies statewide, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, have utilized the Center in their criminal investigations.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Oklahoma has the responsibility of prosecuting federal crimes in the western half of the state. Many cases involve sexual and physical abuse of minors which occur on federal installations and Indian lands. At the direction of that office, the FBI, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and various tribal police agencies have brought more than 40 children to the CARE Center for interviews in criminal investigations since January 1998.

When a child involved in a federal case is brought to the Center for an interview, a team of professionals often arrive as well to assist with the case. Typically the team consists of the FBI or Bureau of Indian Affairs agent assigned to investigate the allegations, an Indian Child Protection worker, a tribal police officer, an Assistant U.S. Attorney, and a victim witness advocate from the U.S. Attorney's office.

The team jointly reviews the allegations, confers regarding family history and discusses any other relevant information about the child or situation. The CARE Center's forensic interviewer then conducts the child interview with the assistance of the investigating officer and child welfare worker using the Center's interviewing rooms.

Arvo Q. Mikkanen, an Assistant U.S. Attorney and the Western District's Special Assistant for Tribal Relations, has primary responsibility for prosecuting federal crimes on Indian lands of 19 different Indian tribes. He reported, "Because there are few, if any, such interviewing centers in the tribal communities located across the Western District of Oklahoma, the CARE Center has played a very important part in the investigation of crimes against children in Indian country."

The majority of federal cases brought to the Center involve females who have allegedly been sexually abused. Mikkanen noted, "The relaxed atmosphere of the CARE Center and its play room, toys and volunteer staff have made it a lot easier for the children. Our interviews have been much more productive than those taken in other less "victim-friendly" environments."

Numerous federal cases that have come through the CARE Center have resulted in federal charges being filed. The U.S. Attorney's office reports substantial increased success with their child abuse cases since they began bringing children to the Center for interviews. Mikkanen stated, "This office views continued access to and use of the CARE Center and its forensic interviewer as critical to the successful prosecution of child abuse crimes in the federal courts."

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The Quarterly is a publication of the CARE Center, whose mission is to provide in one location, protection and assistance to child abuse victims and their families through expert multidisciplinary intervention and investigation in a safe, sensitive, supportive environment.

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*The CARE Center is a charter member of  
the National Children's Alliance*

# From the Director

Each child who comes to us is very special. Like the three little girls, all sisters, who were here because their father had sexually abused them. With paper crowns the volunteers helped them make, they were transformed into princesses for a few brief hours and they paraded through the Center for all the staff to see. Their shame was eased; their burden had been left with the interviewer. There was once again a skip in their step.

Before the Center, there wouldn't have been volunteers to help children make paper crowns, nor a staff who feels compelled to stop their work to say hello and to compliment their handiwork, nor a team to work together to ensure that nightmares are transformed into daydreams.

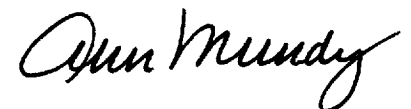
With 1,144 children needing our services in 1999, and more than 5,000 in the 6 1/2 years since the Center opened, I know it is only a fraction of the children who need us. Yet I am reminded of the adage: "When you're emptying the ocean with a teaspoon, keep your eyes on the bucket, not on the ocean."

The focus of the CARE Center is first and foremost to improve the response to abused children and to help them feel at home and less anxious. And that means crafting crowns and making finger paint handprint pictures to hang alongside others that have been left on the bulletin board by children who have come here before. It means offering a weary, worried mother a cup of coffee and a listening ear so she will in turn be able to comfort and support her child. It means ensuring that all aspects of the investigation are taking place in an orderly fashion and that counseling and medical services are arranged when necessary.

When I consider what has occurred in just 6 1/2 short years in terms of bringing all the agencies together for the child in the safety of the CARE Center, I realize, that while not every child who needs us finds us, we have come a long way. And now there are 13 other centers in Oklahoma providing these same kinds of services to children in counties from Ottawa to Carter to Garfield.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if every child in the state who needs it had access to this same sensitive system? Our state legislators took bold steps this session by passing H.B 2007, commonly referred to as the CAMA bill (Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Account), which will help make this a reality by providing stable funding for children's advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams.

One child, when asked during her interview if her grandfather had hurt her when he touched her inappropriately, responded, "Only in my heart." Isn't it nice to know that the system won't hurt her again?



# Celebrity Waiters' Gala a Success

On April 4, the CARE Center held its 3rd annual Celebrity Waiters' Gala at Gaillardia Golf & Country Club. Local Oklahoma Bank sponsored the event and political analysts Burns Hargis and Mike Turpin served as emcees. Jackie Jones served as event chair and was assisted by event committee members Louise Bennett, Marilyn Chambers, Amy Cottrell, Susie Crews, Beth Jacobs, Carol Linehan, Dr. Ellie Lottinville, Ann Marie Mee, Dr. Jane Puls, Julie Smith, Rodney Timms and Nancy Woodson.

Several local celebrities enthusiastically dressed in CARE Center aprons and waited tables to raise tips for the Center. Waiters for the evening were: Oklahoma Highway Patrol Chief of Patrol **Gary Adams**, KFOR TV Sports Director **Bob Barry, Jr.**, Oklahoma City Police Chief **M.T. Berry**, Library Consultant and Standup Comedian **Lee Brawner**, Blazers players **Marco Cefalo** and **Jim Jensen**, Head Golf Professional of Gaillardia Golf & Country Club **Mark Chitwood**, Redhawks Representative **Kristen Clifford**, KRXO Radio Personality **Sean Elliott**, Lt. Governor **Mary Fallin**, Insurance Commissioner **Carroll Fisher**, Editor of Friday newspaper **Leland Gourley**, Owner of Mama Lucia's restaurant and Trumpet Player **David B. Hooten**, KOMARadio Personality **Ronnie Kaye**, Daily Oklahoman Editorial Cartoonist **Jim Lange**, District Attorney **Robert H. Macy**, Editor of Oklahoma Today **Louisa McCune**, KOCO TV 5 Reporter **Randy McIlwain**, former Governor **George Nigh**, Oklahoma County Commissioner **Earl Rooms**, KOMA Radio Personality **Lisa Sykes**, Oklahoma Wranglers Vice President and General Manager **David M. Vance**, Mrs. Nichols Hills **Debbie Westman**, Oklahoma County Sheriff **John Whetsel**, Balloon Bizness owner **Pam Wright**, and Former NFL Player and Director of Development for City Care at City Church, **Steve Zabel**.

The celebrity waiters exhibited their talents in an effort to generate tips and win a five-day Carnival cruise for two to Cozumel, Calica-Cancun, courtesy of **Jan Walker of Big Sky Travel**. Lt. Governor Mary Fallin raised the most tips, edging out Jim Jensen for the opportunity to cruise to Cozumel. This year's Gala was a great success, with almost 300 guests in attendance and more than \$30,000 raised in tips for the Center by the hard-working celebrity waiters!

In addition those already mentioned, the CARE Center would like to thank the following sponsors for their contribution to the CARE Center's 3rd Annual Celebrity Waiters' Gala:

501 Cafe, An Affair of the Heart, Tim & Vikki Allen, American Cleaners, Artifacts, Rosemary Eckroat Bachle, Aaron Baker (Trimmings), Mr. Phillip Baker, Ben & Zelma Barnes, Bath & Body Works (Penn Square Mall), Mr. Danny Bayse, BC Clark Jewelers, Marcia Bennett, Clay &



*Steve Gable, Burns Hargis, Marilyn Chambers and former Governor George Nigh get ready for an evening of celebrity waiting. Photo courtesy of Friday Newspaper.*

Louise Bennett, Big Sky Travel, Ms. Penelope Blackmon, Gayle Bowling-Chambers, Brighter Days, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Brown, Mr. & Mrs. Bob G. Bunce, Ronald & Ellen Burne, Marilyn & Charles T. Chambers III, Cindy Raby Interiors, Mrs. Nancy Cooley, Amy & David Cottrell, Courtyard by Marriott, Crabtree & Evelyn (Penn Square Mall), Jon & Susie Crews, Mr. & Mrs. Jon Davis, Ms. Danette D'Aoust, Mr. John Eagleston, Estee Lauder, Dillard's (Crossroads Mall), Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Ferretti, Shannon Ford (Innovative Design), Mrs. Josephine Freede, Ms. Jeanette L. Gamba, Godiva Chocolate (Penn Square Mall), Mrs. James G. Grissom, Hilda's, Mr. David Hogan, CPA, Rhonda & Stephen Hooper, Gloria Hulva (Worth Collection), In Your Dreams, Ingrid's Kitchen, J.R.W. Inc., Mr. & Mrs. Mike Jones, Kamber's, Ken's Auto, Kerr-McGee Corporation, Key Women in Business, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Knott, Kokopelli, Jane C. Krizer, Mr. Bill A. Larson, Life Assurance, Linda Tarpley's Tap Lesson, Caroline & John Linehan, Ms. Mary Livers, Local Oklahoma Bank, Elinor Lottinville, Ph.D., Lottinville's Wood Grille, Dr. & Mrs. Tim Love, Dr. David & Mrs. Linda Mallory, Vincent Martinez, Mrs. Neville Massie, Mr. & Mrs. Denver Meacham, Ann Marie & William Mee, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Miles, Ms. Ann P. Mundy, Annette Murphy, Ph.D., Mrs. Kim Nevil, North Pole City, Oklahoma Publishing Company, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Oldham, Armond & Deanna Oliphant, Mr. Ooley's, Ms. Jamie Overstreet, Steve & Tinker Owens, Peppermill Frames, Marilyn & Norman Pick, Dr. Robert Powitzky, Drs. Alan & Jane Puls, Regina's, Linda Tuma Robertson, Ms. Joann Ryan, Mr. Wayne Sadeghy, Warren & Pamela Shoulders, Julie Smith, Dr. & Mrs. Mark Smith, South of the Border, Claudia San Pedro and Paul Sund, Mr. Charlie Swinton, Talbot's, Rodney & Shauna Timms, Ed Townsend, Mr. John Vance, Victoria's Secret (Penn Square Mall), Anna Von Kessler, Dr. Doug & Mrs. Nancy Woodson, Fred & Rosie Zahn.

## CARE Center

# Wish List

- Multi cultural baby dolls and Barbie dolls for comforting play while the children wait to be interviewed.
- Books for children of all ages to enjoy while waiting and to take home with them.
- Craft items to help reduce the children's stress levels and encourage creativity:



- Crayons
- Washable markers/Multi cultural skin tones and other colors
- Coloring and activity books
- Plain paper for drawing
- Construction paper
- Finger paint with glitter & paper
- Beads, pom poms, foam shapes, pipe cleaners, etc.

- Eckrich lunchmakers, peanut-butter crackers and juice to help settle nervous tummies.

When children have to testify in Court we send along a Court Kit to help keep them occupied while they wait.

These kits contain the following:



- Small hand-held games (no sound)
- Self-contained puzzles
- Erasable tablets
- Small packages of crayons & coloring books/activity books



While the children directly benefit from all the above, the Center wouldn't be able to function without the following:

- Coffee, tea bags, creamer and sugar to make our adult visitors more comfortable.
- Paper towels, napkins, plastic cups, coffee cups & stir sticks.
- Kleenex for wiping noses and tears.
- Large white easel pads and wide-tip markers to use during the children's interviews.
- Copy paper
- Florescent light bulbs (4 ft. 40 watt) to help keep our Center safely lit.
- Polaroid film to record special moments such as Volunteer Appreciation Day, Team Retreat, and a masterpiece created by one of our many young "artists."
- Video tapes (VHS - 120 min.) for the times when we receive a request to tape an interview in the hopes that the child won't have to testify in Court.



The CARE Center can always use gift certificates to any of the following stores: Sam's Wholesale Club, Target, Lakeshore Learning Center, Michael's, Hobby Lobby, Office Depot, Home Depot and Lowe's, and of course cash donations are always welcome to cover utility bills and maintenance and repairs so the Center is always warm, well lighted and safe for the children and families who rely on us.

*•Since these items either have expiration dates or require storage space, please call the Center before purchasing to confirm current needs. (236-2100 ext.105-Katy Davis, Volunteer Coordinator.)*

*Thank you so much for your help!*

## Want to Volunteer? Training Set in June

Volunteers are crucial to the CARE Center. They make up a major part of our extended staff by welcoming families and children into the Center with snacks and friendly smiles. They also provide extra clerical support, gardening skills, painting and sewing talents; they fulfill speaking engagements and fund raising duties. Much of what we do at the Center could not be done without the

support of volunteers. If you have ever had a desire to volunteer some of your time to a worthy cause, or know of someone who would like to volunteer, please contact the CARE Center and help make a difference in the life of a child. The next Volunteer Training is scheduled for June 22. For more information, please contact Katy Davis at 236-2100, ext. 105.

PUT THE CARE CENTER IN YOUR WILL. LEAVE A LEGACY FOR CHILDREN.

# Children Exposed to Violence: Criminal Justice Resources

*(Reprinted from the OVC Bulletin, Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice, June, 1999)*

Every day hundreds of children across the country suffer the consequences of violence -- in their homes, in their schools, and in their community. Tragically, names of cities like Littleton, Springfield, Jonesboro, Paducah, Conyers and Oklahoma City conjure up horrific images of violence that have affected our communities and the lives of our children. Fortunately, these public tragedies are not daily occurrences, although they are occurring with alarming frequency. Unfortunately, every day in this country, children are being victimized or exposed to violence in tragic ways that are often not visible to the public.

Children in this country are more likely to become victims of crime than adults. Of the 22.3 million children between the ages of 12 and 17 in this country, at some time in their life about 1.8 million have been the victim of a serious sexual assault, 3.9 million have been the victim of a serious physical assault, and almost 9 million have witnessed serious violence, according to the 1997 study conducted by Dean Kilpatrick and Ben Saunders at the Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, Medical University of South Carolina.

In 1997, child protective service agencies investigated 3 million reports of child abuse, of which just under 1 million cases were substantiated. In addition, 2,200 children are reported missing to law enforcement agencies every day.

A tremendous toll is placed upon children who are victims of and witnesses to crime and violence. These children are at higher risk for developing behavioral problems and academic failure, as well as chronic

delinquency and adult criminal behavior. They are more likely to become involved in criminal and drug-related offenses later in life than children who have grown up in peaceful, nonviolent surroundings. They are also more susceptible to physical and psychological problems and consequences.

For adult victims and witnesses of violence, interaction with the criminal justice system can be both traumatic and difficult. For children, contact with the criminal justice system is not only more painful, but it often poses further threat and trauma to an already vulnerable child. The criminal justice system is not designed nor fully equipped to accommodate the special needs of children. Many criminal justice professionals find it difficult to work with children. Some tend to discount the impact of violence and crime on a child. "Children are resilient -- they bounce back after a tragedy" is what some might say.

Responsibility for the protecting of, intervening with, and providing support and assistance to children exposed to violence often rests with the agencies and organizations that comprise the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Their role and response are critical to the emotional and physical well-being of the child. Too often agencies are not equipped to provide this type of assistance because they lack the necessary tools, resources or experience.

*(Editor's Note: The OVC Bulletin article lists many resources that provide the assistance necessary to making positive changes in how we work with children in the criminal justice system, from training opportunities and technical assistance to victim services. Among the resources listed are children's advocacy centers like the CARE Center, and the National Children's Alliance, the umbrella membership organization that promotes the children's advocacy center approach.)*

As the OVC Bulletin concludes, "Working with children is demanding and challenging, but it also can be very rewarding. The availability of tools and resources is just one part of the challenge. Accessing them is the key to making positive change in how we work with children in the criminal justice system.

**For a copy of the resources listed, call the CARE Center, 236-2100.**

**A tremendous toll is placed upon children who are victims of and witnesses to crime and violence.**

THE CARE CENTER was established and is sustained by the generosity of individuals, organizations, corporations, and foundations. Your gifts are an investment in the lives of children and in the future of our community. On behalf of those we serve, thank you to our friends and supporters for your donations from December 31, 1999 through March 31, 2000. (Donations received after March 31, 2000 will be acknowledged in our Summer newsletter.)

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Lavona Hard, Jan Kipf  
Genita Milburn, Dee Reid  
Clara Tyler, Frankie Still  
Western Oaks Christian Church - CWF

### *Memorials Received*

We want to thank the following people for thinking of the CARE Center in remembering friends and loved ones.

In Honor of Martha Buchanan  
By Hearts for Tots

In Honor of Kevin  
& Beth Jacobs  
By Wayne Warren & Staff

In Honor of Bill A. Larson  
By Mrs. Jerome Byrd

In Honor of Austin Norbury  
on his 2nd Birthday  
By Allen & Amber Norbury

In Honor of William & Margaret Phinney  
By Ann McKinney

In Honor of Rodney Timms  
By Lance Green and SelecTrucks of OKC

In Memory of Ken Baty  
By Lila Walker

In Memory of Ruth Buchanan  
By Moselle Coonfield,  
Ann Mundy & Katy Davis

In Memory of Helen Coogan  
By Mary Jane Cochran

In Memory of Mary Murrey  
By Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kerkhoff

In Memory of Samuel Reed  
By Katy Davis

In Memory of Jim Striplin  
By Lila Walker

In Memory of Henry Williams  
By James & Dee Menzer

## *Executive Director Receives Friends of Children Award*

Knowing that victims of child abuse had to tell their stories at the police department, surrounded by sights and sounds to which no child should be exposed, Ann Mundy decided Oklahoma needed a new way of doing things. She gathered a team of child abuse investigation professionals and infused her dream of a child-friendly child abuse intervention center into her team. The result was the CARE Center of Oklahoma City, which has provided a safe haven for more than 5,000 children since 1993. The CARE Center has served as a mentoring center for several new child advocacy centers in the state, and Ann currently serves as president of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Oklahoma, a statewide organization representing the 14 centers in the state. She also serves on the board of the National Children's Alliance, the umbrella membership organization that promotes the children's advocacy center approach across the country.

For her work, Ann was presented the Friends of Children Professional Award by the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy at their recent Celebration 2000 Banquet.

## *Annual Report Wins Award*

The CARE Center was recently presented a second place award by the Oklahoma Professional Chapter of Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) for its 1998 Annual Report. The award was presented to CARE Center Executive Director Ann Mundy by Sue Hale, executive editor of The Daily Oklahoman, during the SPJ Banquet that honored journalists and public relations professionals for their work. The Annual Report was written and designed by Mundy and graphic artist Debbie Weekly and printed by Semco Color Press.

## *CARE Center Wins Oklahoma Families Award*

The CARE Center was recently selected as an award winner by Creating Partnerships for Oklahoma Families, sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. During an awards reception, the CARE Center was presented a check for \$1000.00. The award money will be used to assist the CARE Center with its mission to provide, in one location, protection and assistance to child abuse victims and their families in a safe, sensitive, supportive environment.

The award was presented in conjunction with the Creating Partnerships for Oklahoma Families 2000 Conference during which a panel from the CARE Center presented a workshop on "Multidisciplinary Child Sexual Abuse Investigations." Those on the panel included Andrea Grosvald, CARE Center forensic interviewer; Sgt. Cris Cunningham, Oklahoma City Police Department; Cheryl Thornton, Department of Human Services; and Kathie Hatlelid, P.A., Children's Hospital of Oklahoma.

## *CARE Center DHS Workers Receive Award*

The Division of Children & Family Services and Office of Field Operations of the Department of Human Services recognized the child protective service workers assigned to the CARE Center with the February Child Protective Services Recognition Award. The award acknowledged their efforts "for incorporating new child protective services policy into the local office structure." The CARE Center team members receiving the award included Cheryl Thornton, supervisor; workers Cheryl Castillo, Mark Nitta and Shelly Tomlin, and support staff Val Aden.