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AROUND THE CORNER



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April is Child Abuse Prevention Month!

→ Leadership Message

Greetings!

"Children are the living messages for a time we will not see". - Neil Postman

As someone who had worked in child welfare, I had heard about the quality of the work done here at CornerHouse. Now I have the privilege of seeing it happen every day. This afternoon, I watched as a mother and child tentatively approached our back door. They were lost and no doubt a bit afraid. Before I could say anything, I heard our staff move toward gently directing them to the front door. When inside I knew that they would be taken care of respectfully, gently and without judgment. Work

Please give us items which are in good working condition. Items may be dropped off at CornerHouse at 2502 10th Avenue South between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm. Donors will be provided a tax form.

- portable data projectors (3)
- small sets of speakers (3)
- equipment travel bags (3)
- copier
- interview room furniture
- Sam's Club gift card
- snacks (small bags of Cheeze-Its, Animal Crackers, juice boxes)
- small fan
- koosh balls/stress balls
- 2 desk chairs
- window washing

CornerHouse depends on the generosity of our community for financial support. Please go to [MailScanner has detected a possible fraud attempt from "r20.rs6.net" claiming to be](#) www.cornerhousemn.org and click on our Giving Page to make a gift. Thanks!



doesn't get any better than this!

The CornerHouse board of directors and our stakeholders has recently completed a new strategic direction for our organization. In order to realize our vision to end child abuse, we are committed to assuring that the voices of children are heard every day in cases of alleged abuse. The children are our legacy. They depend on us. While it's become a trite phrase, it's indeed true that it takes a village to raise a child. To all of you who help us in this work, we are deeply grateful.

April is designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Every day should be about child abuse prevention, don't you agree? How can we hold that value on a daily basis in the middle of being busy, the economy, life in general? What would it look like for each of us to practice this value in our daily lives? Would we talk to different people? Would we speak to children differently? I look forward to learning and sharing with you in the coming months.

Patricia Harmon
Executive Director

→ What to do when a Child Reports Abuse

When a child reports possible abuse:

Do:

- Prepare - a child may disclose abuse whenever you are around children
- Give the child your undivided attention
- Consider how your body language, facial expression and words may effect the child
- Consider the child's safety - e.g. can the child go home today?
- Consider the child's privacy
- Document the child's exact words
- Reassure the child about telling
- Reassure the child that s/he is not in trouble with you
- Respect the child and her/his disclosure
- Call 911 immediately

Do Not:

- React with panic or other strong emotions
- Try to conduct your own investigation or try to validate the child's report
- Ask detail seeking questions
- Use interview tools such as dolls or diagrams to learn more
- Ask the child to repeat his or her statement for others
- Share the information with those who don't need to know
- Confront or challenge the child
- Try to reframe what the child has told you
- Lie or make promises about what will happen next

CornerHouse Goes to Japan

Expanding Our Reach: CornerHouse in Japan

Through continued collaboration with child welfare professionals throughout Japan, CornerHouse trainers will make multiple trips to Japan during 2010.

CornerHouse is excited to build on the successes of our previous work in Japan by bringing additional training sessions to various regions of the country.

CornerHouse regularly provides trainings, in a variety of locations, as a part of its commitment to realize its vision of ending child abuse. Of course, that goal can't be met by any one organization. Our strategy is to expand best practice in forensic interviewing wherever possible so that the child welfare community can work together to achieve the vision.

In January, CornerHouse Interviewer/Trainer, Julie Stauffer, spent more than a week teaching Japanese professionals how to talk to children about concerns regarding suspected maltreatment. With the help of Japanese-English interpreters, Julie explained the CornerHouse pre-assessment protocol for talking with children prior to an investigative interview. Participants learned about the dynamics and disclosure process of sexual abuse as well. This one-day course was offered in the



Julie training in Japan

cities of Miyazaki, Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagoya. Nearly 400 professionals were trained including attorneys, social workers, physicians and educators.

Julie looks forward to returning to Japan in June. During this trip, pre-assessment protocol training will be offered in the cities of Sendai and Nagaoka along with a four-day Forensic Interview training in Tokyo. In Tokyo, Julie will teach 40 child abuse investigators a credible, reliable and non-traumatic forensic interview process for children who allege sexual abuse. Participants will learn the CornerHouse Forensic Interview Protocol, RATAAC[®] as well as child development, the use of anatomical dolls and blocks and problems in interviewing.

Another exciting development in Japan is the advent of the ChildFirst train-the-trainer program. Through the continued partnership with the National Child Protection Training Center (NCPTC), CornerHouse staff will teach Japanese faculty how to become effective trainers of the RATAAC[®] interview protocol in their local communities. Throughout the United States, ChildFirst has dramatically expanded the reach of the CornerHouse training program by making high quality forensic interview training available in local communities. We are honored to bring this same kind of resource to Japan.

→ New and Improved Video-Recording System at CornerHouse

New Technology Comes to CornerHouse

Thanks to a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services, CornerHouse has just completed the installation of an upgrade to our video-recording system. This system is used in the recording of forensic interviews conducted at CornerHouse. Previously, recordings were made to DVD and DVCam; the new system will record to DVD and will also begin recording directly to a server through an Internet based system called VideOversight.



The new system from Microception, updates older equipment, reduces the cost of each interview by 15.00 per interview and offers our partner agencies in law enforcement and child protection access to the interviews through a protected Internet connection. This access, which is password protected and secured off site in a

designated server will make it possible for child protection and law enforcements officers who for some reason cannot attend the actual interview to view it over a secure setting.

For non-profits, it can be difficult to maintain changes in technology. This update will help CornerHouse to assure that we are meeting the needs of our clients by streamlining the interview process so that the technology is reliable, flexible and less expensive.

→ Training Opportunities

CornerHouse Interagency Child Abuse Evaluation and Training Center is committed to expanding the education and awareness of sexual abuse through its training programs. The following courses are coming up:



Jodi Lashley training at CornerHouse

Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview Training

This training teaches a credible, reliable and non-traumatic forensic interview process for children and vulnerable adults who allege sexual abuse. Training methods include lecture and discussion, review of CornerHouse videotaped interviews, skill-building exercises and an interview practicum. The course is designed for teams of law enforcement and child protection investigators, prosecutors and forensic interviewers. Participants are strongly encouraged to attend as a multi-disciplinary team. Courses are outcome based and include an exam upon completion. **Course Fee: \$950**

Openings for 5-day course at CornerHouse in Minneapolis, MN:

April 12-16, 2010

May 17-21, 2010

August 23-27, 2010

September 13-17, 2010

November 1-5, 2010

Advanced Forensic Interview Training

This training is open to law enforcement and child protection investigators, prosecutors, and forensic interviewers who have completed the required prerequisites. This course teaches advanced forensic interviewing issues, modifies the interview protocol for physical abuse and other violent crimes, outlines research on memory and suggestibility, provides a mock cross-examination demonstration, and provides participants the opportunity to learn and utilize a video-recorded interview assessment tool to critique their own interviews. **Course Fee: \$850**

Prerequisites

Completion of one of the following basic interviewing courses:

- CornerHouse Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview Training or On-Site training
- *First Witness*™ Forensic Interview Training
- *ChildFirst*™: Forensic Interviewing and Preparing for Court
- *Finding Words*™ Forensic Interview Training (that teaches RATAAC®)

Completion of a minimum of fifteen (15) interviews using RATAAC® (waived for prosecutors)

Openings for Advanced course at CornerHouse in Minneapolis, MN:

March 23-26, 2010

June 15-18, 2010

A BIG Thank You To Our Volunteers & Donors!

Thanks to All of Our Amazing Volunteers!

CornerHouse staff would like to recognize and thank the volunteers who help us help kids every day! We wouldn't want to do our work without you! Thank you very much!

A special thanks to the current volunteers at CornerHouse:

Judy Baker
Chief Ed Belland
Stacey Benson
Bob Best
David Bestler
Jerrod Brown
Robert Burck
Commissioner Jan Callison
Arlene Clapp
Captain Ike deLugo
Chief Tim Dolan
Suzanne Fedoruk Herrick
Kevin Fossum
Ann Fleischauer
Al Gerhardt
Allen Giles
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Sara Stafford
Lana Weber
Lindsay Wert

Thank You Very Much!!

CornerHouse has had the gift of many generous donors who have helped us throughout the year. Please click on the this link to go to the Gratitude Page of the CornerHouse website to see the complete list. www.cornerhousemn.org.



Upcoming Events

Eagles Annual Golf Tournament

The Richfield/Bloomington Eagles Aerie #3208 has selected CornerHouse for a charity golf tournament for the fifth year! As usual, it's going to be great fun!

The tournament will be held on Saturday, July 24th, 2010 at the Crystal Lake Golf Club in Lakeville, MN. The cost is \$110 and includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart, lunch & dinner, driving range balls and a Silent Auction. In addition to all of that, each golfer will receive a free round of golf to be used at a later date.

The Eagles have set a goal of 120 golfers this year- please help them meet the goal!

If you have questions regarding the golf tournament, please contact Sandy Heitkamp at 612-813-8310 or Sandra.heitkamp@childrensmn.org

Twins Event

CornerHouse

The mission of CornerHouse is to ensure the voices of children are heard and understood in cases of alleged abuse.

Tuesday, June 29, 2010
 4:00pm Picnic
 7:10pm Game

TWINS VS TIGERS

Twins Picnic Area

FEATURING:

HOST
 Dave Mona,
 WCCO Personality

PICNIC

- Dinner by Divine Swine Catering
- Appearances by TC Bear and Wally the Beer Man
- Face Painting & Balloon Artist
- Door Prizes
- Silent Auction

Your attendance at this event supports CornerHouse and their mission to help abused children. With your ticket, you will receive a complete picnic dinner from Divine Swine, a ticket to the Twins game, and an opportunity to win a number of door prizes!

Special Thanks to our Event Sponsors:

Divine Swine Catering

DENISON PARKING

NORTHMARQ

KRAUS-ANDERSON

MINNEAPOLIS PRESS BUSINESS JOURNAL

Thanks also to:
 Pressworks
 Hudson Baking

LIVE AUCTION

For more information about the Twins Event or to order tickets please visit **MailScanner has detected a possible fraud attempt from "r20.rs6.net" claiming to be** <http://www.cornerhousemn.org/twinsevent.html>

Please send feedback about Around The Corner Newsletter to Managing Editor, Caitlin Pehoski, at caitlin.pehoski@childrensmn.org or to CornerHouse Executive Director, Patricia Harmon at patricia.harmon@childrensmn.org.

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