



# the voice.

CornerHouse Quarterly eNewsletter

## ABOUT US



### **Vision**

Children grow up free from abuse

### **Mission**

CornerHouse assures that the voices of children and adolescents are heard.

### **Child First Philosophy**

*The child is our first priority*

Not the needs of the family  
Not the child's "story"  
Not the evidence  
Not the needs of the courts  
Not the needs of the police, child protection or attorneys

*The child is our first priority*

## Leadership Message



Happy Spring!! For those of us in Minnesota, we are all very tired of the winter and ready for the unfolding of fresh spring beauty which is so unique to our climate. At CornerHouse, we'll be participating in changes and shifts in a wide variety of ways: On April 2, we will be hosting an open house in celebration of Child Abuse Prevention Month. We'll be planting our "garden" of pinwheels to remind us that it is the responsibility of the entire community to protect children and as long as there is one single child who is hurt or abused, our work is not done! We are also launching the Blue Kids (watch for them all over town!) as silent witnesses to the abuse which still occurs. I hope that you can join us in this effort.

Organizationally, we are on the proverbial "roll" as it relates to change and unfolding: we are eagerly beginning to implement the CornerHouse Strategic Plan completed in January. I'll be reporting to you on progress as we move forward. The CornerHouse Protocol has been updated and training curriculum has been revised.

Pinwheels for our garden and Blue Kids for yours or your business will be available throughout the [month of April](#). Watch for the Blue Kids on our FaceBook page as well!

As Charles Darwin said: *"It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change"*.

All the best in new beginnings to you!

Sincerely,

Patricia Harmon  
Executive Director

## From the Back of the House

There are many people who work diligently in the background to serve the children and teens that come to CornerHouse to be helped, supported, and heard. This series will keep you posted on the transitions in the "back of the house" as they occur:

### Staff:

We had a staff member leave us:

- Nancy Van Thorre's last day was March 27th. She is now concentrating on her photography career. Check out her [website](#).

And we have a new staff member joining our team:

- Abbie Bolkcom-Smith will be joining CornerHouse on April 15 as our Family Services Coordinator.

### Volunteers:

We were sorry to see some of our Volunteers move on to other commitments: **Sue, Brianna, Raven, Claire, April, Lisa & Dennis.**

We've been fortunate however to add more members to our Forensic Services volunteer team and fundraising committees! Please help us welcome: **Anna, Ashlee, Jared, Tim, Melissa & Barbara.**



## CornerHouse says, "Konichiwa" to Japan

*Jennifer Anderson, Associate Director*

On January 12th and 13th of 2013, child abuse professionals from all over the country of Japan gathered in Tokyo at the 15th International Symposium for Child Maltreatment Prevention, hosted by the Japanese Child Maltreatment Prevention Network. CornerHouse was asked to provide keynote addresses regarding the respective roles and duties of mandated reporters and forensic interviewers as well as breakout sessions aimed to deepen learning and skill building of professionals who may themselves be authorities in Japan on these topics.

CornerHouse has been training Japanese professionals since 2005. We have made numerous trips to Japan and have partnered with Japanese agencies in two different train-the-trainer programs, both aimed at disseminating information about best practices in child abuse cases. Once again, we are heartened and humbled by the tremendous commitment of our child abuse colleagues in Japan. We are very honored to be able to assist them in their quest for best practices in child abuse interventions and hope that together we are making a difference in the lives of many children who live so far from us.



## Volunteer Needs

We need Volunteers/Interns for the following positions:

- Family Service
- Administration
- Training Department
- Video Production

Please contact Rut if you or someone you know is interested in volunteering!  
[Rut.Kessel@childrensmn.org](mailto:Rut.Kessel@childrensmn.org)

## Volunteer Spotlight



### Abdi - Forensic Services Volunteer

Abdi Khalif started volunteering at CornerHouse in August of 2012, and he has generously donated over 90 hours of his time since then! He chose CornerHouse because *"I believe that kids not only belong to their parents and families, but also the whole community."* Abdi volunteers every week making the kids feel welcome and safe before and after their interviews. The staff and their dedication towards bettering the future

22nd ANNUAL CORNERHOUSE FUNDRAISING EVENT



# take me out to the ball game

Tuesday, July 30, 2013  
Twins vs. Kansas City Royals  
7:10 p.m. Game Start

TARGET FIELD

4:00 p.m. Pre-game Festivities

Epic Event Center (Rain or Shine)  
110 North 5th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55401  
*(closest parking is in city lot B ramp)*

Featuring:

Picnic Dinner by  
Divine Swine Catering  
Door Prizes & Kids Activities  
Silent Auction  
Live Auction @ 5:30 p.m.  
by Shawn Moren

Emcee:  
Dez



**REGISTER TODAY!**  
**\$49.50 / ticket**

Upper Level Infield Ticket (Home Plate View). Ticket purchase includes a Pre-game Picnic Pass.

Register online today at  
[cornerhousemn.org/twinsevent.html](http://cornerhousemn.org/twinsevent.html)  
or fill out and mail in the attached form.  
Group tickets available - see registration form.



Your attendance at this event supports CornerHouse and their mission to ensure that the voices of children are heard and understood in cases of alleged abuse.

With your registration, you will receive a complete picnic dinner from Divine Swine, a ticket to the Twins game and an opportunity to win great prizes!

**REGISTER TODAY!**

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS:



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of kids they see, makes him stay. And what he likes best about volunteering is that it makes him feel whole! :-)

The toughest part about volunteering at first was to hear about child abuse, but as his volunteering continued and he learned more about CornerHouse, he knew these kids would be safe from here on; thanks to the work of CornerHouse and our court systems. "So my volunteering is going towards a good cause!" Abdi is currently a full-time student at St. Catherine University pursuing a degree in nursing. In his free time he enjoys nature and walks with his mom around Lake Calhoun.



## Upcoming Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview Training

CornerHouse Interagency Child Abuse Evaluation and Training Center would like to announce the following availability in its 2013 training schedule.

### CornerHouse Wish List:

[find our wish list at Amazon.com!](#)

#### Examples:

- Coloring books
- Stencils, stamps, stickers
- Toy train set
- Children's books

#### Or donate Gift cards:

- Cub Foods
- Target
- Sam's Club
- Ikea
- Amazon

*Please call  
**612-813-5937**  
if you wish to make a  
donation.*

#### Basic Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview Training at CornerHouse in Minneapolis, MN

This training teaches a credible, reliable and non-traumatic forensic interview process for children, adolescents and vulnerable adults who allege sexual abuse. Training methods consist of lecture and discussion, review of CornerHouse videotaped interviews, skill-building exercises and an interview practicum. The course is designed for teams of law enforcement investigators, 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: \$1,000.00 per person early registration (30 days prior to training) - \$1,200.00 per person late registration

- *June 24 - 28*
- *August 19 - 23*
- *October 21 - 25*
- *December 2 - 6*

Register online at <http://cornerhousemn.org/forensicinterview.html> or call 612-813-8325

*For information about hosting a training at your location , please contact Sandy Heitkamp at (612) 813-8310 or [sandra.heitkamp@childrensmn.org](mailto:sandra.heitkamp@childrensmn.org)*

#### Advanced Forensic Interview Training at CornerHouse in Minneapolis, MN

This training course is for forensic interviewers, child protection workers, tribal social service investigators, law enforcement officers and prosecuting attorneys who have completed the required prerequisites. The course teaches advanced forensic interviewing skills including; modifications to the CornerHouse Forensic Interview Protocol™ for physical abuse and other violent crimes, physical

evidence in the forensic interview, autism spectrum disorders, multi-session forensic interviews, and active participation in peer review using a variety of written assessment tools.

Course Fee: \$975.00 per person early registration (30 days prior to training) - \$1,025.00 per person late registration

## Prerequisites

1) Completion of one of the following basic interviewing courses:

- Basic Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview Training at CornerHouse in Minneapolis, MN or On-Site Basic Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview Training
- ChildFirst™
- Finding Words™
- First Witness™

2) Completion of a minimum of ten (10) interviews using the CornerHouse Forensic Interview Protocol™ (requirement waived for prosecutors)

- *July 15-18*
- *November 19-22*

Register online at <http://cornerhousemn.org/advancedinterview.html> or call 612-813-8325

*For information about hosting a training at your location , please contact Sandy Heitkamp at (612) 813-8310 or [sandra.heitkamp@childrensmn.org](mailto:sandra.heitkamp@childrensmn.org)*

Visit our website: <http://www.cornerhousemn.org>



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