

**From:** CornerHouse <megan.alama@childrensmn.org>  
**Subject:** **Around the Corner: News from CornerHouse**  
**Date:** May 1, 2009 2:50:10 PM CDT  
**To:** r  
**Reply-To:**

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



# CornerHouse<sup>TM</sup>

## Around the Corner:

News from CornerHouse  
Interagency Child Abuse Evaluation and Training  
Center



**May 2009**

**Volume 9, Issue 2**

Spring is here in the Midwest! Plants are blooming and the world around CornerHouse is beginning to pop with color. As we revel in this season of growth, we are please to announce a yearlong celebration in honor of [CornerHouse's 20th Anniversary](#).

This edition of *Around the Corner* is packed with information about our plans to celebrate twenty years of growth and service to children and their families. If you live in our area, please plan to have your family, friends and coworkers join us at these great events:

- The [2009 Eagles Club Golf Tournament and Fundraiser](#) on July 25, 2009
- The [18th Annual Minnesota Twins Fundraiser](#) on July 28, 2009
- The [20th Anniversary CornerHouse Gala](#) on September 19, 2009

During our 20th Anniversary year, we are truly celebrating our connection with referents, trainees, and clients around the world. Without you, the work we do would not be possible. Thank you for your dedication to providing comprehensive, multidisciplinary services to children and families during investigations of allegations of abuse!

## CornerHouse Ambassador Program Launched during Child Abuse Awareness Month

April was Child Abuse Awareness Month, and CornerHouse launched its new Ambassador Program by inviting various partners, including child abuse investigators, volunteers, past employees, and other professionals in the field, to become CornerHouse Ambassadors for 2009. This staff initiative is one of many ways CornerHouse is celebrating its 20th year of serving children in Hennepin County.

Duties of the CornerHouse Ambassadors include: speaking in public settings, handing out informational literature and distributing other CornerHouse materials to promote awareness of child abuse. "We developed the Ambassador Program to initiate conversations about CornerHouse, but more importantly, about child abuse and the long-lasting effects it has on our children and our community," states co-founder of the program and CornerHouse staff member, Krista Kemp. "It's an important, prevalent issue that doesn't get enough attention. Our hope for this program is that it will get people talking; simple as that."

According to Prevent Child Abuse America, by age 18 one in four girls and one in six boys will experience sexual abuse contact. CornerHouse's doors officially opened on June 12, 1989. Since then CornerHouse staff members have interviewed nearly 9,000 children, conducted over 1,600 medical exams, and trained over 20,000 professionals.

"For twenty years CornerHouse has been a safe place for children to come and begin the process of healing," said Tom Frost, CornerHouse Executive Director. "Our Ambassador Program enables us to reach out through our partners to bring our message of hope, starting during the Child Abuse Awareness month of our 20th anniversary year."

*If you are interested in distributing free CornerHouse safety information cards, including information about how individuals can break the cycle of abuse and what to say to an abuse victim who has disclosed to you, please contact CornerHouse at 612-813-8300.*

### Strategic Planning

Members of the CornerHouse Board of Directors and senior staff members met on April 10, 2009, for a Strategic Planning Retreat. The retreat was facilitated by consultant Carol Berde and culminated several months of fact gathering from staff and board members, law enforcement and legal partners, leaders of related and similar businesses and training clients.

Funding for this project came from the Pohlad Family Foundation, which provided a grant to CornerHouse in late 2008 to undertake a strategic planning project. CornerHouse completed its last strategic plan in 2002.

The retreat, held at the Dorsey & Whitney law firm's Minneapolis offices, focused on strategies to build on CornerHouse's distinctive assets to provide the best services to customers. Recognizing the same economic challenges other non-profits currently face, the board also discussed maximizing the value of the CornerHouse training program and what business model would best position CornerHouse for a strong future.

The Strategic Planning Committee of the Board of Directors will meet in April and May to finalize the plan for the next three to five years. The final version will be presented to the full Board and all staff members at the June 12 Annual Meeting.

### Volunteers Needed for CornerHouse Special Events

CornerHouse is planning a number of special events in 2009 and we need your time and talents to make them a success. We can use assistance both in planning and preparing the event details, or through time on the day of the event.

Our Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy Van Thorre, will work with you to capitalize on your skills and interests. Please read more below about volunteer opportunities for each event. You may contact Nancy at (612) 813-8312 or [Nancy.VanThorre@childrensmn.org](mailto:Nancy.VanThorre@childrensmn.org) for more information.

#### \*Saturday, July 25 - [2009 Eagles Club Golf Tournament](#)

- Solicit, sort and prepare donations for display at the event
- Form a team of golfers and join the event!

### In This Issue

Ambassador Program Strategic Planning Volunteers Needed  
News from CornerHouse  
Get to Know CornerHouse For Professionals  
Wish List

### Member



### CornerHouse is a Cause on Facebook!

Thanks to Program Assistant Krista Kemp, CornerHouse is now a registered Cause on Facebook!

Go here to join: [CornerHouse on Facebook](#)

In just over two weeks, we have recruited 179 members.

Krista also asked her friends to donate to CornerHouse on Facebook for her birthday, and she raised \$275!

### Donate to CornerHouse through PayPal!

[Click here to donate to CornerHouse using PayPal!](#)

### CornerHouse Staff

**Thomas Frost**  
Executive Director

**Jennifer Anderson**  
Assistant Executive Director

**Jodi Lashley**  
Program Director

**Sharon McLaughlin**

**\*Tuesday, July 28 - [18th Annual Minnesota Twins Fundraiser](#)**

- Solicit, sort and prepare donations for display at the event
- Provide clerical support (data entry, mailing, etc.) to the planning committee
- Assist with event activities on game day

**\*Saturday, September 19 - [20th Anniversary CornerHouse Gala](#)**

- Join a planning subcommittee such as food, entertainment, decorations and volunteers
- Provide clerical support (data entry, mailing, etc.) to the planning committee
- Assist with event activities on the day of the Gala

To learn more about each important CornerHouse event, visit [www.cornerhousemn.org](http://www.cornerhousemn.org) or call (612) 813-8300.

### News from CornerHouse

**Congratulations and many thanks to Judy Weigman, CornerHouse Forensic Interviewer and Trainer.** On April 30, Judy celebrated the 19th anniversary of her start date at CornerHouse. We estimate that she has interviewed nearly 4,000 children in that time. It takes a remarkably committed person to remain in this field for nineteen years, and Judy's dedication to and passion for her work at CornerHouse is obvious in everything she does.

**Congratulations to CornerHouse Program Assistant Megan Alama.** Megan will be enrolling as a Title IV-E Child Welfare Scholar in the Master of Social Work program at the University of Minnesota in the fall.

**Congratulations to CornerHouse Program Director Jodi Lashley.** In April, Jodi passed her licensure exam to become a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker.

**Welcome Back to Assistant Hennepin County Attorney Fred Stephens.** Assistant Hennepin County Attorneys Mike Lynch, Katy Stesniak and Fred Stephens attend all in-county interviews at CornerHouse on a nine-month rotation schedule. Many thanks to Assistant Hennepin County Attorney Mike Lynch, who ended his rotation in April.

### Get to Know the CornerHouse Staff

**Sarah Brandt, LGSW**



Sarah joined the CornerHouse team in February 2009 as a Forensic Interviewer/Trainer. Her responsibilities in this job include conducting forensic interviews and providing forensic interview training. Sarah is a LGSW with a Masters of Social Work degree from the University of Minnesota where she was a Child Welfare Scholar. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work from Winona State University. Prior to joining CornerHouse, Sarah worked in child protection and foster care licensing for seven years in Carver County, Minnesota.

**Nancy Van Thorre, MA, OTR/L**



The new CornerHouse Family Liaison/Training Coordinator is Nancy Van Thorre. Nancy joined the staff in March. As the CornerHouse Family Liaison, Nancy is responsible for the provision of support, information, and referral services to the children, vulnerable adults, and families served by CornerHouse. As the Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy is in charge of developing, implementing and coordinating a comprehensive volunteer program. She also assists with providing support to children and physicians during medical evaluations. Nancy is a licensed and registered Occupational Therapist with a Masters Degree in Occupational Therapy from the College of St. Catherine. Prior to joining the

CornerHouse team, Nancy worked as an OT in a residential treatment setting.

### Get to Know the CornerHouse Board of Directors

**Suzanne Fedoruk Herrick**

Suzanne was born and raised in Minnesota. She attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison and received degrees in journalism and history. Her interests are travel, adventure, exercise, and being with friends and family; she hopes to become a pilot some day. Suzanne is married.

Suzanne has been working in public relations/marketing field for 14 years and is the President of Fedoruk & Associates, Inc. In 2003, Fedoruk & Associates, Inc.



Business Manager

**Miriam Maples**  
Training Coordinator

**Judy Weigman**  
Forensic Interviewer /  
Trainer

**Anne Lukas Miller**  
Forensic Interviewer /  
Trainer

**Julie Stauffer**  
Forensic Interviewer /  
Trainer

**Dr. Barbara Bettelyoun**  
Forensic Interviewer

**Sarah Brandt**  
Forensic Interviewer /  
Trainer

**Nancy Van Thorre**  
Family Liaison /  
Volunteer Coordinator

**Sandy Heitkamp**  
Program Assistant /  
Training

**Krista Kemp**  
Program Assistant /  
Intake

**Shao Lee**  
Program Assistant /  
Video Technician

**Megan Alama**  
Program Assistant /  
Client Services

### CornerHouse Volunteers

Many thanks to our  
outstanding Family Services  
volunteers!

The work we do would not be  
possible without these people:

**Sue Nyberg**  
**Nancy Joas**  
**Caitlin Pehoski**  
**Marie Smith**  
**Rachel Norlien**  
**Heather Polivka**

### Wish List

Gift cards to:  
Target  
Cub Foods  
Sam's Club

Batteries (AAA, AA, C, D, 9  
volt)

directed marketing communications for a historic flight re-creation of the 1925-31 National Air Tours. The endeavor included flying an aerial armada of more than two dozen vintage airplanes to 26 cities on a 4,000-mile route.

Suzanne has been a member of the CornerHouse Board of Directors since 2003 and currently serves as the Chair of the Gala and the Community Relations Committees.



#### Lori Larson

Lori grew up in Wisconsin playing sports and became and continues to be a huge Green Bay Packer fan. She has been in the commercial real estate business in the Twin Cities since 1982 and set up her own consulting firm, Keystone Advisors, LLC, in 2005. She has two children: a son, attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a daughter at Woodbury High School. In her free time, Lori enjoys attending her children's activities, golfing, boating, traveling and writing.



Lori first became involved at CornerHouse as a leader of the building expansion in 1997. She co-chaired the Community Enhancement Committee of the National Association of Industrial and Office Parks helping raise over \$800,000 in funds and donated services. Lori has been on the Board of Directors for over 10 years and currently serves as Board Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee. Lori received the CornerHouse Sweetheart for Kids award in 1998.

#### For Professionals - Articles and Resources

To download articles authored by CornerHouse Staff, please copy and paste the non-hyperlink addresses below into your web browser. Alternately, go to <http://www.ndaa.org> and search for the title of the article that interests you.

**Bizarre & Fantastic Elements: A Forensic Interviewer's Response Part I, II, III**  
[http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update\\_vol\\_21\\_no\\_2\\_2008.pdf](http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update_vol_21_no_2_2008.pdf)  
[http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update\\_vol\\_21\\_no\\_3\\_2008.pdf](http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update_vol_21_no_3_2008.pdf)  
[http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update\\_vol\\_21\\_no\\_4\\_2008.pdf](http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update_vol_21_no_4_2008.pdf)

**Forensic Interviews of Children Who Have Developmental Disabilities Parts 1 & 2**  
[http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update\\_vol\\_19\\_number\\_1\\_2006.pdf](http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update_vol_19_number_1_2006.pdf)  
[http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update\\_vol\\_19\\_number\\_2\\_2006.pdf](http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update_vol_19_number_2_2006.pdf)

**Indicators of a Healthy Multidisciplinary Team**  
[http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/han\\_newsletter\\_winter\\_2005.pdf](http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/han_newsletter_winter_2005.pdf)

**Key Factors in Forensic Interviews with Native American Children**  
[http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update\\_vol\\_18\\_number\\_6\\_2005.pdf](http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update_vol_18_number_6_2005.pdf)

**Forensic Interview Room Set-up**  
[http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/han\\_newsletter\\_fall\\_2004.pdf](http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/han_newsletter_fall_2004.pdf)

**Drawings in Forensic Interviews of Children**  
[http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update\\_volume\\_16\\_number\\_3\\_2003.html](http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update_volume_16_number_3_2003.html)

**Using Interpreters in Forensic Interviews**  
[http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update\\_volume\\_15\\_number\\_12\\_2002.html](http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update_volume_15_number_12_2002.html)

**The Use of Anatomical Diagrams in Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interviews**  
[http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update\\_volume\\_15\\_number\\_5\\_2002.html](http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update_volume_15_number_5_2002.html)

**Using Anatomical Dolls In Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interviews**  
[http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update\\_volume\\_13\\_number\\_8\\_2000.html](http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update_volume_13_number_8_2000.html)

#### Upcoming Events

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>June 12, 2009</b>      | <b>CornerHouse 20th Anniversary and Annual Meeting</b>  |
| <b>July 25, 2009</b>      | <b><a href="#">Eagles Club Golf Tournament and Fundraiser</a></b><br>at the Crystal Lake Golf Club in Lakeville, MN |
| <b>July 28, 2009</b>      | <b><a href="#">18th Annual Minnesota Twins Fundraiser</a></b><br>at the Metrodome in Minneapolis, MN                |
| <b>September 19, 2009</b> | <b><a href="#">20th Anniversary Gala</a></b><br>at the Golden Wings Museum in Blaine, MN                            |

#### Have a wonderful spring!

And, as always, thank you for supporting CornerHouse and the work we do for children. We look forward to seeing you at our events over the next few months!

#### Magna Doodle Toy

Zingo (game)

**Coloring Books**  
(non-licensed characters, please)

Clorox Disinfecting Wipes

Subscription to Time Magazine

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Snack Food Sponsorship Opportunities

CornerHouse maintains a stocked pantry of food items for children who arrive for their interviews on empty stomachs.

If you would like to sponsor a month of snack foods, please call CornerHouse at 612-813-8300.