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CornerHouse Dispatch

Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow: The CornerHouse Training Team Bids Farewell to Actor Trudy Monette

by: Rachel Kuhnle, CornerHouse Training Intern

After 24 years, CornerHouse is saying, “Thank you!” and “See you later!” to long-time forensic actor Trudy Monette.



“[Leaving] has been a gradual process of ‘maybe I should...’ It’s been hard to let go,” says Monette. “I’ve been joking for a while that I’m getting a little long-in-the-tooth to be playing five year olds!”

Originally of Beaumont, Texas, Monette first came to Minneapolis in 1991 and worked as an actor, dancer and educator. Monette began working with CornerHouse Training in 1992, making her one of the group of original actors contracted by CornerHouse to perform role plays during forensic interview training programs.

Over the years, Monette developed numerous characters for CornerHouse, from a bouncy five-year-old, to a reticent pre-teen, to a developmentally delayed adult. For a time, Trudy also traveled across the county in connection with some CornerHouse training opportunities, working with professionals in multiple jurisdictions.

“I think that being able to role play a kid has helped me realize that as adults we hear a kid’s voice but we’re not always listening,” says Monette. “We only pick up on the things we’re looking for and may

miss what’s actually being said.”

As she moves on, Trudy will miss the friendships with the forensic training staff, “especially parenting tips from Anne [Lukas-Miller].”

When asked about her relationship with Monette, Lukas-Miller noted that “Trudy and I started at around

the same time, and pretty much grew into our CornerHouse roles together -- or at least in parallel. Trudy has amazing talent and incredible insight into the hearts and minds of children. Although she makes it look easy, it is not a simple process to 'be' a child presenting painful information and still balance that with 'appropriate' opportunity for a learner to practice and apply the CornerHouse Forensic Interview Protocol™. Yet this is what Trudy does."

Forensic actors have the unique experience of being interviewed again and again by a variety of interviewers. The same character may feel relaxed with one interviewer and withdrawn with another. This makes them an invaluable resource to both trainers and participants.

Earlier this month, on December 7, 2016, Monette performed a role play with our trainer Michelle Harris as part of a custom training developed for Ramsey County Child Protection workers.

In addition to performing her role live, Monette also engaged in a whole-group de-briefing discussion in which she shared insights into what helps her move smoothly through a role play in which she acts the part of an abused child or vulnerable adult. Her advice to forensic interviewers is to take ample time to build rapport with a child, teen or vulnerable adult before moving to the topic of concern.

Message from the Training Director

For the last 18 months, I have had the opportunity to serve as the Director of the CornerHouse Training Department. This work has been challenging, and I have been transformed by learning new skills and content, both in the field of forensics and as a program manager. The work of directing the CornerHouse Training Department demands and deserves a more-than-full-time commitment. I moved into this position with both the commitment and capacity to meet the demands of this job.

In the last month, I have faced new challenges in my family life and at CornerHouse. These challenges will not permit me to meet the full demands of the Training Director's job. After much consideration, I have made the difficult decision to move on from the position of Training Director at CornerHouse as of 12/30/2016.

CornerHouse has depth in its staff, and we have a plan to maintain excellent client services and training moving into 2017.

Melissa Henry and Patricia Harmon will be overseeing the management of the CornerHouse Training Department as the New Year begins. Their commitment to ending abuse and meeting the training needs of our partners is unwavering. It is my very great and equally humbling responsibility to pass on my work to these two consummate professionals! Contact Melissa at melissa.henry@childrensmn.org / 612-813-8310 or Patricia at patricia.harmon@childrensmn.org / 612-813-8320 with any questions or concerns. Best,

Mary Ann

Upcoming Events

January 23-27: Basic Forensic Interview Training

[Learn More and Register Here!](#)

March 13-17: Basic Forensic Interview Training

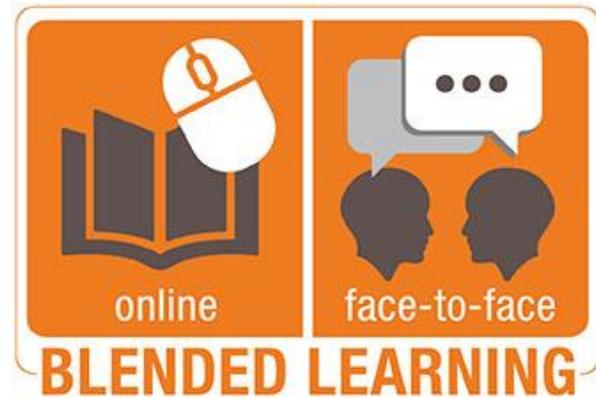
[Learn More and Register Here!](#)

April 18-20: Advanced Forensic Interview Training

[Learn More and Register Here!](#)

May 1-5: Basic Forensic Interview Training

[Learn More and Register Here!](#)



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