

1999 Annual Report

From the CornerHouse Program Director Mary Annette Venier

The last year of the millennium was a year of important growth for CornerHouse. Operating with increased capacity for services in our newly expanded and renovated facility, our focus has remained on providing excellent forensic interviewing services for investigators of child sexual abuse, domestic violence and violent crimes witnessed by children.

Our goal of beginning to develop a **comprehensive quality management program** for operations became reality as we designed a work group of Program Director, Clinical Coordinator and Training Coordinators' to standardize quality assurance measures and document policy and procedures for interview, medical and training services. The CornerHouse Clinical and Training Coordinators roles have been focused to review interview, medical and training services for internal reliability, continuous improvement and consistent quality service delivery to children, families, investigators, trainees, and interagency members. CornerHouse interviewers facilitated over 450 team meetings for investigators in 1999. Integral to desired outcomes of the Coordinator work group was the hiring of a specialist to implement intensive, comprehensive, individual and group clinical supervision for forensic interview specialists. CornerHouse recruited and hired a Clinical Coordinator to provide support and guidance to the forensic interviewers who work each day with traumatized children and families.

Progress toward our goal of improving **community collaboration** among professionals investigating cases in which children have witnessed a violent crime was demonstrated by CornerHouse facilitating twenty-two team meetings with investigators from the Domestic Violence Unit and the Homicide Unit of Minneapolis Police Department and suburban Hennepin County law enforcement departments. Our videotaped forensic interview and team meeting facilitation services were increasingly requested by: investigators in adult protection for sexually victimized vulnerable adults, homicide investigators for child witnesses and domestic violence investigators for children living in homes with violence.

Progress toward our goal of improving **statewide collaboration** of investigative professionals mandated to report maltreatment of children was demonstrated through our collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Human Services to provide 65 hours of Mandated Reporter Training to 267 multidisciplinary professionals statewide.

Progress toward our goal of improving **national collaboration** of attorneys prosecuting child maltreatment was demonstrated by our collaboration with the American Prosecutors Research Institute, National Center for the Prosecution of Child Abuse. The Finding Words Conferences were developed and presented in San Diego, California and Nashville, Tennessee to 80 prosecutors nationwide.

Progress toward our goal of improving **international collaboration** among multidisciplinary professionals working to better the lives of children was demonstrated by our continued collaboration with Connect USA Russia who hosted twenty-five prosecutors, psychologists and interpreters working within children in the criminal justice system.