



Around the Corner

Newsletter from CornerHouse

Volume 5, Number 1, 2006

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Dr. Jud Reaney, MD

**CornerHouse Interagency
Child Abuse Evaluation
and Training Center**

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Minneapolis, MN 55404
Phone: 612-813-8300
Fax: 612-813-8330

www.cornerhousemn.org

Keeping In Touch

April was Child Abuse Prevention Month. Leading up to this important month, CornerHouse solicited applications from across the country for people who serve in the field of child abuse prevention and intervention. We were overwhelmed with the nominations, and had a difficult time narrowing the field down to eleven people.



The Champions for Children that were honored are often underappreciated. They work with a subject that at times can be frustrating and disturbing. On behalf of CornerHouse, I would like to acknowledge and thank each of these Champions for their commitment to preventing and intervening in child sexual abuse.

Sergeant Keel Broom, Houston County Sheriff's Office, Warner Robbins, GA
Alyce M. Dillon, Executive Director, Parents in Community Action, Minneapolis, MN
Investigator Robert Fritz, Worthington Police Department, Worthington, MN
Bente Hess, Executive Director, Southwest Mississippi CAC, McComb, MS
Sergeant John Holthusen, Minneapolis Police Department, Minneapolis, MN
Rita Johnson, Executive Director, Chaucie's Place, Carmel, IN
Detective Mike Lutz, Edina Police Department, Edina, MN
Michael Meeks, Dakota County Social Worker, Hastings, MN
Detective Koni Porter, Brooklyn Park Police Department, Brooklyn Park, MN
Sergeant Tami Reece, Minneapolis Police Department, Minneapolis, MN
Scott Trobec, Survivors Network Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

On April 5th, CornerHouse sponsored an event at the Hennepin County Government Center to celebrate these heroes of child abuse prevention and intervention. Honored event speakers were present to discuss the importance of intervening in the cycle of violence. These speakers included: Minnesota Governor **Tim Pawlenty**; Commissioner of Public Safety **Michael Campion**; Hennepin County District Court Chief Judge **Lucy Wieland**; Hennepin County Attorney **Amy Klobuchar**; Hennepin County Commissioner **Linda Koblick**; and CornerHouse Board Chair **Tom Frost**.

Hundreds of people attended this event, including police officers, prosecutors, judges and social workers – all remarkable individuals who seek to protect children and ensure they grow up healthy and happy. But it doesn't take a gavel, a gun or a degree to be a hero to a child. Sometimes a smile, sympathetic ear or an encouraging nod is all it takes.

We are all heroes when we determine to make a difference. Know the signs of abuse and violence. Offer support to a parent in stressful times. Teach children who to tell if someone has harmed them. And call 911 if you have any reason to believe that a child is being abused.

Thank you to all who act in the hopes of someday ending child abuse. As Dale Carnegie said, "Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all."

Amy Russell, MSED, NCC
Executive Director

Sincere thanks to our individual, public and private donors who have provided financial and in-kind support to CornerHouse in 2005/2006.

(A complete list of donors by name will appear in the 2005, CornerHouse Annual Report)

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DIRECTORS**

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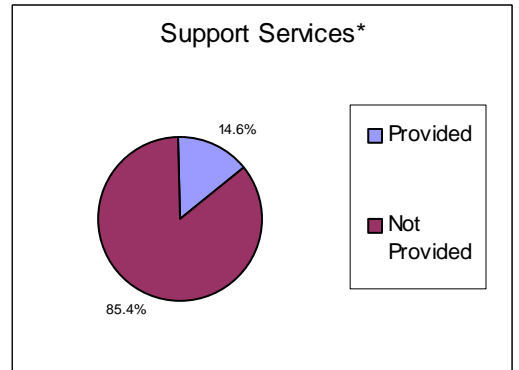
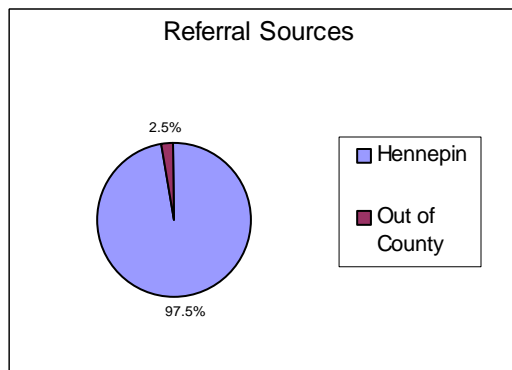
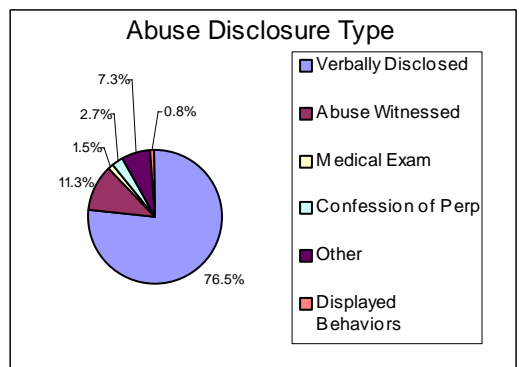
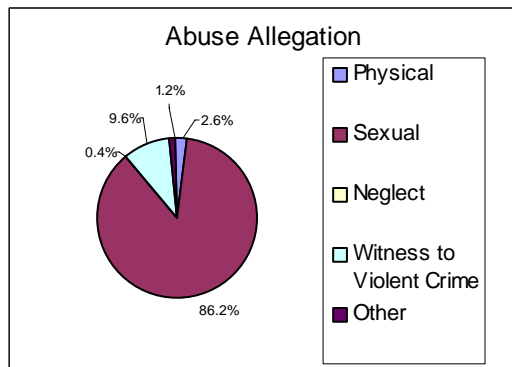
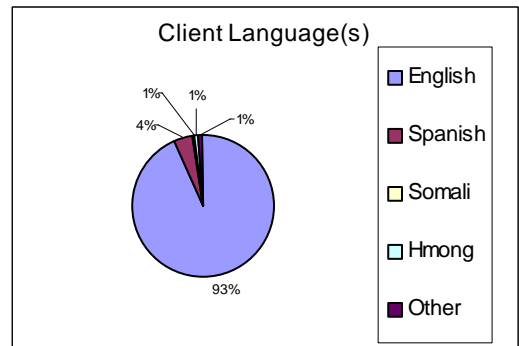
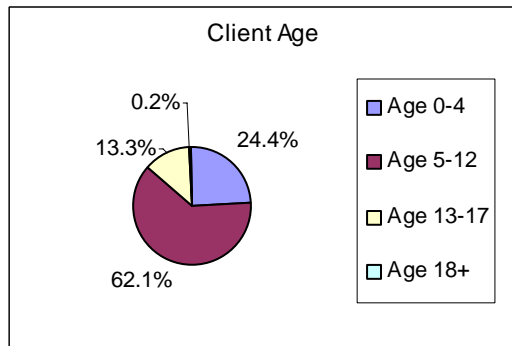
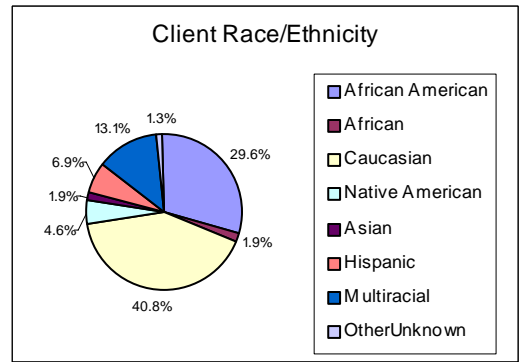
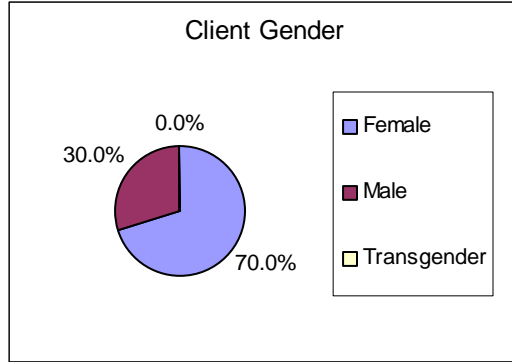
R.T. Rybak

Jeff Spartz

Jan Unstad

2005 Statistics

CornerHouse interviewed 480 alleged victims in 2005.



SAVE THE DATE!

**15TH ANNUAL
TWINS FUNDRAISER**

June 27th at 4:00 p.m.
Metrodome

Twins vs. Dodgers

Join the online auction at
www.cornerhousemn.org

*Note: Support Services were provided to families with no Child Protection involvement

International Training Opportunity at the University of the West Indies

By Sara Blahauvietz

“Glad am I” is a common Jamaican expression as well as a fitting phrase to describe my experiences in Kingston, Jamaica. The privilege to attend the 7th Biennial Caribbean and International Social Work Educators’ Conference was a highlight among many training privileges in 2005!

I had the opportunity to meet and interact with Caribbean and U.S. professionals representing various countries including Guyana, Bahamas, and Trinidad. Numerous multi-disciplinary team members of medical, child protection, law enforcement, and mental health disciplines attended CornerHouse’s one-day training. The topics of child development, forensic linguistics, and sexual abuse dynamics were discussed in the morning followed by forensic interview protocols in the afternoon. It was exciting to listen and learn from professionals from various countries as they shared ideologies, concerns, and brainstormed improvements to their current child welfare services. Similar to domestic training groups, the question of what is in the best interest of a child remained an underlying theme.

Forensic interviewing was a new topic for this conference. It was fun to be a part of sharing forensic interviewing research, protocols, and techniques with the conference attendees as well as the community. I was interviewed and asked to share information on three local radio stations as well as a morning news program. It was an empowering experience to hopefully address the public’s questions about how children, even young children, can provide reliable and legally defensible statements regarding their experiences. My time spent in Kingston, Jamaica will remain unforgettable.

Training

MAKING THE CALL

CornerHouse Child Sexual Abuse Training for Mandated Reporters

Who should take this course?

This seminar is designed for child care providers, teachers, health care workers, therapists, patrol officers, advocates and other professionals who have a responsibility for mandated reporting of suspected child maltreatment.

What will I learn?

- The CornerHouse RIFCR process for talking with children or vulnerable adults regarding suspected maltreatment.
- To discern normal child sexual development from concerning behaviors.
- Dynamics and disclosure process of child sexual abuse.
- How to report suspected maltreatment.

Continuing Education Credit

This course is pre-approved for continuing education credits by the Minnesota POST Board and on record with the Minnesota Board of Social Work. *To receive a certificate of completion, attendance is required for the entire training day.*

Registration

Space is still available in our July 20th and October 19th full-day training sessions. The training fee is just \$50.00 per person. Call (612) 813-8310 to register.

CornerHouse also has availability in many other 2006 training courses.

Call (612) 813-8310 for more information.

Calendar

May

- 29 CornerHouse closed – Memorial Day

June

- 9 Case Review 8:30-9:30 AM
- 27 Annual Twins Fundraiser

July

- 4 CornerHouse Closed – Independence Day
- 14 CornerHouse Board Meeting 7:30-9:00 AM
- 14 Case Review 8:30-9:30 AM
- 20 Mandated Reporter training
- 26 Interagency Team Meeting 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

August

- 1 CornerHouse Orientation
- 11 Case Review 8:30-9:30 AM

September

- 4 CornerHouse Closed – Labor Day
- 8 CornerHouse Board Meeting 7:30-9:00 AM
- 8 Case Review 8:30-9:30 AM

Volunteer Spotlight

By Miriam Maples

CornerHouse currently has three active Family Services volunteers who assist staff in creating a welcoming and friendly environment for children and their caregivers. Through a partnership with the University of Minnesota Service Learning program, we have welcomed two student volunteers who are working toward a minor in Family Violence Prevention. Farai Gordema is a Child Psychology major who has volunteered with children in a variety of human services organization including The Family Place in St. Paul. Maria Stadnik is majoring in Sociology and has experience working with special needs children as well as homeless families. It is our hope that these volunteers will continue their service to CornerHouse once the semester is over and that additional students will join us in the fall.

In addition to our student volunteers we are fortunate to have Sue Nyberg as part of the Family Services team. Sue has been involved with CornerHouse since 1993. For more than two years Sue has spent her Monday mornings at CornerHouse supervising children, making caregivers comfortable, and helping staff with a variety of projects. Her dedication and professionalism are a gift to CornerHouse and the families we serve.

Another exciting development in our volunteer program is the addition of Lisa Doolittle who is providing technical support as we work to improve the CornerHouse web site. Lisa had donated many hours to helping us explore the possibility of redesigning our web site to be more informative and user friendly. As changes are implemented Lisa will provide technical training and ongoing support to staff.

CornerHouse has a number of special events each year that require the support of volunteers. As part of Child Abuse Prevention month in April, volunteers assisted with setting up the Champions for Children display at the Hennepin County Government Center. Volunteers will also be needed to help with the Annual Twins Event on June 27. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering at a CornerHouse special event or on an ongoing basis, please contact Miriam Maples at (612) 813-8312 or miriam.maples@childrensmn.org.

CornerHouse Wish List:

Below is a list of ideas for donations to CornerHouse. Due to the nature of the work done at CornerHouse, some donations unfortunately cannot be accepted.

New Furniture

Training/Conference Room
Tables
Training/Conference Room
Chairs
Training Lobby Furniture
Caregiver Lounge Furniture

Magazines

National Geographic for Kids
Latino Magazines
Teen Magazines

Infant/Toddler

See N' Say
Shape Sorter
Stacking Cups

Preschool

Pop-Up Books
Wooden Puzzles
Car Map Rug

School Age

View Master Slides
Magna Doodle
Hand Held Electronic Games

Landscaping Services Maintenance Services

The CornerHouse staff is happy to work with you as you select items for donation. If you have any questions or wish to make a donation, please contact

*Julie Ellefson at
612/813-8300 or e-mail
info@cornerhousemn.org*

Staff Updates:

Warren John, Lifeworks Employee



Warren is a Lifeworks Employee who makes sure that many important details are completed at CornerHouse. His experience includes Home Depot and the City of Minneapolis. Warren states that he loves it here at CornerHouse. He joined the CornerHouse team in December 2005.

Molly Kennefick, Program Assistant/Intake



Molly has a Bachelor of Science in Family Social Science from the University of Minnesota. Molly's experience includes youth outreach fieldwork for the YMCA, volunteer work and a Social Work study abroad program in Ireland, and research experience in adolescent risk-taking. She is currently working part time teaching youth classes for the American Red Cross. Molly joined the CornerHouse staff in June 2005.

Miriam Maples, Family Liaison/Volunteer Coordinator



Miriam graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1997 with a M.Ed in Family Education. She is a licensed Parent Educator and holds a certificate in Child Abuse Prevention Studies. Prior to coming to CornerHouse Miriam worked directly with families for more than six years in the public school system as a Parent Educator and Program Coordinator in Family Literacy and Early Childhood Family Education programs. Miriam joined the CornerHouse staff in September 2005.

Julie Stauffer, Interview Specialist & Trainer



Julie is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker with a Master of Social Work and Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work. Prior to joining CornerHouse, Julie was a residential treatment therapist for children with emotional and behavioral difficulties, providing individual, family, and group therapy, and staff training and consultation. Julie joined CornerHouse in April 2006.

Amy Wollwage, Program Assistant/Video Technician



Amy arrives at CornerHouse with previous work and internship experience working with children and adults who have physical disabilities and mental illness in their homes, youth in a long and short-term residential youth facility, Carver County Child Protective Services, and for The Corporation for Supportive Housing in Chicago, Illinois. She is currently attending the University of Minnesota for her MSW. Amy joined the CornerHouse staff in November 2005.

Do you have comments, suggestions or questions for future newsletters? Is your email address changing? We would love to hear from you! Please email CornerHouse at info@cornerhousemn.org. Also, please pass this newsletter on to anyone who you think would be interested.
