



# Around the Corner

CornerHouse Interagency Child Abuse Evaluation and Training Center

Volume 5, Issue 2

## Board Appoints New Director



Thomas Frost,  
Interim Executive Director

Executive Director Amy Russell left CornerHouse this past summer to attend law school in Buffalo, New York. Russell was the Program Director at CornerHouse from 2000 through 2003, when she was appointed Executive Director. She served in that capacity until her resignation in July.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors met in May and appointed Tom Frost as Interim

Executive Director effective July 31, 2006. Frost most recently served as Chair of the Board of Directors at CornerHouse. He resigned this position to accept the Interim appointment.

Frost has been involved in CornerHouse since its creation. As the head of the child abuse prosecution team in the Hennepin County Attorney's Office in the mid 1980s, he proposed a multi-disciplinary collaboration and then worked with representatives of other agencies to create the inter-agency center that became CornerHouse. He has an extensive background in criminal prosecution, having worked as the head of the criminal divisions in both the Hennepin and Ramsey County Attorney's offices. From 1999 to 2005 he was the managing attorney of the Child Protection Division of the Hennepin County Attorney's Office. He retired in 2005, and was the Interim Executive Director of the Minnesota County Attorneys Association in 2006.

From 2000 to July 2006, he was County Attorney Amy Klobuchar's representative on the CornerHouse Board of Directors. He currently serves on the External Review Board of St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, advising the Abbot on issues relating to sexual abuse in the monastic community.

His goals include creating financial stability and updating the facility, while at the same time maintaining the excellent service CornerHouse provides to children and child abuse investigation professionals.

Frost has a bachelor's degree from Macalester College, a law degree from William Mitchell College of Law, and a master's degree in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. He was a 1987 Bush Foundation Leadership Fellow. He is married and has two adult children.

## CornerHouse Events

On July 22, 2006 the Eagles Club #3208 sponsored CornerHouse for their Annual Golf Charity Tournament. There were 84 golfers, beautiful weather and a total donation of \$4,276.59 in event proceeds.

It was a busy day from beginning to end. The event began with lunch but was quickly followed by a full afternoon of golfing and then it was off to the Eagles Club! Divine Swine catered the evening meal where door prizes were given and the silent auction commenced. CornerHouse was extremely excited to be chosen and helped throughout this event.

The Eagles Club has again chosen CornerHouse as the beneficiary of next year's event. Mark your calendars for July 28, 2007! We are always looking to plan ahead with gift certificates and prizes. If you have any questions or would like to make a donation, please contact Sandy Heitkamp at 612-813-8310 or [sandra.heitkamp@childrensmn.org](mailto:sandra.heitkamp@childrensmn.org)

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## CornerHouse Staff

Thomas Frost  
*Executive Director*

Julie Ellefson  
*Program Director*

Jennifer Anderson  
*Training Director*

Sharon McLaughlin  
*Business Manager*

Jodi Lashley  
*Training Coordinator*

Judy Weigman  
*Child Interview Specialist/Trainer*

Anne Nuernberg  
*Child Interview Specialist/Trainer*

Sara Blahauvitz  
*Child Interview Specialist/Trainer*

Julie Stauffer  
*Child Interview Specialist/Trainer*

Miriam Maples  
*Family Liaison/Volunteer Coordinator*

Sandy Heitkamp  
*Training Assistant*

Molly Kennefick  
*Program Assistant/ Intake*

Amy Wollwage  
*Program Assistant/Video Technician*

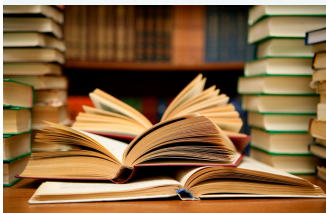


*"The most complete training I have ever attended" — CornerHouse Training Participant*

## Save the Date

2007 16th Annual  
Twins Fundraiser

Tuesday, July 17th  
Twins vs. Detroit Tigers



*Professional articles in writing*

## Program Highlight

### Training Services

Since 1990, CornerHouse has taught other professionals how to use the RATACTM forensic interview protocol to elicit statements from children in a way that is developmentally appropriate, non-leading, and ensures the rights of the accused. The Minnesota Court of Appeals states in an unpublished opinion that CornerHouse interviews elicit statements that are "detailed, ...consistent, and...compelling." (A04-1626).

To date, CornerHouse has trained over 15,000 individuals who have come from 48 states as well as Canada, Jamaica, Kosovo, Russia, The Netherlands, South Africa, and Uruguay seeking forensically sound methods of interviewing children. Trainees report that CornerHouse training is, "...by far the best training [they] have ever attended..."

CornerHouse has openings in the following training courses for 2007:

- Forensic Interview Training
- Advanced Forensic Interview Training
- Mandated Reporter Training
- Orientation Training for Hennepin County Team Members

Please contact Sandy Heitkamp at 612-813-8310 or [sandra.heitkamp@childrensmn.org](mailto:sandra.heitkamp@childrensmn.org) for more information.

## For Professionals

**Please use the links below to access articles authored and co-authored by CornerHouse staff:**

- Forensic Interviews of Children Who Have Developmental Disabilities Part 1 of 2  
[www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/update\\_vol\\_19\\_number\\_1\\_2006.pdf](http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/update_vol_19_number_1_2006.pdf)
- Forensic Interviews of Children Who Have Developmental Disabilities Part 2 of 2  
[www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/update\\_vol\\_19\\_number\\_2\\_2006.pdf](http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/update_vol_19_number_2_2006.pdf)
- Indicators of a Healthy Multidisciplinary Team  
[http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/han\\_newsletter\\_winter\\_2005.pdf](http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/han_newsletter_winter_2005.pdf)
- Key Factors in Forensic Interviews with Native American Children  
[http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/update\\_vol\\_18\\_number\\_6\\_2005.pdf](http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/update_vol_18_number_6_2005.pdf)
- Forensic Interview Room Set-up  
[http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/han\\_newsletter\\_fall\\_2004.pdf](http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/han_newsletter_fall_2004.pdf)
- Drawings in Forensic Interviews of Children  
[http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/update\\_volume\\_16\\_number\\_3\\_2003.html](http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/update_volume_16_number_3_2003.html)
- Using Interpreters in Forensic Interviews  
[http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/update\\_volume\\_15\\_number\\_12\\_2002.html](http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/update_volume_15_number_12_2002.html)

## Volunteer Highlight

CornerHouse has welcomed four new Family Services volunteers this fall. Their focus is on assisting staff to create a safe, welcoming and friendly environment for children and their caregivers.

Through our continued partnership with the University of Minnesota Service Learning program, we have two student volunteers. Karen Hagstrom has many years of experience working with families in childcare and healthcare settings. For the past two years she has volunteered as a Women's Advocate at Alexandra House Domestic Violence Shelter. Courtney Dalton is a Family Social Sciences major who has worked with children as a Personal Care Attendant, gymnastics coach and daycare assistant.

Nancy Joas comes to CornerHouse with six years of experience advocating for children in Hennepin County as a volunteer Guardian ad Litem. Nancy is currently working toward a graduate degree in Counseling and Psychology at St. Mary's University. Nancy's experience with the child welfare and court systems make

her particularly sensitive to the needs of CornerHouse clients. We are also pleased to welcome Clara Just to our Family Services team. Clara has a degree in Criminal Justice and recently received a Law Enforcement Professional Certificate from Metropolitan State University. She would like to join a metro area Law Enforcement agency in the near future. Clara believes that volunteering at CornerHouse will give her a better understanding of how the needs of children are met within the criminal justice system.

CornerHouse has a number of special events each year that require the support of volunteers. 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](mailto:miriam.maples@childrensmn.org).



*"Everyone can be great because anyone can serve..." — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## What's New at CornerHouse?

### Multi-Session Interviews

CornerHouse has been strategizing about how to better meet the developmental needs of young children interviewed at CornerHouse. A review of referrals and case outcomes, suggests that very young children and those with special needs, may benefit by modest modifications to the RATACTM interview process. **Pacing the interview to meet the unique needs of each child** has been the impetus as well as the desired outcome of discussion and planning. We are currently working with investigators at intake to identify children who may be better served by a **multi-session interview process, that:**

- Utilizes the RATACTM protocol
- Remains fact-finding/forensically defensible
- Considers the value of time in rapport building and assessment of developmental abilities

Law enforcement or child protection investigator can learn about, provide input regarding, or make a referral for a multi-session forensic interview by contacting:

Julie Ellefson, Program Director,  
CornerHouse, ph: 612-813-8337.

### New Website Launched

CornerHouse is excited to announce the launch of our **new and improved website**. Thanks to our dedicated volunteer, Mark Ohm and the hard work of CornerHouse staff, the new site should be up and running by the end of November.

Look for a beautiful new, user-friendly design with much more detailed information about all aspects of CornerHouse. The new site also features links to many CornerHouse partner organizations and other child welfare agencies and resources.

Go to [www.cornerhousemn.org](http://www.cornerhousemn.org) soon to see the changes for yourself.

### Save the Date

2007 2nd Annual  
Eagles Club #3208  
Fundraiser

Saturday July 28th  
Golf Tournament



2006 Annual Golf Tournament  
Fundraiser check presentation

## 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

Providing Children with a Safe  
Place to be Heard Since 1989.



## CornerHouse Wish List

*Below is a list of ideas for donations to CornerHouse. Due to the nature of work done, some donations cannot be accepted. CornerHouse staff are happy to work with you as you select items for donations. 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](mailto:info@cornerhousemn.org)*

### Carpet

- New carpet
- 6,143 sq ft needs quarterly cleaning, more often for heavy use areas

### Computer equipment

- New flash drives
- Data projector
- Laptop
- Carrying case

### Children activity items or toys

- Washable markers
- Books on tape
- Sturdy toys
- Pop up or other books
- See & Say
- Car map rug

- Colored pencils
- Scissors, crayons, stickers

### Framed pictures and artwork

### Gift certificates for volunteers

### Paper/envelopes/business cards

- 4000 sheets
- 3000 letterhead envelopes
- 2000 bond - 2nd sheets
- Business cards
- Copy machine paper: annual use is 60 boxes of 8 1/2 x 11

### Printing

- Annual report, brochures

## E-Mail Distribution of Newsletter

In order to cut mailing costs and increase timeliness, CornerHouse will be converting to electronic distribution of our Newsletter. If you now receive a paper copy and would like to stay on our mailing list and receive electronic newsletters, please send your e-mail address to [Amy.Wollwage@childrensmn.org](mailto:Amy.Wollwage@childrensmn.org)

If you don't have an e-mail address but want to continue to get our Newsletter, please send confirmation of your mailing address to us at

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