

## **1997-98 Annual Report**

### **From the CornerHouse Board Chair Chief Allen Garber**

CornerHouse founding Board of Directors envisioned a community that would meet the needs of those professionals mandated to respond to child sexual abuse and focus on the needs of children first. As CornerHouse services began to outgrow the facility, the governing Board of Directors responded with a plan for expansion and renovation of the site located in the Phillips Neighborhood in Minneapolis, Minnesota. With the support of the community, CornerHouse continues to serve as a resource to investigators in Hennepin County to provide quality intervention services to children and families. The facility expansion combined interview and training services and archive storage to one location. The expansion created more capacity and improved services with audiovisual equipment upgrades. The construction project began simultaneously with the search and hire for an Executive Director. Our own, Arlene Clapp, recruited Sharlene Shelton. Sharlene was instrumental in the development, planning and implementation of these historic changes for CornerHouse. On behalf of the CornerHouse Board of Directors, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to CornerHouse staff and supporters.

### **From the CornerHouse Executive Director Sharlene Shelton**

The nursery rhyme reads, "This is the house that Jack built." For CornerHouse, there were countless individuals that donated funds, materials and time to build and remodel the CornerHouse facility. The contribution of each person, organization and foundation

made a difference in the lives of children served by CornerHouse. The remodeled and expanded facility was built block by block, board by board. Innovative and dedicated builders, volunteers, and donors made the dream of a new facility a reality. The result is a facility that will accommodate the needs of children and the professionals who serve them for years to come. The generosity of all CornerHouse contributors ensures community responsiveness to the needs of abused children. This is the house that you built. The Board of Directors and the staff of CornerHouse are deeply grateful.

**From the CornerHouse Program Director  
Mary Annette Venier**

Continuous program operations and delivery of CornerHouse services throughout the expansion and renovation of our facility presented us with many challenges.

Demolition, construction and moving was coordinated during child interviewing, medical appointments, and conducting professional training programs. CornerHouse staff remained focused to provide excellent services to children, families and professionals.

During the last two years, CornerHouse Interview Specialists facilitated over 1,000 interdisciplinary team meetings, providing forensic child sexual abuse evaluations with law enforcement, child protection investigators, and assistant county attorneys. Ten percent of those children were referred for medical services by CornerHouse forensic pediatricians. CornerHouse staff worked with Spanish, Hmong, Somalian and American Sign Language interpreters to overcome communication barriers and make services equally accessible for all residents of Hennepin County. CornerHouse intake services coordinated with 24 law enforcement departments from municipalities in Hennepin County, including the Minneapolis Police Department, Child Abuse, Sex Crimes,

Homicide and Domestic Assault Units to interview child victims of sexual abuse and witnesses of violent crime. CornerHouse training reached over 2,000 multidisciplinary investigative professionals, from across the United States, teaching a process to interview children. CornerHouse staff and Board of Directors worked with over 1,000 volunteers who donated over 50,000 hours on volunteer committees dedicated to fundraising efforts. Thank you to the dedicated Board of Directors, Executive Director, staff, interagency members, volunteers and supporters of CornerHouse.

### **1997-98 CornerHouse Board of Directors**

Chief Allen Garber, CHAIR, Champlin Police Department

Mary Tambornino, VICE CHAIR, County Commissioner, Hennepin County

Brock Nelson, TREASURER, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Health Care

Carol Ogren, SECRETARY, Associate Administrator Hennepin County Bureau of Social Services

Judy Baker, Director of Operations, Parents In Community Action

Robert Burck, Assistant Hennepin County Attorney

Jackie Cherryhomes, Council Member, City of Minneapolis

Arlene Clapp, President, Arlene Clapp, Ltd.

Jay Cook, Dorsey & Whitney

Mike Freeman, Hennepin County Attorney

Mace Goldfarb, MD., Pediatric Associates

Ann Johnston, Director, Way to Grow

Angeles Juarez, Children's Hospitals and Clinics

John Laux, Executive Director, P.O.S.T. Board

Pat McDonnell, Metropolitan Health Care Council

Chief Robert Olson, Minneapolis Police Department

David Sanders, Director, Children and Family Services

Sharon Sayles-Belton, Mayor, City of Minneapolis

Constance Schilling, Manager of Corporate Volunteerism & Community Service,  
General Mills

Robert Segal, MD, Children's Hospitals and Clinics

Ken Stensby, Consultant

Council Member Kathy Thurber, City of Minneapolis

Catherine Williams, Probation Officer Supervisor, Retired

Barb Young, Vice President, Shandwick, USA

### **1997-98 CornerHouse Staff**

Theresa Culpert, Secretary/Receptionist

Michelle Dunaski, Training Receptionist

Sandy Forseth, Training Receptionist

Phillip Heimbecker, Business Manager

Lori Holmes, Training Coordinator

Mary Hunt, Program Assistant

Anne Nuernberg, Interview Specialist/ Trainer

Debra Peterson, Interview Specialist/ Trainer

Sharlene Shelton, Executive Director

Carolyn Smith, Administrative Assistant

Kristi Thomson, Administrative Supervisor

Mary Annette Venier, Program Director

Judy Weigman, Interview Specialist/Trainer

Angela Williams, Program Assistant

Becky Witt, Family Receptionist

### **1997-98 Forensic Pediatricians**

Marjorie Hogan, MD, Hennepin County Medical Center

Julie Kummer, MD, Children's Health Care-Minneapolis

Judson Reaney, MD, Park Nicollet Alexander Center

Linda Thompson, MD, Hennepin County Medical Center

This annual report was produced with a donation made toward the design by Lori Gleason Design, Minneapolis, Minnesota.