



the voice.

CornerHouse Quarterly eNewsletter



ABOUT US



Vision

Children grow up free from abuse

Mission

Ensure that the voices of children are heard and understood in cases of alleged abuse

Child First Doctrine

The child is our first priority

Not the needs of the family
Not the child's "story"
Not the evidence
Not the needs of the courts
Not the needs of the police,
child protection or attorneys

The child is our first priority

From the Back of the House

Welcome to our new series "**Back of the House**". There are many people who work diligently in the background to serve the children and teens that come to CornerHouse to be helped, supported, and heard. This series will keep you posted on the transitions in the "back of the house" as they occur:

Staff: Please help us welcome the following staff members -

Grace Werner Ray, Forensic Interviewer & Trainer

Rut Newman, Volunteer & Administrative Coordinator

Bill Koncar, Forensic Interviewer & Trainer

Leadership Message



Our board member, Judy Baker, recently invited me to attend a presentation on a collaboration project that occurred at her organization, Parents in Community Action (PICA) Headstart. PICA, Family Partnership and the Minneapolis Public Schools worked closely together to expand and improve on the quality of services to youth and parents. Serving over 900 students, the preliminary results are outstanding.

It's exciting and inspirational to see organizations being willing to work through the process of collaboration. As a presenter recently said in a workshop I attended at the National Leadership Conference, "Collaboration is not an easy answer to hard problems. It is a hard answer to hard problems. But, here's the "catch": Successful collaboration gets you what you cannot achieve alone."

CornerHouse does collaborative work in terms of our multi-disciplinary team. We work closely to assure that the needs of individual children and families are met. The focus on the individual child and family is the seed for the potential of more elaborate collaborations with organizations in the community. I don't know what they would be as yet; what I do know is that we are dedicated to expanding the number of partners we have in the community. We are looking for opportunities to partner in the solving of some of our enormous community problems such as ending child abuse and the sex trafficking of children. We have a great deal to contribute and will welcome that opportunity.

Sincerely,

Patricia Harmon
Executive Director

Busy Summer of Events!

It is only July and we've already completed 2 great events!



Step up For Kids was a first annual walk in support of child advocacy on Father's Day June 19. It raised **\$3,000** and benefited CornerHouse, Midwest Children's Resource Center, and Minnesota Children's Alliance. Over 70 walkers showed up to support this worthy cause, walking 3.4 miles in bright yellow shirts under grey skies.

They walked with us to increase public awareness about the realities of child abuse that thousands of children face every day and how Children's Advocacy Centers make a difference in these children's lives.



Our 20th annual **Take me out to the Ballgame** event on June 28th was a blast! With over 50 silent auction items, 11 live auction items, Divine Swine catering and entertainment for the kids, a grand time was had by all.

Volunteers:

We've been very fortunate to add a few more members to our volunteer team! Please help us welcome: Betsy, Jennifer, Joyce, Kathy H., Kay, Kolbi, Linda, Lisa & Sharon!

**Volunteer Spotlight**

Damon Noga and Al Gerhardt (on the left and right respectively) have just completed co-chairing the 20th Annual Twins Event for the benefit of CornerHouse. Over the course of 2011, they did a wide range of tasks including coordinating dates and tickets with the Minnesota Twins, seeking and confirming corporate sponsors for donations in excess of \$70,000 and at the same time assuring that a variety of decisions and tasks were completed by the committee. It takes leadership and commitment to assure that almost 1,000 supporters have dinner, are entertained, shop at the silent auction and of course have a great time before they head off for the Twins game. Damon and Al also serve on the CornerHouse board of directors where Damon is on the Revenue Enhancement Committee and Al is on the Facilities Committee. Dedicated to our mission with a passion reflected repeatedly in their good works, we are grateful to have Al and Damon as CornerHouse volunteers. Thanks, Al and Damon!

Through the generosity of our donors we were able to raise over **\$80,000** this year, which is essential to the well being of so many children. And to top it off, the Twins played a great game and won that night!



Thank you EVERYONE for your support, and we will see you next year!

Arlene Clapp

CornerHouse and its Board of Directors would like to express our appreciation to Arlene Clapp, who recently stepped down from the board after a tenure as a CornerHouse volunteer, committee member, board member, and board chair that spanned two decades. Arlene's tireless work on behalf of CornerHouse has inspired so many of us. Her commitment to CornerHouse has been infectious and effective, as demonstrated most visibly by the annual CornerHouse Minnesota Twins fundraiser event that Arlene was instrumental in creating and growing over its twenty year history. Her passion for the CornerHouse mission and her deep level of support for the CornerHouse staff made her the heart and soul of the organization's board. We will miss Arlene's presence at our board meetings, but know that CornerHouse will always hold a special place in her heart. Thank you, Arlene!

Family Support Services Program at CornerHouse

There are exciting updates at CornerHouse in our Family Liaison Program. The Family Liaison Program is now named the Family Support Services Program. This change came after many discussions about the importance and purpose of family support for the children who come to CornerHouse. Nancy Van Thorre's title has been changed to Family Support Coordinator. We felt that this title was more fitting in describing the work that Nancy does on a daily basis in helping families navigate resources, deal with immediate crisis intervention, and support their children past their CornerHouse interview.

More exciting news: CornerHouse was awarded a \$5,000 mini-grant from the Midwest Regional Children's Advocacy Center to improve our capacity to provide increasingly culturally competent services. We are using the funds to translate our Caregiver Booklet and other materials into multiple languages and to establish a Cultural Advisory Council to inform our interview and training practices. Invitations to serve on the council will be going out shortly, so please let us know if you know of someone you'd like to nominate for the council. Members of the Cultural Advisory Council do not need to be experts on child sexual abuse; they just need to be open to learning and educating others.

CornerHouse Wish List:

check out the wish list

Upcoming CornerHouse Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview Training Schedules

below or search for
our [wish list at
Amazon.com!](#)

- Markers
- Coloring books
- Stencils
- Toy train set
- Children's musical books
- Floor lamp
- Dishwasher

Gift cards:

- Cub Foods
- Target
- Sam's Club
- Ikea

Please call
Sharon McLaughlin at
612-813-8334 if you wish to
make a donation.

CornerHouse Interagency Child Abuse Evaluation and Training Center would like to announce the following availability in its 2011 training schedule.

Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview training at CornerHouse in Minneapolis, MN

This training teaches a credible, reliable and non-traumatic forensic interview process for children and vulnerable adults who allege sexual abuse. Training methods consist of lecture and discussion, review of CornerHouse videotaped interviews, skill-building exercises and an interview practicum. The course is designed for teams of law enforcement investigators, child protection investigators, prosecutors and forensic interviewers. Participants are strongly encouraged to attend as a multi-disciplinary team. Courses are outcome based and include an exam upon completion. Course Fee: \$950

August 22-26, 2011

September 26-30, 2011

October 24-28, 2011

January 9-13, 2012

February 13-17, 2012

April 9-13, 2012

May 14-18, 2012

CornerHouse Advanced Forensic Interview Training

This training is open to law enforcement, child protection investigators, prosecutors, and forensic interviewers who have completed the required prerequisites. This course teaches advanced forensic interviewing issues, modifies the interview protocol for physical abuse and other violent crimes, outlines research on memory and suggestibility, provides a mock cross-examination demonstration, and provides participants the opportunity to learn and utilize a video-recorded interview assessment tool to critique their own interviews. Advanced training course at CornerHouse in Minneapolis, MN: Course Fee: \$850

Prerequisites

1) Completion of one of the following basic interviewing courses:

- CornerHouse Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview Training or On-Site Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview Training
- ChildFirst™
- Finding Words™
- First Witness™

2) Completion of a minimum of fifteen (15) interviews using RATA[®] (requirement waived for prosecutors)

November 29-December 2, 2011

March 6-9, 2012

For registration, please contact Sandy Heitkamp at (612) 813-8310 or sandra.heitkamp@childrensmn.org

Visit our website: <http://www.cornerhousemn.org>

Managing Editor: Rut Newman (please email her at Rut.Newman@childrensmn.org if you have any feedback)

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