

From the Board Chair
"Building for the future"

To Our Friends and Supporters:

I am pleased to be able to write to you this year, after my first year as board chair. I have been on the board of directors from the beginning and it has been an honor to serve CornerHouse.

1995 was a year of very hard work and planning. We spent hours thinking together about how to provide some follow-up services for the children who come through CornerHouse. We became a verb as some people began asking if children had been "CornerHoused". We raised the funds to begin construction on a significant expansion project. We will go from under 3,000 square feet to over 8,000 square feet.

During my tenure as Chair of the Board I have three wishes. First I wish that we complete the new building and celebrate that accomplishment. Second, I wish that we develop a follow-up program that really prevents abuse of children and third I wish that we develop more integrated services throughout Hennepin County so that children are not lost in the confusion of programs.

Sometimes, I think our work is like piecing together parts of a quilt. Finding the right shapes and colors, that represent the skills and expertise of us all. I have been proud during the last seven years of how we have pieced together a quilt that shines with excellence and has the warmth of children's best interests at the heart of the matter.

On behalf of the children I have seen over my many years as a pediatrician, I thank you for your support of CornerHouse.

Sincerely,

Mace Goldfarb MD.
Board Chair

From the Director

"Keeping Kids Safe"

Have you ever tried to sew a quilt? Sometimes working on the mission of CornerHouse seems like sewing a quilt. The staff diligently try to match colors and shapes and overall design together so that the completed piece has continuity and consistency and is responsive to each of the independent elements.

Keeping kids safe is like that. We try to identify the support systems that are appropriate for each child. We tailor the interview and medical exam so they allow the child to demonstrate the best of who they are. Each staff member contributes to completing the picture of this child's life so that when the system has completed it's work, children are better off, more whole and supported than they were before.

This is the challenge we face each day. And we are up to it.

1995 was a challenging year. We focused our hope on each child who entered our doors. We believed that with the safety we can offer them, the friendliness and the competent way we interview and train, trauma can be reduced. We exam trauma each day and we listen to children tell us through their laughter and their tears, that they are glad we are listening.

Program Highlights:

Interagency agreements:

CornerHouse was a collaborative before they were popular. People representing various organizations decided that this partnership was good for children. This agreement was based on mutual trust and handshakes. In 1995, we decided that we needed to more clearly identify the agreements and write them down. This required increased cooperation among professionals. We have completed almost all of the agreements.

Training and Resource Center

During 1995, CornerHouse is in the fourth year of providing our 5-day multidisciplinary forensic interview training course. Training was provided to a total of social workers, police officers and county attorneys.

Annually, the training manuals reviewed and updated highlighting current research. The course content is revised annually as well. The course continues to receive extremely high ratings from participants, including this feedback:

Objectives for 1995 included providing 6 orientation sessions for new Hennepin County attorneys and conducting the following training programs, :

- Provide 2 Advanced Interview Training Courses for professionals that have completed our forensic course, have interview more than 25 children and want to become experts
- Provide 2 On-site Interview Training Courses - bringing our training staff to their site

- Provide Preassessment Training Courses designed for mandated reporters to learn how to identify and speak with children without interfering in a potentially criminal case and in fact helping the child even more than before.

All of the new offerings were received with high acclaim and have been scheduled for 1996.

Interviewing

In a facility that has a friendly, homelike feeling inside and out, CornerHouse provides interview, exam and support resources to children who report being sexually abused. CornerHouse is recognized nationwide for its interview protocol among professionals who work with abused children in investigative, child protection and medical capacities. Professional from around the state come to the organization's Training and Resource Center to participate in training aimed at improving their interviewing and assessment skills.

Our average day wait for an interview appointment was reduced to 1.9 days and average days wait. We provided 427 interviews and 113 medicals serving over.

The Twins Fund-raiser sponsored by Twin Cities real estate professionals raised over \$23,000 for CornerHouse general operating funds. The first Annual SweetHearts for Kids event raised 12,000 for our Capital campaign and recognized John Laux for his leadership in building CornerHouse and providing board chair leadership for four years. Our Capital Campaign drive was completed raising more than 500,000 to renovate and expand our facility.

We restructured the staff combining our Interview and Teaming with our Training services for more efficiency and greater continuity between practice and theory.

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Hennepin County - Children and Family Services and County Attorney's Office

MN Department of Corrections - Victim Services Unit

MN Department of Human Services - Children's Justice Act

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Edina
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***items are Capital Fund gifts.**

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NAIOP - CornerHouse Twins Event

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