

1997 Annual Report

From the CornerHouse Board Chair Chief Allen Garber

The CornerHouse founders and Board of Directors envisioned an organization that would focus on children who report abuse first and would also meet the needs of those professionals mandated to respond to child sexual abuse. As CornerHouse services began to outgrow the facility, the CornerHouse 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 services, training services and storage to one location. The expansion created more capacity for interview, medical and training services and improved services with audiovisual equipment upgrades. The construction project began simultaneously with the search and hiring of a new Executive Director. Sharlene Shelton 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 and board by board. Innovative and dedicated 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**

The continuous program operations of CornerHouse throughout the expansion and renovation of the facility presented many challenges. Demolition, construction and moving was coordinated with continuous interview, medical and training services. CornerHouse staff remained focused to provide excellent services to children, families and professionals. CornerHouse Child Interview Specialists-Trainers facilitated nearly five hundred interdisciplinary team meetings to provide forensic child sexual abuse evaluations with Hennepin County law enforcement and child protection investigators and assistant county attorneys. Thirteen percent of those children were referred for medical services, which were provided by CornerHouse physicians. CornerHouse staff worked with Spanish, Hmong and Somalian and American Sign Language interpreters; coordinated services with the Homicide and Domestic Assault Units of the Minneapolis

Police Departments to interview child witnesses of homicide and violent crime. The CornerHouse training services reached nearly nine hundred multidisciplinary professionals. Over three hundred law enforcement and child protection investigators and county attorneys attended the Forensic Interview and Advanced Interview Training. Mandated Reporter Training and CornerHouse Orientation Training reached hundreds of professionals and was designed to help them discern when and how to gather information for a report of suspected maltreatment, provide support to a child and avoid contaminating a criminal investigation. Over four hundred professionals attended CornerHouse workshops and seminars presented at national conferences.

CornerHouse Board of Directors

Chief Allen Garber, CHAIR, Chief of Police, Champlin Police Department

Mary Tambornino, VICE CHAIR, County Commissioner, Hennepin County

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

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Judy Baker, Director of Operations, PICA Head Start

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Arlene Clapp, President, Arlene Clapp, LTD Executive Search Specialists

Jay Cook, Attorney, Dorsey & Whitney

Mike Freeman, County Attorney, Hennepin County

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General Mills

Dr. Robert Segal, Pediatrician, Minneapolis Children's Clinics, Children's Health Care

Ken Stensby, Consultant

Council Member Kathy Thurber, City of Minneapolis

Catherine Williams, Probation Officer Supervisor, Retired

Barb Young, Vice President, Shandwick

Staff

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Lori Holmes, Training Specialist

Mary Hunt, Program Assistant

Debra Peterson, Child Interview Specialist-Trainer

Anne Nuernberg, Child Interview Specialist-Trainer

Sharlene Shelton, Executive Director

Carolyn Smith, Administrative Assistant

Kristi Thomson, Administrative Supervisor

Mary Annette Venier, Program Director

Judy Weigman, Clinical Specialist

Physicians

Dr. Marjorie Hogan, Hennepin County Medical Center

Dr. Julie Kummer, Children's Health Care-Minneapolis

Dr. Judson Reaney, Park Nicollet Alexander Center

Dr. Linda Thompson, Hennepin County Medical Center

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