



Philadelphia Children's Alliance

annual report

2006-2007



Philadelphia Children's Alliance

4000 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104

215.387.9500 • www.kidalliance.org



Healing and Justice for Sexually Abused Children



Voices and Visions



MISSION:

The Philadelphia Children's Alliance acts to create a coordinated, multi-agency, interdisciplinary response that promotes healing and justice for victims of child sexual abuse in Philadelphia.

"Thank you for being kind to me and my family. These times are difficult and so many emotions are involved; we forget that goodness exists around us, which is what we need right now. Thank you for sharing with us."

The Caregiver of a victim of child sexual abuse

The Philadelphia Children's Alliance and its partner agencies have the opportunity and responsibility to break the cycle of abuse, giving victimized children and their families a chance to have a better life. This is the most compelling aspect of their work, and it is incredibly rewarding to be a part of it.

*Derek R. Hopper
Board Member/Supporter*

VISION:

A place where every child who is a victim of sexual abuse is able to receive the full services of the Philadelphia Children's Alliance – to heal from the trauma that no child should have to suffer, and to experience the justice that results from the removal of a perpetrator, so that no other child may be harmed.





Kevin Junod
President, Board of Directors

The shared vision among the board of directors is that The Philadelphia Children's Alliance remains the catalyst to promote healing and facilitate justice for the city's young victims of sexual abuse. This vision is affirmed at the beginning of every board meeting, so that our actions and decisions move the organization toward our singular goal of providing services to every affected child in Philadelphia.

Our board is comprised of leadership from Philadelphia's District Attorney's Office, the Police Department, the Support Center for Child Advocates, major area businesses, and individuals from the local community. Our objective is to act in a coordinated fashion and provide the complete array of services needed by the victimized child and family. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each member of our volunteer board, as well as the Alliance's dedicated staff, for their remarkable service to the organization and to the children of Philadelphia.

Message from the President...

The tremendous generosity of so many individuals, local businesses and area foundations has made it possible for us to expand the organization to serve more children than ever before. We have hired additional child interviewers, invested in new technology and expanded our infrastructure. We have a long way to go to meet the needs of our large community, but we are making substantial progress.

I would like to thank you, the reader of this Annual Report, for taking the time to learn more about The Philadelphia Children's Alliance. Only by increasing awareness of the issue of child sexual abuse and taking the necessary steps to help children heal, can we put young lives on a course for recovery and a hopeful future.



Chris Kirchner
Executive Director

In this annual report, we've provided information about our work using the voices of our various constituents, including children, their caregivers, professional child abuse team members, and some of our foundations and donors. Often, the stories we hear from children are not happy stories – although we work constantly toward healthier, happier, and safer children. While the voices of the children are sometimes haunting, they are also inspiring, as you will see in their "voices" in this report. So many children need our help—about 2,100 a year in Philadelphia, based on the number of reports of child sexual abuse that are filed with the police and the Department of Human Services.

Message from the Executive Director...

This year, we interviewed more than 400 children with a child-sensitive forensic interview; and we provided follow-up social services to more than a thousand individuals, including non-offending parents, caregivers and siblings. We also came closer to realizing our vision of serving all victims of child sexual abuse in Philadelphia when we received private funding for two additional full-time forensic interviewers. We're working at greater capacity than ever before, and we project doubling the number of children we will serve in the coming year. We've also received support for a new prevention program in partnership with the organization known as Darkness to Light, which will enable us to increase our community education and outreach about preventing child sexual abuse.

I am saddened by what the children we serve have experienced; but I continue to envision a time and place when the services of the Children's Alliance and those of the excellent Philadelphia multi-disciplinary professional child abuse team will be available to every child who needs them. Our efforts to co-locate with our partner agencies moved forward this year, as we worked with architects to design a co-located facility. Planning for co-location will continue in the coming year, and we are optimistic that this vision will soon be realized.

You will hear many voices and many steps toward our vision in this report. I hope you will continue to be part of the team that works with us to make possible this vision of serving all children who need us, and support our vision in whatever way you are able.

The Children

It's what we are about. Specifically, we are about turning around the lives of victims of child sexual abuse, as well as their non-offending caregivers and siblings, setting the family on a path to safety and wholeness. We are about making sure that children have a safe place to disclose their experiences, and that they are not re-traumatized by the very systems designed to protect them. We take a collaborative approach to guarantee that children receive an expert investigation, as well as all of the social services that they need.

It is very difficult for a child to have to repeat to strangers what happened to him or her. The Children's Alliance, its partners from the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Special Victims Unit of the Police Department (SVU), Children's Hospital, the District Attorney's Office and other medical and mental health agencies comprise the multi-disciplinary team that manages each case. But it is the expertise of the Children's Alliance's Child Forensic Interviewing Specialists, who, trained in child development and communications, work with the children every day. They provide the neutral, child-sensitive, environment that permits a child to disclose the abuse — or in some cases, confirm that abuse has not taken place.

"Part of our vision is to stop the cycle of child abuse completely — many children are abused by older children, who themselves were abused. We follow this 'chain of abuse' until all perpetrators are brought into the criminal justice system, or in the case of minors, the social service system intervenes."

— Jackie Block Goldstein,
Director of Programs, Philadelphia Children's Alliance

The multi disciplinary team, particularly DHS social workers and SVU police officers, work hand in hand with the Children's Alliance Interview Specialists and Victim Advocates to share information,

carry out their professional functions and assure continued communication, so that no family "falls through the cracks." The forensic interview process is very comprehensive — to be certain that all relevant information is identified and all necessary services scheduled — because it is in the best interest of the child.

"The Children's Alliance process makes it possible for DHS and the police to share information. It also gives us a place where everybody comes together and gets all their questions answered in one setting."

— Glenn Wilson,
DHS Social Worker

Videotaping all of the forensic interviews conducted at the Children's Alliance provides complete documentation of the child's experience, and often eliminates the need for additional interviews.

"When we go to court, having the child's interview on videotape is very helpful. . . . It is so difficult for the child to be in court with the person who assaulted him or her, or to be cross-examined by the defense attorney. In many cases, the video means the child never has to be cross-examined."

— Officer Michelle Tate,
Special Victims Unit

"Since you talk about this kind of stuff with a lot of kids, I guess it's ok for me to tell you what happened."

Child victim in her interview.

"I never told anyone about this before because nobody asked me the right questions."

9-year-old victim

"The team process at the 'PCA' really helps all agencies share responsibility and share resources in these cases. This process is the best for the kids."

Elizabeth Bryant, DHS Administrator of Sex Abuse Units

Non-offending caregivers come from all situations at the Children's Alliance, depending on the child's circumstances. They may be mothers, fathers, foster parents, grandparents, aunts or uncles, cousins, or even an older sibling. Regardless of who this person is, he or she is an integral part of the healing and justice process. The caregiver sets the stage for the interviewing process with background information about the child, family,

"Getting to families as early as possible — as soon as the case is reported — is one of the most important factors in successful outcomes. When we see them very early in the reporting process, and walk with them to the end, we see real improvement. The family really starts bonding, and working toward healing."

— Victoria Ginns
Victim Services Family Advocate

Parents can trust that their Family Advocate will be with them through court hearings and trial, and even beyond if necessary. Regular case review meetings assure continuity of services to benefit the child and family.

The Caregivers

and the allegations. And it is with this person that the Victim Services Family Advocate is most likely to develop a supportive relationship that may last for years.

The support services that the Family Advocate provides range from crisis counseling and immediate information on the social service, criminal justice and medical systems, to Parent Support Groups, Child Self-Esteem Building Support Groups, and educational resources. The Family Advocate will make referrals for additional medical, counseling, and other services, and she will provide a toll-free telephone number for any questions or issues that arise in the future.

Later the Family Advocate will offer "court school" and court accompaniment, as well as

"Me hace sentir bien saber que hay personas que están pensando acerca de mí y acerca de mi familia y que quieren ayudar. . . . Mi niño se sintió mucho más cómodo sabiendo que las personas aquí hablan nuestro idioma."

["It is nice to know that there are people out there who are thinking about me and my family and that want to help. It made my child feel so much more comfortable knowing that people here speak our language."]

Spanish-speaking parent of a child victim





Only with your Support

We could not provide justice and healing for victims of child sexual abuse without the support of many agencies, foundations, corporations, organizations, individuals and other groups.

Volunteers

Volunteers serve as mentors in the Caregiver Information and Education Support Groups and as assistants in the Children's Self-Esteem Building Support Groups.

Volunteers play a key role in fundraising through special events — like the Annual Bear Affair Gala. The main source of unrestricted funds for the Children's Alliance, the Bear Affair raises upward of \$50,000 a year for programs and agency expenses, and it is implemented almost completely by volunteers. The Young Friends Planning Committee calls on merchants for Silent Auction items and visits corporations for major donations. They sell tickets and help coordinate the myriad details of the event. They give their time for more than five months of the year to plan, set up, and assure the success of the event. They are young professionals, established artists, students, business people, and parents themselves.

"Even more so now that I am a mother myself, I cannot tolerate injustice done to children. I support the Children's Alliance because the program's child-centered, collaborative focus works — helping thousands of children and their families recover and rebuild their lives."

— S. Himes
Volunteer and Supporter

For the past four years Aon Risk Services, Inc. of Penna. has held a Charity Golf Event within the insurance industry to raise thousands of dollars for the Children's Alliance. Aon assures the success of the event with their many hours of volunteer support. The Golf Tournament is just one of the many ways in which Aon has been a valued corporate partner.



Foundations and Corporate Funders

The work of the Children's Alliance would not be possible without all the foundations and corporations who have contributed so generously to the success and expansion of our programs.

Adaptive Solutions
Anonymous Family Foundation
Aon Risk Services, Inc. of Pennsylvania
Blue Plate Minds, Inc.

Hilton Garden Inn Philadelphia
Independence Blue Cross
Interstate Outdoor Advertising, LP
John Kennedy Dealerships
Johnson, Kendall, Johnson, Inc.
Land Services, USA, Inc.
Laurel Architectural Millwork
Lincoln Financial Foundation
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ML Innovations
MY PHL 17/wphl-tv
National Children's Alliance
NBC-10
Office Depot
Operation Good Neighbor Foundation
Pagoumian Family Charitable Trust
Pfirmer Deep Muscle
Therapy
The Philadelphia
Contributionship
The Philadelphia Eagles
The Philadelphia
Foundation
The Philadelphia Inquirer
The PNC Foundation
Samuel Tabas Family
Foundation

"We are pleased to be able to assist you with this project and thereby the community you serve so well. We look forward to learning more about your program and hearing about the progress of the [child forensic interviewing] project."

Claneil Foundation, Inc.

The Boeing Company
CBS Radio/KYW-AM
Cellucap Manufacturing Company
Chestnut Hill Health Care Foundation
Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania
Claneil Foundation, Inc.
Comcast Spotlight
Commerce Bank
Cooper Health System
Eagle National Bank
Eizen, Fineburg & McCarthy, P.C.
The Fitness Station
Fox 29/WTXF
H.F.Lenfest Group
Harmelin Media

"We were aware of the compelling nature of the work the Philadelphia Children's Alliance was doing. We knew the staff operated with great compassion and skill and we were interested in aiding children and families at risk."

Philadelphia Area Foundation

The Schwab Fund
for Charitable Giving
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Target Stores
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Public Funders

Philadelphia Department of
Human Services
Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)
Administered by PCCD
PA Department of Community and
Economic Development
District Attorney's Office

"Commerce Bank is committed to . . . enrich the lives of the neighborhoods and communities at the heart of our business. We are proud to be associated with those that share our passion for the continued prosperity and vitality of our diverse region. The opportunity to work with you through our Corporate Giving Program is greatly appreciated."

Individual Donors

abuse, and conveys their commitment to the collaborative process by which we respond to the children and their families. Whether through the annual campaign, the Bear Affair, other special events, gifts made in honor or memory of a loved one, or just hearing about our work or visiting our web site, these gifts are given from the heart. Thank you to our major donors of 2006-2007.

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**How You Can Help Us Help Kids. Donate Now.
Go to www.kidalliance.org and click on "DONATE NOW".**

"As a former prosecutor of sexual assault crimes, I know firsthand how important it is to minimize trauma to children. 'PCA' offers a network in which multiple disciplines interact and through such coordination, the number of times a child is interviewed is more likely to be limited, and the services offered are more likely to be comprehensive. 'PCA' performs a very valuable service, and I am convinced that it serves as a major vehicle to reduce trauma to young victims in Philadelphia."

Bebe H. Kivitz, Esq.
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Staff

(In the order in which families meet staff members)

Nikki Morris, Intake Coordinator

Nikki is the first person with whom a family speaks, even before they come to the Children's Alliance. She schedules the family's meeting at the Children's Alliance, including having the SVU officer, DHS social worker, forensic interviewer, victim advocate, family, and other professionals involved in the case all there at the same time — even translators, foster care professionals, and, of course, a taxi to bring families from every part of the city.

Latticia Buckholtz, Child Care Specialist and Receptionist

Latticia greets the families, offers refreshments and makes everyone feel at home. She introduces the children to age-appropriate activities, including educational and entertaining videos, and provides magazines for the non-offending caregiver or parent(s) who accompany the child(ren).

Alicia Geroulo, Victim Services Family Advocate

Victoria Ginns, Victim Services Family Advocate

Alicia or Victoria greets the children and caregivers in the waiting/play room, explains to the caregiver what will happen during the day, provides an information folder, and answers any questions to put the family at ease. She provides crisis counseling and educational information to the caregiver. She will meet with the caregiver again, after the child's interview, to explain the team's assessment, next steps and recommended services such as support groups. The Parent Support Group walks caregivers through the criminal justice process when a prosecution takes place and provides easy-to-understand information on the psycho-social aspects of child sexual abuse. The Family Advocates can make referrals for a variety of services, including medical exams and therapy. Alicia and Victoria conduct the support groups, link children to "court school" and provide court accompaniment.

Kerry Knight, Forensic Interview Specialist

Cathy Blaustein, Forensic Interview Specialist

Cindy Santos, Bi-Lingual (Spanish)

Forensic Interview Specialist

While the family is speaking with their Victim Services Advocate, the Forensic Interview Specialist meets with the professional multi-disciplinary team members to share information and plan the interview. The caregiver is invited into that conference to provide his/her assessment of the child's development, allegations, and facts of the case. The interview specialist then visits the child in the playroom and invites him/her upstairs to talk in a bright room with child-sized table and chairs, art materials and stuffed animals. The police detective and DHS social worker, and only those other professionals critical to interview observation, assemble behind a one-way mirror to observe the interview. The interview specialist speaks to the child in a neutral manner that is developmentally appropriate to give him or her the opportunity to explain their experiences. After the interview, the professional team debriefs, final recommendations for services and next steps are discussed with the caregiver, and a care plan is implemented.

Jackie Block Goldstein, Director of Programs

Jackie conducts forensic interviews and oversees all aspects of the program. She trains new employees and arranges educational conferences for child abuse professionals in the area. She coordinates new programs, such as the community workshops on child abuse prevention that the Children's Alliance has recently introduced. She also leads collaboration with the police, DHS, district attorney, hospitals, and mental health agencies who serve our children.



I had been trying to come into the Children's Alliance for quite a while; I believe in the mission and wanted to be a part of that.

New Staff Member

Christine Jones, Office Manager

Christine is responsible for making sure that the office runs smoothly. She assures that employees have the supplies they need to do their jobs, pays the bills, generates program and fiscal reports, and assists with programmatic, administrative and development activities.

Sue Schmitthener, Development Associate

Sue is not likely to meet the families, except anonymously through aggregated data from the NCATrak client data base, from which she gains information to write grant proposals and reports to funders. She also produces the annual campaign, tracks donor contributions, writes thank you letters, assists with special events, writes the annual report and newsletters, and coordinates development plans.

Christina Kirchner, Executive Director

Chris manages all staff and has fiscal responsibility for both the Philadelphia Children's Alliance and the Northeast Regional Child Advocacy Center, a program that provides training and technical assistance to developing and established child advocacy centers throughout the northeast. She is the key liaison to the Board of Directors, leaders of city agencies, and the foundations, corporations and government agencies that fund the Children's Alliance. Chris manages agency consultants and oversees the Bear Affair, the agency's annual gala fundraiser.

Northeast Regional Child Advocacy Center (NRCAC) Staff

Anne Lynn, Project Director

Maria Gallagher, Outreach Coordinator

Ellen Smith, Administrative Assistant

Anne, Maria and Ellen work full time on the Northeast Regional Child Advocacy Center Project, where they provide training and technical assistance to existing and developing child advocacy centers in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.

In The Coming Year Moving Toward the Vision

The vision of the Children's Alliance is to ensure that we are available for every child who needs our services. In the coming year, we look forward to coming closer to this realization with a variety of activities.

- Expanding our forensic interviewing services and serving more children than ever before. Two generous foundations have made it possible to expand our interviewing staff, and we will continue to see other sources of funding — for more interviewers, more office space, and all the ancillary services that go hand-in-hand with providing a child-focused response.
- Continuing to partner with the city to plan for co-location with the Department of Human Services, Special Victims Unit, and medical professionals in a larger space.
- Bringing our new Darkness to Light prevention program to a wide audience, using community workshops to educate hundreds of youth-serving adults about preventing, identifying and reporting sexual abuse.
- Assessing our own infrastructure to increase our capacity for fund raising, as well as embarking on a strategic planning process to assure continued growth, capacity, and success in the years to come.
- Continuing our training to professionals and our support of developing child advocacy centers, like the Philadelphia Children's Alliance, in the northeastern United States, as we maintain our commitment to a better life for all children throughout our city and the states beyond.

Statements of Financial Position

June 30, 2007 and 2006

Assets

Cash and equivalents
Grant contracts receivable
Prepaid expenses and deposits
Unconditional promises to give
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation/
amortization of \$31,282 in 2007 and \$140,339 in 2006

TOTAL ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses
Deferred grant revenue

TOTAL LIABILITIES

Net Assets

Unrestricted
Temporarily restricted

TOTAL NET ASSETS

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

	2007	2006
Cash and equivalents	\$738,365	\$280,320
Grant contracts receivable	84,186	103,228
Prepaid expenses and deposits	14,074	9,753
Unconditional promises to give	3,000	50,000
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation/ amortization of \$31,282 in 2007 and \$140,339 in 2006	32,453	42,840
TOTAL ASSETS	\$872,078	\$486,141

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$9,653	\$7,608
Deferred grant revenue	300,476	—
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$310,129	\$7,608

Unrestricted	\$301,399	\$279,567
Temporarily restricted	260,550	198,966
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$561,949	\$478,533
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$872,078	\$486,141

Support & Revenue

Grants and contributions
Donated services
Interest income
Net assets released from restrictions: (Satisfaction of program or time restrictions)

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total 2007	Total 2006
Grants and contributions	\$1,180,534	\$120,500	\$1,301,034	\$1,156,286
Donated services	25,900	—	25,900	16,000
Interest income	10,741	—	10,741	6,807
Net assets released from restrictions: (Satisfaction of program or time restrictions)	58,916	(58,916)	—	—
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$1,276,091	\$61,584	\$1,337,675	\$1,179,093

Expenses

Program services
Management and general
Fundraising

TOTAL EXPENSES

Change in net assets
Net assets at beginning of year
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR

Program services	1,008,065	—	1,008,065	858,924
Management and general	82,285	—	82,285	72,973
Fundraising	163,909	—	163,909	125,772
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,254,259	—	\$1,254,259	\$1,057,669
Change in net assets	21,832	61,584	83,416	121,424
Net assets at beginning of year	279,567	198,966	478,533	357,109
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$301,399	\$260,550	\$561,949	\$478,533

Statement of Activities



Presentation of state grant by Representative Dennis O'Brien to District Attorney Lynne Abraham and Executive Director Chris Kirchner.



Jackie Block Goldstein, PCA, Officer Brian Richardson, SVU, Chris Mallios, DA's Office, and Deb Tierney, DA's Office.



Tony Watkins, David Redmond, Jevon Kearsse and Christine Jones at the Eagles/ACME Thanksgiving turkey dinner donation event.



Team members Regina Cade, DHS, Officer Barbara Weldon, SVU, Officer Tyrone Green, SVU, Sandra Toney, DHS, and Geeti Borah, DHS, pose while attending a training for partner agencies.



Bear Affair award winners receive their awards from the Children's Alliance, left to right: Michael Gillespie Jr., Board Member, Charles Ehrlich, Office of the District Attorney, Jennifer Gillespie, Co-founder, Bear Affair, Dave Thomas, Special Victims Unit, Melanie Benaquis-Johnson, Department of Human Services, Joanne Harmelin, Harmelin Media, Chris Kirchner, Jevon Kearsse, Philadelphia Eagles, Mary O'Leary, AON Risk Services, Kevin Junod, AON Risk Services, AJ Feeley, Philadelphia Eagles



PCA Staff back row left to right: Chris Kirchner, Christine Jones, Cindy Santos, Jackie Block Goldstein, Cathy Blaustein, Nikki Morris, Anne Lynn front row left to right: Kerry Knight, Alicia Geroulo, Victoria Ginns



Chris Kirchner with Patty Gonoude, teddy bear donor, at the Philadelphia SOUL arena football game, collecting teddy bears for the Children's Alliance.



Joe Hollingsworth, Zurich North America, Brian Kilroy, Zurich North America, Bruce Vassallo, Aon Risk Services and Joe Kilroy, Aon Risk Consultants attend the AON Golf Tournament.