



Message from the President



As a former chief of the Child Abuse Unit of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, I witnessed firsthand the traumatic consequences of sexual assault on young victims. At that time, the victims frequently underwent multiple interviews with social workers, doctors, police, and prosecutors, thereby reliving their unpleasant memories each time they repeated their stories.

The Philadelphia Children's Alliance was formed in 1989. An independent, non-profit organization, its mission remains to conduct comprehensive state-of-the-art forensic interviews, and to collaborate with the other partner agencies to facilitate an integrated response. By reducing the number of interviews, and providing victim support services, the Children's Alliance is able to contribute to both healing and justice for victims.

The Philadelphia Children's Alliance is presently poised to relocate to a larger and more modern facility. In such a setting, we will be able to hire additional staff, and serve a larger population of child victims than can currently be accommodated. It remains our vision that the services offered would be available to every single child abuse victim in Philadelphia. The

Children's Alliance relocation to a facility of excellence will require strategic input from staff, collaborating agencies, and various planning consultants. As with any expansion, the move will also require significant financial resources.

So many individuals, small businesses, corporations, and foundations have generously supported the Children's Alliance over the years. I sincerely thank all of our donors and volunteers for their support, and I hope that we can continue to seek your support as we embark on our new future. I also want to acknowledge and thank the members of our very active Board of Directors, and to thank the Children's Alliance staff for their unending dedication and service to the children of Philadelphia.

I also take this opportunity to thank you, our readers, for taking the time to learn more about the Philadelphia Children's Alliance and its work. We hope that you will agree that the Children's Alliance serves as a means to reduce trauma and to create positive outcomes for victims of child sexual abuse in Philadelphia, and that you will share our vision for its future.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bebe H. Kivitz".

Bebe H. Kivitz
President, Board of Directors



Philadelphia Children's Alliance

Justice and Healing for the City's Sexually Abused Children

The art featured in this annual report was drawn by children served by the Alliance.

From the moment that a child walks into the Alliance, it's clear that this is a safe place where kids can feel comfortable and express themselves in a way that feels right to them. Filled with toys, books, and other activities, the waiting room gives children and their families the message that the Alliance is committed to creating the most child friendly environment possible to help set the stage for the rest of the process.



Message from the Executive Director



As I was walking through the office today, two little boys, brothers, were choosing their teddy bears. Every child who comes to the Children's Alliance is invited to choose a bear from the "bear pile" to take home with them when they leave. These two youngsters were quite undecided, weighing the merits of each bear as they discussed their favorite colors, outfits, and even what their friends would think of each bear! It was delightful to watch them as they focused on the fun task at hand. Earlier in the day they had both been interviewed about allegations that they had been sexually abused. Although I don't yet know the outcome of their case, I do know that they were interviewed by an expert forensic specialist, and that their interview was observed by child welfare and law enforcement professionals in order to reduce the number of times they would have to provide a statement. Their caregiver met with a Victim Services Family Advocate, receiving support and answers to her questions about what might happen next.

Supporting kids and their families to deal with the trauma of sexual abuse, and to start on the road to healing and justice, is the focus of our work here at the Children's Alliance. I am pleased to report that over the past year we were able to serve 32% more children than in the previous year, and we continue to increase our capacity to see a greater percentage of the average of 175 cases of sexual abuse that are reported each month in Philadelphia. As you read through this report (and thank you for doing so!), you will learn more about how we are increasing our capacity and why our work is so important.

In addition to serving a record number of children and families, we were busy this year building our capacity for continued growth. In the fall of 2007 we underwent an assessment of our fundraising approach, and we created a comprehensive plan to increase the funds we are able to raise. Our Board of Directors embarked on a Strategic Planning process, which will be completed in the fall of 2008. The initial focus of these discussions was the creation of a plan that will enable us to serve 100% of child sexual abuse victims each year.

We continued to strengthen our partnership with the Department of Human Services, the Special Victims Unit of the Police Department, and the Office of the District Attorney. Their commitment to reducing the additional trauma that can be caused by multiple interviews, in various settings, is key to our ability to improve our response in these cases.

As we are seeing an increasing number of children from Philadelphia, we are also supporting communities from around the northeastern United States to develop and expand their collaborative approaches to child sexual abuse. Thanks to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, we are the recipients of a grant to support development of Children's Advocacy Centers in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and north through Maine. We have highlighted this initiative in our report and hope that you will take time to learn more about our efforts to support other communities to bring healing and justice to their children.

Back to those two little boys choosing their bears. They, of course, have no idea of all the wonderful people who make it possible for them to come to a warm and friendly environment, where most of their needs can be met under one roof. But we know who you are, and we cannot say thank you enough to all of our donors, volunteers, board of directors, partner agencies, and staff. Thanks to all of you, the prospect of healing and justice is becoming possible for a greater number of our City's children!

Christina M. Kirchner

Christina M. Kirchner
Executive Director

About Us...

OUR MISSION

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

WHAT THIS MEANS

The Children's Alliance is a private non-profit organization that provides services to victims of child sexual abuse by:

- Facilitating a sensitive and caring investigation with police and child protective services.
- Providing crisis counseling, referrals, court accompaniment and other support services to the child and non-offending parent or caregiver.

Child sexual abuse is a much more pervasive crime than generally believed, and has become a major community health problem today. Many universities and research organizations have completed studies on the incidence of child sexual abuse, usually by asking a random sample of adults, through confidential surveys, if they were ever forced to engage in inappropriate touching or sexual acts as a child. The range of results is wide, depending on the methodology of the study and the context, but generally about 20%-25% of women and 10%-15% of men report that they were victims of sexual abuse as children.

In Philadelphia, the Police Department (Special Victims Unit) and Department of Human Services (DHS) investigate about 2,100 reports of child sexual abuse a year, and sadly, most cases are never reported... because the perpetrator threatens the child if he or she "tells." Or because the mother or caregiver is dependent on the offender for economic support. Or because, sometimes, the parent or caregiver doesn't believe the child and won't investigate the statements further.

The Children's Alliance collaborates with police, DHS, the District Attorney's office, children's hospitals, and local mental health agencies to conduct child-focused investigations and forensic interviews into allegations of child sexual abuse. Children and non-offending caregivers are brought to the Children's Alliance's child-friendly facility in West Philadelphia, and police, DHS investigators, other involved professionals, and Children's Alliance child forensic interviewing specialists meet them there. The Children's Alliance also supports the child and caregiver in healing and recovery with crisis counseling, Education and Information Support Groups, Children's Self-Esteem Building Groups, court accompaniment, referrals for emergency medical, legal, and financial services, identification of longer term therapeutic needs, and referrals for Court School or any other services the family may need. The Children's Alliance also promotes awareness and reporting of child sexual abuse. It is the only organization in Philadelphia that focuses exclusively on victims of child sexual abuse.

The Philadelphia Children's Alliance provides up-to-date training to first responders and other professionals who treat victims of child sexual abuse. We do this through educational conferences on all aspects of child abuse, through other local training programs, and through the Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Center Program that provides technical assistance to emerging and established child abuse programs in nine states.



While caregivers learn about the Alliance's forensic interview process and provide information about the allegations and the child to the multidisciplinary team (police, DHS, the Forensic Interview Specialist and the Victim Advocate), the waiting room child care specialist keeps children happy and busy by engaging them in games, drawing, and other activities.

Highlights of 2007-2008

The past fiscal year has been one of the most successful ever in the history of the Philadelphia Children's Alliance – and our success is measured primarily by the number of children for whom we stop the nightmare of sexual abuse, and the quality of care given to families to support them on their road to recovery and healthy and productive lives in the community.

FORENSIC INTERVIEWING

The Forensic Interviewing Program helps to improve the investigation of child sexual abuse by bringing together at the Children's Alliance the child victim and family, a Special Victims Unit (SVU) police officer, a DHS social worker/investigator, and other social services professionals as necessary. The Children's Alliance provides a child-friendly facility with playrooms, conference rooms, and child-sized interview areas where the child and his/her family feel comfortable meeting with the multi-disciplinary team of experienced professionals. The forensic interviewing process includes information sharing among the professionals, an interview with the non-offending caregiver, the child's interview conducted by a Children's Alliance Child Forensic Interviewing Specialist, and debriefing among the professionals and the caregiver. When a child or caregiver speaks only a language other than English or Spanish, an interpreter is provided.

This year the Forensic Interviewing Specialists conducted interviews with 525 children, more than we have ever been able to accommodate. This increase – 32% over last year and 56% over the year prior – was made possible through the generous funding of several private foundations that permitted the addition of a third forensic interviewer to the staff. As a result of having three forensic interviewers, including a bi-lingual/bi-cultural Spanish interviewer, plus a Director of Programs who also conducts interviews when necessary, we have been able to interview many more children than previously for incidents of alleged child sexual abuse. We have been able to provide a neutral environment in which a child can feel safe making a disclosure of the abuse, and we also digitally record the interview for accuracy, both of which work to stop the cycle of child sexual abuse.

VICTIM SERVICES ADVOCACY

Victim Services Family Advocates begin working with the family from their first visit to the Children's Alliance, and sometimes before. From the time a report of sexual abuse is made, the non-offending caregiver may benefit from crisis counseling, information or just a helping hand to begin the process of healing and justice and support for his/her child. In the last year, the staff saw 1,267 clients for Victim Services support – almost a third more than the year before. The Family Advocates provided information and education for caregivers, help in maneuvering through the criminal justice and social service systems to obtain the best outcomes for the child, and referrals for any services the child might need, like medical exams or extended counseling. The child victim and his or her siblings can attend self-esteem building support groups, where they make choices, create arts and crafts projects, and just have fun in a safe place with other kids. And if a case comes to trial, the Victim Services Family Advocate is there to accompany the family and be present in court when a child testifies.

Prevention Pilot:

In 2007, with the support of a National Children's Alliance prevention grant, the Children's Alliance launched the Darkness to Light (D2L) "Stewards of Children" Prevention Curriculum that educates adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse, and to take steps to protect children and educate others about abuse. In this pilot program, Family Advocates, certified by D2L to teach this program, conduct community workshops that emphasize empowerment and action, holding adults accountable for the safety of children. Workshops use a variety of educational media as well as discussions of issues in sexual abuse prevention and their relevance to the specific organizations. Over the last year, the Victims Services staff has trained over 300 youth-serving adults in about 15 sessions throughout the city with very positive feedback from the participants.



No matter how friendly the Forensic Interview Specialist is, some children find it difficult to leave mom or dad's side to go up to the interview room and are not ready to open up right away. While assessing the child's developmental level, the Alliance's interviewers build rapport with kids of all ages by asking about school or play and by drawing with children to increase their comfort.

SERVICES TO THE LATINO COMMUNITY

Further integration of the Latino community into Children's Alliance programs has expanded at a rapid rate in the last year. Because of the generous funding of several foundations, we have been able to maintain the services of an excellent bi-lingual, bi-cultural Spanish speaking forensic interviewing specialist, who also supports the Victim Services program when a parent or caregiver is not comfortable speaking English as a first language. Our goal was to more closely align the percentage of Latino children seen at the Children's Alliance with that of the city's growing Latino population, and we have exceeded that goal. The demographics of clients seen at the Children's Alliance have changed to include 16% Latino children (up from 8% three years ago), which exceeds that of the city's Latino population.

The Spanish-speaking interviewer plays a key role in several critical areas of the investigation and healing process.

FORENSIC INTERVIEWING

What could be more frightening to a child than to suffer sexual assault, and then be surrounded by people who, though trying to help, can't really understand you, especially the words that are so difficult to speak? The Spanish-speaking interviewer is trained in child development and asking appropriate, non-leading questions. The bi-lingual interviewer facilitates the interview process for all children and families who do not speak fluent English or who feel more comfortable communicating in Spanish.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

The Spanish speaking interviewer fills a very important role in supporting the parent or non-offending caregiver, and often the child may speak English but the caregiver is more comfortable with his or her native language. In fact the bi-lingual interviewer interviewed 85 Latino children in the past year, but she also provided bi-lingual services to 100 parents and caregivers, assisting the team with the parent's statement and then further assisting the family by providing information and education on the criminal justice process and the resources that the Children's Alliance and social services system have to offer.

FILLING A GAP

Often Spanish speaking personnel may not be available in a partner agency when the case is reported. Our staff member, who is fluent Spanish, helps to assure that statements taken are accurate, details of the incident are communicated precisely, and the caregiver understands the information provided to him or her. Our interviewer has also translated all of the Children's Alliance's educational materials into Spanish, and we have an "En Espanol" section on our website.

Combining the skills and experience necessary for child sexual abuse support and recovery with Spanish fluency has made the Children's Alliance even more unique in Philadelphia and critical to the needs of its residents. The confidence that the bilingual interviewer has inspired in both professional partners and in the Latino community has increased referrals from police and DHS to the Children's Alliance, helped the Spanish-speaking population receive better services, trust the system more, and increase the probability of reporting incidents of child sexual abuse.

Clients by Ethnicity

(July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008)

African American	68%
Latino/Hispanic	16%
Caucasian	15%
Asian	<1%
Other	<1%

HighLights of 2007-2008 (continued)

TRAINING TO PROFESSIONALS

Philadelphia Children's Alliance Sponsored Conferences

What does a police officer or DHS social worker do when they receive a call that an allegation of sexual abuse has been reported? What should a pediatrician look and listen for when his suspicions are raised during a child's examination? What about a school or private counselor if a child partially discloses sexual abuse? Why is it important to pull in other professionals and respond as a team? And how can professionals improve investigations into child sexual abuse in Philadelphia – whether it be sensitive police forensic investigations or responding to physically, mentally or speech and hearing challenged children?

In November 2007 the Philadelphia Children's Alliance and the Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Center sponsored a conference specifically addressing, "A Team Approach to Child Abuse Intervention." Attended by almost 200 professionals, the conference focused on providing the audience with a better understanding of the impact of child sexual abuse and ways to recognize, investigate, treat and prevent violence against children. The benefits of a team approach to investigating cases and treating victims provided an umbrella theme for lectures and discussions on internet crimes against children, medical aspects of child abuse, providing services to autistic children, and developing respect for children's cultural differences and issues during the investigation process.

Well-known conference speakers included Dr. Cindy Christian of CHOP, attorney Susana Tiapula (National District Attorneys Association/American Prosecutors Research Institute) and Ms. Pauline Lucero-Esquivel, nationally known for her forensic interviewing skills with Spanish children, children with disabilities, and the provision of culturally competent services. Additionally, attorneys Chris Malios and Deborah Harley Tierney from the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office provided updates on precedent setting cases in child abuse prosecution. A full schedule of nine separate workshops assured new information in every professional's area of interest. The very positive feedback received, both written and verbal, compels us to make an annual conference a tradition. Participants rated the speakers, programs and the conference's applicability to their jobs a 4.6 on a 5.0-point scale.

Training for Philadelphia's Child Abuse Team

Monthly video conferences, sponsored by the regional Children's Advocacy Centers, replay a forensic interview from one of the major child advocacy centers around the country, and discussion promotes best practices and skill building in a variety of specialized cases – a particularly difficult disclosure, a disabled child, an "older" child who insists that the sexual assault was consensual. All Philadelphia Multi-Disciplinary Team members are invited to attend these sessions, as well as others that provide peer review and information on specialized areas of child abuse investigations.

"The Northeast Region Children's Advocacy Center has been an invaluable resource to New Hampshire.

Whether serving as a sounding board for the Chapter coordinator or providing hands-on support to a local CAC program, we are all indebted [to NRCAC staff]. No matter the question or the need, the team at the NRCAC is quick to respond. On behalf of New Hampshire, we thank the NRCAC for their continued guidance and support."

*Amanda W. Peterson, MSW
Statewide Coordinator, NHNCAC*



Board member Michael Rosen and Executive Director Chris Kirchner met with mayor Michael Nutter to discuss the work of the Alliance.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER PROGRAM

In an effort to assist communities in improving their response to child abuse through the development of Children's Advocacy Centers and multi-disciplinary teams (MDT's), the U.S. Department of Justice (OJJDP*), in collaboration with the National Children's Alliance, established four Regional Children's Advocacy Centers in 1995. The Philadelphia Children's Alliance created and has operated the Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Center (NRCAC) since 1995.

The Regional Centers work to strengthen children's advocacy centers (CAC's) and community response teams throughout their respective geographies by promoting and improving the multidisciplinary community response to child abuse. They do this primarily by providing training and technical assistance for developing and established child advocacy centers. It is a great compliment to the Philadelphia Children's Alliance that we were chosen to receive a multi-year federal grant to lead the NRCAC and support the development of new CAC's and provide technical training to both emerging and established CAC's throughout the Northeast.

The Northeast Regional CAC serves nine states (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania). Major responsibilities and accomplishments in the past year focused on:

- Community collaboration
- Training for CAC's and developing Multidisciplinary Teams
- The Leadership Exchange and Coaching Project

Collaboration

In the past year, the NRCAC, under the leadership of Anne Lynn, Project Director for the NRCAC Program, and the Children's Alliance Executive Director, was responsible for the implementation of 37 training sessions and conferences, with over 1,370 participants. On-site consulting and technical assistance was made available at 56 sites, benefiting 566 staff and multidisciplinary team members, and electronic consultations were provided to an additional 2,250 individuals. Distribution of training and information brochures, manuals and other printed materials give the critical information necessary to developing and established children's advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams, and 1,600 of these packages were supplied.

Meeting the standards of the National Children's Alliance (NCA) to become an accredited member agency is not an easy process. It requires, at a minimum, the support and collaboration of the local police departments, child protection services agency, district attorney's office, a pediatric medical entity, victim services and mental health providers. The NRCAC assists communities in the Northeast in understanding the benefits of a professional team response to cases of child abuse and developing a multi-agency collaboration.

"We all look forward to working with her [Anne Lynn] in the future with our goal to become an accredited CAC. We gained so much from this morning's meeting. We have all done this for a long time, and her presentation bred a new sense of excitement into our MDT. It also gave us goals, and both a new beginning and an end in sight."

*Donna J. Carroll
Chester County MDT Coordinator*

Sometimes words just aren't enough, and a child may struggle to explain his experience verbally during his forensic interview. The Alliance's Forensic Interview Specialists are trained to ask developmentally appropriate, non-traumatizing, and non-suggestive questions, but for those times when more is needed, children are invited to draw what has taken place to give a clearer picture of what they have experienced.

One of NRCAC's major team collaborative efforts this year was with the New Hampshire Network of Children's Advocacy Centers. Eight of the ten multidisciplinary teams across the state, who provided services to 1,375 children in 2007, trained together in two week long MDT Academies.

Closer to home, NRCAC helped Chester County, PA, come together and understand the urgency of moving from a collaborative multidisciplinary team to the reality of a fully functioning Children's Advocacy Center.

HighLights of 2007-2008 (continued)

Training

NRCAC works to improve professional skills among the interdisciplinary partners; coordinates and provides training to the personnel on multidisciplinary teams in CAC's; and assists with plans for program expansion. NRCAC also has a Spanish-speaking staff member in its Outreach Coordinator, Maria Gallagher. In May, Puerto Rico needed training for new frontline social workers and supervisory level multidisciplinary team members of the Centros Integral de Niños y Ninas (CINNs) of Carolina, Arecibo, and the newly developing CAC in Ponce. Even though Puerto Rico is far from NRCAC's region, Ms. Gallagher was sought out by Dr. Yanira Carmona, Executive Director of the CINN in Carolina, PR to lead the training team for forensic interviewing and caregiver support, so that professional staff in Puerto Rico could be trained in their native language. The training was a well executed collaborative among Ms. Gallagher, consultants Dr. Lisa Fontes and Ms. Emily Rivera-Nunez, and Puerto Rico's CINN's (i.e. CAC's).



Regina Cade, DHS, Barbara Weldon, Police, Sandra Stepney, DHS, and Geeti Borah, DHS, attend our annual conference in November 2007.

Leadership and Coaching

Several years ago NRCAC developed a pilot project in child advocacy center leadership called the Leadership Exchange and Coaching (LEC) project. This project is based on the premise that the jobs of Child Advocacy Center directors are incredibly challenging and, often extremely isolated in their roles, leaders can benefit from mutual support. The Leadership Exchange and Coaching project helps CAC leaders to be both effective and inspirational in their positions, and, through professional growth and development, advance the success of their organizations. Two levels of the program support leaders of different tenures.

"I look forward to the coaching call all week before it happens. For whatever reason, it is a time when I absolutely, fundamentally reserve for myself – I never do that otherwise. I save the time to prepare, to reflect on some things. In the whirlwind chaos of this job, just being inspired to take this time is profound... It's good for me at a personal level. It has been quite a learning experience."

LEC Participant

- The **Leadership Exchange and Coaching Project** assists CAC Directors who have been in their positions for at least two to three years. This program:
 - Creates a unique support network of colleagues and offers an exceptional growth opportunity.
 - Inspires CAC leaders to lead from a compassionate, strength-based perspective.
 - Creates peer networks to strengthen the collective CAC leadership and encourage continuous improvement in the CAC model.
 - Teaches the best of organization theory for the benefit of their organizations.
 - Equips participants to provide professionally supported mentoring to new CAC leaders.

- The **Mentorship Program** expands the capacity of newer CAC directors to provide dynamic organizational leadership

with an opportunity to learn, through a yearlong program, from an experienced CAC director who has participated in the LEC. Each LEC mentorship participant also receives support throughout the year from the expert, outside consultant who helped develop the program.

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

MAJOR FOUNDATION GRANTS in 2007-2008 FISCAL YEAR

\$100,000 and Above

van Ameringen Foundation
Anonymous Family Foundation

\$25,000 - \$99,000

Chestnut Hill HealthCare Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,000

L. W. Pierce Foundation
National Children's Alliance/Competitive
Wawa Corporate Charities
Lincoln Financial Foundation
Fourjay Foundation
United Way of Southeastern PA Grant

\$5,000 - \$9,000

National Children's Alliance/Competitive
Boeing Corporation
PNC Foundation
BJ's Charitable Foundation
Genuardi Family Foundation
United Way SEPA Workplace Campaign

Under \$5,000

The Douty Foundation
Poor Richard's Charitable Trust
Aon Foundation, Matching Gifts Program
Siemens Caring Hands Foundation

Under \$5,000 (continued)

Samuel Tabas Foundation
Pagoumian Family Charitable Trust
Rainbow Eye
The Rainbow Connection Fund
United Way of Camden County
Workplace Campaign
United Way of Kitsap County (WA)
Workplace Campaign
GE Foundation/Matching Gifts
SAP Matching Gift Program
Verizon Foundation Matching Gifts

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Department of Human Services

- Forensic Interviewing and General Operating Expenses

Penna. Dept. of Economic Development

- Co-Location/Relocation

Victims of Crime Act, Administered by Penna. Commission on Crime/Delinquency

- Victim Services Program

National Children's Alliance

- Employee Savings/Retirement Plan



All child interviews at the Alliance are digitally recorded because it is the only way to ensure that the child's entire statement—verbal and nonverbal—is recorded in its entirety. Recording in this way can also reduce the number of times that children are interviewed. Digital recordings can be used in court proceedings to support the child's testimony. When approved, these disks are an excellent way to train new Forensic Interviewers on the art and science of forensic interviewing, and to provide peer-review to existing interviewers for continuous support and education.

The 2008 Annual Gala Bear Affair

Over 300 people attended the **Harmelin Media Eighth Annual Bear Affair** at the Independence Visitor's Center this year, enjoying the exquisite view of Independence Mall at twilight, delicious food by Max and Me, beverages donated by Absolut Vodka, Saranac Brewery, and Terranova Imports (wine), and Jazz music by Karl Jones and his string trio.

April is Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month, and it is now an eight-year tradition that the Children's Alliance holds its annual gala fundraiser, silent auction and cocktail party, known as the Bear Affair. April is also the highlight of our teddy bear collection, although new stuffed bears are accepted at any time, to reach our goal of 1,000 teddy bears for 2009.



Auction items displayed at the 2008 Bear Affair.



Team Excellence award winner Mary O'Leary accepts her award from Board President Kevin Junod.

Tying together child abuse prevention and awareness, teddy bear collections, and the tradition of the Bear Affair, creates a bigger and better event every year, drawing more people and raising more funds for the work of the Children's Alliance and the multi-agency response team. Many of the Young Friends who planned the first Bear Affair are still part of the Planning Committee. Volunteers who, caring deeply about the issue of child sexual abuse, work tirelessly to secure corporate sponsors and exciting auction items, solicit volunteers and donors, and encourage friends and co-workers to attend.

Part of the Bear Affair Celebration is honoring an outstanding group of people known as Team Excellence Players. This year's Team Excellence Awards, given to members of the Philadelphia Multidisciplinary Team, Corporate Partners and Individuals who best exemplify the spirit of the Children's Alliance in carrying out its mission, were presented to:

- Ms. Regina Cade, Department of Human Services
- Officer Barbara Weldon, Special Victims Unit
- Leslie Gomez, Esq., District Attorney's Office
- Ms. Mary O'Leary, Volunteer and Fundraiser
- Mrs. Helene (Leni) Dow, Department of Human Services, retired
- Lynne Abraham, Esq., District Attorney for the City of Philadelphia
- Mr. Vince Giannini, General Manager of myph17 and the Communities Program Staff

These people, who made special contributions or worked particularly hard this year, were singled out among the many, many team players who contribute to the Children's Alliance and its work each year.

Team Excellence Award Winners were recognized at the Bear Affair L to R, District Attorney Lynne Abraham, Assistant District Attorney Leslie Gomez, Regina Cade, Department of Human Services, Vince Giannini, myph17, Barbara Weldon, Special Victims Unit, Police Department



We are very grateful to all of our Corporate Donors, whether through Bear Affair Sponsorships, Aon Golf Outing Foursomes and Raffle Donations, or General Corporate Gifts. You are a very important part of our future.

CORPORATE GIFTS

\$10,000 and Above

Harmelin Media
Adaptive Solutions, Inc.

\$5,000 - \$9,000

Philadelphia Contributionship Companies
Quality Plus Ford Dealers
RSM McGladrey, Inc.
Philadelphia Eagles
Anonymous
Zurich American Insurance Company
ClearChannel Outdoor Media

\$1,000 - \$4,000

Campbell's Soup Company
Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC
Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen
Commerce Bank
myph17
Kennedy Automotive Group
Kaplin/Stuart
United States Fire Insurance Company
ACE American Insurance Company
Discover RE Managers, Inc.
American International Group Inc.
AmWINS Brokerage of Pennsylvania
Aon Risk Consultants, Inc.
ARS Inc of Pennsylvania (Aon)
Axis Specialty U.S. Services
The PMA Insurance Group
Travelers Insurance
The Hartford
AIG Global Marine & Energy
Zurich Global Corporate

Liberty Mutual
CHUBB Group of Insurance
Companies
Crum and Foster
Arch Insurance

Under \$1,000

Kohl's Department Store
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Association of Legal Administrators
Bear Affair Sponsors – Unrestricted
Aon Risk Services, Inc. of Pennsylvania
Blue Plate Minds, Inc.
Cellucap Manufacturing
Comcast Cable of Philadelphia
Copabanana University City
CBS-3/CWPhilly 57
Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
Eagle National Bank
Eizen, Fineburg & McCarthy, P.C.
IBEW Local Union #98
Keystone Mercy Health Plan
KYW News Radio 1060
Montgomery, McCracken,
Walker & Rhoads, LLP
MEDecision, Inc.

Ann M. Szumanski/Pfrimmer
Deep Muscle Therapy
Interstate Outdoor Advertising
Laurel Architectural Millwork
Law Offices of Robert A. Stutman
Lisa M. Reisman et Cie
Troiani/Kivitz, LLP
ML Innovations
Mainline Metals, Inc.
Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC
WPMT Fox 43
Volpe & Koenig, P.C.

Public Agencies

The Office of the District Attorney
The Staff of the Special Victims Unit

In-Kind Products and Services

Acme Markets
Office Depot
Toni Felicetti and Friends
Philadelphia Inquirer
Anonymous Donor
Southwest Airlines Co.
John Patrick Publishing



Board members (L to R) Michael Rosen, Michelle Haisch, and Kevin Junod, with Executive Director Chris Kirchner, accept a check from Chuck Davis, President of Adaptive Solutions, at Adaptive Solution's 10th Anniversary Celebration In July 2008.

While the child is being interviewed, the Victim Services Family Advocate meets with caregivers to provide information, and if necessary, crisis counseling, so that caretakers have the opportunity to express their own concerns about the allegations while receiving some extra support and education. The resources and advocacy provided by the Alliance's Victim Services staff empower caretakers to support and protect their children while learning how to become advocates for themselves.



INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Individual donors are at the heart of a non-profit organization. For people to give so generously, as our donors do, demonstrates the depth of their commitment to our work, expresses their tremendous empathy for victims of child sexual 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 generous donors of 2007-2008.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey S. Absher
Mr. Daniel H. Aiken
Mr. and Mrs. William W. Allen, III
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PARTNER AGENCIES

Philadelphia Children's Alliance
Department of Human Services
Police Department – Special Victims Unit
District Attorney's Office
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
Joseph J. Peters Institute
Women Organized Against Rape
Children's Crisis Treatment Center
PCA also partners with many other mental health partners who serve children.

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After the interview, the child returns to the waiting room, where the child care specialist awaits with healthy snacks and juice, videos, and activities. The team debriefs the caretaker regarding the child's interview, and recommendations for medical, mental health, and other support services are made for the child and family.

Exceptional Experience, Continuous Caring

The staff of the Philadelphia Children's Alliance is dedicated to providing a sensitive and caring response to sexually abused children and achieving the best outcomes for the children and their families. From the receptionist/child care provider who greets families when they come to the Children's Alliance, to the Family Advocate who answers questions, offers a teddy bear, and usually sees them again in support groups or for court accompaniment . . . all staff members have the best interests of the children and families at heart and often fill more than one role to assure complete service to the families. Below is brief information on these important, devoted people.

Christina M. (Chris) Kirchner, MSW, Executive Director

Chris has been Director of the Children's Alliance since 1992 and is also active with the National Children's Alliance and in supervising the activities of the NRCAC. She is responsible for the fiscal soundness of the agency, oversees all program activities and has developed excellent working relations with the mayor, city government, and partner agencies' leadership to further the goals of the Children's Alliance.

Jackie Block Goldstein, MSW, LSW, Director of Programs

Jackie supervises the Forensic Interviewing and Victim Services Programs and serves on the Strategic Planning Committee. She is responsible for multidisciplinary team relations, protocol development, coaching and troubleshooting whenever needed. Jackie leads with professionalism and a sense of practicality, also assisting with the annual campaign and Bear Affair fundraising and development of agency infrastructure, including expertise with the client database, NCAttrak.

FORENSIC INTERVIEWING TEAM

Kerry Knight, MSW, LSW

Kerry has been a strong and invaluable forensic interviewer for three years. She came to us from social work internships at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and a city elementary school, and she has prior experience in the child welfare system in Delaware.

Cindy Santos, MSW

Cindy is not only a fluent Spanish speaker but has also spent time at Centro de Derechos de Mujeres in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, as well as having conducted training sessions in Spanish for youth mentors at Congreso de Latinos Unidos. She served as a United Nations (UNICEF) Economic & Social Policy Intern prior to coming to the Children's Alliance in 2007.

Cathy Blaustein, MA

Cathy came to us in 2007 from the Northwest Cook County CAC, where she had five years' experience in child forensic interviewing and counseling.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND DEVELOPMENT STAFF

Sue Schmitthener, MS, MBA

As Development Associate with the agency for 9 years, Sue uses her corporate marketing and business background to write sound grant proposals, reports to funders, and correspondence with both funders and donors. She manages the donor database, implements the annual fundraising campaign, writes the newsletter and annual report, and assists with special events like the Bear Affair.

Christine Jones, BS

In her 15 years with the Children's Alliance, Christine has come to understand every aspect of agency operations and puts her considerable skills to use in accounting and bookkeeping, childcare supervision, financial development assistance, and, as Office Manager, performs the administrative tasks that hold the agency together and make other staff effective.

NRCAC STAFF

Anne Lynn, MSW, MLSP

With the NRCAC project since 1996, Anne has led the Northeast program admirably in her role as Project Director, facilitating the development of dozens of MDT's and CAC's and managing training programs that have benefited the Philadelphia MDT as well as all others throughout the Northeast.

Maria Gallagher, MSW

Maria joined the NRCAC Project in 2004 as Outreach Coordinator, after six years as a Family Advocate for the Hartford, CT, CAC. Maria identifies local needs and, with the Project Director, develops, coordinates, schedules and implements training and technical assistance sessions.

Ellen Smith

As Administrative Coordinator since 2006, Ellen manages the NRCAC office in Bucks County, assisting with coordination of the many CAC/MDT training and support visits, and assuring that all the administrative tasks are completed, particularly important with the staff's intense travel schedule.

VICTIM SERVICES FAMILY ADVOCACY

Alicia Geroulo, BS

Alicia provides Family Advocacy support to caregivers, child victims and siblings and facilitates the Parent Information and Education Support Group. She was also instrumental in implementing the community prevention program Darkness to Light, and she leads the monthly case conference meetings. Alicia has prior experience in probation and parole for juvenile and adult offenders.

Victoria Ginns, MHS

Victoria came to us with seventeen years experience at Women Against Abuse, which uniquely prepared her for her role as Advocate for sexually abused children and their parents. She provides Family Advocacy services and leads the Children's Self Esteem Building Support Group.

Kendra Young

Kendra's experience as a telephone counselor for Women in Transition made her a perfect fit as our Intake Coordinator, who documents facts of the case prior to the interview, then schedules all the parties to come to the Children's Alliance. She also serves as Custodian of Records, assuring that security procedures are followed for coding, storage, and review of forensic interview video recordings.

Lahtesha Antonio

Lahtesha uses her broad childcare, clerical, and Spanish-speaking skills to manage the waiting/play room. She keeps children productively occupied between interviews, attends courteously to the needs of caregivers, and models good parenting behavior with multiple victims and siblings during their visit to the Children's Alliance. As Child Care Provider, Lahtesha also assists with Children's Support Groups.



A family's contact with the Alliance does not end after the child's interview. Victim Advocates continue to track all cases to ensure that nothing falls between the cracks and that children and families are getting the services that they need to help them on the road to justice and healing. If a trip to court is necessary, for hearing or trial, the Family Advocate will accompany the family, if requested.

Looking Forward

Putting together this Annual Report has made all of us at the Children's Alliance feel very grateful – for the generous gifts of foundations, corporations and individuals who made our programs so successful this year. We are grateful for Philadelphia's multidisciplinary child abuse team that has helped us serve more children than ever – an astounding number of children compared to just a few years ago. We are thankful for a Board of Directors and a staff of professionals who have also brought us to the point where our mission is having a huge impact on the city and its children.

Our challenge in the coming year is to create greater mission impact by solving our space limitations and serving many more of Philadelphia's sexually abused children – moving from 30% of reported cases to 100% in the coming years. Finalizing and implementing our strategic plan, working to identify new and larger space to serve more children, and increasing our capacity for philanthropic fund-raising are the ways in which we will reach our vision.

Community support for this vision will be critical. The Board, staff and clients of the Children's Alliance look forward to your support in the coming year – we hope you have seen the amazing things we can accomplish in response to a major community health problem and that you will join us in meeting our needs over the next year.

statement of financial position

ASSETS	2008	2007
Cash and equivalents	\$880,827	\$738,365
Grant contracts receivable	76,189	84,186
Prepaid expenses and deposits	4,743	14,074
Unconditional promises to give	–	3,000
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation/ amortization of \$41,330 in 2008 and \$31,282 in 2007	24,168	32,453
Total assets	\$985,927	\$872,078
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$10,750	\$9,653
Deferred grant revenue - Note 11	307,821	300,476
Total liabilities	318,571	310,129
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	339,962	301,399
Temporarily restricted	327,394	260,550
Total net assets	667,356	561,949
Total liabilities and net assets	\$985,927	\$872,078

statement of Activities

For the year ended June 30, 2008 (With comparative totals for the year ended June 30, 2007)

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total 2008	Total 2007
Grants and contributions	\$1,338,998	\$237,500	\$1,576,498	\$1,301,034
Donated services	15,400	–	15,400	25,900
Interest income	14,798	–	14,798	10,741
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Satisfaction of program or time restrictions	170,656	(170,656)	–	–
Total support and revenue	1,539,852	66,844	1,606,696	1,337,675
EXPENSES				
Program services	1,272,901	–	1,272,901	1,008,065
Management and general	80,637	–	80,637	82,285
Fundraising	147,751	–	147,751	163,909
Total expenses	1,501,289	–	1,501,289	1,254,259
Change in net assets	38,563	68,844	105,407	83,416
Net assets at beginning of year	301,399	260,550	561,949	478,533
Net assets at end of year	\$339,962	\$327,394	\$667,356	\$561,949

