



**Children's  
Advocacy**

C E N T E R

OF JACKSON COUNTY

September

2011

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# Advocacy Quarterly

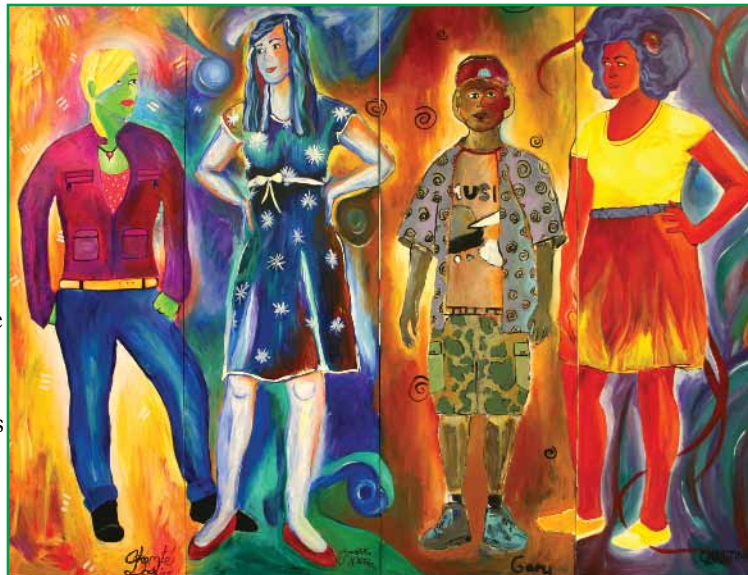
*“On the Veranda” Edition*

## A Night of Elegance, Celebration and Hope

On July 22nd at 7 pm almost 450 community members gathered at Veranda Park for our 2nd annual art show event, “On the Veranda.” For those who were present when the 28 artists from the CAC entered the grand dining room of Veranda Park, one could not only see but feel that excitement, wonder, and pride the children felt. The girls were wearing their beautiful gowns, sponsored by our Adopt an Artist program, Maureen Callaway donated jewelry to the girls, and Tuxedo Junction donated the shirts and bow ties for the boys. Anyone who has ever donned a beautiful dress and entered a room feeling wonderful and proud can imagine how our children entered the art show. The show was arranged exquisitely, a pianist, Mentor Bob Milrad, was playing music, and Randy Jones and his staff had prepared a myriad of gourmet appetizers and great wine was flowing. When the children entered, they brought the secret ingredient: MAGIC. Suddenly a perfect setting was infused with the magic that only children can bring, for within that magic was the manifestation of healing: the Art!

What a wonderful blessing and honor it is to be able to create a moment in time that will sit in the hearts of our community that now believes that healing is possible, that there is more good than evil in the world, and that when this community comes together for the children, anything is possible.

One of the highlights of the evening was the auctioning off of our signature piece of art, a mural, painted by four of our Center’s artists who had put a life sized version of themselves on canvas. For children who have been abused, being seen or known is very difficult because they often linger in a world of secrets and shame - a shame that is not theirs to bear. But on this night, these four young people stepped - life size - into the world on canvas and allowed themselves to be seen. They were not victims nor survivors. They had transcended the past while standing proud and tall in the “now,” which is our goal.



**Thank you to  
the Project Sponsors**

- Autzen Foundation**
- Herbert A. Templeton Foundation**
- Anna May Family Foundation**
- Touvelle Foundation**
- Jackson County Cultural Coalition**
- KOBI Channel 5**
- MDU Resources Foundation**
- Mustard Press**
- Oregon Community Foundation**
- Veranda Park**

September

2011



**“We live in a world where we rarely speak out and when someone does, often nobody is there to listen.”**

Jaycee Dugard  
*A Stolen Life*

## From the Desk of the Director

*Never Forget!*

It was a normal Monday morning at the Children's Advocacy Center on 10th Street. Staff was already at work figuring out how to accomplish what must be done in the week ahead. Suddenly, an e-mail flashed on my screen saying that “something is happening down the street... maybe a fire.” I remember chastising myself for imagining something terrible, a common symptom of working in

a field where we see and hear something terrible everyday. It's called secondary trauma. I had recently spoken to our Board about the need to address this

issue and offer our staff more support since we, like law enforcement and DHS and anyone who deals in child abuse, tend to live in a state of hyper vigilance and dread. We see the world with difference eyes and what we see isn't good.

We could not have known that a stone's throw from the Center a tragedy had occurred - a tragedy so unspeakable, that the entire community would lose its innocence or illusion of safety. As the facts and rumors surfaced, the community came together in shared outrage, disbelief and grief. And though it will be a while before the community will know any real facts, its collective psyche has sustained a mortal wound. Yes, horrible things can happen here. A mother and her four innocent children can be taken from this earth in a blink of an eye. People will stop what they are doing and hug their children a little tighter, thankful that this tragedy skipped their doorstep. As a dark cloud of awareness began to sink in, we realized that this did not happen in California or Minnesota or Florida; it happened right here in Oregon - right here in Medford where we live, raise our children and want to believe

that nothing like this can touch us. But we were wrong.

We also realized that when something like this happens to one of us, it happens to us all. Parents are more fearful. Children wonder if they are safe. Yes, our innocence is forever lost. But what emerged from the ashes of this event was a coming together of this community as it happens all across our nation when something terrible occurs. We rally. We reach out to one another, and we begin the mourning and healing together. Hopefully, we will also resolve that this will never happen again in our little town.

But how can we prevent such a tragedy? The truth is that we can do something. And we must do something. I believe that all change begins with education. We can never hope to prevent these things if we are afraid to listen to that small voice inside, telling us all the time when we see or hear something wrong. We know it on some level. We feel it. But we are not sure and often we are afraid to act.

My guess is that a year from now, this community will know that there were probably red flags ten miles long, signaling that a family was in trouble. Small, seemingly insignificant signs, but signs nevertheless. It serves no purpose to dwell on “what ifs” because it is done. But for this never to happen again, we must commit to educate ourselves on the signs of child abuse, domestic violence and violence that could create an untenable situation. Join me in promising Tabasha, Elijah, Isaac, Andrew and Aurora that we will never forget them and that we will honor their lives by saving others. Their deaths have struck a blow to our awareness, our sense of safety and our hearts. This doesn't have to happen ever again.

During our *On the Veranda* event we created a small memorial for the family. We lit candles and dedicated the evening to them as we celebrated the children at our Center who have survived profound abuse. For us, it was



**Marlene Mish**

a way to honor the dead by celebrating the living and supporting them to have a future without pain, suffering or a life unfulfilled or lived in fear. We ended a grief stricken week with hope and that hope was given as a gift to the community from our children.

So what can you do as we move forward as a community? Here are a few ideas:

- **If you see or hear something that feels wrong, take action. Don't assume that it is someone else's responsibility.**
- **If you hear yelling, screaming and fighting, pick up the phone and call the police. If children are present, call DHS, too.**
- **If you witness an adult hurting an animal - kicking it, strangling it, or killing it, call the police. It is a fact that there is a high correlation between animal abuse, child abuse, elder abuse and domestic violence.**
- **Take a class in the signs of Domestic Violence.**
- **Take Darkness to Light - Stewards of Children training given by the Center.**
- **Embrace a philosophy that every child is everyone's child. Take responsibility for all the children in our community.**
- **Read the articles in the Mail Tribune about the *Don't Turn Away* campaign.**
- **Become a warrior for the innocent. If not you, then who?**
- **Call the Center to see how you can use your own personal talents to end the cycle of violence and hurt.**

At the end of the day, the words of Joseph De Maistre ring loudly in my heart:

**“A child is an angel dependent on man.”**

Our children are angels, dependent on us as individuals, members of the community, and members of the human race. Let us join together to protect our angels while they are with us. Our promise to Elijah, Isaac, Andrew and Aurora: We will never forget you! May you rest in peace with your mother, knowing that we will protect those angels left behind.

## The Children Speak through Community 101 Grants

Again the children in our schools through OCF's Community 101 Grants have asked us to help them with: Darkness to Light - Stewards of Children training materials for their teachers and healthy food for mentoring and parent support groups. Message: **Educate our teachers! Help victims and their families!** Many, many thanks for your generosity and sense of community.



Washington Elementary School: grant sponsored by Patsy Smullin, pictured with Michelle Wilson and students.



Crater High School  
Michelle Wilson and students



Phoenix High School students.  
South Medford not pictured but also granted funds.

SEPTEMBER  
2011

THE CAC  
NEEDS A  
*HYPERCOM*  
ELECTRONIC  
CREDIT CARD  
MACHINE

If you can help,  
call Lorna at  
541-282-5474  
x 114

Thank You!

## ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN KROGER SPEAKS OUT AT CAC



The Attorney General of Oregon, John Kroger, paid the Children's Advocacy Center a visit this year and spoke to the staff and a group of community leaders assembled. He praised the Center and pledged his support for the work of advocacy centers across the state as we deal with one of Oregon's epidemics: child abuse. AG Kroger said that he was impressed with the Center and the work that we do. He recognized our extraordinary efforts and dedication to mentoring and training and all the innovative, proactive approaches that we're taking in our efforts to help children.



AG Kroger pledged strong support for funding advocacy centers and we thank him for his work on the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force and his deep caring for the children of our state. **John Kroger is a friend!**



## "Up on the Roof" is NOT just a Song!



I was asked by a friend recently if there was "anything" I wouldn't do for the kids of abuse after seeing me on the roof of Lithia Nissan Motors during General Manager Robert Sacks' week long vigil on the roof of the Nissan building. During Robert's week on the roof during one of the hottest weeks of the year, dozens of nonprofits climbed the ladder to the roof to talk about their agencies and their services while Robert's crew live-streamed the session to YouTube.

We, of course, added that film to our Facebook page and that's when we began getting the calls. What was amazing to me was how interested, attentive and genuinely concerned Robert was in the Center and its work. He said that during his week on the roof, he has gotten to know so much about what was happening in our community. He was shocked by the epidemic of child abuse and wanted to understand the issues. Though I initially went there to talk about *On the Veranda*, the discussion centered mainly on child abuse and the community.

So what will I or any member of our team do for our cause? **ANYTHING!** For me the hardest part was climbing that ladder!

There's a smile on my face but I am terrified of heights! Going down was harder! But we do anything for the kids, if even **one** person was listening.

M. Mish



## CAC Welcomes it's First Advisory Council

The Center has matured to the point that it now needs an Advisory Council. We have brought together the people we feel are able to guide, advise and direct us to the next level of productivity and success for the children. We feel honored that community members of such stature and integrity have agreed to join us for our first Advisory Council.

Even after the first meeting, we all felt that we were in "good hands." Thanks to you who joined although every person has a long history of believing in the mission of the Center. Board President Mark Huddleston and Executive Director Marlene Mish will also serve on the Committee.

**Donna Andrews**

**Janet Bagley**

**Mark Eisenstein**

**Lyn Hennion**

**Randy Jones**

**Dr. Barbara Sibley**

**Patsy Smullin**

**Jeanne Taylor**

**Bill Thorndike**

**Mark Wisnovsky**

*A special thanks to the following  
Grantors who made big dreams  
possible in the last quarter.*

*Carpenter Foundation  
Cow Creek Umpqua Foundation  
The Ford Family Foundation  
OCF - Walker Fund  
OCF - Community Grants*

## SAVE THE DATE

### OCTOBER 12TH

# CHERISH A CHILD

## 5th ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

If you want to know the heart of the Children's Advocacy Center, mark your calendar for our 5th annual *Cherish a Child* luncheon.

It is so much more than a fundraiser!

This year we will be following the process of the making of the *Our Lives - Life Size* mural, created by four of our young people.

We have so many wonderful things in store for you! If you want to help,  
We need

30 Table sponsors  
(\$250 A table)

30 Table Captains

If you are willing to help, please  
Contact Michelle Wilson at  
541-282-5474 X 111



*If you  
believe that  
we can do  
something  
about child  
abuse,  
invest in  
the future  
by  
helping our  
children  
today!*

SEPTEMBER  
2011

“A **BIG** congratulations to Board Member **Tim Doney** who was recently promoted to **Deputy Chief of the Medford Police Department.** His dedication to our cause and our community throughout his career is exemplary.”

# Summer Splash Medford Kiwanis Club

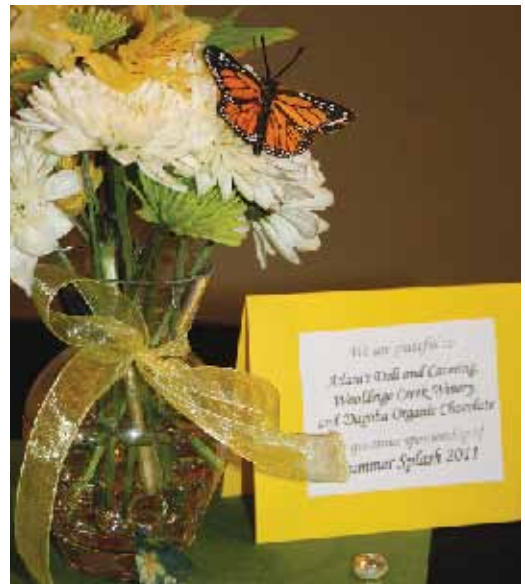
On June 9th the Center celebrated the community members who had the largest roles in supporting our programs in the 2010-2011 fiscal year. It was a Board function with glorious food by Adam's Deli & Catering, Wooldridge Winery and Dagoba Chocolate. It was the Center's way to say "thank you" to the many who do so much for the children of our Center, many of whom are working behind the scenes to ensure that what we dream for the children comes true.

This year we were thrilled to honor the **Medford Kiwanis Club** with a **Champion of Children's Award** for the many, many years of support of the Center, including our first ever video about the Center in 2007 and a significant contribution to our **Caring for Kids Campaign** this year. Whenever we need help, the Medford Kiwanis Club has been standing by ready to help.

And to all who help us every day, we thank you. We are good and faithful stewards of your money, your belief in us, and our collective belief in the mission of eradicating child abuse while we ease the suffering of the children it has already touched. Thank you so much!



Members of Medford Kiwanis Club



# plash 2011

## Club Takes Honors



# On the Veranda 2011



Live Auction

Families



KOBI Channel 5



Friends



Food



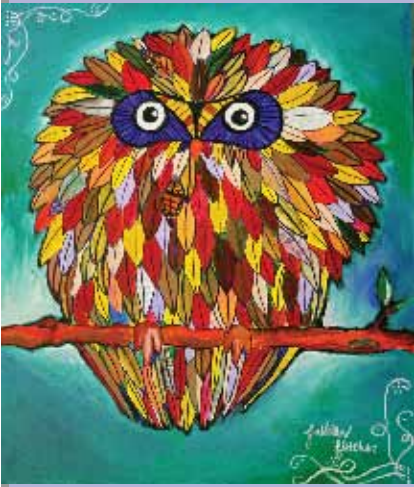


LOYALTY



Special Thanks to  
Alpha Beta  
Weldon's Cleaners  
Central Art Supply  
Lorna Conroy  
Oregon Institute of Cosmetology  
Adopt an Artist Angels  
Tuxedo Junction  
All of the Project Volunteers

# The Gallery







Children's  
Advocacy  
C E N T E R

OF JACKSON COUNTY

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