



Children's
Advocacy
CENTER

OF JACKSON COUNTY

September
2010

Board of Directors

Mark Huddleston
President

Charlie Baggett
Vice President

Ruth Brown
Secretary

Monica Garvin
Treasurer

Members:

Donna Andrews

Dennis Black

Mike Bond

June Buck

Mary Chambers

David Cuttrell

Lt. Tim Doney

Karen Doolen

Gregg Edwards

Judith Harper

Todd Hobbs

Don Livingood

Lydia Perez

Advocacy Quarterly

2010 "On the Veranda"
brings Community together
with the Universal Language of Art

It was a spectacularly beautiful evening on July 30th when the Children's Advocacy Center of Jackson County and The Studio at Living Opportunities held its first "On the Veranda" art show at Veranda Park. The show represented the works of both boys and girls from the Center's mentoring program summer art workshops and the artists from The Studio, taught by Art Director, Dan Mish.

The setting was the elegant dining room at Veranda Park and the scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and wine were generously sponsored by Randy Jones, owner. Guests entered the grand dining room to find 8 boys and 12 girls from the Center and 5 artists from The Studio at Living Opportunities. The Center's artists were dressed like little princesses and gentlemen (all items donated by "angels" from our "adopt an artist" project), eyes sparkling with hope and a bit nervous because they had never been in such a wondrous environment. Over 350 members of our community came out to see the works of art the children had been working on over a five-week art workshop. In addition, the boys had a cartoon booklet from a cartooning class which Dan Mish had taught the boys earlier in the spring.

The girls also had a special project which they had been working on: a booklet of poetry and art, led by former English teachers Marlene Mish and Michelle Wilson and Lead Mentor Anna Loeffler. The girls were taken on an artistic journey beginning with the demons that haunted their thoughts and impeded their dreams to the making of their own personal goddesses, which represented a new found inner resource based on love and respect for self and a new dream for their lives.

These projects were made possible through grants by The Carpenter Foundation, Bread for the Journey, the Jacksonville Rotary

Club, The Jackson County Cultural Coalition, and the Anna May Family Foundation. These foundations invested in a series of art experiences to speed the healing of abuse suffered by our children. Certainly, anyone present at this amazing event would say that their investment was good for the children and every adult in the room as well.

Many guests commented that this "experience" was truly the highlight of 2010 for them, not just because the art was creative and profound, but that the faces of the children reflected hope for the future. There was a magical kind of joy which lasted long after the paintings had been bought and the kids were safely back home in their beds. It was unforgettable in every sense of the word.

We have already received calls from the community asking when our next art show would be "On the Veranda." That says a lot!



September

2010

"I think we all have a little voice inside us that will guide us... If we shut out all the noise and clutter from our lives and listen to that voice, it will tell us the right thing to do."

Christopher Reeve

PAGE 2

From the Desk of the Director

What is your voice telling you?

I will admit that I have been a little discouraged lately with the meager response we are getting around child sex abuse prevention; specifically people not taking advantage of our Darkness to Light - Stewards of Children training. It is nationally recognized as the only bona fide research-based training in the country and has been adopted by school districts across our country, embraced by churches and parent groups; but we have run up against a wall here in Jackson County.

Part of me says, "Marlene, do not write this piece, because it's negative and you should not let people know how you are really feeling." Another voice within me says, "Marlene, unless to speak your truth, you are a coward and do not deserve to be the Executive Director of this organization, whose mission is to protect children from abuse." So, I slept on this and decided that I was, after all, not running for prom queen and that I am a voice for those who can't speak for themselves - our kids, - so I am going to tell you exactly what I feel. This comes from my heart.

We say we don't want child abuse in our community. We say we are appalled about the numbers of children that are victims every year and that something must be done. We say it's unacceptable that almost 25% of the population will be a victim of sexual assault before the age of 18. We have a lot to say! The truth is it doesn't matter a wit what we say. It matters only what we do. The little victims in our neighborhoods really don't care at all what we think or say. What they are wondering is if anyone is going to come and save them from the terrible things that are happening to them. They are asking themselves if anyone is paying attention to the signs they are giving the adults in their lives. And, for many, they have given up hope that anyone will ever notice that they are crying out for help in all that they do.

When I think about those kids, I feel something inside me that wants to wake us all up. I know that for some kids, time is running out. For others, they have already concluded that life is not a safe place and there is no one to trust. Anger is building. Rage is forming in their psyches and one day, that rage will be

manifested in depression, self-harming behaviors like cutting, eating disorders, suicide, promiscuity, and anti-social behavior. They will take drugs to numb the pain. They will abuse alcohol and some will begin to abuse others. This will cost our community millions off dollars in mental health treatment costs, incarceration and the legacy of the cycle of abuse onto the next generation...the endless, hopeless cycle of pain which is treatable and fixable, if we adults would just do something now.

So what can we do? First, we can escape the ignorance and denial that we have comfortably covered ourselves with as we curl up at night to watch TV. We can learn about how sex offenders groom their victims right under our noses and laugh at us while the are abusing our kids. Then we can learn what the signs of abuse are, because it doesn't take a Rhodes scholar to identify the signs. Finally, we need to make it impossible for offenders to have unlimited access to our kids, instead of offering them up in a blind faith that is unjustified and dangerously irresponsible. Finally, as a community, we can resolve to end this scourge on our children by putting protective policies into place to ensure safety for our kids.

So where could we learn all this and put these things immediately into practice? I will tell you. Take Darkness to Light - Stewards of Children. In a 2.5 hour training you could change your world, maybe save your own child's life, or your grandchild's or the child next door. At the end of the day, it doesn't matter what our good intentions are or what we say; it matters what we do with the time we have on this earth. Each person owes it to every other person to make this the world we want our kids to live in. If not us, then who?

Well, I will definitely not be prom queen, but tonight I will sleep because I have listened to the voice inside that said, "Marlene, it's your job to say this!" What is your voice telling you? If it to act now, call me. We can do this together. Some little child is waiting.



Marlene Mish

Thank You for
Believing in our kids

Children's Advocacy Center
Art and Writing Project with
Mentoring Youth
Summer 2010

Project Partners

Children's Advocacy Center
of Jackson County

The Studio at Living Opportunities

Project Sponsor List

Anna May Family Foundation
Carpenter Foundation
Jackson County Cultural Trust
Jacksonville Rotary Club
Bread for the Journey
Veranda Park
Mustard Press
KOBI-Channel 5

Sponsors of the Video, A Pride of Lions: The Boys of CAC

Touvelle Foundation
MDU Foundation
Jackson County Cultural Coalition
Anna May Family Foundation

We won,
You won,
∴
The kids won.
Thank you.

Hero - Randy Jones



Randy Jones, owner of Veranda Park, gave the Children's Advocacy Center of Jackson County a great gift by offering, last October after our Cherish a Child luncheon, to sponsor the 2010 art show. In the moment, there was no way to understand just how important that gift would be to the children who would be showing their art, to the staff and Board of the Center, and to the community.

He offered the artists from the Center's mentoring art workshops and the artists from The Studio at Living Opportunities a venue that would transform every person who walked into the grand dining room of Veranda Park. The elegance of the setting, the view from the veranda, the 10,000 gourmet appetizers made to perfection by his Master Chef, and the hospitality of all his staff all contributed to a magical quality that said: "This is an important event. This is a special event. What happens here tonight will be memorable." Randy's heart is huge when it comes to helping others. He digs down to some private place that only he knows that finds ways to give that make differences in people's lives. The Center could never begin to thank him for giving our children an experience unprecedented in their lives. We appreciate you, Randy, and we are grateful that you have promised to sponsor this magical event every year. We hope that the rest of the community will discover what over 350 people discovered on July 30th: anything is possible to those who believe.

"On the Veranda" changed us all!

"A hero is one who kindles a great light in the world, who sets up blazing torches in the dark streets of life for men to see by."

Felix Adler

"Where the Wild Bird Sings"

September
2010



Big dreams



Hope



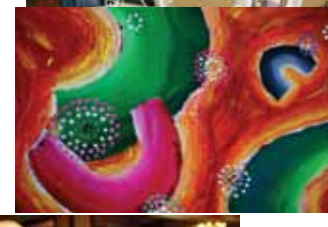
Elegance



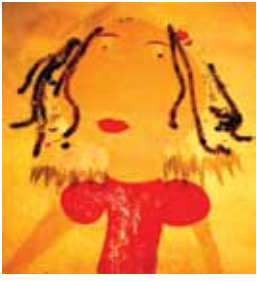
Joy



P
R
I
D
E



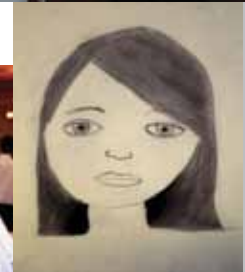
Competence



Talent



Community



Working together



It sings in the heart of a child.

*Dr. Kerri Hecox on
Karly's Law*



“What Exactly is Suspicious Injury?”

“I’m just covering my bases on this one.” “I hope I’m not wasting your time”—as the designated medical provider for Jackson and Josephine Counties I hear comments like this all the time from caseworkers who bring cases to me under Karly’s Law. Are the injuries suspicious? In my view, if the possibility of child abuse crosses the case worker or police officer’s mind, no matter how minor the injury, it’s suspicious enough to warrant evaluation.

A case in point came through our office a few months ago. DHS was called to investigate concerns of parental drug use in a home with three small children, boys aged 6, 4, and 9 months. While evaluating the family the caseworker noted that the 9 month old, we’ll call him Ray, had two small bruises on his face, one at the corner of his mouth and the other on his opposite temple. The caseworker asked the parents what had happened, and the boy’s mother said that Ray had been lying on a bed where the other boys were jumping and she thought that’s where the bruises came from, but she wasn’t sure. Although the bruises were small and Ray seemed to be acting normally, the caseworker was concerned—the history didn’t seem to fit. Could Ray have been struck in the face hard enough to bruise, twice, without crying and getting someone’s attention? The caseworker, rightly, wanted to be sure.

Ray was seen by his primary care provider within 48 hours, in compliance with Karly’s Law. Ray’s primary care provider felt that the findings on Ray’s face were minor, not enough to warrant further work-up. In his exam that day Ray had no other bruises or concerning findings noted by the primary provider.

Ray’s photos and medical report were forwarded to me within 72 hours. When I saw the photos of Ray’s face I was more concerned. The bruises were small, about 1 cm, but they were on the face of a minimally mobile child and in distinctly differently planes. Also, the bruise at the corner of Ray’s mouth was circular and the one at his temple more linear, suggesting to me that it could be a pattern injury, as would be left by a hand gripping Ray’s face. I ordered x-rays.

Ray’s films were done the following day, and came back with two complex skull fractures. Ray was in foster care at this point secondary to his parent’s substance use, and the foster care provider reported that Ray had been acting completely normally the whole time in her care. The only clue to Ray’s significant injuries had been the small bruises on his face. Ray’s caseworker had been suspicious, and her suspicions proved correct.

*4th Annual
Cherish a Child
Fundraiser Luncheon*

*October 13th at the
Red Lion Hotel
Noon - 1 pm*

*The Most Inspiring Event
of the Year*

Featuring our new video

*A Pride of Lions -
The Boys of the C.A.C.*

Created by KOB1 NBC Channel 5



*For reservations call Michelle at
541-282-5474 x 111*

HOW DO WE KNOW WHEN IT'S WORKING?

By Michelle Wilson

One of the biggest challenges in work that affects human beings – work that starts on the inside and then moves out into the life of that person – is knowing when the work is “working”. How do we know that what we are doing is helping people? How do we know, beyond the numbers we can count of children and teens and family members who come to us, that our efforts are making a difference, both for those we work with and for our community as a whole?

This question cannot always be answered simply. At our Center, we can certainly see the changes made in children and teens who stay with us over time, who stay in therapy, who are in our mentoring groups. We can see the changes in the ways they hold themselves, in their ideas about their lives and futures, in the language they use when they talk about things that matter to them. Does this add up to a true change in their lives, however? Can we really tell when all of our work, the efforts of all the people who come together to ensure that CAC is here for children and families, means that children won't be abused again, or that families facing multiple levels of trauma associated with abuse will heal and that their children will grow up stronger after what they have experienced?

This year, through a grant from the **Oregon Community Foundation Reed & Carolee Walker Fund**, we have created a format for assessing how deeply our work with teens and pre-teens in our mentoring program is going, and how effective it is in helping these youth reclaim their lives based on positive beliefs about themselves and their world. Over the past three years we have steadily expanded the mentoring program and added new community collaborations to the curriculum. We are watching these young people grow over the years and begin to make new choices for themselves. This year, we are also beginning to track with them their progress in creating new self-images, practicing new behaviors, and developing healthier relationships.

With support from the Walker Fund, our therapists are working closely with Anna Loeffler, lead mentor, and the team of volunteer mentors to help these teens and pre-teens

set goals for themselves in areas which begin to show tangible changes in behaviors. **The participants rank themselves at the start of the program in terms of their own self-images; their skills in relationships, communication, and decision-making; and their ability to avoid self-harming behaviors and practice self-care on a regular basis.** Every three months they evaluate the progress they have made and begin to take steps toward moving forward in each of these areas, with strong support from the adults working with them. Anna, the therapists, and the mentors also monitor the progress these youth are making.

Our goal is to learn from these youth what is working, what isn't, and how our program is truly making a difference in their lives. Each year we plan to evaluate the evaluation tool, ask more questions of ourselves and of them, and strengthen our program based on what we find.

In the end, we know, and all studies on mentoring show, that the quality of the relationships between the youth and their mentors is the most important factor in success. Our program is based on this tenet, with mentors screened, trained, and supported on an ongoing basis.

As more and more youth come to us for mentoring, we promise to continue helping them “grow their dreams” and make them realities – the dreams we all hold of living healthy, happy lives. We are grateful to the Walker Fund for investing in our work and in this stage of developing our program as we continue to help kids change their lives for the better, growing right up out of where they are now.

Portrait of a Soul:

An Afternoon of Art, Wine & Music

A benefit for the
Children's Advocacy Center of Jackson County
at



552 A. Street in Ashland

Sunday, September 19th 4:00 - 6:30 pm

Wine Bar by Liquid Assets
Appetizers & Live Music • Art for Sale

No Admission

For more information call Michelle at 282-5474 x111

*“Your dreams,
what you hope
for and all
that, it's not
separate from
your life. It
grows right
up out of it.”*

*-- Barbara
Kingsolver*



Children's
Advocacy

C E N T E R

OF JACKSON COUNTY

816 W. 10TH ST.
MEDFORD OR
97501

541-734-5437



NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE®

FULL
MEMBER

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 189
MEDFORD OR

Oil Spill by Christine, age 15

