



Family Matters

Volume 2, 2003

Creating Brighter Futures For Kids

A Newsletter of the Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center

UPCOMING EVENTS

Teen Mother Mentor Day

Saturday, October 4, 2003

Professional women interested in being a mentor to a teen mom for this one-day inspirational and goal-setting seminar, please contact Karen Sullivan at (714) 543-4333, ext. 521.

Adopt-A-Family Holiday Gift Drive

November/December 2003

"Adopt" a family this holiday season and bring joy to children in need. Contact Kathryn Haze at (714) 543-4333, ext. 501.

Sixth Annual Black-Tie Gala

Saturday, April 17, 2004
Laguna Cliffs Marriot, Dana Point

Join us in celebrating the Center's 20th Anniversary! For tickets or sponsorship information, contact Kelly Buskirk at (714) 543-4333, ext. 512.

For additional event information, visit our website at: www.BrightFutures4Kids.org/events.html.



Monica has worked hard to create a better life for herself and son Anthony.

MONICA: ONE WOMAN'S STORY

When Monica first came to the Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center, she was scared and overwhelmed, a 16-year-old girl with a baby on the way. Today, after completing several Center programs and volunteering in others, Monica is a confident, 20-year-old mother with a healthy, well-adjusted son and a bright future.

For Monica, domestic violence had been a fact of life. She grew up in a family of five children headed by a busy single mother who seemed to have a knack for attracting abusive boyfriends. So, at age 16, when Monica found herself in an abusive relationship with the father of her child, she thought little of it. It was not until the father became increasingly abusive following Anthony's birth that alarms went off in her head.

"I knew I had to focus on making a better life for me and my baby," said Monica. "I did not want Anthony to go through what I did."

Monica first heard about the Center's "Welcome Baby" program at her high school and quickly signed up. For three months, she worked intensively with an in-home parenting mentor, who taught her everything about healthy, nurturing parenting. Most importantly, Monica's mentor taught her that she DOES have the ability to change her life for the better.

I knew I had to focus on making a better life for me and my baby. I did not want Anthony to go through what I did.

At the end of three months, Monica wanted more. She signed up for the Center's Tender Care Parenting program, where she learned even more about appropriate discipline and building a positive relationship with her child as he grows through various childhood stages.

Upon completing the programs, Monica realized she could help other young women like herself through the Center's "Teen Voices, Teen Choices" pregnancy prevention program, which speaks to high school students about the challenges

(CONTINUED-next page)

From the Desk of the Executive Director

DOING THE MATH



Remember dreaded word problems from algebra class? Each year, 10,000 Orange County marriages end in divorce. Of that number, 5,000 involve children. Across the board, research indicates that divorce often has negative and potentially long-term effects on children.

So, if we take 5,000 divorces multiplied by one or more children, divided by some degree of long-term negative impact, exactly how much damage is being unintentionally inflicted upon the children of Orange County? You do the math.

While we may not be able to prevent divorces from occurring, we can find a way to make them less traumatic for children and their families. On that note, I am pleased to announce the addition of a new program unlike any other offered by the Center. Funded by a start-up grant from the Orange County Children and Families Commission, *Helping Kids Cope* is

an educational program for parents that is designed to minimize the effects of divorce on children.

Using a curriculum that has been successfully implemented in 39 states and 180 jurisdictions, *Helping Kids Cope* asks parents to attend a one-time, four-hour seminar that will be presented on Saturday mornings beginning this fall. These seminars teach parents how to view the divorce from their children's perspective and what behaviors to expect, as well as the importance of forming a post-divorce relationship that creates a nurturing environment for their children.

From a growth standpoint, implementing *Helping Kids Cope* allows the Center to reach a broader segment of the population than ever before – divorce knows no socio-economic or racial boundaries, affecting people from all walks of life.

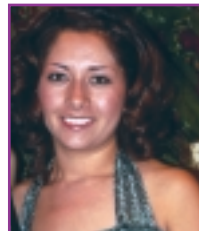
Helping Kids Cope allows the Center to reach a broader segment of the population than ever before.

We are very excited about this new program and its anticipated long-range positive effects in homes across Orange County. Stay tuned...

Kathy McCarrell



Monica shared her struggles and successes with guests at the Center's 2003 Gala.




ONE WOMAN'S STORY (CONTINUED)

and responsibilities of teen parenthood. She also helped the Center launch its newest teen program targeting Teen Dating Violence.

Kathy McCarrell, the Center's executive director, is impressed with the great strides Monica has made. "Monica is a young woman with a future," said McCarrell.

"She's strong, she's bright and she's not afraid of a challenge. She looked at her life and had the courage to say, 'I want something better.' She knew she couldn't do it alone. That's what our programs do... help women like Monica transform their lives."

For Monica, the transformation continues. She has graduated from high school and, through the Center's Family Pathfinders program, been "adopted" by Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Tustin. The Aldersgate congregation will assist Monica in becoming self-sufficient by providing critical household items, life skills mentoring and job training. Her dream is to one day become an elementary school teacher.

"Your life is what you make it," said Monica, "but you don't have to do it alone. For young mothers like me, the Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center can give you wings and help you soar." 



ORANGE COUNTY

SNEAK PEEK



It's time to update our image! In preparation for the Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center's 20-year Anniversary, we are proud to debut our new logo.

The new logo design emphasizes the Center's focus on child abuse **prevention**, adding a touch of sophistication while retaining the compassion and warmth of its previous logo. Watch for our new logo to appear on future correspondence and promotional materials.



AN EVENING AT THE OSCARS

In true Hollywood style, guests received star treatment as they strolled the red carpet into "An Evening at the Oscars," the Center's Fifth Annual Black-Tie Gala.

Guests were greeted by a faux Joan Rivers and escorted into the luxurious new Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach, where they schmoozed with a Marilyn Monroe look-alike and enjoyed pre-dinner cocktails. The event, which had all the glitz and glamour of the real Academy Awards, featured a sumptuous dinner, dancing to the music of Wayne Foster Entertainment, and "Oscar" presentations for Best Actor and Best Actress.

Highlighting the evening's festivities were silent and live auctions featuring more than \$100,000 in donated items, including a \$25,000 vacation to Crewe, England (home of Bentley Motors), and a one-carat diamond donated by the Swiss Watch Gallery. The Center also presented its annual "Champion of Children Award" to faithful supporter Insuring the Children.

Event co-chairs Rene Leeson and Lil Spitzer did a remarkable job leading the Gala Committee, creating an elegant night to remember while surpassing fundraising goals. The Center is truly star-struck by the overwhelming generosity of its supporters and eagerly awaits next year's event.



Sponsors Carsten Preisz of Bentley Motors (left) and Thierry Chaunu of Chopard USA with Gala Co-Chair Lil Spitzer and Kathy McCarrell.



Gala Co-Chairs Lil Spitzer (left, with daughter Alexandra) and Rene Leeson.



Board member Ed Inal and wife Laura.



Kathy Tusa (with Kathy McCarrell) accepted the 2003 Champion of Children Award on behalf of "Insuring the Children."



Debra Violette and Pietro Fallai with former Gala Co-Chair Dorcas Preston.



"Joan Rivers" welcomed guests.



WEARING THEIR HEART ON THEIR SLEEVE

The Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center is plunging ahead and making waves... airwaves, that is.

In recent months, the Center has garnered a flurry of broadcast and print media coverage that is helping reach a broader audience with its message of hope through prevention. The topic of the Center's most recent media coverage has been its emerging Teen Dating Violence prevention program.

- Following the Center's inaugural Teen Dating Violence panel at Bolsa Grande High School last December, Orange County Register reporter Theresa Walker developed a feature story highlighting the program and its teen panelists.
- The Orange County Business Journal also featured a piece on the Center's Teen Dating Violence program, which was distributed to more than 700 Orange County professionals at the May 22 "Women In Business Awards" luncheon.
- Additionally, Kathy McCarrell and Teen Panelist Monica M. appeared together on two local television interview programs exploring Teen Dating Violence: Cox Forum and Southland Today.
- Equally exciting, the Center recently participated in two episodes of KOCE's Help Me Grow, a live, weekly call-in show focused on children and families.



This year's Men With Heart helped raise \$30,000 for Center programs.



Event sponsor WTW & Associates' Jodi W. Brown, Natalie Allen and Monica Watson with Michelle Manly.



Event emcees Kathy McCarrell and Kent French of Adelphia.

Glamour and anticipation filled the air as 200 single women gathered at the Balboa Pavilion in Newport Beach for *Men With Heart*, the Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center's Second Annual Bachelor Auction. Enticed by the prospect of a night out with one of the county's most eligible bachelors, *Men With Heart* attendees helped the Center raise more than \$30,000 to fund critically-needed parenting education and support programs.

Kent French, sports reporter with Adelphia cable, and executive director Kathy McCarrell, emceed the event, which was sponsored by WTW & Associates, an Orange County-based personal introductions firm. The bachelors jump-started the evening's festivities by strutting their stuff on the runway to a live rendition of "It's Raining Men," generating bids ranging from \$550 to a high of \$2,700 for surprise bachelor, emcee French.

"This year's event was a major success," said McCarrell. "We could not have picked a better group of bachelors. The kindness of these men in donating their time for a great cause shows they really are 'Men With Heart.'"



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COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

Over the last year, the Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center has been touched by the tremendous power of divine intervention... in the form of a major contribution from the Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare Foundation. The Foundation – a non-profit, public benefit corporation which addresses the health-related needs of the economically poor and vulnerable within Southern California – made a \$60,000 grant to the Center in support of its Multi-Disciplinary Family Care Team (MDFCT).

The Team serves Orange County families at the highest risk of child abuse. The generous support of this foundation will underwrite the nursing component of the Team, ensuring that every MDFCT family receives regular visits from a registered nurse in their own home. The Center offers its sincerest thanks to the Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare Foundation, and counts the Foundation's support among its many blessings. ♡

President's Message

BRIDGING THE GAP



Paula Janoski

There's no doubt about it. Times are tough, even here in picturesque Orange County. Belts tighten in Corporate America and we feel the squeeze – in our local economy and businesses, in our government programs, and in our own families. Is it any

wonder that when uncertainty reigns and tensions skyrocket, instances of child abuse, domestic violence and other "social" problems rise, too?

Thankfully, organizations like the Center are there to bridge the gap... and to help keep families intact.

For Orange County residents living at or below the poverty level, this belt-tightening can have serious consequences. The trend is clear. Child abuse and neglect are on the rise, with more than 25,000 reported cases recorded in 2002. Ironically, times like these bring even deeper cuts to state and county social service budgets, just when their programs are needed the most.

Thankfully, organizations like the Center are there to bridge the gap left by government cutbacks and to help keep families intact. The intensive parenting education and support programs offered by the Center serve as veritable life-preservers for families facing the life-altering issues of child abuse and domestic violence. The Center is committed to helping these families. In order to keep our commitment, we need your commitment – now more than ever.

Giving of your time and/or resources ensures that these struggling families receive the assistance they need. Last year, the Center gave more than 14,000 children in 6,500 families hope for a brighter future. The ongoing commitment of our steadfast supporters makes that possible. Won't you join them to ensure brighter futures for ALL Orange County children? ♡



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THREE CHEERS FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS!!!

Once a year, the Center honors the unsung heroes of child abuse prevention – the faithful volunteers who contributed more than 23,000 hours of service last year. To celebrate these dedicated souls, the Center hosted a Volunteer Recognition Dinner in April at the Mesa Verde United Methodist Church in Costa Mesa.

The event paid tribute to the more than 400 volunteers and community liaisons participating in Center programs.

“Our volunteers really are the heart and soul of our programs,” said executive director Kathy McCarrell. “Their hard work and commitment, allowed us to reach 14,000 children and 6,500 families last year.”

If you are interested in helping improve the lives of Orange County children, please contact the Center at (714) 543-4333 or ChildAbusePrevention@BrightFutures4Kids.org.



Erika O'Neil and Amanda Anderson, two of the Center's youngest supporters.

Build brighter futures for Orange County kids... become a volunteer family mentor! Call now to apply: (714) 543-4333

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