



Family Matters

Volume 1, 2004

Building Brighter Futures For Kids

A Newsletter of the Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center

UPCOMING EVENTS

20th Anniversary Bright Futures Ball

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

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

Family Pathfinders ASW Recognition Dinner

Wednesday, May 19, 2004
Mesa Verde United Methodist Church,
Costa Mesa

Help us thank the people behind the Center's success. Contact Kathryn Haze at (714) 543-4333, ext. 501.

3rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Monday, August 23, 2004
Mission Viejo Country Club

Swing into action for a great cause at the Center's annual golf tournament. For details please contact Whitney Blain at (714) 543-4333, ext. 512.

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




Johana's commitment to daughter Delailah helped her break the cycle of abuse.

Johana began to see her situation clearly. She had experienced a traumatic childhood. Her father was physically abusive toward her mother, yet stayed in the marriage. Her father used and sold drugs, and even forced Johana to sell drugs as a child.

The realization hit Johana like a ton of bricks – she was part of the cycle of abuse. "I absolutely do not want my daughter going through what I did," she said. "I have to break the cycle."

Today, Johana works and attends college. She makes time with her daughter a priority despite a hectic schedule. Recently, she attended the Center's Teen Mother Mentoring Day, where she was inspired to stay in school and pursue her dream of becoming a certified sign language interpreter. Johana has broken the cycle.

"I don't even want to imagine my life without the Prevention Center," said Johana. "I couldn't have done this without them. They believed in me. Their faith in me helped me have faith in myself, my future and my baby's future." 

JOHANA BREAKS THE CYCLE

Johana has done it. She has broken the generational cycle of abuse, despite hardships and obstacles. Here is the story of her extraordinary accomplishment.

Johana, a teen mother, was miserable. She and her infant daughter lived in her mother's home. The situation was financially and emotionally unstable, with little support offered to Johana.

Immediately upon referral to the Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center, Johana was surrounded with a blanket of support. The Center's Welcome Baby and Tender Care Parenting programs taught her about infant bonding, development and child safety. The Center's Multi-Disciplinary Care Team provided the professional services of a chemical addictions specialist, therapist, and home-visiting nurse.

About this time, Johana entered the Center's Family Pathfinders program, which pairs a church congregation with a highly-motivated family to assist them in becoming financially self-sufficient. For six months, Johana worked with her new support group. They helped her set goals and provided critically-needed household items. They helped her obtain legal assistance. Equally important, they paid her tuition and found subsidized daycare so she could attend college.

I absolutely do not want my daughter going through what I did. I have to break the cycle.

From the Desk of the Executive Director

LEADING THE CHARGE



Twenty years of service to Orange County children and families – that is an accomplishment we all can celebrate! Our 20th Anniversary provides a perfect opportunity for reflecting on the Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center's humble beginnings and phenomenal growth.

Consider the following:

- In 1984, the Center opened its doors serving 20 families with in-home parenting education to prevent child abuse.
- Ten years later, the Center was serving 200 families with six staff members and a budget of \$250,000 per year.
- Today, the Center serves 14,000 children and their parents annually through six different, highly successful child abuse prevention programs with a budget of \$3.1 million and a professional staff of 55 employees.

We are issuing a call to all Orange County women: We need you to lead the charge into our next decade!

It is extremely gratifying to know that in the last 20 years, child abuse reports in Orange County have decreased by 55 percent as a result of prevention programs like ours.

Despite this success, there remains a strong need for the Center's services in the community. Looking ahead to the next 20 years, we expect our tremendous growth to continue, which presents an exciting challenge.

We are issuing a call to all Orange County women: We need you to lead the charge into our next decade! Our goal is to establish a powerful women's philanthropy group to take us into the next 10 years. We need 20 women – 20 community leaders – to make the Center their "cause" and use their influence to grow the organization.

This is an unprecedented opportunity to become part of a thriving organization that is literally changing the face of families in Orange County.

To participate, please call me today at (714) 543-4333, ext. 511. ♥

Kathy McCarrell

HELPING KIDS COPE HITS HOME



In its first four months of operation, more than 100 people attended the Center's new Helping Kids Cope seminars, and demand continues to increase.

Unique to Orange County, Helping Kids Cope is a one-time, four-hour seminar for divorced or divorcing parents that teaches them how to minimize the negative and

potentially long-term effects of divorce on their children. The seminar emphasizes each parent's responsibility to form a post-divorce relationship that provides a nurturing, non-threatening environment for the child.

In January, Helping Kids Cope was

featured in the Orange County Register. In the article, one workshop participant said, "[My ex-wife] honestly said she didn't learn much here, but she doesn't realize how much she's changed." Of his son, he said, "He's much more secure. The cooperation between the two households puts him at ease."

Helping Kids Cope continues to receive strong support from the County's family law court, including supervising judge Francisco Firmat, who said, "The beauty of Helping Kids Cope is letting [parents] recognize this is a conflict, and the child needs to be protected from this conflict."

Seminars are offered two Saturday mornings per month, plus once every six weeks. Total cost is \$50 plus a \$15 workbook fee.

For more information or to register, contact Karen Sullivan at (714) 543-4333, ext. 521. ♥



DOING THE CHARLESTON FOR CHARITY

Take a trip back in time to the Roaring 20s at the 2004 Bright Futures Ball, an event of the Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center and Angels Care, a fund of the McCormick Tribune Foundation. Scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2004, this sixth annual black-tie event marks the Center's 20th Anniversary and serves as the culmination of its activities in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Hosted at the Laguna Cliffs Marriott overlooking the ocean in Dana Point, this year's Bright Futures Ball is expected to attract 400 to 500 business and community leaders, and to raise more than \$100,000 for Center programs. Malinda Howard has been named as Honorary Chairperson for the event. Malinda is the great-granddaughter of

Charles Howard, owner of the legendary racehorse "Seabiscuit."

As part of the festivities, the annual "Champion of Children Award" will be given to Broadcom Corporation employees, who, led by Charles Reames and Tom Spieker, raised more than \$90,000 for child abuse prevention. In addition, the evening will feature live and silent auctions, live entertainment, dinner, dancing, and cocktails.

Tickets are \$200 per person and sponsorships begin at \$1,000.



To purchase tickets or for additional information, please call Whitney Blain at (714) 543-4333 or visit the Center's web site at www.BrightFutures4Kids.org. ♡

BRIGHT FUTURES SOCIETY HONOR ROLL

The Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center gratefully acknowledges the support of our donors in striving to break the cycle of child abuse, domestic violence and teen pregnancy in Orange County. We issue a heartfelt "Thank You" to the following donors who contributed between July and December 2003.

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Have you included the O.C. Child Abuse Prevention Center in your estate plan?
To learn more, contact Kathy McCarrell at (714) 543-4333, ext. 511.

ORANGE COUNTY



Multiple Birth explosion



It may not come as a surprise that the Orange County Child Abuse Prevention

Center's "Bridges For Newborns" alliance with local hospitals has resulted in the referral of approximately 500 more babies each year.


What is surprising is the number of families with multiple births that are referred to the Center. In the last year alone, the Center's clients have included:

- 21 sets of twins
- 3 sets of triplets
- 1 set of quadruplets

These families have special issues to address that go beyond the Center's comprehensive parenting education curriculum. They need to be surrounded with support systems to help them through the entire first year and beyond.

The Center is unique in its ability to serve multiple-birth families, ensuring a safe, healthy upbringing for each infant.

Our home-visiting nurse is instrumental in helping these families deal with special developmental, health and safety demands, and our Family Pathfinders program plays a critical role in rallying the community around them, even providing round-the-clock assistance with infant care.

As long as the "explosion" of multiple births in Orange County continues, so will the Center's commitment to providing specialized services to support them. 

EDITORIAL NOTICE

Family Matters is published twice yearly by the Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center, (714) 543-4333, www.BrightFutures4Kids.org.

Editor

Sharon Weinfeld
Director, Public Relations/Marketing
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515 Cabrillo Park Drive, Suite 205
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 543-4333



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