



# CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CENTER NEW SLETTER

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### Our Mission

*We are a multidisciplinary team seeking the truth, protecting the rights of victims, investigating and prosecuting child abuse, while attempting to minimize trauma to victims and their families*

**The  
Arthur D. Curtis  
Children's Justice  
Center  
(C J C)**

## INFORMATION FOR SINGLE PARENTS: A NEW CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM



The best way to keep a child safe is under the watchful eye of a parent or loving caretaker. There's still no better recipe for success. Therefore, CJC is developing a new program, in collaboration with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Program, to provide education to single parents about child predators. CJC hopes to help single parents recognize the common behaviors and patterns of child molesters, as well as teach them some in-home protections that they can apply to help lesser the risk of harm to their

children and prevent an incident from happening. Parents, guardians, and adults who care for children face constant challenges in this fast-paced world to ensure their child's safety. Children of single parents are especially vulnerable. Curriculum and resources are under development and the first trainings are scheduled for September 2009. Parent partners are helping to develop the program and are advising CJC about making the program relevant to a parent's experience.

**With special thanks to the Community Foundation of Southwest Washington** for their generous support. A grant of \$15,000 was awarded to help make this Sexual Abuse Prevention Program a reality. CJC is very grateful for the support!



## CJC & Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital Partnership in Development of a Child Abuse Clinic

CJC and Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital have forged a new partnership to develop quality services for medical child abuse evaluations. Plans are well underway to establish a new Child Abuse Clinic at Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital and it is scheduled to begin start-up operations sometime in September of 2009.

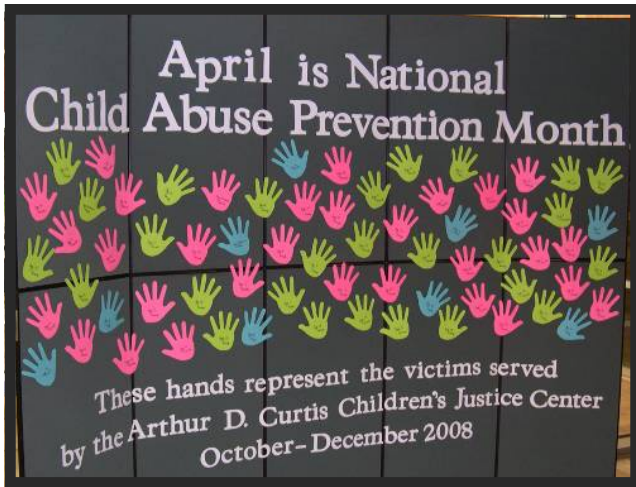
Due to the hard work and support from Jonathan Avery, Legacy Hospital's Administrator, plans for the new clinic are very encouraging. With Legacy Salmon Creek's expertise in children's health and CJC's expertise in child abuse, this partnership has the potential to build a strong health care response for child abuse victims in our community. We are so fortunate to have Deborah Rupae, a local Family Nurse Practitioner, and Marsha Stover, a local Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, who are experts in this medical field. They are planning to practice at the new clinic and are very involved in the planning and development phase of this project.



(For more information see page 6, *What Kind of An Exam Does a Child Need if Abused?*)

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## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH APRIL 2009 ACTIVITIES



**Pictured:** A display at the Clark County Public Service Center: The many hands of child victims over a three-month period at CJC to bring awareness to the local problem of child victimization within our community.

Two proclamations declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month were granted by the Vancouver City Council and the Clark County Commissioners. CJC and the YWCA CASA Program joined in solidarity to submit the request for the proclamations, to promote the event throughout our community and activities were planned from both agencies.

### DISPLAYS, POSTERS AND INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS WERE DISTRIBUTED IN APRIL BRINGING AWARENESS TO THE ISSUE OF CHILD ABUSE

CJC staff work together each year to honor Child Abuse Prevention Month. The center engages in community information and outreach activities during the month of April, joining millions of others across the nation in an effort to increase awareness of the issue of child abuse and provide encouragement to parents and caretakers to get help before incidents of child abuse occur. Brochures about local supportive services were distributed to parents during the month of April.



**Pictured:** One of the posters created by CJC staff and distributed to promote greater awareness of the issue of child abuse and where to get help.

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## ~THANK YOU IQ FOR A \$1,500 DONATION~

iQ Credit Union has been a faithful supporter of our center for many years.

Once again we appreciate their faithful support for the important

work of CJC and consider iQ Credit Union one of our partners in the effort to protect the children of our community. CJC plans to utilize the \$1,500 award for 2009 for specialized training for staff and to increase the child friendly atmosphere within the newly constructed area of the center.



# LOCAL QUILTERS DONATE THEIR TALENT TO COMFORT CHILD VICTIMS

## WE HONOR THE ARTISTS AND APPRECIATE THE QUALITY HANDMADE QUILTS DONATED FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF ABUSE



**Pictured:** Cheryl Spalding from the Clark County Quilters Guild (left) with handmade quilts donated to the Center. CJC staff members Detective Barry Folsom and Bev Collins are also pictured.

### Larch Correction Center Quilt Donations

The men holding their beautiful creations in the photo on the right completed these at the Larch Correction Center and presented them to CJC at their GED Graduation ceremony. Special recognition was given to these artists and their teacher, Kenni Spencer, for her innovative approach to teaching math through quilt patterning. YWCA Victim's Advocate Vicki Simmonds, accepted the donations for CJC.

**CJC appreciates the hard work and generosity from local quilters!**

### Clark County Quilters Guild Donations

The Clark County Quilters Guild are very busy artists who have created beautiful quilt creations for CJC's children. The Clark County Quilters Guild's Outreach program began in 2003-2004 when several members wanted to teach quilting to non-quilters. The Guild has approximately 535 members and they have a variety of programs that members can choose from to volunteer their time. One of their programs works with the judicial system to provide restitution service hours by making quilts for the community. The Quilters donate their time, talent and quilts through a network of charitable institutions and conduct classes on quilting. They also receive donated fabric for the quilt tops to make the project more cost effective. Some examples of other programs that benefit from their donations are: The YWCA Domestic Violence Program, Share House for families, Legacy Hospital and Ray Hickey Hospice Center. The Children's Justice Center was honored to be chosen by the Clark County Quilters Guild as one of their charities.



**Pictured:** Russell Banks (right) and Randy Dunning (left) made these beautiful quilts during a math course at Larch Correction Center, using basic geometric patterns. They have donated their work to comfort child victims.

### DEAR ANONYMOUS: THANK YOU FOR THE BEARS!

A special thanks to the anonymous donor who purchased the fabulous stuffed bears for our center. They are needed to comfort children during their medical child abuse examinations. The bears will give young children a greater sense of security to hug a bear while in an uncomfortable position. Whoever you are, please know that you have made a positive difference in the lives of child victims!



## CO-SLEEPING: A RISK THAT MAY NOT BE WORTH TAKING



Although adults co-sleeping with an infant is not child abuse, CJC has noticed an increase in infant deaths related to co-sleeping this year and believes it is important for the community to learn the facts and get the word out. Many parents are amazed to learn that adults co-sleeping with their infant is a danger, and tragically sometimes first discover it after their infant is gone. Parents who co-sleep with their infant are taking a risk that they may regret and may want to think twice about that decision after they review some of these facts:

- Infant deaths related to co-sleeping are NOT sudden unexplained infant deaths, such as SIDS or SUIDI. The cause of death is known, so these are not comparable
- Infant deaths related to co-sleeping are caused by either suffocation, strangulation or asphyxiation
- Infant deaths due to co-sleeping are preventable

When surveying the community and even some service providers, benefits to co-sleeping are pointed out, *"It encourages mothers to nurse."*, *"Parents get more sleep and are better able to care for their infant"* etc. There are some reason to co-sleep; however, are these reasons worth the risk?

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### According to a 1999 US Consumer Safety Research Study on 515 Infant Deaths in the US Due to Co-sleeping :



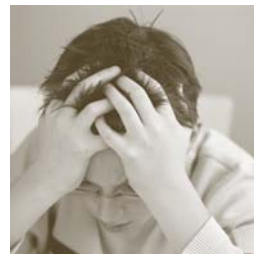
- 75% of the infants were children younger than 3 months old
- 23% of the infants died due to the adult rolling over on the infant and 77% of the deaths were due to entrapment of the infant in the frame, railings, bedding, etc.
- Infants who co-sleep with parents who smoke or utilize intoxicants before bedtime are at a higher risk
- The majority of the parents surveyed had never been told that co-sleeping with their infant was a danger

## THE TRAGEDY OF SEXUAL ABUSE: CASTING A SHADOW OF PAIN THAT CAN LAST A LIFETIME

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**NO CHILD IS  
PSYCHOLOGICALLY  
PREPARED TO COPE  
WITH SEXUAL ABUSE**



- **EMOTIONAL TURMOIL:** Since it is not uncommon for abusers to be closely involved with the family circle, children often care for the molester who use their natural child-like love and affection to harm them. Children become emotionally trapped between loyalty and a sense that the sexual activities are terribly wrong.
- **FEAR:** If a child tries to break off from the sexual abuse, the abuser may threaten the child with violence or loss of love. Most children feel responsible for the abuse and are frightened to tell others and it is not uncommon for a child victim to be blamed if family turmoil erupts once the abuse is discovered.
- **SELF LOATHING, ANGER AND SHAME:** A child who is the victim of prolonged sexual abuse usually develops low self-esteem and a feeling of worthlessness. The child may become withdrawn and mistrustful of adults, and can become suicidal.
- **DAMAGING SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT:** Some children who have been sexually abused have difficulty relating to others except on sexual terms and may develop a distorted view of sex. There are many ways this can be manifested. Younger children may begin sexually acting out in play and adolescents may become promiscuous, or children may develop a very poor body image and hide or feel shame about their own natural sexual development.

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### Comparison of Adults Who Were Sexually Abuse vs. Those Who Were Not

Adults who were sexually abused have a greater likelihood of developing mental health and substance abuse problems. However, many adults find their way to healing from abuse and children are resilient if they receive the help and intervention that they need, which is a core part of CJC's mission.

	Yes	No
Drug Addicted	21%	2%
Alcoholism	27%	11%
Suicide Attempts	51%	34%

*Dr. Anna B. Salter, Ph.D*

## A NEW EXAMINATION ROOM FOR MEDICAL CARE AT THE CENTER

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CJC has a new examination room on-site at the center, which is fully equipped with medical equipment to provide head-to-toe examination of children. The center provides a child friendly and supportive atmosphere for children to receive an examination after an incident of abuse. The exam room is a welcome place for local medical experts in the field of child abuse evaluation and adjacent office space is available for them. One of the center's main goals is to bring all the professionals involved in child abuse response together at the center to increase coordination and ensure that a child's health and healing needs are met. This also decreases the number of places a child must go when an incident occurs. Use of the exam room is still in the planning phase and operations are a responsibility of the medical experts involved.

CJC is proud of the new examination room that was made possible with capital funds from the state budget. **A very special thank you to Commissioner Marc Boldt** who was instrumental in helping CJC make the request to the legislature to fund the remodel project. \$100,000 in state funding was awarded to CJC for this project. Construction of the remodel project was completed in June. We are excited about increasing our center on-site services to promote greater sensitivity when exams are needed, along with a comprehensive response.



**Photo:** *New examination room on-site with quilts displayed. Quilts are donated by local artists and given to child victims of abuse as a gift during their medical evaluation.*



### WHAT KIND OF EXAM DOES A CHILD NEED IF ABUSED?

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Most clinics are seeing children in 15-20 minute increments and the pace can be horrific. If a child has been physically or sexually abused, there are three very unique aspects to the health care moment: 1) the child may have experienced significant trauma physically or emotionally; 2) there may have been a crime committed; and, 3) understanding of atypical injuries vs. normative physiology that may be mistaken for abuse is essential. Health care professionals need expertise to understand how to address a child's health care needs under these special circumstances. Medical providers are not investigators nor do they diagnose child abuse; however the results of their examination are very important to understanding the situation and responding accurately to a suspected incidents of child abuse. Having a child seen by a skilled medical professional is critical to the child's health too. Medical providers who are not skilled in this area of medicine should refer the child to a medical provider who has the expertise needed.

When examining an abused child the focus for the medical evaluation is:

- To minimize further emotional trauma to the child or adolescent through skillful approach and technique
- To identify injuries or illnesses caused by the abuse or neglect that must be tested, diagnosed and treated
- To identify medical conditions, such as sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) or pregnancy
- To collect medical-legal evidence, when appropriate
- To provide medical expertise that will inform and reassure the child and the parent that any injuries, illnesses or conditions will be treated, and explanations of medical findings will be provided



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# CJC CENTER NEWS

## **A Message from the CJC Director:**

*When your career is spent with such an important purpose, to protect children from abuse and hold perpetrators of child abuse accountable, hard work is not an option. With the recent budget and staffing cuts, CJC staff are working harder, bringing their specialized skills diligently to meet the pressing needs of casework. Why? They know that they are making a positive difference in the lives of child victims. As CJC's Director, I consider myself fortunate to be a part of such an important mission and share in the center's many successes. It is the staff's devotion and heart that makes this center a very special place to work. A special thanks to the CJC Team!*

CJC is a nationally accredited Children's Advocacy Center, where six responders form a multidisciplinary team at the center to provide a comprehensive and sensitive response to incidents of child abuse in our area.

- Victim's Advocacy
- Law Enforcement
- Child Protection
- Mental Health
- Medical Child Abuse Evaluation
- Prosecution

## RECENT STAFFING CHANGES

***Goodbye to Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Alan Harvey** who has moved on to take another assignment with his home agency after over 3 years of amazing service at the center. Alan completed 215 case assignments with major successes in holding perpetrators of child abuse accountable through our justice system. We will miss you!*

***Welcome Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Anna Klein** whose expertise and experience will make her a key member of the team. We are very pleased to have her join the center.*

***Goodbye to Legal Assistant Gayle Hutton** who moved on to a new assignment within her home office. Although we wish her all the best in her new position, CJC has relied on her so much that her leaving will be a major adjustment for the center at large. Thank you Gayle for your five years of devotion, hard work and excellent assistance. We will miss you!*

***Welcome to Legal Assistant Cathryn Park** and we are grateful to have her here, with her many years of experience and a great deal of talent. We wish you well in your new role at the center.*

## RECENT STAFF HONORS

- **Congratulations to Senior Deputy Attorney Kim Farr** who received the Gerald L. Swain Award from the Washington Center for Sexual Abuse Programs at their 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in May 2009 in honor of his almost 30 years of devoted service and his exemplary work in holding perpetrators of child abuse accountable.
- **Congratulations to Detective Aaron Holladay and Detective Barry Folsom** who were selected to speak at the Mid-Atlantic Child Abuse Conference in Maryland in October 2009 to share their exemplary expertise.
- **The CJC team** was granted a \$5,000 grant award from the Center for Violence and Victim's Studies and the National Center for Victims of Crimes to attend a conference in Denver, Colorado in September 2009.



MEMBER  
ACCREDITED  
NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
ALLIANCE



## **ARTHUR D. CURTIS CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CENTER**

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<b>Joan Renner</b>	<b>YWCA Sexual Assault Program Director</b>

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