

December, 2008



Child Abuse Assessment Center

A community response to the need for compassionate assessment, treatment and support of abused children and their families



NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE®
ACCREDITED MEMBER

CONFIDENTIALITY IN CHILD ABUSE CASES



A story appeared in the November 17th issue of The Oregonian about a convicted sex offender, told from the perspective of the offender and his supporters. Juliette's House responded in a Letter to the Editor printed in the November 20th Oregonian to correct some misperceptions in the article about what we do and how we do it.

When child abuse cases or trials are reported by the media, the different agencies involved in child protection and child welfare are in the unenviable position of having to decide how to give the media and the general public information they want and need without violating privacy constraints put on the agencies by laws such as The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, as amended (CAPTA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Child welfare agencies are required to preserve the confidentiality of all child abuse and neglect cases except to entities who need the information to protect children.

When agencies like Juliette's House decline to release information to the media, it is not an effort to hide things but to comply with the law and to protect the children involved. Private citizens are all free to say anything they choose to the media; child welfare agencies are legally constrained from doing so. We all expect doctors, lawyers, therapists and others to protect their clients' confidentiality. Child protection agencies operate under that same code of conduct.

The assessment, investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases is complex and difficult for all parties involved. There are logistical, legal, medical, therapeutic, ethical and so many other considerations, all having to be weighed at once and against each other. We urge citizens to keep in mind that what we read in a newspaper or hear on television is only a small portion of what is going on in a case. We do not hear the actual court testimony or know the particulars of either the prosecutor's or the defendant's case. We get only bits and pieces of information, from which we cannot make a reliable whole. Confidentiality laws may be one of the causes of this uncertainty, but they exist for good reason.

While it is reasonable for the public to want to know that the agencies involved in child abuse cases are doing their jobs, transparency has to be weighed against the best interests of children. When pressed for information by the media, therefore, agencies try to focus on how the process works rather than the specific details of a case. This offers the public a chance to hear about a case from not just a criminal perspective (i.e., prosecution of the offender), but from the perspective of child protection and how the system is designed to work for children, not simply against the offender. By discussing the process instead of the case details, agencies can protect confidentiality while also teaching the media and the public about the larger issues involved in child abuse cases so readers can put the information they hear or read into some kind of context.

For this issue's teachable moment, see "About Sex Offenders" on page 3.

Americans Still Giving, Despite Economic Meltdown

By Donna Gordon Blankinship
Associated Press, November 21, 2008 (excerpts)

SEATTLE (AP) — As more Americans turn to charity amid worsening economic gloom, operators of food banks and other aid groups are relying on the surprisingly resilient generosity of their neighbors and finding that even when times are tough, people still give.

The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University says that historically, charitable giving has been recession-proof....Contributions to American charities have increased during 39 of the past 40 years in today's dollars, and a change in the tax laws — not the stock market crash — can be blamed for the drop in 1987, said Melissa Brown, associate director of research for the center. Between 69 and 72 percent of people give routinely, she said.

As 2008 comes to an end, many of us also will be thinking of year-end giving. There are many ways to include the fight against child abuse in your planning and leave a legacy that will continue that fight in years to come.

Remember loved ones you've lost, honor births or others who have entered your life, or mark the holiday season for friends and family with a gift to Juliette's House.

Consider a donation to the Juliette's House Endowment Fund, a lasting way to ensure that your gift keeps working to help abused and neglected children.

Leave gifts in your Will or Living Trust to Juliette's House and other organizations that make a difference for children.

Create a charitable gift annuity or name Juliette's House as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement plan. Talk to your investment advisor or attorney about creating a charitable giving plan so the organizations you support — and the children they help — will continue to enjoy your support after your death.

Donate products or in-kind services and put your brand into the hands of citizens concerned about child abuse.

Become a sponsor of our 2009 Celebrate The Children auction fundraiser. It's not too early.

Use your special talents or skills to create a special project to benefit Juliette's House. Perhaps Website Design is your thing. Maybe you would like to sew child-size hospital gowns or exam table covers. Whatever you are into — music, art, cars, cooking, woodworking, gardening, juggling, fishing, bowling, you name it — we can probably find a way for you to use it to help abused and neglected children.

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Please direct questions, comments, suggestions, to:

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Paul Barber 1924 — 2007	Mike Brott 1937 — 2007	Harriet Miller 1931 — 2008
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ABOUT SEX OFFENDERS

(Note: Some of the following information has been provided by Detective Todd Baltzell of the Newberg-Dundee Police Department and has been taken from the Yamhill County Child Abuse Prevention Team workshop presentation "Advice From Child Molesters." For more information on these prevention workshops, contact Debra Bridges of the District Attorney's Crime Victims' Assistance Program 503-434-7510.)

The term "pedophile" is generally used to describe all adults sexually attracted to children, but there are actually several classifications:

- Hebephilia (also Pederasty) -- sexual attraction to adolescents between 14 and 17
- Pedophilia -- sexual attraction to children younger than 13. Most are attracted to a specific age group
- Infantophilia: Rare form of Pedophilia – primary interest is children 2 years old or younger

Some offenders are exclusive -- attracted only to children. Others may be attracted to adults as well. They may be attracted to only boys, only girls, or both genders. The term "predatory sex offender" refers to offenders who are "preferential" – they seek out victims and generally have multiple victims. Some offenders are "situational" – they will offend if an opportunity presents itself.

- 95% of offenders are close to their victim and the victim's family
- 60% - 80% of offenders do not cause physical harm or pain to the child
- Only 5% of cases result in physical findings or physical injury to the child
- Most sex offenders commit an average of 120 separate sexual crimes before they are caught
- There is only a 3% chance offenders will be caught
- 5% to 20% of sex offenders are female
- 1 out of every 10-20 men has molested children
- 75% started offending as a youth – average age at first offense was 14



Sex offenders are classified in "high, medium and low risk" groups. Re-offense rates vary among groups. High risk usually means they are more criminal, violent or sexually deviant. Few offenders re-offend while on supervision (around 10%). Generally, correctional supervision lasts only 3 - 5 years. Long term offenders are 30 – 50% likely to re-offend.

GROOMING

Sex offenders seek out settings where they will have access to children. Child molesters tell us that when they move into a new area or setting, they find people are often too trusting and -- a word they often use – naïve, and their new associates seem poorly informed about sexual abuse and unwilling to confront the offender's questionable behavior.

The offender often first "grooms" the community by taking time to establish himself as a trustworthy and reliable friend and neighbor. He may loudly condemn sex offenders. He finds families he can become close to, where parents (single parents especially) are stressed or vulnerable and welcome his help and support.



Once he has the trust of the adults and the community, he starts to seek out children who would make good victims: children who are not supervised closely, children he can get close to and develop a relationship with, children who may be lonely or socially isolated, who are needy and welcome attention, children with low self-esteem or who lack confidence, children he can bribe, intimidate or manipulate. He then starts to study, befriend and "groom" the child. He may develop a peer-like relationship and may isolate the child from other relationships. He may treat the child as if the child is older.

Over time, he gets physical (wrestling, tickling, hugging, kissing, giving massages or backrubs), even doing so in front of the parents to test their reaction. If the child or parents object, he backs off (but may try again later). If there is no objection, he escalates and may start telling sex jokes or "accidentally" touch the child's private parts. When he can get the child alone, he confuses the child by equating sex with love, making sexual behavior a game, telling the child it is normal. He may reward the child for cooperating with gifts or fun outings. Or he may threaten the child or someone the child loves.

HOW DO YOU SPOT SEX OFFENDERS?

Be careful. What seems suspicious may be harmless. But be alert for these behaviors and trust your instincts. Offenders may:

- Appear hyper-sexual
- Seem pre-occupied with child sexual development
- Make sexual comments to or about children
- Not allow children privacy, such as walking in on them while they are dressing or using the restroom
- Behave like children or allow children to do questionable or inappropriate things



- Act “flirty” around children or teens, or jealous of children or teens’ relationships with one another
- “Accidentally” touch private parts
- Engage in frequent physical contact with children (wrestling, tickling, horseplay, lap sitting)
- “Override” parents
- Are liked by children for reasons that parents don’t understand
- Work with children, and then spend their free time doing “special” things with children
- Do not have children but seem to know a lot about current fads or music popular with children and teens
- Volunteer with youth groups, but do not have children in those groups
- Buy children special gifts for no reason
- Want to take children on outings that include being alone with those children
- Seem able to infiltrate family & social functions or are always available to baby-sit
- Seem just too good to be true



HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN

The best way to protect your children is to talk to your children periodically about how to stay safe and teach rules and boundaries. Let them know they can come to you and tell you if anyone hurts them or makes them able or afraid. Blend these talks in with other “safety” talks (fire safety, bicycle helmets, etc.). Don’t make them lurk around every corner, but do let them know that some people may try to hurt them and you want to help. These talks are not easy, but they are one of the most important things you can do to protect your children.

Look for changes in behavior -- sexual acting out, sleep disturbance, depression, changes in eating habits, problems at school, regression, frequent headaches or other physical complaints, becoming reclusive, aggression, and other signs that a child may be being abused. Be alert and trust your instincts. Notice who spends time with your child and how behave with your child. Be involved in your child’s activities and be attentive at parks, pools and other public areas. Monitor your child’s internet use.

Put the computer in the family room. Know who your child is talking to online and on cell phones and establish family rules about meeting people or giving out personal information.



If your children disclose a suspicious situation or abuse -- stay calm, believe them and tell them you are glad they told and you will take care of things. Let them know it is not their fault and telling you was the right thing to do. Then call law enforcement, the Department of Human Services or Juliette’s House to find out what to do next. We are all here to help.

Think Spring...

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and we are already planning our annual Safe Kids Fair and other activities to promote awareness and education about child abuse throughout April.

If your club, school, church or other group would like to be part of Child Abuse Prevention Month, give us a call and let’s talk about a project or activity for you. Together we can promote awareness of child abuse and the need to help children and families heal, break the cycle of abuse, and give children back their childhood.

- **Donate prizes to give out during our games and activities at the Safe Kids Fair.**
- **Plan a game or activity for the Safe Kids Fair.**
- **Plan an employee team building experience — we have maintenance and other projects for you.**
- **Help us with our April Blue Ribbon Campaign and a new April awareness project — Pinwheels for Prevention.**
- **Write, visit, fax, phone or email your elected officials to ask them to promote and support legislation and other efforts for child protection.**
- **Help us distribute awareness materials during April in your church, workplace, neighborhood or community.**



**Many Thanks, Contributors. Your generosity truly makes a difference for abused children.
August 28, 2008—November 30, 2008**

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Grants

Autzen Foundation— \$5,000 Safe Kids Program
The Juliette D. and Paul A. Barber Fund of The
Oregon Community Foundation—\$10,000

Memorials and Recognitions

Chris Evers in Honor of Candy Kirsch
Bob & Patty Harris in Honor of Connie Walter
Evelyn Young in Memory of Juliette Barber
In Honor of Mona Lux's 8th Birthday:
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**WE WOULD ONCE AGAIN LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED IN ANY WAY
TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 14TH ANNUAL AUCTION FUNDRAISER**

"Celebrate The Children"



**WE GROSSED OVER \$60,000 — OUR BEST YEAR YET.
THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY.**

IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we mark the passing of our Board member Harriet Miller. Harriet served on the Juliette's House Board since 2002, always active in fundraising and our various awareness events. For several years she was our Treasurer. Harriet was always willing to serve, supporting not only Juliette's House but other organizations in the community as well. She was, for example, a Kiwanian and helped bring Kiwanis on board as a big supporter of Juliette's House. We will miss her dedication to our cause, her pleasant and straightforward style, and her warm presence.

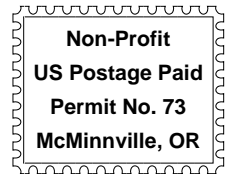
We would like to thank the many individuals, businesses and organizations who gave so generously to Juliette's House throughout the year. Donations account for almost 25% of our operating budget. That is significant support, and we are moved by it. When we look back over the years at the many ways in which the community has supported the work of Juliette's House and the vision of those who created it, we are not unlike Benjamin Disraeli:

*I feel a very unusual sensation —
if it is not indigestion, I think it must be gratitude.*

Our thanks to all of you who have given for whatever you have given, big or small, to make Juliette's House a reality and sustain it through the years. And we will throw in preemptive thanks to all of you who will support us in so many ways in the years to come.



Juliette's House
Child Abuse Assessment Center
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McMinnville, Oregon 97128



RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

December 2008 — In This Issue...

Confidentiality in Child Abuse Cases

About Sex Offenders and How To Protect Your Children

***"Child abuse casts a shadow
the length of a lifetime."***

Father Herbert A. Ward

Director, 1970—2000

St. Jude's Ranch for Abused and Neglected Children

