LETTER from the DIRECTOR
Dear CHILDREN

I have wishes for each and every one of you as you grow up and experience this world. Many of life’s greatest adventures happen now, when you are young and full of imagination. My greatest wish would be for you to remain innocent and live without the pain of abuse and the betrayal of being hurt by someone who should protect you. But the reality of this life is that some of you will suffer because of abuse. My fervent goal is that you won’t have to go through it alone.

All of us as mothers, fathers, grandparents, aunts and uncles believe that we have a special responsibility to you and to the children in our lives. We know that you depend on us as a community to teach, respect, inspire and protect you. This is true whether you are a baby or a teen on the verge of becoming an adult. It is our responsibility and our duty as a part of living in this wonderful community to make sure you can grow up feeling safe.

Last year, the Center was there for so many children just like you. We saw boys and girls from two years old to seventeen. They came from all over Travis County and may have gone to your school. These children were brought to the Center because they were hurt, injured and had the courage to tell a safe grown-up. Many of them now have hope that their lives will get better. In 2009, we saw more teenagers than ever, because we now have the space at the new Center to give them the help they need.
If you ever need help, I want you to know that because of all of the adults that have supported the Center by donating, volunteering and attending events, you’ll have a place to go. My prayer is that I will only see you as you enjoy and play on the playground or are hanging out at the mall with your friends. But if I see you walk into the Center, know that there are so many adults in our community that truly care about you. They care about what has happened to you and are working to make sure that you have all you need to get past the hurt and begin to heal.

Please remember that whenever you are feeling alone, there are people who care about you. People that don’t even know you but want to protect you from harm. My hope is that there will always be a safe, caring adult who is there for you in every moment of crisis, but know that we will be here when you need us the most.

Wishing you joy and safety,

Sandra A. Martin
Chief Executive Officer
A CHILD’S TRUTH

“An hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.”

- Christopher Reeve
PEOPLE often ASK...

...how long a child is involved with the Center for Child Protection. The answer, of course, is not straightforward since each family has different needs and different circumstances surrounding their case. At the core of the Center’s involvement, however, is the child-centered nature of our services. Each child processes trauma at his or her own pace, and we are committed to working with every child and their protective caregivers until they are ready to move forward.

Nine year old Lauren* is a child whose trauma was so severe that she has received services through the Center for almost five years. At age four, Lauren lived with her mother, and her mother’s boyfriend, Sam. Sam had not only befriended little Lauren, but had convinced her that the two of them were husband and wife. Lauren loved to play make-believe, but at her young age, she didn’t understand that the wedding ceremony arranged by Sam was not real. Sam used these techniques to manipulate Lauren into having sex with him at the tender age of five. He used her to play out many sexual fantasies, including his favorite - little Lauren in a cheerleader outfit. The abuse continued for many months, and Lauren became so traumatized that she began to experience common symptoms of victimization - she was easily startled, had night terrors, and developed attachment issues.

Once her mother found out and reported the abuse, Lauren first came to the Center to describe her abuse in a forensic interview. Due to her extreme trauma, Lauren was referred to regular appointments with one of the Center’s therapists. Over the course of several years, Lauren’s progress was slow because her mother’s poor choices had perpetuated a chaotic home life for her. The Center’s therapist continued to help Lauren work through her trauma, and at the same time, advocated for Lauren with Child Protective Services to find a more
appropriate placement for her. Thankfully, Lauren had a grandparent who was able to provide a stable and nurturing home. It wasn’t long before Lauren began to make progress in her therapy sessions, and a reduction in her symptoms was evident. Despite this, Lauren’s therapist and her close family members felt as though she had been too traumatized to testify against Sam. Lauren was referred to the Center’s Court School program, which provides courtroom education to children and protective caregivers just before their case goes to trial. With the support of her grandparent, Lauren did extremely well in Court School. Being familiarized with the courtroom and knowing what to expect helped give her the strength and courage to testify in open court against Sam. Though no one believed that she would be able to withstand the stress of a criminal trial, Lauren remained strong, and her testimony resulted in a 60-year conviction for her abuser.

*Names and identifying circumstances have been modified to protect the privacy of families.

“WHEN *despair* AND DESPERATION REPLACE DIGNITY AND JOY IN THE SOUL OF A CHILD, THE MOST HORRENDOUS OF CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY HAS BEEN COMMITTED. SHAME ON ANYONE WHO CAN TURN AWAY. THE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION PROVIDES THESE *little ones* WITH WINGS. WE MUST SUPPLY THE *wind.*”

- Lynne Skinner, Former Board Member, Founder, Austin Cup
CHILD and FAMILY SERVICES

“The most important question in the world is, ‘Why is the child crying?’”

- Alice Walker
**Forensic Interview**

After a report of abuse is made to law enforcement or Child Protective Services, children are brought to the Center for Child Protection to begin the investigation process. Each child is interviewed by a trained forensic interviewer whose job it is to collect a complete account of what happened for the investigation.

**Medical Exam**

Children may return to the Center to receive a medical exam if their abuse is suspected to have taken place more than 96 hours from the reported incident or over a long period of time. A pediatrician specializing in forensic medical exams for children conducts a thorough examination to document evidence that can be used during a criminal investigation.

**Therapy Services**

The Center provides individual therapy, family therapy, crisis counseling intervention, emergency clinical assessments, psychiatric assessments, family assessments, family reunification sessions, and termination session services. These services are offered at no charge to ensure children have access to the help they may need to heal from the trauma of abuse.

**Family Advocate Program**

Family Advocates at the Center provide immediate crisis intervention and support while the child receives a forensic interview and throughout the duration of the case. Empathetic practitioners guide parents and caregivers through the steps in the investigation and prosecution process, so they can quickly access resources, therapy, and follow-up assistance needed to support their child, family, and themselves.
**Intensive Case Management**

At-risk families receive intensive one-on-one case management to prevent child abuse or neglect. Home visits and assessments may be done to assist a family to better understand how to manage a child’s complex situation.

**Group Services**

*Parent Education Class* – Topics include child development, home safety, healthy choices, communication, conflict resolution, stress management, effective discipline and self-esteem.

*Protective Parenting Group* – Topics include crisis and trauma, physical and sexual abuse, neglect, domestic violence and substance abuse, patterns of behavior, defenses, empathy, communication, boundaries, personal responsibility, attachment and bonding.

*Protective Parenting-Sexual Abuse* – Topics include defining sexual abuse, impact of sexual abuse on the family, victim and sexual abuse dynamics, offender dynamics and cycle of offending behaviors, being a protective caregiver, personal risk factors, and rebuilding a strong family.

**Court School**

Each month, the Center hosts a court orientation program to introduce children and families to a court room in advance of their scheduled appearance. Forensic interviewers explain the different roles of each court official, and children have the opportunity to role-play and ask questions.
“I HAD WANTED TO DO VOLUNTEER WORK FOR ABUSED OR NEGLECTED CHILDREN FOR A WHILE, BUT I THINK OUT OF \textit{fear} OF WHAT I MIGHT BE FACED WITH, I KEPT PUTTING IT OFF. ONCE I STARTED WORKING WITH THE KIDS, I REALIZED THEY ARE JUST \textit{normal kids} THAT HAVE EXPERIENCED SOMETHING TOUGHER. I WAS AMAZED BY THEIR \textit{resilience}.”

- Mayra Artusi, Volunteer

\textit{Emergency Funds}

During times of acute crisis, the Center may provide emergency funds and resources for family preservation. Through the “Kid’s Closet,” staples such as car seats, bottles, and clothing are available to children and their protective caregivers who come to the Center. All expenditures are designed to be short-term in nature yet make a high impact to reduce the trauma for children or move them through the system more quickly. Other examples include purchases of medication, bus fare, or food.
“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.”

- Nelson Mandela
3,409 services were provided to 1,484 children and 3,043 services were provided to 1,123 adult caregivers. A total of 739 children were brought to the Center for Child Protection for a forensic interview. A majority of children were referred because of sexual abuse, were female, and between the ages of 6 and 12.

**Age of Children Interviewed**

- 63% ages 6-12
- 26% ages 1-5
- 11% ages 13+

A majority of children (69%) came to the Center because of sexual abuse. Children were also referred to the Center because of physical abuse (14%), witnessing a violent crime (11%), multiple abuses (4%), or other reasons (2%). Of those reporting, 45% of caregivers reported an income at or below the federal poverty line, although children referred to the Center came from across the city and surrounding county from affluent, middle-class, poor, urban, and rural areas alike. Center staff provided most services in English and Spanish. All children and families received services at no charge.
Profile of the Offenders

Despite popular fear of stranger danger, children are most at risk of harm from people they know. Ninety percent of children referred to the Center reported the person who harmed them was someone they knew. Of the offenders reported, a majority were male (87%) and age 17 or above (71%).

Volunteer Report

In 2009, 200 volunteers contributed 13,049 hours of service valued at $264,242. This was a record year with a 22% increase in total hours served. Monthly volunteer orientations allow potential volunteers to learn about the Center and the various opportunities available. Volunteers assisted children waiting for interviews and therapy appointments. They sorted and inventoried clothing, hygiene essentials, and child safety seats in the Kid’s Closet. They also participated in administrative capacities such as tracking data and statistics.
so critical to recording information about children helped throughout the year. Our generous volunteer base ensures that services for children and families run smoothly, extending the Center’s ability to help more children and families as they recover from the trauma of abuse.

Interns from area universities have been instrumental in raising the standard of care given to children and families that use Center services. Last year alone, they contributed 4,545 hours of service. Not only did they assist with follow-up calls to families, case tracking and research, they also contributed by assisting with set-up and registration at various fundraising events.

THE FRIENDS of CHRISTOPHER GUILD

The Friends of Christopher Guild is a sustaining volunteer membership organization dedicated to expanding the safety net for abused children. Founded in 1992, this diverse group of women assists the Center through fundraising and direct services to children and families. In October 2009, the Guild held the sixth annual PlayBingo Ladies Luncheon. The event raised $164,070 on behalf of the Center. The Guild also sponsored the 18th Annual Lexus Car Raffle which raised a record $199,142.
“Generosity is not giving me that which I need more than you do, but it is giving me that which you need more than I do.”

- Kahlil Gibran
Financial Report

The Center for Child Protection spent $2,843,800 toward total operations, and held $9,515,654 in net assets at the end of the year. A total of 79% was spent on program costs including forensic interviews, therapy, parenting classes, and clinical staff. Fundraising expenses were 18%, and 3% was spent on administrative expenses. All of the services were provided to children and families at no charge.

A majority of the Center’s funding comes from private sources (74%), which is obtained by donations from individuals, corporations, and private foundations. Government funding accounted for 26% of income in 2009.

2009 Funding Sources

45% grants
31% fundraising
24% donations

2009 Grant Funding Sources

41% foundations
22% city
18% state
9% county
8% federal
2% corporate
COURPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

21st Century Technologies, Inc.
3 Roots Foundation
4 Charity Foundation, Inc.
A Texas Christmas Carol
AcupunctureAustin.com
Aetna Foundation
Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation
All Ways Dance
Allen Financial Services
Allied Sales Co.
AM 1300 The Zone
American Airlines
An Affair to Remember Catering
API Productions
Applied Materials
Austin Aztecs
Austin Capitol Concrete
Austin Catering
Austin Community Foundation
Austin Colts for Charities
Austin Custom Boots
Austin Home Works
Austin Med Spa
Austin Museum of Art
- Laguna Gloria
Austin Social Planning
Austin Wellness Clinic
Bank of America
Bank of America Foundation, Inc.
Barker Photography
Best Buy Children's Foundation
Tag Team Awards
Betty Lash & Kate Skin
Blue Genie Art Industries
Boon Insurance
- Management Services, LP
Borders
Borlis Body & Fine Auto
Brilliant
Broadcast Marketing
- Entertainment
By George
Calvin's Fine Jewelry
Calypso St. Barth
Casino Knights, Inc.
Champion Toyota
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Eliza Page
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Entorian Technologies
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Estilo
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FameCast, Inc.
Fancy Plants
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- Gallery
Feather Your Nest
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Fleckman & McGlynn, PLLC
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse
- & Wine Bar
Four Seasons Hotel
Francine & John Webb
Foundation
Frost Bank
Gibson Plumbing
Ginny's Printing
Global Impact
Grande Communications Passion
- and Commitment
Investment Club
Greater Austin Development
Greenhat Event Design
GSD&M Idea City
Haddan + Cowan Architects
Collaborative
H-E-B
Hilton Austin
Horseshoe Bay Resort Marriott
Houston's Restaurant
HyPerformix, Inc.
IBM Employee Services Center
Ideal Image
Infoglide Software
International Bank of Commerce
JCB Business Ventures
JCS Consulting
Joe and Teresa Long Family Fund
Julian Gold
Julia's Gems
Junior League of Austin
KB Home
Keepers
Kurant Events
KVET 98.1
KVUE
KKAN Austin News
Laine Strategy Group
Lake Austin Spa Resort
Lakeview Golf Club
LCRA Employees' United Charities
Lexus Champions For Charity
Lexus of Austin
Life Purpose Consulting
LifeSize Communications
Lombardi Software
Lone Star Materials, Inc.
Lowe Foundation
Luxe Apothetique Salon & Spa
Mama Fu’s
Mandarin Flower Company
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Media Choice
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Noelke, English, Maples, St. Leger LLP
Northstar Fire Protection of Texas, Inc.
PB&C GP
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2009

GUARDIAN angels

“The guardian angels of life fly so high as to be beyond our sight, but they are always looking down upon us.”

-Jean Paul Richter
Child Protection Team Members
The following agencies collaborate with the Center for Child Protection to reduce the trauma for children during the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases: Austin Police Department, A.I.S.D. Police Department, Bee Cave Police Department, Cedar Park Police Department, Dell Children’s Medical Center of Central Texas, Jonestown Police Department, Lago Vista Police Department, Lakeview Police Department, Leander Police Department, Manor Police Department, Mustang Ridge Police Department, Pflugerville Police Department, Rollingwood Police Department, Sunset Valley Police Department, Texas Department of Family & Protective Services, Travis County District Attorney’s Office, Travis County Sheriff’s Office, and West Lake Hills Police Department.
The Center for Child Protection’s mission is to reduce the trauma for children during the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases.

The Center for Child Protection, a nationally accredited children’s advocacy center, is the only nonprofit in Travis County involved in the investigation of crimes against children. The Center’s best practice children’s advocacy center model is widely endorsed to improve crime investigations and services for children and families. The Center provides a safe, non-threatening environment for children to begin the investigation process and tell what happened to them. After the initial interview, a child may return for a medical exam, counseling and other assistance for themselves and their family during the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases. Immediate intervention means that children can recover more quickly and families receive what is needed to put their lives back together after an abuse outcry. For 18 years, the Center for Child Protection has worked in collaboration with the Child Protection Team to help 10,184 children who have walked through the Center’s doors to be heard at the point of interview and receive help, hope and healing. If you know of or suspect a child is being abused, call 1-800-252-5400. If the situation is an emergency, dial 9-1-1.