

OUR MISSION:
"Serve victimized
children"

Our Children

Are not *faceless*.
Are not *nameless*.

Our Children

Are *your neighbours*.

They go to school with
your children and your
grandchildren.

Abuse happens
*every day in every
community*.

YOU CAN HELP

Call CACN at
905 937-5435.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Emily's Story	1
Thank You Donors	1
Message from the Chair	2
Signs of Abuse	2
Community	3
Volunteers	4
Message from the Executive Director	4

**CHILD ADVOCACY
CENTRE NIAGARA**

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THE CHILD ADVOCATE



Child Advocacy
Centre Niagara

www.cacniagara.org

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WINTER 2009

Meet Emily

Emily nearly lost her sister.

Her sister had to be hospitalized with life threatening injuries, and was unable to tell authorities what had happened to her.

Emily came to CACN to assist child protection workers and police with their investigation of her sister's injuries.

Emily is four years old. She now attends the Centre for counselling services to help her deal with the trauma.



Thank You Donors



*"The test of the
morality of a society
is what it does for
its children."*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Your support is appreciated and necessary. **362** children were seen at the Centre since opening.

CACN is a safe place for Niagara children to tell their secrets. Secrets that involve abuse, usually by a person children know, love and trust.

CACN succeeds in reducing the number of times children must tell their story, resulting in a much less painful experience.

Upon entering, they are greeted by a

beautiful, hand-painted mural donated by local artist Barbara Goodwin and colourful artwork created by grade three students from neighbouring Lincoln Centennial School.

The waiting room is filled with toys and books.

Each child leaves with a Teddy Bear, generously donated by the many friends of CACN, including Tim Horton's Niagara.

A Message from the Chair



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Frank Parkhouse,
Chair*

*Marlene DeRose,
Vice Chair*

*Sue Phillips,
Treasurer*

*Cheri Martin,
Secretary*

*Shafee Bacchus
Marion Boase
Doug French
Heather Hall
Glenn Parker*

A Year in Review

Welcome to our first newsletter! It's hard to believe the first year has passed since the Centre opened in September of 2008. The Open House was well attended by community members and our supporters. It was our pleasure to have Steve Sullivan, Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime, as our guest speaker. His message spoke of the critical need for advocacy centres like ours across Canada. We have been fortunate to have Steve return on two more occasions, demonstrating his support for Child Advocacy Centre Niagara.

Through our newsletter and website, we will inform you of our activities. It's important to raise awareness of the child abuse that happens not only in our own communities, but across the country.

We are blessed with a group of volunteer board members who work tirelessly to ensure that the centre provides the highest level of support for young victims of abuse and their families. As well, we could not have been successful without the many volunteers who came forward to help us in making the centre a reality.

This year hasn't been without change. Mr. Roy Hardman has stepped down from his role as Chairman of our Board of Directors.

Roy worked untiringly through our early years, donating countless hours to develop our business plan and capital campaign. His business expertise helped to lay the groundwork that enabled our successful capital campaign and the purchase and renovation of our building. Roy is missed and we wish him every success in his future endeavours.

Thank you, also, to Sharon Hardman who gave countless hours of her time both as a board member, also providing much needed administrative support.

The Centre's first Executive Director, Greg Shupe, has gone on to pursue both educational and new career opportunities.

We are pleased to introduce our new Executive Director, Cindy Paskey who started working with us in mid-July. She passionately supports the Centre's mission and would be pleased to speak to your community group about the difference our services make to child victims of abuse.

Our success in our capital campaign wouldn't have been possible without the help of the many donors who came forward believing in what the Centre stands for. There cannot be enough thank you's....

Frank

Ten Signs of Child Abuse

Some signs that a child is experiencing violence or abuse are more obvious than others. Trust your instincts. Suspected abuse or risk of harm is enough of a reason to contact the authorities. The following are some signs a child is at risk of abuse or harm.

1. Unexplained injuries.
2. Changes in behaviour.
3. Returning to earlier behaviours.
4. Fear of going home.
5. Changes in eating.
6. Changes in sleeping.
7. Changes in school performance and attendance.
8. Lack of personal care or hygiene.
9. Risk-taking behaviours.
10. Inappropriate sexual behaviours.

If you suspect abuse or a child at risk of harm contact the **Abuse Hotline** at **905-937-7731 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.**



"Abuse survives and thrives in silence"

Mary Murphy

It's So Big You Can Eat In It!

Gather up the Kids or Grandkids
and treat them to an extra special holiday treat!

[Great Wolf Lodge](#) has created a giant gingerbread house in its lobby where six people can enjoy a meal together and help raise money for charity.

Until early January you can dine in the Giant Gingerbread House at the Great Wolf Lodge \$20 per family plus the cost of your meal. A chef is available to accommodate any dietary restrictions or food allergies.

Proceeds go to Child Advocacy Centre Niagara. **Reserve your spot TODAY!**



Going Green at
CACN

Sign up for our
"e-letter" at

www.cacniagara.org

Mayors' Awareness Events



Mayor Damian Goulbourne and Mayor Ted Salci hosted events to build awareness of Child Advocacy Centre Niagara. [Steve Sullivan, Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime](#) described the unique and valuable services CACN provides to Niagara. He ad-

ressed the permanent impact that [internet child abuse](#) inflicts on its victims.

Over 100 guests from local businesses, social service agencies and students from Niagara College attended.

It is CACN's hope these events will develop partners and supporters from across the Niagara Region who will help to increase our funding base and resources.

Mayors Dave Augustyn, Gary Burroughs, Vance Badawey and Dave Martin gave their support. Thanks to TV COGECO for filming and airing Steve Sullivan's presentation.

New CACN DVD

Made possible through generous donations from:

- * Maycourt Club, St. Catharines
- * Sunrise Rotary Club, St. Catharines
- * United Way of Niagara Falls and Greater Fort Erie
- * Joyce and Jim Vidal
- * niagaraAVsystems
- * Beverly Brooks

.....and the courage of participants who told their stories.

Please help us tell CACN's story. Share the DVD with your community groups and colleagues. Contact CACN to order your copy or book your presentation today **905 937-5435**

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Community Partners help to raise awareness and funds.

A big thank you for your support

- Mayor of St. Catharines Golf Tournament, July 2009
- Kiwanis Club of Stamford, Niagara Falls, Ontario
- Rotary Club of St. Catharines-Sunrise and Hernder Estate Wine's Annual Charity Silent Auction and Fundraiser
- St. Michael Catholic School, Niagara Falls Ontario
- Tim Horton Employees, Scott St., St. Catharines

Contact Marion Boase with your Third Party Fundraising ideas 905-646-5957

*Thank You
to our*

VOLUNTEERS

*"Helping with hands,
giving with heart"*

RECEPTION

- Paula Cooperman
- Barb Hughes
- Barbara Gallagher
- Gerri Grossi
- Yolanda Grotti
- Kim Lepard
- André Moreau
- Charlee Ransier
- Julie Searles
- Sue Thibodeau

EVENTS COMMITTEE

- Ruth Beaman
- Bonnie Brown
- Sheila Butler
- Les Coates
- Julie D'Addario
- Talin Doyle
- Deb Gibson
- Anne Hewitson
- Jane Leczkiv
- André Moreau
- Margo Smith

RESPECT-ED TRAINERS

- Sue Thibodeau
- Aleena VandenBogert

Sadly, CACN board member **Mary Merrett-Jackson** died August 26th 2009. She had been battling lung cancer for some time. Everyone remembers Mary as a kind, gentle soul who made a significant contribution to the Centre, and to the betterment of children in Niagara. In her memory the Red Cross sponsored the training of a CACN volunteer in the RespectEd program.

A Message from the Executive Director

Thank you for your support.



Fully recognizing the need for a Child Advocacy Centre has been eye-opening. Since opening 362 children were interviewed. Comfort comes from knowing children and families need not travel to numerous locations to tell their story over and over.

We still need you.

Please consider [Child Advocacy Centre Niagara](#) during this gift giving season, in celebration or in the memory of people important to you. Request a copy of our DVD "A Safe Place to Tell Your Secrets." Show it to your family, friends, colleagues, community or church groups.

Volunteers are the Centre's foundation, and continue to nurture its growth. Please contact us to learn how you can help.

We continue asking for government, corporate and community financial support. Niagara's innocent, abused children need and deserve your help.

We are so grateful to all of our supporters. **Thank you for caring and sharing.**

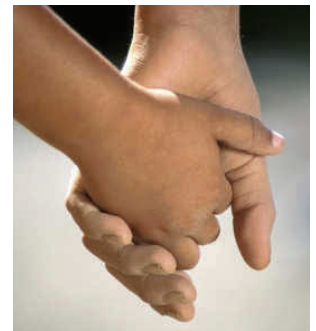
Volunteers... donating time, talent, knowledge and helping hands!

Where would we be without the day to day commitment of our volunteers?

CACN volunteers range in age and experience from young adults attending post secondary education to professionals who have retired from full-time careers.

Current Volunteer Opportunities include Special Events Committee, Community Ambassador, Marketing and Web Site Development, Grant Proposal Writer, Fundraising Assistant.

Call 905 937-5435 to apply.



A very special thanks to **Sue Thibodeau**, who served as Interim Executive Director and kept everything running smoothly for six weeks! We couldn't have done it without you!

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. If you would like to remove yourself from our mailing list, please call 905 935-5435 or email info@cacniagara.org
Go Green! Sign up for our "e-letter" at www.cacniagara.org