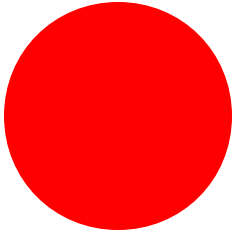




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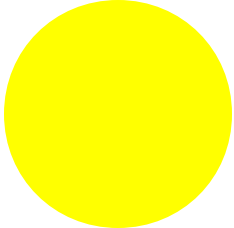
child abuse network news

*Stop the hurt...
begin the healing*



Special Events:

- 2002 Whistling festival
- The Great Fall Fix Up at "The Market"
- CAN Film Festival
- You Can Be A Kid Again



In Fiscal Year 2001, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services received 53,460 reports on families for child abuse or neglect.



Senator Nickles Visits Center

On August 27, 2002, Senator Don Nickles (R-OK) toured Tulsa's Child Advocacy Center (CAC). It was not his first visit to the Child Abuse Network's JUSTICE Center, nor was it his first exposure to the program offered here. Senator Nickles attended the Center's dedication ceremony when the JUSTICE Center first opened its doors to the Tulsa Community in March 1992.



CAN Executive Director Barbara Findeiss and Senator Don Nickles

The Child Abuse Network (CAN) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to provide support and facilities for a multidisciplinary team approach to child abuse investigation and prosecution and to protect children in crisis. CAN is a member of the National Children's Alliance and Senator Nickles is a member of the National Children's Alliance Congressional Steering Committee.

Within the walls of the JUSTICE Center are representatives from the five agencies essential to the process of investigating and prosecuting child abuse cases. These agencies include:

- The District Attorney's Office
- Department of Human Services – Child Welfare
- University of Oklahoma Child Abuse Medical Team
- Tulsa Police Department Child Crisis Unit
- Child Abuse Network

As reports of child abuse in Oklahoma explode, the Tulsa Community is fortunate to have the successful collaboration and co-location of these agencies. Because of CAN, families in crisis no longer have to travel to multiple locations. "This process expedites the services for children and families, lessening the trauma children experience from multiple interviews regarding abuse and neglect," said Steven R. Scott of DHS.

Senator Nickles' visit to the Justice Center gave us the opportunity to increase his awareness that CAN continues to need his support and the support of other national leaders to:

- Increase funding for National Children's Alliance (NCA) and CAC programs.
- Raise the victims of Crime Act (VOCA) cap or eliminate it entirely and
- Advocate our efforts with the State legislature.

Court School—What's That?

Court School is a program designed to help children who are about to testify in a legal proceeding. It helps them understand how the court process works and provides them assistance in dealing with the stress and anxiety that is related to testifying. Court School also helps the children feel supported regardless of the trial outcome.

location, the children's JUSTICE Center. Games, videos, puzzles, puppets, artwork and role-play are used to ease the children's fears and to explain what happens in the courtroom. A simultaneous session to answer questions and learn about other services available within our community is held for the children's parents, guardians or caregivers.

Court School is delivered in two sessions. Session One is held at a child-friendly

See Court School, page 2.



Child Abuse Network
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CAN is Tulsa's Child
Advocacy Center



CAN is a Charter

Member of

The National Children's Alliance

Upcoming Events

- 2002 Whistling Festival at Riverside Campus - Tulsa Technology Center Oct.18, 2002 8p.m. to 10 p.m.
- The Great Fall Fix-Up at "The Market" - Oct. 19, 2002 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. 81 & Harvard
- CAN Film Festival at Cinemark IMAX Theatres Nov. 10, 2002 1p.m., 2:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 4:45 p.m.
- You Can Be A Kid Again -April 12, 2003 at the Tulsa Fairgrounds Pavilion

Court School...continued from page 1

The second session is held at the District Courthouse where the children interact with volunteers, a mental-health specialist, a judge, prosecutors, and victim witness coordinators. Session two helps the children prepare for the questioning aspect of the procedures and to provide familiarity with a courtroom

A child's credibility and competence as a witness improves with preparation. Court School's goals are to educate the children about the legal process, empower them through learning about their rights and responsibilities, and to have fun while learning stress reduction skills.

About Our Organization...

CAN serves as the coordinator for multiple agencies that interact with children of reported child abuse.

*MISSION...*CAN provides support and facilities for a multidisciplinary team approach to determine abuse and to protect children in crisis.

Child Abuse Network
2829 S. Sheridan
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