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# Child Abuse Network News

*Stop the hurt...  
begin the healing*

## Child Abuse Network; Center of Excellence

By Jaime Vogt



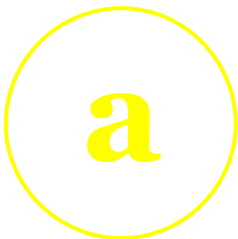
### Special Events:

*You CAN Be A Kid Again*

- ✓ Patron Party 4 -11-03
- ✓ Carnival Event 4 -12-03

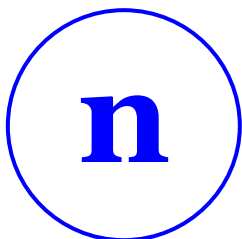
*2003 Equus Charity Grand Prix and Hunt Ball*

- ✓ Hunt Ball 4 -25-03
- ✓ Equus Charity Grand Prix 4 -27-03



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We often hear news reports or read newspaper and magazine articles that invade our personal sense of safety with words like “Child Molestation”, “Child Pornography” or “Preschooler Abused”. We examine the stories searching for something that gives us security that these kinds of things could never happen to our children. But the reality is that no child is immune from child abuse. There are no financial or ethnic barriers, nor is there sexual preference.

Tulsa is fortunate to have what many cities across the country do not have – a center of excellence in the Child Abuse Network. Victims and their families can receive medical, mental health and investigative services related to child abuse. At the Child Abuse Network, the co-located professionals are able to communicate quickly and efficiently.

The Child Abuse Network (CAN) is a child advocacy center housed within the walls of a building known as the JUSTICE Center. A single location for a multidisciplinary team to investigate allegations of child abuse.

In addition to CAN employees, other members of the multidisciplinary team at the JUSTICE Center includes:

- Pediatricians, a pediatric nurse practitioner, and an LPN all from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
- The Child Welfare workers from the Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Detective’s from the Tulsa Police Department’s (TPD) Child Crisis Unit
- Assistant District Attorneys

The CAN staff consists of administrative personnel, a mental health specialist and a forensic specialist. The medical team provides exams for children who may have been abused; DHS investigators address allegations of child abuse and neglect; TPD Detectives also investigate child abuse claims; and the DA’s review cases for possible charges to be filed by the state.

Spending a day at the Child Abuse Network would open your eyes to the intolerable harm of child abuse and open your hearts to those so dedicated to protecting children. After all, knowledge is power and education is the best protection. The people at CAN are able to provide you with information on child abuse. We can direct you on reporting abuse and guide you to community resources that provide treatment. It is the passion for protecting innocent children that keeps the people at CAN committed to their common goal—Stop the hurt...begin the healing. [⌘](#)



## April—Child Abuse Prevention Month

Did you know that approximately 3 million children are reported abused and neglected in this country each year?

April, spring’s beginning, is also Child Abuse Prevention Month. So, as you breathe in the fresh air of spring, renew your sprit by helping to lessen the hurt of a child who has been harmed or neglected.

Contact CAN at 918-831-4550 to find out how you can start fresh by making a donation, volunteering your time or participating in one of our fund raising events. [⌘](#)

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Barbara E. Findeiss

**From the Desk of  
 The Executive Director**

By: Barbara Findeiss

Three critical facts we'd like you to know about the Child Abuse Network:

- ♥ We deal with child abuse intervention
- ♥ We strive to reduce additional trauma investigations can have on the abused child and their families and
- ♥ We are absolutely dedicated to a coordinated team approach to child abuse investigations.

We are Tulsa's community, non-profit agency that deals with reported cases of abuse, usually within the first 48 hours after it is reported. Before CAN, child abuse was independently investigated by child welfare and law enforcement. This often required the child and their family to go to a number of offices and tell their story again and again.

CAN provides a system that reduces re-traumatizing victims. CAN is helping the victims and the agencies who investigate and prosecute child abuse by using a team approach.

Following is a quick list of what we do at CAN:

- ♥ Raise funds to ensure Tulsa has a dedicated full-time medical team trained in child abuse
- ♥ Provide a specially trained forensic interviewer
- ♥ Provide a mental health professional who provides crisis intervention and refers victims to community services to help begin the healing process
- ♥ Administer team coordination including a twice weekly case review process
- ♥ Offer Court School for Child Victims/Witnesses
- ♥ Provide administrative support for the Justice Center
- ♥ AND, if we do our job right, investigations are more accurate, efficient and less traumatic. ⚡

**About DHS; a CAN  
 Partner Agency**

By Jana Boese

Being a partner agency in the Child Abuse Network expedites the DHS investigation because we have swift access to medical examinations, child interview specialists, professional law enforcement, criminal/deprived law, and mental health consultations.

Child abuse/neglect referrals are screened by our child abuse hotline. When referrals fall within our guidelines, the case is accepted, prioritized, and assigned for investigation or assessment.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) begins an alleged child abuse investigation by making face-to-face contact with the suspected child victim and his/her siblings. A home visit is also mandatory. Information to confirm or rule out the allegation is collected through:

- ♥ Interviews with family members and collateral's
- ♥ Collection of documentary evidences that does or does not support the allegations.

The purpose of the DHS investigation is to identify and understand elements that create risk, assess the risk and provide services. Our role is to protect children and rehabilitate families. ⚡

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**2002 CAN Services**

1,703 new children were served at CAN during 2002.

Ages of these children were:

➤ 0-6 years	1,013
➤ 07-12 years	471
➤ 13-18 years	169
➤ Unknown	50

These children were seen for:

➤ Sexual Abuse	1,009
➤ Physical Abuse	560
➤ Neglect	167
➤ Witness to Violence	18
➤ Other	51

# You CAN Be A Kid Again & Help Raise \$100,000



Remember what it was like being a kid—when playing was your work; when you looked at the world with innocence and wonderment; and everything seemed so big!

Well, You CAN Be A Kid Again! We invite you to join us at the annual **You CAN Be A Kid Again** fund raising event on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The inaugural Sponsor/Patron Party and family carnival is celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CAN and proceeds from the event benefit the Child Abuse Network.

You CAN Be A Kid Again begins Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM with a Sponsor/Patron Party at Woodland Hills Mall. The party is for the event sponsors and patrons and includes entertainment, food, a silent auction and a scavenger hunt through the mall. The family carnival is Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Tulsa Fairgrounds Pavilion. The carnival is open to the public and includes games, crafts, food and fun for everyone.

For cost and participation information call the Child Abuse Network at 918-831-4550. [ⓧ](#)

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### Heartfelt “thanks” to the following individuals and organizations for their contributions: October 1, 2002 –December 31, 2002

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## ⓧ . . . April . . . ⓧ Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month

**People will wear blue ribbons to increase public awareness of child abuse . . .**

**During April of each year, citizens concerned about the problem of child abuse and neglect are asked to wear blue ribbons as a symbol that they can make a difference.**

**You can join the Blue Ribbon Campaign to**

**can**  
Child Abuse Network  
2829 S. Sheridan  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74129

Phone: 918-831-4550  
Fax: 918-831-4579

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begin the healing.*



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**CAN is Tulsa's  
Children's  
Advocacy Center**

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*CAN is a Charter  
Member of The  
National Children's Alliance*

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## 61<sup>st</sup> Equus Charity Grand Prix Benefits CAN

The Equus Charity Grand Prix sponsored by the Tulsa Horse Show, Inc. features some of the finest horses and riders in the country. It's the second oldest continually running Horse Show in the United States—an annual outdoor competition the whole family can enjoy.

The event begins Friday night April 25<sup>th</sup> with the Hunt Ball — a black tie gala at Southern Hills Country Club featuring dinner, dancing and a silent auction. On Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> is the Equus Grand Prix outdoor competition; all proceeds benefit the Child Abuse Network.

The success of the 2002 event enabled the Board of Directors of the Tulsa Horse Show, Inc. to donate \$70,000 to the Child Abuse Network. Their goal is to exceed that amount in 2003 and you can help. Contact CAN at 918-831-4550 for information on how you, your group or your company can become a sponsor of this prestigious Tulsa Event. [λ](#)

## Pennies from Heaven

The memory of 21-month old Skyla Brooks who lost her life to alleged child abuse in March of 2001 is the inspiration for "Pennies from Heaven," a fundraising effort spearheaded by her grandmother, Robyn Brooks. In conjunction with Child Abuse Prevention Month (April), Robyn Brooks hopes business owners in Tulsa will help raise money for the Child Abuse Network (CAN) by simply allowing the placement of small banks at their businesses. The banks will remain in place from March 21<sup>st</sup> (the anniversary of Skyla's death) to May 21<sup>st</sup>.

By citizens dropping in their pennies and small change and it will add up to a big contribution to the Child Abuse Network. You can take a small step or a large step to help. If you have space for a bank on your counter or for more information about activities relating to Child Abuse Prevention Month, please contact Nancy Hatfield at the Child Abuse Network, 831-4583. [λ](#)