

*Dedicated to our Boys*

## One Boy

I'd rather climb a tree than remember  
And swing upside down with my arms  
Hanging free from the  
Shadows and secrets inside  
But today I will stay  
Quiet as a mouse that is  
Cornered by a cat  
Today I will play dead

Maybe if I don't say a word  
He will not see me  
Or come looking for me  
Maybe today he will not touch me  
and make me afraid

I'd rather run by the edge of the sea  
My feet swished with wet sand  
My kite flying high in the windy sky  
Free from this dark thing  
That makes me want to disappear

Who would believe me, anyway?  
He's my dad's best friend

And I am only a little kid  
Now I can never grow up to be like my  
daddy  
Because I am *different now*

I'd rather go to sleep and wake up  
tomorrow  
As another boy

A boy who hasn't forgotten how to  
Hang upside down from a tree branch  
And smile **Marlene Mish...**

*This poem is in honor of a good friend, who was abused as a child and grew up to be a wonderful man, a good father and continues to make many contributions to our community.*



*The Center and the community are making a positive difference - one child at a time...*

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Editor:  
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Feature article by:  
**Toni Richmond**

## Slugs and Snails and Puppy Dog Tails..... How are our little boys?

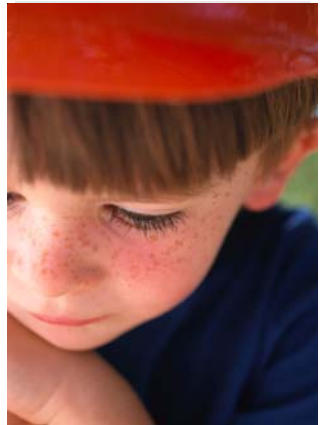
Among the fabled tribes of Africa, the Masai tribe's warriors, known as the Casseria Engeri, were considered by all as the most fearsome. How ironic, then, that their traditional greeting to one another was: "**And how are the children?**" In truth, the Masai tribe placed the welfare of its entire tribe on the welfare of its children. As people passed one another, the question would be asked: "**And how are the children?**" If the answer was, "**The children are well,**" that meant that the society was doing well. Imagine for a moment if we judged our well-being as a people with that very simple question; "**And how are the children?**" "All the children are well," would mean life is good.

But all of our children are not well. In fact, our little boys are not well at all. I remember the old sayings as a child to the questions: What are little girls made of? What are little boys made of? Girls, of course, were made of "sugar and spice and everything nice" and boys were made of "slugs and snails and puppy dog tails." Obviously, girls have come a long way from that mantra, shedding limiting stereotypes as they walked confidently into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. However, our little boys are not seen anymore as in that innocuous saying about puppy dog tails. Today, boys are almost demonized in our society, and that is why the **Children's Advocacy Center** is stepping out on that proverbial limb and speak on behalf of all our little boys.

A community speaker recently said: "**Little girl victims grow up to be adult victims and little boy victims grow up to be offenders and batterers.**" What messages are we giving our little boys here, our community, and ourselves? What an unfair assessment of half of our world's population! It seems that our boys are condemned to a terrible stereotyping. At the Center we serve all children. In 2006 we served 725 children, 486 girls and 239 boys. We hear a lot about our little girls and we should. It would be wrong to minimize the numbers of violent criminals in our prison systems that are male. However, we do have many little boys who meet the same fate as our little girls, who are hit, punched, uncared for, and sexually violated. We don't hear much about them or their families or

what it's like to be a little boy who has been hurt. One of the main reasons is the cadre of myths surrounding sexual abuse of boys:

- *Boys cannot be made to have sex against their will*
- *Male abusers of boys are homosexuals*
- *Boys are abused by males because they are or acted "gay"*
- *Boys forced or tricked into sex by a female are "lucky"*
- *Boys who are sexually abused become sexual offenders*
- *Boys get hurt less by abuse than girls*
- *Boys can/should protect themselves from sex abuse*
- *Males initiate sex; they get what they were looking for* (W. Bera, 1995)



Not one of those statements is true. Do you think that a 4 year old boy who is sodomized by his trusted babysitter – usually a family member – is any less betrayed than his 4 year old female cousin? All genders bleed when hurt. All children cry the same tears when betrayed. All children suffer at the hands of predators. In fact, the largest group seduced for sexual exploitation from the Internet today is boys, not girls.

We know that about 1 in 3 little girls will be sexually abused before the age of 18. We used to think that number was about 1 in 5 for boys. Now we know that it is closer to 1 in 4. BUT, boys do not disclose as much or as often as girls. In fact, everything single stereotype in our society makes it almost impossible for our little

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boys to tell anyone at all. Why is that? The plain and simple truth is that there is so much shame and social stigma, if a boy admits that he has been sexually violated. In fact, most boys keep their painful secrets well into adulthood or they never tell anyone at all. Our very young boys may tell only because they are so young, they do not realize what has happened to them, so they accidentally disclose, not deliberately! The film, *Deliverance*, was a great example of the fact that "big boys (men) just suck it up." Our many cases of sexual abuse at the hands of the clergy are another example of boys waiting until manhood before telling their secrets.

There are so many barriers for little boys or adolescent boys placed on them by a society that says that if you are sexually abused, it "means" something quite different than if you are a little girl. Little boys ask their mothers: "Does what happen 'mean' that I am gay?" Sexual ambivalence for little boys is not an issue for little girls. So why would boys want to tell at all? If the new statistic says that 1 in 4 of our little guys are abused and there are many, many reasons that make them reluctant to tell, in truth, 1 in 3 of our CHILDREN are abused. This is about our children and we are doing a great disservice to our boys.

"And how are our little boys?" is a question that the Center is now addressing with a renewed concern and dedication. It's time that the other half of the human population is seen as "human" and not testosterone-poisoned predators or "baby batterers." It's time that we take better, more tender care of our little men, who will one day be adult men, who will father our children, teach, guide and nurture the next generation along side the women.

*The Center wishes to begin a mentoring group, led by good men, for little boys who also need that normalizing camaraderie of connection and esteem building that our girls' groups now enjoy. We must do more, as a Center, as parents, and as a community.*

M. Mish

## How Can You Help?

The Children's Advocacy Center functions on a tight budget; it is the help from the community and volunteers that truly helps us continue moving forward. At this time, we could use help towards the purchase of a **DLP projector** to give trainings and PowerPoint presentations. We would also be interested in anyone who would wish to contribute towards this **quarterly newsletter** to help cover the cost of printing and postage.

Finally, there are many benefits for donors who gift their **appreciated stock securities**. Most notably is the IRS legislation regarding the required minimum distribution for individuals 70 and over, whereby donations can be gifted to the Center at a tax benefit for the donors.

The Center will be working with our local **Smith Barney** brokerage in Medford who will accept the donated securities on our behalf. And, Smith Barney will waive their commission charges on the sale of any donated securities, which means more funds available for our programs. If you would like to learn more, call Tracy at 734-5437 x114.

*I shall pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being, let me do it now...for I shall not pass this way again. — William Penn*

## Hearts of Gold Club - our Generous Donors

*We want to extend a **BIG** "Thank You" to our generous supporters who donated during this last quarter. Without you, we couldn't do what we do:*

**Carmine Petretto** of Petretto Designs for his expertise in creating a new logo and for his countless volunteer hours of design.

**Patsy Smullin** for her generous donation to our Capital Campaign.

**Jim Maddux** of Smith Barney in Medford for helping us sponsor this month's newsletter.

The **Soroptimist Club of Medford** for their immense help in protecting our children.

The **Chaney Family Foundation** for their grant towards our building renovation.

The **West Family Foundation** for their grant towards our new educational brochures.

## Children's Advocacy Center Employees of the Month

### March

**Sarah Breckenridge**  
Therapist



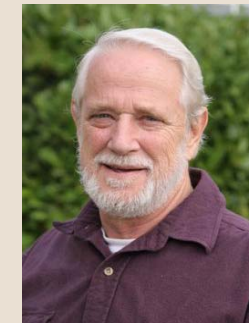
### April

**Toni Richmond**  
Therapist



### May

**Michael Fansler**  
Regional Trainer



## We wish to thank all of our priceless volunteers

Joni Bailey  
Vickie Blankenburg  
Cameo Bostwick  
Grace Cartwright  
Barb Collins  
Hanna Darling  
Wendy Davis  
Lisa Delong  
Dede Everett  
Marcia Fagan  
Barb Frenna  
Susie Goff  
Ila Haas

Rebekah Hamilton  
Toni Hernandez  
Susan Hill  
Carole Howard  
Jordyn Ivers  
Cindy Johnson  
Kellie Johnson  
Bette Leonard  
Melinda Lidbetter  
Eileen Limbaugh  
Rebecca Nielson  
Joanne Poulos  
Ceasar Quinonez

Melinda Quinonez  
Summer Randall  
Stephanie Risner  
Vicki Risner  
Sharon Revier  
Desiree Schatz  
Bill Simpson  
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Sally Strasser  
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Erica Tibbils  
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Making a difference - one child at a time. . .

## What a Team!

### So Much talent! So much Love!



Anna Loeffler took our new Logo and created new flags for the Center. She did this on her own time, which demonstrates the amazing dedication by our wonderful team that possesses so much talent and creativity. Thank you, Anna. Now when folks drive by, they will see our symbol for hope. No words are necessary!



### Feature Article: Male Sexual Assault

Male victimization is not thought of as prevalent as female victimization, but 1 in 4 boys will have been abused by the age of 18 and 1 in 3 girls. The crime goes unreported because the male may feel helpless, vulnerable and weak. They may feel they would be blamed by others if they disclosed. They may fear being thought of as gay and being thought of as helpless as a woman.

When a male becomes a victim of sexual abuse, raped and molested by someone in a position of authority, or someone he likes or trusts, he may have the same feelings as a female victim. Males are more often abused by someone outside the family who is known to them. Some males are assaulted by women; most are same sex assaults – men assaulting boys or men. Same-sex assault is typically more physically violent than opposite-sex assault. There is usually more than one assailant and the use of a weapon. Serious injury is common and sometimes deadly.

When a male assault victim comes into the **Children's Advocacy Center**, they have already come through the difficult task of disclosing they were abused. Once they are assessed, therapy may center on their feelings of inferiority, poor basic trust, anger, relationship difficulties, boundary issues, depression, shame, guilt and fear of social disapproval. Strengthening how a child perceives themselves is the goal of treatment. Improving their self-image and letting them know it was not their fault is paramount.

Often boys will act out aggressively because of the abuse. There is an underlying rage because they are unable or unwilling to disclose so it comes out in their behavior. They may also become “sexually reactive” meaning they may act out sexually towards others what was done to them. This does not mean they are becoming offenders, but it’s a maladaptive way of dealing with the abuse. They may want to feel the power and control that was stripped away from them.

Boy victims may question their sexuality. Their bodies may have responded to the sexual touching, making them think they must have liked it. If it was a male offender, they may question whether they are now gay. Work focuses on natural bodily responses to various touches and what we have control over and what we don’t. An example is given about eating a sandwich and whether or not we have control over the stomach digesting it – they don’t. The same principle applies to sexual touching. Just because a boys’ body has responded with an erection to the sexual touching does not mean he liked it, although some offenders groom their victims so well, they feel special and loved, reducing the feelings of fear, guilt and shame.

The message we give, at CAC, for males who have been sexually assaulted follows:

**“Nobody deserves to be assaulted. It’s not your fault. You didn’t cause it to happen. You’re not a freak. This has happened to many men (and boys). If you are heterosexual, being raped by a male will not make you gay. This is nothing to be ashamed of. You’re no less of a man because of the assault.”**

Toni Richmond is one of our Center's therapists.

## From the Desk of the Director...

I remember the exact moment my first child took his first breath: December 3, 1971 at 6:03 am. A boy. A son. In some ways his birth began a kind of rebirth for me as well. I had this sacred opportunity to share my life with someone who was more important than anyone else. He was a gift, so fragile, so precious that all other gifts or accomplishments in my life would pale next to this long limbed, skinny little creature with whom I fell immediately in love. I would be blessed with four children in this life: two sons and two daughters. Their lives would enrich mine, challenge me as a human being, teach me, shape me and be the foundation of all my beliefs about this world and the next.

I look at the statistics about how men batter and hurt those around them. They are disturbing and unacceptable. I know that many men are violent and do terrible things to their wives, girlfriends, other males, and their children. I am not trying to refute the statistics about domestic violence. But I also know another thing: baby boys come into this world pure, non-violent, fragile and open. They are not just emerging batterers or sex offenders in diapers. They are sweet. They cry when they need food just like little girls. They run to their mothers for safety when they are afraid, just like little girls. They cry when they bang up their knees, just like little girls. So how on earth have they become so suspect in our society today?

Children learn violence. Children hit and punch when they are hit and punched. Children are disrespectful when they see disrespect. Children act out inappropriately when no one has taught them to act appropriately. Not one single child on earth was born a killer, unless there was some organic brain dysfunction. All the rest were trained by life. And all children are great observers and learners.

### Children are a mirror reflection of the adult world, the world we created for them!

I am deeply concerned about our little boys. As the victim/witness advocate for the District Attorney’s Office, I worked with many mothers and fathers of little boys and girls who had been abused. We speak so much of the horrors done to little girls; I need to tell you some things about what happens to our little boys. Though I didn’t usually work directly with the boys, I worked directly with their heart sick parents. They told me of their boys being sexually abused by male baby sitters, older family members, step fathers, even adolescent females. (Yes, females can be sex offenders, too!) Most of these sexual acts were not sexual really, but angry, humiliating assaults meant to satisfy the basest needs of the offenders and humiliate the child. I have listened to the hopeless sobs of young mothers, who told me

that their little boys no longer wanted to play outside, didn’t trust anyone, had regressed in their behaviors to younger ages, and thought that the fact that they had been selected as “targets” meant that something was “wrong” with them. Often they didn’t tell because of fear that they would be thought of as gay, which to them meant “different.” One mother confided in me that the child’s father now rejected his son because of what happened – blaming the child for the abuse. I don’t think I ever met a more distraught and misunderstood group than the parents of abused little boys.



Mish with son Matthias and grandchildren Lauren and Logan

There is no question that some victims of sex abuse go on to become offenders, but it is also true that most do not. It is not a given. Little girls who become sex offenders have often been victims of sexual abuse, too, but not all of them go on to offend others either. When they do, they report that the acts are of rage, not sexual gratification, which is very similar to their male counterparts.

I believe that we would not hear the terms “baby batterers” so often if those who sing that refrain actually saw the faces of the little boys who have been violated and then stigmatized for their own abuse. I remember receiving a “Victim Impact Statement” while in the DA’s office from a 7 year-old that had been sexually assaulted by a friend of the family, whom the family trusted completely. Kids get a chance to express their feelings about the abuse and that statement may be read in court at sentencing. I will never forget what he wrote: **“You were my friend. I trusted you. You aren’t my friend anymore. I wish a big elephant would eat you.”** Sitting there on the paper in a shaky writing of a little person just learning to print, I was struck by the innocence shattered, the betrayal, the struggle to imagine a just punishment for that betrayal and hurt. He was just a little boy. Seven years old! He did not deserve the burden of his abuse anymore than any of the little girls who come through our center.

Some factions of our community need to step back from their judgment of our little boys. Boys are innocent, too. We are the **CHILDREN’S Advocacy Center**. We serve girls and boys; we serve the children of abuse. As we move forward, we are going to be creating programs that better serve our little boys, so that they can grow up to become good men, happy with themselves, proud to be male. I wish as a community that we could open our hearts to our little boys the same way we have opened our hearts to our little girls. So many adult men still hold terrible secrets inside their hearts because of abuse they have suffered, and they have gone on to be good men, pillars of our community.

I remember the first time I saw my oldest son hold his first child, my granddaughter. I saw the same love and transformation that I had felt so long ago. He had grown into a good man, a loving man, a protective daddy. He had grown up with the capacity to love and give. I have never seen him raise his voice to his children or become impatient with them. They are his precious gifts, both the same: innocent and pure. I know that he is on the path to creating a good man and woman. All children deserve this kind of love.

*This issue is dedicated to all of our little boy victims.*



## A New Face and a Renewed Vision

The **Children's Advocacy Center** is proud to introduce our new Logo for the Center. The image represents a child waving a stream of ribbons, embodying the freedom one feels with healing. The child stands safely within the shelter of the Center but is emerging, strong and free again. It was critical to us that our Logo symbolize what the CAC stands for: hope, freedom from abuse, inner strength, and safety. The Center is not about suffering. It is about hope and healing. Our sincere thanks to **Carmine Petretto** of *Petretto Design* for creating this beautiful and profound image of our goal as a center and our wish for every child.

Our new Vision and Mission Statement also represent our renewed commitment to the children of this community and the acknowledgement that it is only through collaboration with other agencies that we protect the children. We are proud to share this with all of those who help us in this work and support the Center with their time, dollars and heart.

### Our Vision

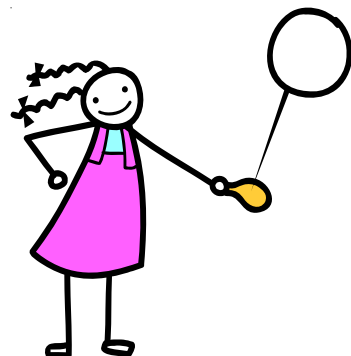
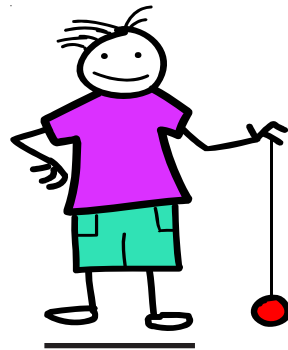
Communities where children are safe, families are strong, and our child victims become children again.

### Mission Statement

To meet the needs of children and families in our community by providing a community-based, child-focused center that facilitates a compassionate, multidisciplinary approach to the prevention, treatment, identification, investigation, and prosecution of child abuse.

### Three Basic Beliefs:

1. The intervention system must be sensitive to the needs of abused children and their families and meet their needs by respecting the uniqueness of each child and family
2. Child abuse is a community problem. No single agency, individual, or discipline alone has the necessary skills, knowledge or resources to provide the assistance needed by children and families that have been affected by abuse.
3. The combined wisdom and professional knowledge of multidisciplinary team members from child protective services, law enforcement, prosecution, adult and juvenile probation, medicine, public and mental health, schools and victim advocacy will result in a more complete understanding of case issues and help facilitate the most effective response possible.



## Above and Beyond Detective Stephanie Smith - Kid Helper

Anyone at a Multi-Disciplinary Team on Fridays, where 23 agencies come together to review all cases of reported child abuse, would notice Detective Stephanie Smith. First, this strikingly attractive detective, who has been working child abuse cases for 6 years for the Medford Police Department, is probably the one who is avidly advocating for her case to the team. Stephanie is a fighter and her dedication to our children can be witnessed anytime she has a case to present. She wants justice. She wants to protect the kids of our community. She says she loves children and does not see her job as a job, but rather *so much more*.

"I believe that if a little one has the courage to come forward and disclose abuse, there needs to be someone across the table that is willing listen." This empathy and passion drives Stephanie to work with other law enforcement agencies, the District Attorney, the CAC, DHS and others to put an end to hurting children and to hold those who cross the line accountable.

Stephanie is homegrown, born in the Rogue Valley where she attended Crater High School and graduated with a BS in Criminology from SOU. Stephanie has a beautiful, 11-year-old daughter, Shyonna, whom Stephanie adores and cannot speak of without smiling. Stephanie says that she has probably been "very protective of her daughter because of what she knows about child abuse, but isn't how we wish all parents would be? Being on the inside and working the issues of child abuse in our community give her a perspective that few have.

Stephanie coaches her daughter's soccer team and is very active in her church. Stephanie is a member of this community who gives back every single day and goes **above and beyond** her job description in ensuring that kids are safe – all kids.

When asked about cases that had boy victims, she said that "her worst case involved the sexual abuse of two boys and their sister. Fortunately, the perpetrator has been sent to prison, but "the damage done to those children is incomprehensible," says Smith. Stephanie Smith is a part of the solution in our fight for child abuse. We all owe her our respect and gratitude for being that person "across the table" to listen to our kids.



**Thank you, Detective Smith!**