

DECEMBER 2007



Child Abuse Assessment Center

A community response to the need for compassionate assessment, treatment and support of abused children and their families



Ray Broderick became Director of the Lane County, Oregon Child Advocacy Center in 1995 after spending nearly 20 years as a District Attorney's investigator with Lane County. He also spent 12 years with the Chicago Police Department, 4 of them as a special investigator for the Cook County, Illinois State Attorney's office.

The Spirit of Amber Moss

By Raymond Broderick for *The Register-Guard*, Published 7-15-07.

The following is excerpted from Mr. Broderick's story.

For the full story, please see the *Register-Guard* article.

Stephanie Amber Moss was born on May 16, 1984. She was on Earth for 23 years. During that time she died twice.

The first time she died, she was not yet 7 years old. On March 22, 1991, Philip Kephart, her father, beat her to death in the privacy of her house. The second time, on June 29, 2007, 23-year-old Amber Moss died in the privacy of a hospital room. Between her two deaths, life went on.

In 1991, as an investigator for the Lane County District Attorney's office, I was sent to Sacred Heart Medical Center to help investigate inconsistencies surrounding this child's injuries. At 5 a.m., while doctors were sawing out part of Stephanie's skull so they could relieve the pressure from the blood building in her brain, I sat in a quiet waiting room with Philip Kephart, Stephanie's father, and Lisa, her stepmother.

I knew from reading hospital reports that emergency doctors and nurses had cataloged marks, bruises and swelling that could never have been the result of the benign accident described by these parents. So I sat and listened calmly, sympathetically and gently as they talked about how Stephanie had tripped and fallen, and how she then convulsed and began to vomit. They described the concern they had and the care they took as they rushed her to the hospital.

I sensed by their exchange of furtive glances and their small misstatements and inconsistencies that these two were trying to explain everything without revealing anything. Later, when I met Stephanie's 9-year-old stepsister Amanda in the hospital lobby, I knew by her morose silence and downcast eyes that someone else had witnessed what had occurred. I knew also that this thin, trembling witness was not yet ready to talk. Too many strangers and too many unknowns stood between what she knew and what she could tell. As time went by, when the strangers were not as strange, she talked about what she saw and heard as Philip Kephart kicked, punched and choked her little sister. As time went by, she also explained why she had to talk about it.

But early that first morning, in the comfortable waiting room, I sat listening, first to Lisa, and then to Philip. The neurosurgeons finished their work. Stephanie was transferred to intensive care. Her body was alive, but the insult to her brain had been too great. Neurons died. Synapses ceased. Cerebral connections broke. The parts of her brain that produced smiles, or laughter, or tears, were gone. Her ability to walk - gone; to dance - gone; to speak - gone; her ability to communicate emotions other than pain - gone. The soul, the spirit that was Stephanie Moss died on March 22, 1991. The attending legal and medical professionals, who are often disheartened by tragedy and disillusioned by death, waited for Stephanie's body to die.

I do not know what God's version of resurrection looks like or how it works - but the day Stephanie Moss died, Amber Moss was born. During Stephanie's deathwatch, her grandmother, Barbara Moss, through sheer willpower, resurrected this child's soul and spirit and rechristened her Amber. Day by day, Barbara created a new name and a new life for her granddaughter.

Paul Barber
1924 — 2007

Mike Brott
1937 — 2007

Executive Director's Corner

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The Juliette's House Newsletter is published four times a year.

Please direct questions, comments, suggestions, to:

Juliette's House Child Abuse Assessment Center
1075 SW Cedarwood Avenue, McMinnville, OR 97128
Phone: 503-435-1550 / Fax: 503-435-1435
Email: julietteshouse@julietteshouse.com
Website: www.julietteshouse.com

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At the holiday season, I find myself looking toward the new year by reflecting on the year that is ending. It was a good year for Juliette's House. We celebrated 10 years of service to the community, having provided thousands of children with child abuse assessments, counseling and prevention workshops. We held successful awareness and fundraising events -- the Safe Kids Fair in April, the Family Fun Run & Walk in September, and our Thirteenth Annual Harvest Ball in November. We welcomed new friends and supporters.

We also experienced loss. First in February and then in October we said goodbye to two very fine gentlemen, Paul Barber and Mike Brott. Paul and Mike, each in their own unique way, had a tremendous impact on Juliette's House. They helped shape us, nurture us, give us direction. Their generosity, compassion and diligence will remain an example to all who were privileged to know them.

Where will the next year -- the next ten years -- lead us? Change has been a part of our past and will be part of our future. Change is inevitable, as is some conflict, but both can produce remarkable results. As the saying goes: without change there would be no butterflies. Our mission of providing a "community-wide response to the need for compassionate assessment, treatment and support of abused children" will guide us as we experience change, as will the commitment, creativity and caring of the Juliette's House Board and Staff. Our mission will endure.

With new and renewed support from the community, Juliette's House will continue to address the current and changing needs of abused children in our community. Lawyer, educator and activist Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund and first African American woman admitted to the Mississippi state bar said: "You really can change the world if you care enough." Thank you for caring! Happy Holiday wishes to you all!

Kathleen Coleman, Executive Director

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL HARVEST BALL

THANK YOU SPONSORS

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And Thanks To Everyone Who Was Part of Harvest Ball 2007

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Art Pohl
Barry & Jeanette House
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White Cloud Massage & Yoga Studio
William & Judith Reid
Yamhill County Foot Health Center
Youngberg Hill Vineyards & Inn
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Zoe Pearson

Safe Kids Program Facilitators Needed

If you want to work with children and help prevent child abuse, consider becoming a facilitator for the Juliette's House Safe Kids Program. Facilitators are trained to work in teams conducting scripted discussion in the classroom about bullying, abduction, and inappropriate touch. Guided discussion and role-playing are used to help demonstrate the safety messages by showing common mistakes in dangerous situations, followed by appropriate approaches to potential danger.

This is a part-time position, four hours a day for four days a week during the school year. If you can memorize material and make a commitment to part-time work during the school year, you can get more information about becoming a Safe Kids Program facilitator from Pam Canaday at 503-435-1550 ext. 111 / safekids@julietteshouse.com. Must pass a fingerprint and background check and otherwise meet Juliette's House employment requirements

In Memoriam *Michael Brott* *1937 – 2007*

Juliette's House has lost another of its founding members. Mike Brott was involved in the creation of Juliette's House, and instrumental in starting our **Safe Kids Program**. This important abuse prevention and intervention education program has presented its safety messages to many thousands of children through the years. It is Mike's legacy to Juliette's House, yet only part of his legacy to children. He was a kind, unassuming man who was dedicated to education and improving children's lives.

Mike's family has planted a beautiful ornamental cherry tree at Juliette's House in his memory and in recognition of his lifetime commitment to children and love of gardening. When it blooms each spring, it will make us think of Mike and all he did for Juliette's House and the children and families we serve. We will miss you, Mike.



Our Wish List...

- ✓ Individually Packaged Juice Bags or Boxes, Raisins, String Cheese, Fruit & Applesauce Cups, Yogurt, Pudding Cups, Granola Bars, Popcorn, Graham Crackers, Etc.
- ✓ White Multipurpose 2" x 4" labels for the Safe Kids Program
- ✓ Photography Enthusiasts to Take Pictures During Our Special Events
- ✓ Groups to Help Us Put the Newsletter Together Each Quarter
- ✓ DVD Jewel Cases for our Interview DVDs
- ✓ Videotape Movies Suitable for Older Kids and Teens
- ✓ Hand-held Video Games for Older Kids and Teens
- ✓ Larger New (or Very Gently Used) Stuffed Animals
- ✓ DVD Player (Lately We Are Getting Donations of DVDs for the Kids)
- ✓ Powder Dishwasher & Laundry Soap, Spray Air Fresheners
- ✓ Paper Towels, Big Rolls of Toilet Paper (eg, Charmin Ultra or Kirkland)
- ✓ Postage Stamps, Reams of 20 lb paper (white or pastels)
- ✓ In-Kind Donations of Services or Products (eg, printing, painting, repairs)



THANKS

To Everyone Who Participated In Our 2007 Family Fun Run and Walk
with Providence Newberg Medical Center



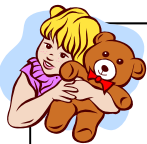
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Dave's Auto Body
Farmer John's Produce
Hopscotch Toys & Games
JoAnn Fabric
Newberg Dance Center
Serendipity Ice Cream

And All Who Volunteered, Participated and Otherwise Made it Possible



St. Barnabas Episcopal Church "Blessing of the Plush Toys"

On October 7, 2007, the Rev. Dr. Kathleen Galvin of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church gave a special "Blessing of the Plush Animals" at each service that Sunday to toys given by the congregation for donation to Juliette's House. Children participated in this special event by donating the toys, distributing them to everyone at the services to hold during the blessing, and then collecting the blessed animals for Juliette's House.

Each child who comes to Juliette's House for assessment gets a stuffed toy or a quilt to take home. Donated toys and handmade lap quilts help us offer comfort to the children who come to us. Our thanks to St. Barnabas for this special event, and to all the different groups and individuals who donate toys and quilts for us to give to children.

Spirit Mountain Community Fund Gift

On October 13, 2007 at Spirit Mountain Community Fund's Tenth Anniversary Open House, Juliette's House was selected to receive a \$5,000 Special Grantee Award. Each of the Fund's Trustees chose a charity to receive a special award. The Spirit Mountain Community Fund has made grants to so many worthy organizations throughout the past ten years, we are truly honored to be one of the ten selected non-profits to receive special recognition by the Fund.

We will apply this gift to our Safe Kids Program so that it goes directly to helping children.

Thank you, Spirit Mountain Community Fund, for this Special Grantee Award and for ten years of generous giving to Oregon communities.

This was not the first time Barbara had fought for her granddaughter. Stephanie Amber was the child of Barbara's daughter Jaylyne and Philip Kephart. They had not been married, but paternity had been established and Philip was ordered to pay child support. Unfortunately for Amber, Jaylyne had substance abuse problems at a time when Philip had cash flow problems. So, when Jaylyne flunked a drug test, Philip, who was in arrears on his child support, had sudden paternal stirrings and petitioned for custody of Stephanie. Barbara also asked for custody, but it was determined that Philip had superior parental rights. Her claim was denied.

To say that Amber's new life was a triumph of mind over matter is to ignore the circumstances of her daily existence for the next 16 years. Amber lived in a rehabilitation center with other brain-injured children. It is a superior facility with a competent and caring staff, but she was a severely injured child. Her physical routine was punctuated with feeding tubes, medications and waste management. Her body convulsed and contorted whenever neurological storms rolled through her brain. Her limbs were twisted and disabled. A metal rod had to be implanted in her back to try to keep her spine from curving too drastically. She could not walk or sit up unassisted. Whenever she left her bed she had to be pushed, pulled and propelled by others. She could not talk, write or communicate in any discernible way to a casual visitor.

A critic might be tempted to say that this is not the stuff of life. Any such assertions were challenged and rejected by Barbara. She truly believes that Amber not only understood people but she communicated with them as well. Cynics or skeptics had no place in Barbara's life with Amber.

After Amber left Sacred Heart Medical Center and went to the rehabilitation center, and after her father pled guilty and was sentenced to jail for 50 years, and after Philip and Lisa's other children were taken into state custody, I went to visit Amber. I went with trepidation. And I went with guilt. Guilt because in those first days, I was confident, as only the educated ignorant can be, that she was going to die. Knowing that she was going to die, I went to the intensive care unit with a video camera. I wanted to record what in effect could be considered a silent "dying declaration." I did not want a defense attorney to later characterize this little girl's final days as some benign comatose slip into afterlife. I did not want a jury to ever think that after the beating, death came easily. And so I walked through the gate and into the rehabilitation center courtyard, and I paused. A few months had gone by. What could I expect? Why was I even here?

The answers to my questions emerged during the intervening years, and are emerging slowly still. My first question was answered quickly and simply: Expect the unexpected. When I was led to Amber's room that first time, I saw a small child whose hair was growing back over the scars. Stuffed bears and dolls surrounded her. Pictures of the swimming, laughing, running child Amber had been were posted on a bulletin board mixed with greeting cards and letters. She had on a pink child's nightshirt, and music played in the room.

Her eyes, which had so affected me before, were unfocused, a result of the brain damage. Try as she might, she was not able to keep her eyes from drifting right to left and back again. I moved in front of her face and sat in a chair. I touched her hand, gently rubbing her fingers, and then I picked up a children's book and read to her. I was still unsure why I came, but I was sure that coming was the right thing.

Barbara, as Amber's truest guardian, recently faced her most severe test. This woman who resurrected the soul and spirit of Amber Moss felt compelled yet conflicted as to how to act on Amber's behalf. Complications arising out the harm done to Amber 16 years ago compromised her body beyond any hope of rescue. The degenerative cycle of internal weakening and organ malfunctions finally led to her death. Barbara's final effort on behalf of Amber was to ensure that she died as painlessly as possible.

Since that time more than a decade ago, other crimes have occurred. Other children have been brutalized. Other so-called parents have murdered their young. Our civilized society has continued to be most uncivil. In moments when I become depressed over human actions or inactions, including my own, when I feel overwhelmed by the number of evil deeds done to children, when frustration and anger rages inside of me, I focus on Amber. For me, her survival offers a mystery that defies logic. Her existence expands my meaning of life. Her lopsided grin underwrites my faith in the resiliency of children. Her death kindles in me a hope that Amber Moss is given a joyful new life, whatever form that life may take.

Amber Moss, a little girl who lived in a big girl's body, was buried in a blue casket, on a green slope, amid tall firs and granite headstones. After the service, as family and friends walked down the hill, the fading notes and words of an Appalachian hymn that told of redemption and happiness played in the background. My hope is that Amber, who knew too little of either in this life, might find some in her next.

Each of us knew a part of her story. The truth is that the whole of her life is much greater than the sum of its parts. In every child who is abused we can find Amber Moss. In every child who is saved we can find Amber Moss.

**Many Thanks, Contributors. Your generosity truly makes a difference for abused children.
August 24, 2007 — November 27, 2007**

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 Debra Markham, District Attorney's Office
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 Judge Cal Tichenor

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 Carole Joa, Laundry
 Nancy Larsen, Transcription
 McMinnville Covenant Church
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Family Support Team Interns 2007-2008

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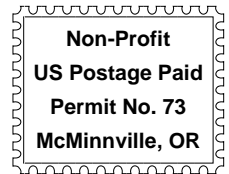
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Juliette's House
Child Abuse Assessment Center
1075 SW Cedarwood Avenue
McMinnville, Oregon 97128



RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

December 2007 — In This Issue...

The Spirit of Amber Moss

Safe Kids Facilitators Needed

We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences we cannot foresee.

Marian Wright Edelman