



# CALICO Center



Spring 2006 / Volume 9

**Child Abuse, Listening, Interviewing and Coordination Center**

## CALICO Expands!

### Serving New Clients in New Spaces



*CALICO's Corner at the Family Justice Center*



*Family Justice Center*

### **CALICO Opens a**

**Second Site.** In October 2005, CALICO began serving children and families from two offices – at our main site in San Leandro and at our new satellite facility at the Alameda County Family Justice Center (FJC) in downtown Oakland. “CALICO Corner” at FJC comprises four brightly painted rooms, including an observation room with state-of-the-art digital recording equipment and a comfortable interviewing room for children of all ages. Since opening our doors in the fall, we have served over fifty

children and families, and we expect that number to increase quickly.

CALICO is delighted to be one of the dozens of non-profit and government agencies collaborating at FJC to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and/or elder abuse and their families. With staff from many agencies co-located under one roof, a family can learn about and receive a range of services without leaving the building. Other on-site partners include the Family Violence Law Center, Bay Area Women Against Rape, Children’s Hospital of Oakland, D.O.V.E.S. Project, Deaf Hope, The Link to Children, the District Attorney’s Office and the Oakland Police Department’s Special Victim’s Unit. Each agency provides specialized services that include help with restraining and protective orders, legal assistance with divorce and custody matters, court accompaniment, shelter referrals, individual and group counseling, interfaith spiritual counseling, emergency food and clothing, and immigration assistance. While parents or guardians meet with one of the on-site agencies, their children can be supervised at the “Kidzone,” a spacious colorful play area full of toys, puzzles, books and games.

Being close neighbors to so

many partnering agencies has been invaluable to CALICO clients. In a recent example, a therapist from The Link to Children was able to provide support for an emotional parent while her five-year old was being interviewed. After the interview, the child played in the Kidzone while the same parent received help seeking an order of protection from the Family Violence Law Center. All needed services in one place; all services provided in the same day.

The Family Justice Center is located at 470 27th Street in Oakland (between Telegraph and Broadway) and is open from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The phone number is (510) 267-8800 and the website is [www.acfjc.org](http://www.acfjc.org). All services are free.

### **CALICO Responds to All Abused Children.**

*Think of a happy, healthy fifteen year-old girl that you know – maybe your daughter or niece. Think of her life attending school, playing sports, hanging out with friends and going to parties. Now think of a fifteen year-old who is sexually exploited. What does her life look like?*

This question is at the forefront of the work of the Alameda County Sexually Exploited Minors (SEM) Network, an Oakland-based collaborative comprised of non-profit, city and county agencies, including CALICO, working together to protect youth who are exploited by others (usually adults) for

*continued on page 2*

## Welcome Vicky Gwiasda, CALICO's New Executive Director

**Welcome Vicky!** CALICO welcomes our new Executive Director, Vicky Gwiasda, who hit the ground running in early December. Vicky holds a Masters in City Planning from Rutgers University and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Urban Studies from Northwestern University. She comes to CALICO with an impressive background in violence prevention – formerly the Director of Knowledge Enhancement for the Washington DC-based Institute for Community Peace (from August 2002), and prior to that, Deputy Director and Director of Planning and Research for the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority (March 1997 – June 2002). Vicky believes strongly in the multi-disciplinary, child/family-

focused model CALICO uses to investigate and respond to child abuse. She brings to the executive position a passion for alleviating causes and consequences of sexual and physical violence and a breadth of related administrative and programmatic skills. To learn more about Vicky, be sure to read her letter, “**Building on Strength.**” on page 4.



*Vicky Gwiasda*

## CALICO Community Corner

### Blue Ribbon Month

In 1989 Bonnie Finney's grandson was killed as a result of child abuse. Bonnie tied a blue ribbon to the antenna of her car as a way to honor her grandson and to increase awareness of child abuse. Since then, millions of people across the country have observed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Please help raise awareness by wearing a blue ribbon in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.



### Local Eagle Scout

Thanks to Eagle Scout Eric Kim, CALICO is "blooming." With the help of Boy Scout Troop #11 of the Alameda Council, Eric designed and built large, red-wood planter boxes and filled them with colorful flowering plants. The planter boxes certainly liven up the front of CALICO! Eric built the boxes as part of his community work needed to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout. We are happy that Eric chose CALICO....



*Troop #11 at work*

### Bravo, Janet and Vila Cereja Restaurant!

On June 22, 2005, we held our second fundraiser at Jake's newly renovated and renamed Vila Cereja restaurant in San Leandro. Just as the year before, we could not have done it without Janet Koszewski. Her energy, enthusiasm and commitment were inspiring. So thank you to our generous supporters and to Janet for her tireless work on our behalf. A special thanks to Jake and Musa Francisco for hosting our event and providing a warm welcoming atmosphere for our guests.



*Ginni Ring and Janet Koszewski*

### STAROTECH: A New Look for CALICO

If you haven't yet, check out our new and improved website ([www.calicocenter.org](http://www.calicocenter.org)) provided to us by Joyce Starosciak of STAROTECH. We would like to thank Joyce for all the creative thought, patience, and many donated hours she put into the project. Now people can learn more about CALICO and the ways in which they can help out at the click of a mouse. Thanks again Joyce!



*Joyce Starosciak*

## CALICO Expands! Continued from page 1

sexual gratification and/or financial gain. Sexual exploitation can take many forms, including prostitution, rape, and pornography. One only needs to walk Oakland's International Boulevard between Fruitvale Avenue and High Street in the evening to see sexually exploited minors – child prostitutes – forced to "walk" the street. The Network aims to recognize every one of these exploited youth as a victim and respond accordingly.

The SEM Provider Network is committed to providing specialized services, advocacy, ongoing education and awareness to support adolescent victims of sexual exploitation. We work together to share information, develop inter-agency policies and protocols, and discuss viable placement options when needed (since many exploited children are or will be part of the dependency or juvenile justice

system). At CALICO, we train interviewers to understand the dynamics of sexual exploitation and to sensitively and effectively talk to sexually exploited youth who require forensic interviews. The Network's current priority is to launch two main initiatives: one, the Safe Place Alternative (SPA), a comprehensive intake and assessment center; and two, a Safe House, or group-home placement with specialized services for sexually exploited minors.

The SEM Provider Network is hosting its first conference, "Understanding, Reaching and Supporting Sexually Exploited Minors," in Oakland on Wednesday, April 26th and Thursday, April 27th. For information, please call Zandra Washington, Interagency Children's Policy Council, (510) 618-3458.

### **SEM Provider Network**

Alameda County Board of Supervisor  
Alice Lai-Bitker  
Alameda County District Attorney's Office  
Alameda County Interagency Children's Policy Council  
Alameda County Probation Department  
Alameda County Social Service Agency  
Asian Health Services/Benteay Srei  
CALICO  
CAL-PEP  
City of Oakland Council Member Jean Quan  
Dream Catcher Youth Shelter  
George P. Scotlan Youth & Family Center  
Oakland Police Department, Special Victims Unit & C-CARE Program  
UC Cooperative Extension/4-H Youth Leadership Program  
Young Women United for Oakland

## 8th Annual Collaborative Training...I Spy'd...

Our 2005 multi-disciplinary collaborative training theme was "I Spy: Seeing Past the Obvious." The 8<sup>th</sup> annual county training brought together over 100 professionals to learn, network, discuss and have fun.

Our Keynote Speaker was **David Love, MFT**, Director of Valley Community Counseling Services. Mr. Love's presentation titled, "From Victim to Perpetrator: Breaking the Cycle in Abused Children," gave an enlightening overview of sexually aggressive youth, discussing why some young people become adult sex offenders and the intensive intervention necessary to divert them from that path. Mr. Love discussed factors contributing to young people becoming sex offenders, such as issues with power, control and anger, family factors, social skills and relationship issues and models for successful intervention. As Mr. Love stated, "Understanding some possible contributing factors for juvenile offenders is imperative. That way we will better understand their possible motives and also have better knowledge for possible treatment."

We had a number of other informative guest speakers this year:

**Superintendent of Juvenile Hall, Ron Johnson**, shared detailed plans about the innovative, state-of-the-art Alameda County Juvenile Justice Complex at 2200 Fairmont Drive, scheduled for completion in January of 2007.

**Michelle Love, Program Manager** in the Department of Children and Family Services of Alameda County, spoke about Team Decision Making (TDM), one component of the Family to Family philosophy adopted by the department in 2003 to transform child welfare. TDM provides an opportunity for families and the community to participate in placement decisions and builds a more trusting and cooperative relationship between social services and the family. To date, over 900 TDM meetings have taken place in Alameda County and the outcomes have been encouraging. When a TDM results in a decision to remove a child from his/her home, in 40 percent of the cases that child is now placed in the custody of a relative.

**Kathy Moore, Coordinator**, Family Justice Center, publicized the grand opening of the Family Justice Center (FJC) and the services partnering agencies provide to victims of violence and their families. See our cover story, "CALICO Opens a Second Site," for more details on FJC.

**Norbert Chu, Deputy District Attorney**, discussed the challenges of working with parents who aren't directly hurting their children but may have failed to protect them from an abuser. He highlighted guidelines for when it is appropriate to charge the non-offending parent with a crime.

During the training CALICO raffled off wonderful prizes and gift baskets donated by many generous individuals, programs and agencies. Thanks to all those who contributed to this year's collaborative training.

**We look forward to seeing you at our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Training in fall 2006.**

## Our Mission Statement

***CALICO Center provides a supportive environment to interview children and facilitate a collaborative response to child abuse in which the needs of the children take precedence.***

**Conducting Community Outreach.** CALICO facilitates informational sessions with community and civic organizations to provide information about child abuse and CALICO services.

We achieve our mission through the following:

**Forensic Interviewing.** CALICO interviews approximately 600 children (ages 2-17) and developmentally delayed adults annually who were sexually abused, physically hurt, neglected, exploited as prostitutes, and/or exposed to violence in their homes and communities.

**Coordinating Multidisciplinary Child Abuse Investigations and Responses.** CALICO brings together law enforcement officers, social workers, prosecutors, mental health workers and medical staff to observe interviews, share information, and coordinate an appropriate response to child abuse.

**Providing Family Support.** CALICO provides information and referrals, on-site crisis intervention, and follow-up support to all parents and guardians accompanying a child for services.

**Facilitating Training.** CALICO hosts an annual collaborative training at which over one-hundred professionals attend to increase their skills in child abuse investigation, response and treatment.

### ~Team Highlight~ Bon Voyage, Neal!

On December 15, 2005, many attended the Retirement Party for Neal Snyder, Chair of CALICO Center's Program Advisory Committee. Among his long list of accomplishments and achievements, Neal helped envision and create CALICO Center. Since 1999, Neal sat on the Program Advisory Committee overseeing the development and implementation of program policies and procedures. After over 20 years of dedication to protecting children, during his retirement, Neal will have time to pursue his love of travel, music, spending time with family and friends, reading, playing sports, photography and sleeping.



*Neal Snyder*

## Building on Strength

By Vicky Gwiasda, Executive Director



I am delighted to have joined CALICO this past December after years of directing grant, research and training programs for state and national violence prevention agencies. In my previous work, I supported diverse communities across the country, helping each bring together the community partners, financial resources and technical know-how necessary to successfully confront their unique violence problems. Working on the larger, regional level, I learned a great deal about what community agencies need to foster and sustain successful programs long-term. As much as I enjoyed those experiences, I have long missed working more closely with the children and families local programs were designed to serve.

I embraced the opportunity to lead CALICO for much the same reason that you support our agency – because of its daily, positive impact on the lives of innocent girls, boys and families in the East Bay. At CALICO, I have the pleasure of knowing that every hour worked and dollar raised provide young victims of abuse with a caring environment in which their voices are heard and where law enforcement, social workers, prosecutors, medical staff and other community partners work together to take appropriate action to stop violence and allow healing to begin.

In my first months on the job, I have been impressed by the professionalism and strength of the agency, attentively built by my predecessor Ginni Ring. I have admired the competence and concern of our dedicated team of interviewers as they sensitively listen to children tell their stories. I have valued the diligence and dedication of the administrative staff, directors, and agency partners who each make vital contributions to CALICO's success. And most importantly, I am appreciative of the generosity of hundreds of individuals and dozens of corporations, foundations and agencies that have supported our work in myriad ways.

Over the last year, our committed team has pushed CALICO in important new directions:

- ◆ We opened a second interviewing facility with state-of-the-art DVD technology at the Alameda County Family Justice Center in Oakland, a one-stop center for victims of family violence;
- ◆ We were awarded full accredited membership from the National Children's Alliance, recognizing our high standards and proven record of multidisciplinary investigation and treatment in suspected cases of child abuse;
- ◆ We initiated a new Family Resource Program to provide comprehensive support to children and families after an

on-site interview and helping them connect more effectively with a range of therapeutic, medical and legal services in the community; and

- ◆ To better serve our clients and families, we extended interviewing hours into the evening.

In the next year, I will continue to strengthen our partnerships and build new ones between CALICO and other community-based organizations, civic institutions, corporations, funders and governmental agencies. Together we will develop a strategic plan for the agency to increase our long-term financial stability, enhance our program's responsiveness to the needs of children and families at the center and after they leave the center, and support prevention of violence so that we can decrease the number of children suffering from abuse.

Let me take this opportunity to thank everyone in the extended CALICO community for their support and to assure you that I will be tireless in my efforts to make ours the most forward-looking child advocacy center in the nation. Our children deserve no less.

Best wishes for a healthy and peaceful 2006.

## Ginni Ring Passing the Torch

We would like to take this opportunity to say farewell, Good Luck and *Thank You* to former Executive Director Ginni Ring. Ginni was the Executive Director for CALICO for the past 7 years, and through her leadership and commitment CALICO thrived and grew. Ginni's energy, enthusiasm, and compassion inspired all who worked

with her. Because of her guidance and unyielding vision, CALICO weathered storms and emerged stronger and more determined. Although Ginni has moved on, she is not far. She recently accepted a position with the YMCA as their new Director of Philanthropy Advancement. We wish her much happiness and success. -CALICO Staff



## ~Many Thanks To Our Generous 2005 Supporters~

### Supporting Individuals:

Patricia A. Aguilera, *in memory of Kathleen Slavsk and Marcia Olguin*  
 Sue Alexander  
 Donna Allen  
 Dale Amaral  
 Margo & Hon. Carl West Anderson  
 William B. Andrade  
 Ann Aprile  
 Doris Arada  
 Linda Avila  
 Angela C. Backers, *in memory of Ann Moyer Silva*  
 Charles Badger  
 Mennecke Badger  
 Sharla Badger  
 Lynette Baird  
 Laura Baker, *in honor of Ginni Ring*  
 Peter Ballew  
 Lois Brown  
 Robert & Theresa Stetson Burke  
 Stephen P. Chambers  
 Jill Chambers  
 Dolores Capilla  
 Steven Chester  
 Tera Chettle  
 Sara Cleveland  
 Frank Cole  
 Mary Jo Cook  
 Jo Ann Cornelius  
 Larry Crew  
 Carol Cromwell  
 Hon. Beverly Daniels-Greenberg  
 Allison Danzig  
 Dick & Bev Davis  
 Mary Jane de Luchi  
 Dennis DeDora  
 Tara Desautels  
 Armida Dixon  
 Robert & Sharon Doggett  
 Dan Donovan  
 Lee Ann & Hon. Leo Dorado  
 William & Marion Edwards  
 Diana Estrin  
 Kathleen Famulener  
 Claudia Flores  
 Joe & Jackie Flynn  
 Alan Foster  
 Cleo Foster  
 Lisa Foster  
 Jake & Musa Francisco  
 Rick & Patricia Freddie  
 Susan Gildea  
 Eldridge Ginny  
 Ramiro Godinez  
 Dave Gonzalez  
 Patty & Hon. Larry Goodman  
 Sharmila Grant  
 Surlene G. Grant  
 Erik Gulseth  
 Kevin & Susan Hart  
 Angela Hawk  
 Melinda Hayes  
 Adele Heinz  
 Kevin Held  
 Marcia Hodges  
 Timothy Hodges  
 Greg Hoff  
 Stephen L. Hollister  
 Susan Hollister  
 Alicia Howard

Connie Hubbard  
 Rubin Huerta  
 Kim Hunter  
 Jennifer Jackson  
 Donna Jay  
 John Jermanis  
 Bonnie Johnson  
 Bradley D. Kearns  
 Charlene Keilough  
 Winnie Kelley, *in memory of John Francisco*  
 James Kelly  
 Sandra Kido  
 Amy Kieffer  
 Yoko King  
 Darlene Kittredge  
 Robert Knapp  
 Carolyn Knapp  
 Richard Knowles  
 James E. Knudsen  
 Harold & Toshie Koszewski, *in memory of John Francisco*  
 Janet Koszewski  
 Melissa Krum  
 Richard & Cece Langs  
 Kay Lantow  
 Nancy LaRose  
 Christopher Lehman  
 Lisa Lehman  
 Michael LeVien  
 David Lewis  
 Sgt. John Liu  
 Noli Lockhart  
 Jack E. Logan  
 Suzette Logan  
 Kathy Lopes  
 Lesli MacNeil, *in honor of Mary Jane de Luchi, Dona Olsen, and the Steering Committee of the Department of Child Support Services*  
 Bonnie & Herbert Mager  
 Janice Larson & Nancy Mancini  
 Steven Manning  
 Sherri Marchetti  
 K. T. Martin  
 Eric Masamori  
 Eileen T. McAndrew  
 Nancy McCormick  
 Michele McDaniel  
 Leslie McNeil  
 Rebecca Medrano  
 William Melton  
 Peter & Jean Meredith  
 Karen Meredith  
 Carolyn R. Mettelmann  
 Dean & Jodi Montevago  
 Victor & Carma Morris  
 Laurinda & Rick Ochoa  
 Michael O'Connor  
 Robin & Arthur Olivier  
 Nancy O'Malley, *in honor of the Family Justice Center*  
 Thomas Orloff  
 Monica R. Ortega  
 Dawn & Frank Ortiz  
 Amparo Ozuna  
 Paul Peng  
 Donna Peterson  
 Denise Phoenix  
 Sheriff Charles Plummer  
 Pam & Paul Polione

Paula Poremba  
 John & Margie Porter  
 Tim & Abby Quirk  
 Catharine J. Ralph  
 Nancy Ramos  
 Larry Ratto  
 Howard Reagin  
 Donna & Dale Reed  
 Debborah Reid  
 Ginni Ring  
 Marcia Ritz  
 Brenda Ropoulos  
 Aldina Rose  
 Earl Rupp  
 Linda Sanderson  
 Kevin Scanlon  
 Kathleen Schapel  
 Carol M. Schilling  
 Wendy Shipnuck  
 Neal Snyder  
 Jim & Teri Sonksen  
 Anthony R. Souza, Jr.  
 Hon. Julia Spain  
 Constance Stephens  
 Yunsian Tai  
 Marcy Takeuchi  
 Eileen Tarrell  
 Tracey Taylor  
 Mary Teich  
 Adan Tejada  
 Kim Tejada  
 Ronda M. Theisen  
 Barbara Tierney  
 John Tobin  
 Antoinette M. Toy  
 Owen P. Toy  
 Elizabeth Tuck  
 Chief Wayne & Jacqueline Tucker  
 Justin M. Urbano  
 Richard Van Doren  
 Margaret Walker  
 Janet Weaver  
 Tasia Wiggins  
 Jim Willers, *in honor of Janet Koszewski*  
 John B. Williamson, DDS  
 David Wilson  
 Jill Wilson  
 Eugene Yoon  
 Mayor Shelia Young  
 All Anonymous Donors

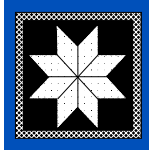
**Foundations/Grants:**  
 Blue Shield of California Foundation  
 Children's Support League of the East Bay  
 Eden Township Healthcare District  
 Greater Bay Bancorp Foundation  
 Hedge Funds Care  
 In-N-Out Burger Foundation  
 Thomas J. Long Foundation  
 National Children's Alliance  
 Target Foundation  
 Bernard and Alba Witkin Charitable Trust  
 Y&H Soda Foundation

**Government:**  
 Alameda County District Attorney's Office  
 Alameda County Sheriff's Office

Alameda County Social Services Department  
 Alameda Police Department  
 Albany Police Department  
 BART Police Department  
 Berkeley Police Department  
 California Highway Patrol  
 City of San Leandro  
 Dublin Police Department  
 East Bay Regional Parks  
 Emeryville Police Department  
 Fremont Police Department  
 Hayward Police Department  
 Livermore Police Department  
 Marina Community Center, Sid Schoenfeld and Carl Basuino  
 Newark Police Department  
 Oakland Police Department  
 Piedmont Police Department  
 Pleasanton Police Department  
 San Leandro Chamber of Commerce  
 San Leandro City Hall  
 San Leandro Mayor's Community Fund  
 UC Berkeley Police Department  
 Union City Police Department

### Organizations/Businesses:

Alameda Police Officers Association  
 Albany Peace Officers Association  
 Albertson's  
 Bay Area Contract Carpets, Inc., Kerry Plain and Miriam Ramsey  
 Blankets for Kids, Jo Molz  
 Davini & Jones, Pat Souza  
 Fremont Police Association  
 Good News Bears, Beth Medeiro  
 Hayward Police Officers Association  
 Hayward/Castro Valley Kiwanis Club  
 Inner Wheel Club of San Leandro  
 Miraglia Catering & Event Planning  
 Native Daughters of the Golden West, Deputies of District 20  
 Newark Police Association  
 Ortiz Construction, Inc.  
 Plankenhorn & Nolan, Steven E. Nolan  
 Pleasanton Police Officers Association  
 RealNetworks Foundation  
 Royal Neighbors of America  
 San Leandro Garden Club  
 San Leandro Kiwanis Club  
 San Leandro Police Officers Association  
 StarOTech, Joyce Starosciak  
 Tiger Trading Corp. Int.  
 Touchstone Television Productions, LLC  
 Trader Joe's - Castro Valley  
 Union City Police Officers Association  
 UPEC Council #1  
 Vila Cereja Restaurant  
 White & Landis



## **CALICO Center**

Child Abuse Listening, Interviewing and  
Coordination Center

524 Estudillo Avenue  
San Leandro, California 94577  
Phone: (510) 895-0702  
Fax: (510) 895-0706  
Email: calicocenter@yahoo.com

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
San Leandro, CA  
Permit No. 43

**We're on the Web**  
**[www.calicocenter.org](http://www.calicocenter.org)**

### **CALICO Board of Directors**

Paul Peng, President  
Earl W. Rupp, Vice President  
Richard Langs, Secretary/Treasurer  
Tara Desautels  
David Lewis  
Eric G. Masamori  
Victor L. Morris  
Margaret Walker

### **CALICO Staff**

Victoria Gwiasda, Executive Director  
Karen Meredith, Sr. Deputy District Attorney  
Marcia Kerwit, Office Manager  
Elena Arnstein, Office Manager  
Kristy Brodeur Dermody, Child Interview Specialist  
Vivica Hall, Child Interview Specialist  
Catherine Jamison, Child Interview Specialist  
Bertha Nevarez, Child Interview Specialist  
Amparo Ozuna, Child Interview Specialist  
Valerie Mayweather, Bookkeeper

### **Ways You Can Support CALICO**

**Contribute to CALICO.** Donate money, your car, vehicle or boat, or items off our wish list. Make your donations go further through corporate matching gifts.

**Invite CALICO to Your Community.** Invite a representative to talk about child abuse and CALICO services at your civic group, school, social club, place of employment, or religious organization.

**Host a House Party.** Gather your friends and family for a social hour to learn more about CALICO and/or raise funds on our behalf.

**Volunteer at CALICO.** Put your unique skills to work at CALICO by offering help with building maintenance, office work, communications materials, fundraising or whatever you do best.

**Tell Others About CALICO.** Spread the word by sharing our newsletter and website.

### **Wish List**

- Blank DVDs and audio cassette tapes
- Desk and conference room chairs
- LCD projector
- Office paper (white and various colors)
- Pro bono newsletter and brochure services
- Storage space and/or a storage shed
- Toner cartridges (for HP printers)

