



CALICO

Child Abuse Listening, Interviewing and Coordination Center

Announcements

SAVE THE DATE: CALICO's 5th Annual One Child at a Time Benefit

Saturday, October 18, 2008, 6-9 p.m.

Periscope Cellars, 1410 62nd Street, Emeryville

Come mix and mingle over great wine, contemporary art, food and music. Tickets for the event are \$50 in advance or \$75 at the door. Proceeds from the event directly benefit CALICO's services for abused children. For additional information, please visit www.calico-center.org.



The [Center for Child Protection](#) at Children's Hospital and Research Center of Oakland is accepting applications for its third annual CCP (Creating Confident People) Camp, June 23-27, 2008, for children ages 6-12. The one-week program includes gardening, expressive art, confidence-building, parent support and most of all... FUN! Registration ends June 2nd. For more information, call 510-428-3742.

TO LAW ENFORCEMENT: If you are interested in attending the Alameda County District Attorney's Sexual Assault Investigator's Task Force, please contact susan.torrence@acgov.org to be added to the e-mailing list.

Victims' Rights Week is April 13th-19th. The 2008 theme is "Justice for Victims, Justice for All." Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week serves as a time for national remembrance, to build public awareness about the challenges crime victims face, and to celebrate the hard-won progress in victims' rights and services.



Join the Tools 4 School Effort. Tools 4 School provides over 1,000 children each year with free supply-filled backpacks. This year CALICO has joined the effort and will provide resources in the backpacks to help children stay safe. You can help too! Consider hosting a donation barrel in your office to collect supplies or sponsoring a school-supply item. For more information contact calico-center@yahoo.com.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Every day, CALICO aids children who have been sexually abused or exploited, physically hurt, neglected and who have witnessed violence. We also work increasingly with children and adults in an effort to stop harm to children before it happens. This two-pronged effort—connecting abused children with services and educating kids and adults so that abuse is less likely to occur—is essential to stop child abuse.

During Child Abuse Prevention Month (April), CALICO and our partners draw attention to the roles we all play in protecting children. For valuable prevention tips, see the enclosed article, "Don't Wait: Everyday Actions to Keep Kids Safe."



Also, in April, join us and others across the country in wearing a blue ribbon in memory of those who have died as a result of child abuse. The Blue Ribbon Campaign to Prevent Child Abuse started when a Virginia grandmother tied a blue ribbon to the antenna of her car to honor and remember her grandson who died at the hands of his abuser.

Every month, CALICO offers free trainings to professionals and community groups. If you would like to schedule a speaker on topics such as what one can do to prevent child abuse, identifying young victims, and/or reporting child abuse (including legal responsibilities of mandated reporters), please contact calico-center@yahoo.com.

Don't Wait: Everyday Actions to Keep Kids Safe

The most effective prevention happens before a child is harmed. Kids are immediately safer when adults take the time to get accurate information about sexual abuse and the behaviors that suggest a problem; when adults make a commitment to share such information and speak up as soon as they have a concern—rather than waiting for certain evidence of harm—children will be better protected. Here are some things that you and your adult family members can do to protect kids from sexual abuse:



Take Responsibility

- **Show in your own life how to say “no.”** Teach your children that their “no” will be respected, whether it’s uttered to stop playing, tickling, hugging or kissing. For instance, if your child does not want to give Grandma a kiss, let the child shake hands instead. And, make sure Grandma understands why this is important for the safety of the child.
- **Set and respect family boundaries.** All members of the family have rights to privacy in dressing, bathing, sleeping, and other personal activities. If anyone does not respect these rights, an adult should clearly tell them the family rules.
- **Speak up when you see any inappropriate behaviors.** Interrupt and talk with anyone who engages in behavior that strikes you as inappropriate; if you feel uncomfortable doing so, make an effort to communicate your concerns to someone in a position to intervene. They might need help to stop these behaviors.
- **Report anything you know or suspect might be sexual abuse.** If nobody speaks up, the abuse will continue.

Learn, Teach, and Practice

- **Practice talking with other adults about difficult topics.** Say the words out loud so that you become more comfortable using the words, asking questions, and confronting behaviors.
- **Practice talking with both the adults and children in your life** about their difficult issues to get them in the habit of talking with you. Show them that you will listen to anything they have to say, even if they talk about something embarrassing or something they’ve done wrong.
- **Use the proper names of body parts.** Just as you teach your children that a nose is a nose, they need to know what to call their genitals. This knowledge gives children correct language for understanding their bodies, for asking questions that need to be asked, and for telling about any behavior that could lead to sexual abuse.
- **Be clear with adults and children about the difference between okay touch and touch that is not okay.** For younger children, teach more concrete rules such as “talk with me if anyone — family, friend, or anyone else — touches your genitals.” Also teach kids that it is not okay to use manipulation or control to touch someone else’s body.
- **Explain the difference between a secret and a surprise** to the adults and children you know and show them how secrets may make kids unsafe. Surprises are joyful and generate excitement in anticipation of being revealed after a short period of time. Secrets exclude others, often because the information will create upset or anger. When keeping secrets with just one person becomes routine, children are more vulnerable to abuse.
- **Make it clear that children will be supported when they request privacy or say “no”** to an activity or a kind of touch that makes them uncomfortable.
- **Give kids permission to tell anyone they trust if they feel scared, uncomfortable or confused about someone’s behavior toward them.**



CALICO's Network of Support Grows

As a not-for-profit organization, CALICO relies on the generosity of a diverse pool of supporters. We receive contributions from government agencies, private and family foundations, corporations, civic/community groups, and individuals. This year, we are delighted to announce support from several new funders:

Through a [First 5 of Alameda County, Every Child Counts](#) Capital Improvement Grant, CALICO now sports freshly painted walls in warm vibrant colors, matching carpeting and new furniture. We also received a two-year Community Grant to focus on forensic interviewing and family support services for toddlers and pre-schoolers, a group that represents one-quarter of the children we serve.

[The Morris Stulsaft Foundation](#), which is dedicated to the well-being of children and youth, provided CALICO with funds to help launch expanded family support services. Through a partnership with the Center for Child Protection at Children's Hospital, CALICO will co-hire our first full-time Family Resource Specialist.

[Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP](#) joined individual donor [David Lewis](#) as the main sponsors of our 2007 10th anniversary gala. CALICO also benefits from the dedicated service of Pillsbury Attorney Tara Desautels who chairs our board and the invaluable volunteer support of several Pillsbury employees.

[The van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation](#), which promotes social justice and the well-being of underserved residents and communities of Northern California, provided CALICO with a general support grant to help us continue our vital services to abused children in the county. The foundation also served as a sponsor of our gala.

CALICO Thanks Our Young Supporters

Abby Quirk, a fourteen-year-old 8th grader at Head-Royce in Oakland, is a multi-year donor who has contributed part of her allowance to CALICO for the past two years. Abby learned about CALICO through her parents (and her Girl Scout leader) and decided that helping kids was a good use of her money. Abby has also contributed to CALICO by working at our last two fundraisers selling raffle tickets. Thank you, Abby. CALICO values your support!

Equally valued is the generosity of Laura Cook, a 5th grader at Head-Royce. Laura used her birthday money at the Dollar Store to buy stuffed animals for CALICO's children. Laura decided on stuffed animals because "they give kids something to hug and to hold." Laura also encouraged her Girl Scout troop to donate part of this year's cookie proceeds to CALICO. The contribution will arrive at the end of cookie sales. Thank you Laura! You have made many children smile.



Abby



Laura



Artwork by Cindé Estrada



Glasswork by Christopher Roscoe
Photo by Patrick Tracy

Zocalo Holiday Art Benefit Raises Funds for CALICO

The 5th Annual Zocalo Holiday Art Benefit was held December 8th and 9th at Zocalo Coffeehouse in San Leandro and raised nearly \$2,500 to support CALICO services. The event featured work from eight local artists and included jewelry, glasswork, etchings, masks, and other handmade arts and crafts. Each artist donated one original piece of art for a raffle. Sales from the raffle and a portion of the artists' sales were donated to CALICO. Thanks to local artists Marjorie Albright, Sadie Cuming, Cindé Estrada, Susie Howell, Laura Morton, Christopher Roscoe, Fleurette Sevin and Laura Sheridan. A big thanks also to Zocalo owner, Tim Holmes, for hosting the event!

Understanding Children's Sexual Behavior: What's Healthy? What's Harmful?

Talking about sexual behavior is a difficult conversation for many of us. When the topic concerns children, it's even more challenging. Professionals and community members alike are oftentimes confused about what "typical" sexual behavior looks like with children at different developmental ages. In other words, what is the line between healthy sexual exploration and behavior that should cause concern? To help understand the distinction, CALICO hosted our 10th annual collaborative training in September with two featured speakers:

Rhonda James, Executive Director of Community Violence Solutions, shared the latest research about sexual behavior of children who are twelve years of age or under, explaining what behavior is healthy and what is harmful, and how to recognize the difference.*

Dr. James Crawford, Director of the Center for Child Protection at Children's Hospital of Oakland, detailed the process of conducting a forensic medical exam on a young child, outlining what information can and cannot be gleaned from the exam to assess whether or not a child was sexually abused.

The turn-out for the event was exceptional - 160 professionals attended, including police officers, social workers, attorneys, medical staff, mental health providers and others serving abused children. The annual event provides a rare and valuable opportunity for this diverse group to meet one another, learn about current and pressing child abuse issues, and build skills to increase their day-to-day capacity to respond effectively to young victims of violent crime.

* For more information, see "Understanding Children's Sexual Behaviors: What's Natural and Healthy," by Toni Cavanagh Johnson, Ph.D. (www.TCavJohn.com)



CALICO's Annual Collaborative Training

Many Thanks to Our Generous 2007 Supporters!

The following donated to CALICO between January 1 and December 31, 2007

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CALICO has built a unique collaborative partnership among two dozen agencies in the county who all share responsibility for responding to young victims of violence. The Victim/Witness Assistance Division of the District Attorney's Office is one of our key partners.

GUEST COLUMN

The Life of a Victim/Witness Advocate

by Erin Osanna

Brendan was just shy of his 5th birthday when his brother pleaded to the gunman, "don't shoot me...I didn't do anything." Brendan was standing in a parking lot looking at his brother and the gunman. The man, who didn't speak, shot his brother, killing him instantly. Brendan stood there screaming as his brother's limp body lay bleeding under a store awning. A few moments later he was taken into the arms of a woman who heard his cries and came to assist. When help arrived, Brendan was taken with this woman away from the crime scene by police car.

Even though this crime occurred in the afternoon in a populated area, young Brendan was the only eyewitness to his brother's murder. Shortly after the incident, Brendan was able to identify the shooter to the police. A few hours later he was brought to CALICO. There he was able to provide important details about what happened. Brendan told the interviewer about the clothing the man wore and that he left, by himself, in a white van. While providing this crucial information, Brendan also told the interviewer he wanted to see his brother. He was too young and certainly too traumatized at that moment to understand that he would never see his brother again.

Brendan was barely six years old when he was called to testify at the jury trial against the defendant being prosecuted for the murder of his brother. His testimony helped convict the man of first-degree murder. I was assigned to be Brendan's Victim/Witness Advocate from the District Attorney's Office.



As an advocate, it is our responsibility to assist crime victims through the court process. We provide crisis intervention, case and custody status of the defendant, explain the criminal justice process, provide referrals and act as a liaison between the victim and/or family and the District Attorney. We assist with filing applications for the Victim Compensation Program, restitution, and writing victim impact statements. We work with victims of all types of violent crime, including sexual assault, child abuse, domestic violence, stalking, robbery and homicide. We provide moral support and are often the only consistent person from the District Attorney's Office that the victim interacts with throughout the court process. Over time, we build trust and understanding with our clients and this relationship is often crucial to the prosecution.

Being an advocate is difficult at times. We deal with people in crisis and hear painful stories. Unfortunately there are so many cases and people to help that we sometimes can't be everywhere we are needed. The court process often moves very slowly and can be frustrating. I often don't have good news to tell clients. I sometimes feel helpless. On the whole, though, I feel my job is very rewarding.

I'm often asked by friends and family how I can do the work I do. But the story I mentioned above is exactly why I do what I do. I am here to make an awful situation a little bit easier. When this little boy had to come to talk about his brother's murder, I was the one holding his hand. During the long waits, Brendan sat on my lap, colored with me, and laughed with me. He gave me big hugs and kisses. After only a couple of days he trusted me and relied on me. I don't think at the age of six Brendan understood exactly what we were doing in court, but I believe he will remember the relationship that we built and the nice person who was there on the witness stand with him for so many days.

**The child's name and some details of the story have been altered to protect confidentiality.*

Celebrating a Decade of Listening

Celebrating **10 YEARS** *of Service*

Over 125 friends of CALICO joined together under a warm summer sky in July to celebrate CALICO's 10th anniversary. The stunning and inviting courtyard of the Piedmont home of Leianne and John Crittenden served as party headquarters. Guests were treated to a decadent array of chocolate, hors d'oeuvres, and wine courtesy of Diageo Chateau & Estates Wines.

Rick Baskin and his five-member band delighted the crowd while Adam Sachs entertained party-goers with magical performances. Members of Girl Scout Troop #2760 and Hannah and Sean Dermody sold hundreds of raffle tickets for fabulous prizes, including a 24-speed mountain bike from the Sports Basement, a mini wine cellar featuring a collection of ten wines from Napa Valley vineyards, and an autographed game ball by San Francisco 49ers quarterback Alex Smith. Special guest, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, was honored for her work helping child victims of crime. She returned the honor by acknowledging CALICO's work in the Congressional Record. The event raised over \$40,000 to support CALICO's work with abused children.



Sen. Boxer with a CALICO teddy bear and Marcia Kerwit, CALICO Office Manager



Raffle sellers from left to right, Sean Dermody, Hannah Dermody, Naomi Stark, Abby Quirk, Annie Wanless



Magician Adam Sachs



Billy Lucas with Winning Grand Prize Raffle Ticket



Vicky Gwiasda Speaking to Attendees

We are grateful to our many sponsors and volunteers who helped make the event a success:

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CALICO's mission is to provide a supportive environment to interview children and facilitate a collaborative response to child abuse in which the needs of children take precedence.

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CALICO Hosts Arroyo High School Interns

CALICO is delighted to welcome four Arroyo High School Future Academy (San Lorenzo) juniors as interns at CALICO: Elise Tanabe, Evie McKinney, Stephanie Reed and Sandra Dueñas. The Future Academy believes that "the greatest learning happens not by *learning about* but rather *learning through*."

While each girl researched her organization of choice, their reasons for choosing CALICO vary, as do their goals for the semester-long program. Elise first took an interest in child abuse after reading *A Child Called It: One Child's Courage to Survive*. She chose to intern at CALICO because she knows people who have been abused and considers herself to be a great listener with good comforting skills. Stephanie selected CALICO because she was intrigued by our mission statement and the services we provide to the community, and due to her love for children. Sandra's interest was sparked by her aunt, a social worker, and a desire to help people with their problems and to make a difference. Evie hopes to help young victims understand that abuse is not their fault and that they have much to look forward to in life.

We are grateful to these dedicated volunteers for their time and concern and to their teachers and mentors at Arroyo High School who appreciate the value of getting students actively involved in improving their communities.