



THE  
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER  
OF NIAGARA

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

JUNE 2009

*Working Hand in Hand for Children*



## Message from the Executive Director

### CAC Staff

**Ann Marie Tucker**  
*Executive Director*

**Jack F. Coyne, MD, FAAP**  
*Medical Director*

**Lynn Aladeen**  
*Forensic Interview Specialist*

**Anne E. Baker**  
*Family Services Advocate*

**Nicole Haffa**  
*Sr. Case Coordinator*

**Betty Lamb**  
*Clinical Specialist*

**Lisa Lannon**  
*Education/ Outreach Coordinator*

**Charles Syms**  
*Mental Health Consultant*

**Adia Tyson**  
*Case Coordinator*

On April 1, 2009, President Barack Obama proclaimed:

*When the child next door is maltreated, we all suffer. Every American has a stake in the well-being of our Nation's children. They are members of our communities, and they are our future. National Child Abuse Prevention Month provides the opportunity to underscore our commitment to preventing and responding appropriately to child abuse.*

Niagara County has been dedicated to that commitment for decades. In 1990, Niagara County was in the forefront of this effort by being one of the first communities in the state to establish a multidisciplinary child abuse team. In 1995, these efforts were augmented by the opening of the Child Advocacy Center at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center. Niagara County was just the third community in New York State to do so. Now, 40 child advocacy centers and teams serve New York's children and New York's commitment to facilitate the establishment of child advocacy centers in every region of the state is established by law.

Niagara County's team has continued to grow. In 1996, Niagara County's child abuse team developed written, county-wide guidelines and renamed itself the Niagara County Child Abuse Intervention Project or CAIP (pronounced "Cape"). In 2000, A CAIP Advisory Board of volunteers from participating agencies and disciplines was established. The CAIP Advisory Board represents the ongoing commitment of participating agencies to shape responses to these terrible crimes.

In this first edition of the Child Advocacy Center of Niagara's newsletter, I would like to thank the dedicated child protection workers, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, victim advocates, health care providers and mental health specialists who make up Niagara County's CAIP team. It is an honor to work with you all. Everyday you fulfill President Obama's call to commit ourselves to preventing and responding appropriately to child abuse.

**Ann Marie Tucker**  
*Executive Director*

## What is a Child Advocacy Center?

In 1985, then District Attorney Robert E. "Bud" Cramer, Jr., founded the first child advocacy center in Huntsville, Alabama. The Center was seen as a "new way for the community to respond to children suspected of having been abused and/or neglected. At the Children's Advocacy Center, the various members of the child protection, law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocacy, medical and mental health communities were able to provide children and their families comprehensive services within a child-friendly environment to meet the child's needs." (National Children's Alliance, www.nca-online.org)

The value of this multidisciplinary team approach based in a neutral, child-friendly facility was quickly recognized. Today, this approach is recognized as best practice on both a state and national level.

Child Advocacy Centers, now numbering over 500 nationally, vary in every community. But every Child Advocacy Center is expected to include:

*Continued on back*

**WE'RE ON THE  
WEB!**  
[CACOFNIAGARA.ORG](http://CACOFNIAGARA.ORG)

Continued from front

- Child-Appropriate / Child-Friendly Facility
- Multidisciplinary Team
- Organizational Capacity
- Cultural Competency and Diversity
- Forensic Interviews conducted in a neutral, fact finding nature, and coordinated to avoid duplicative interviewing
- Specialized medical evaluation and treatment
- Specialized mental health services
- Victim Support/Advocacy
- Case Review
- Case Tracking

Nationally, Child Advocacy Centers are accredited by the National Children's Alliance. New York State Social Services Law includes similar requirements for child advocacy centers in the state and charges the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to facilitate the establishment of child advocacy centers in every region of the state, to the extent practicable.

The Child Advocacy Center of Niagara, a service of Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, is an accredited member of the National Children's Alliance and is designated a Tier One Center by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. These represent the highest levels of achievement for child advocacy centers.

## Community Support

The Child Advocacy Center of Niagara is grateful to many individuals and organizations in the community who support our efforts. Donors and funding sources in 2008 include:

- New York Office of Children and Family Services
- New York State Crime Victims Board
- Niagara County Mental Health Department
- Niagara County Department of Social Services
- National Children's Alliance
- The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation
- The Martha H. Beeman Foundation
- The First Presbyterian Society of Youngstown
- Pine Avenue Business Association
- Catholic Charities of Buffalo
- Freewheelers Car Club and Niagara County Credit Unions

## News & Events

An international faculty addressed emerging issues in interpersonal and family violence and attracted over 200 participants at the **Eleventh Annual Family Violence Intervention Project Safe at Home Conference** on May 12. Keynote speaker, *Geraldine Crisci, MSW*, challenged audiences to address the question: *How Serious is the Sexual Behavior, Juvenile Offending Problem and What Should We Do About It?* Other speakers included: *Allie Phillips, JD*, American Humane Society; *Margaret Burt, Esq.*; *Patti McLain*, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; and *Detectives Michael Hockwater & Terry Griffin*, Cheektowaga Police Department, *J.R. Manes*, FBI Special Agent and *Aaron J. Mango*, Assistant US Attorney.

Betsey McAlister Groves and Dr. Maxine Weinreb from The Child Witness to Violence Project at Boston Medical Center recently trained 22 local clinicians on *Clinical Assessment and Intervention for Children Exposed to Violence and Other Trauma*. This program is part of a three-year initiative funded by **The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation** to promote therapeutic services for children affected by violence. The Child Witness to Violence Project is a nationally recognized organization that provides counseling, advocacy, and outreach project that focuses on the growing number of young children who are hidden victims of violence: children who are bystanders to community and domestic violence. The Project is also part of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

**Presti Karate Centers** raised \$4,000 for the Child Advocacy Center of Niagara at their ninth annual Chun Kuk Do Kid's Tournament and Kick-A-Thon fundraiser and basket auction at Niagara Catholic Jr./Sr. High School. The event's motto is "Kids Helping Kids". Proceeds from this year's fundraiser also supported the **Chuck Norris KickStart program** and the **Community Missions of Niagara Frontier Inc., Onesimus House**.

The **Freewheeler's Car Club** will hold their Annual Car Show and Basket Auction on Saturday, June 13, at The Summit Mall on Williams Road in Wheatfield. The event will run from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Proceeds from the basket auction and collectible show T-shirts, provided by Dan the Man, will benefit Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center's Child Advocacy Center of Niagara. Enterprise Rental Car will also be present with their "Tent Event Used Auto Sale" and will donate \$100 for every car sold to the CAC. The event is sponsored by Niagara County Credit Unions, Freewheeler's Car Club, Dan the Man T-Shirts and Awards and Enterprise Car Rental. For additional information or to donate a basket, contact Jerry Petito at 283-5224 or the Child Advocacy Center of Niagara at 285-0045.



THE  
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER  
OF NIAGARA

501 Tenth Street  
Niagara Falls, NY 14301  
Phone: 716.285-0045  
Fax: 716.285-8991  
E-mail: Lisa.Lannon@nfmcmc.org  
Website: www.cacofniagara.org



NIAGARA FALLS  
**Memorial Medical Center**  
*Niagara's Premier Health Network*



NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
ALLIANCE®  
ACCREDITED  
MEMBER