



# Signals

Winter 2011

## Our Mission:

To improve the lives of those affected by sexual and domestic violence, child abuse and neglect.

## Who is Responsible?

Once again, child abuse allegations have people everywhere shaking their heads in disbelief. Anger and frustration fill the airwaves, news columns, and blogs with questions like, “How did this happen?” and “How did it go unreported for so long?” When questions arise, we encourage you to consider the following information.

- All adults have a responsibility to learn the signs of abuse and to be vigilant in protecting children.
- Sex offenders are clever about finding opportunities to have access to children and groom adults to lower their boundaries about contact with their children in the same way that they groom children for sexual contact. All parents should sense a “red flag” if any adult seeks to spend significant amounts of time alone with your child.
- Children are not responsible for their own protection. Responsible adults protect children. They do not harm them.
- All adults have the moral and ethical responsibility to report suspected abuse, regardless of whether or not they have a legal obligation to do so as a mandated reporter.

To report suspected child abuse, call the following number. 1-800-922-5330 or call your local law enforcement agency.

Raise your right hand, and repeat after me: “If I see, hear, suspect, or any way become aware that a child is being abused, I will not keep silent. I will have the courage to have that child break free of the silence, secrecy, and shame that should never define a child’s life.”

Kathleen Inwood–SOS Child Advocacy Center Director  
Jessie Wagoner–SOS Child Advocacy Center Family Advocate

~Some information for this article is courtesy of: Terersa Huizar, National Children’s Alliance and Chris Kirchner, Executive Director of Philadelphia Children’s Alliance

## 2nd Annual Child Abuse Prevention Summit

We are excited to continue our professional education series with a summit on Drug Endangered Children. Two of our staff members attended a Protect our Children conference in Wichita and heard a dynamic speaker on the topic.

Commander (retired) Lori Moriarty began her career in law enforcement in Colorado in 1987 with the Thornton Police Department. From 2000 to 2006, she was the commander of the North Metro Task Force, a multi-jurisdictional undercover drug unit.

Lori has been instrumental in implementing protocols for the safe investigation of methamphetamine labs and undercover drug operations. She has educated thousands of professionals across the nation about hazardous drug environments and their effects on children, and appeared on ABC News' 20/20, Fox National News, MSNBC, NPR and PBS. In April 2005, she testified before the House Judiciary Committee in Washington, DC on H.R. 1528, "Defending America's Most Vulnerable: Safe Access to Drug Treatment and Child Protection Act of 2005."

Lori's safety stance and public awareness efforts have won her regional and national attention. In 2001, the Office of National Drug Control Policy recognized her as Drug Commander of the Year. The Adams County Bar Association in Colorado named Lori and the North Metro Task Force "2002 Peace Officer of the Year," and in 2004, she received the "Friend of Children" award through the State of Colorado Court Appointed Special Advocates.

In 2004, Lori joined the Colorado Alliance for Drug Endangered Children; in 2006, she joined National DEC, where she now serves as the Senior Vice President of Education and Outreach.

Ms. Moriarty will be in Emporia on Tuesday, April 3rd at Flint Hills Technical College. The summit will run from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Lunch is provided. There are 100 seats available for this summit. There is a \$35 fee for the daylong conference. You may register online at [www.soskansas.com](http://www.soskansas.com) on the events page.

\*\*\*We are still seeking corporate sponsors for this event. If your business is interested in signage on flyers, brochures, on our website and FaceBook page, please contact Jill Sorsen at 620-343-8799.



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## From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As you all know, for years my heart and soul have been poured into SOS and I could not be more proud of the work provided by volunteers, board and staff. The depth and breadth of our programs and services still amazes me. We are daily changing lives of families in our communities for the better. We often meet them for the first time at one of the lowest points of their lives. With the help of you and all of our systems partners, we are able to provide resources, a shoulder to lean on, and a measure of safety in this unpredictable world.

Lori Moore and I recently attended a workshop entitled "High-Impact Nonprofits" based on the book Forces For Good. It discusses the 6 Practices that successful nonprofits have in common. They are: 1) Advocate and Serve, 2) Make Markets Work, 3) Inspire Evangelists, 4) Nurture Nonprofit Networks, 5) Master the Art of Adaptation, and 6) Share Leadership. Lori and I both thought SOS scored high when we individually rated SOS on a questionnaire. Yes, there is always room for improvement and we are already addressing several opportunities. Our new strategic plan will be shared in the Spring Annual Newsletter. It will address the following goals: 1) Increase Volunteer Participation and Impact, 2) Diversify Funding, 3) Communicate More Effectively, and 4) Cultivate Leadership.

We're not waiting to begin our new plan....we're off and running. Jill Sorsen has created an incredible Development Committee that is planning a March event to recognize people of excellence in our service area. In August they are planning the E-Town Jam - an exciting event that I'm sure you will want to attend!

Jim Pickert has graciously agreed to help with finding a new office home for administration and some of its programs. A committee will be formed as new details arise.

I would like to invite the good and great men out there, who are often called the silent majority, to help SOS. We have several committees and even room on our board of directors. We need men to be mentors, thinkers and advisors for our programs.

SOS has so much to be grateful for....donors that have birthday celebrations and request donations for SOS, fraternities and businesses who auction items off to benefit SOS or forgo Christmas present exchanges in lieu of cash for SOS, and all the families or businesses who provide gifts and dinners for SOS families. We feel blessed and are truly thankful.

All in all, it's shaping up to be a great 2012 for SOS. May you all have a Joyous Holiday.



## Tributes

### **In Memory of Beulah Spillman**

--Joyce French

### **In Memory of Dr. Ken & Elizabeth Lohmeyer**

--honored by Jim Lohmeyer

### **In Honor of Earl Clark**

--honored by Sharon Becker

### **In Memory of Tom Dacus**

--honored by Joyce French

### **In Honor of Viola Hastings**

--honored by Marlys Patton

### **In Honor of Paula Sauder**

--honored by:

Anonymous

Jacquelyn Ashcraft

Sherry Backhus

Connie Barton

Jolene Brinkman

Alice Brockhouse

Marilyn Buchele

Debra Carter

Janet Challender

Rita Clark

Ann Cochennet

Julie Cooper

Myrna Cornett-Devito

Jacqueline Cusic

Joyce David

Carolyn Davis

Bonnie Denson

Roxanne Desmarteau

Cynthia Detwiler

Melanie Dewitt

Mary Downing

Lorinda Duncan

Clara Eckdall

Sandra Estabrook

Janet Evans

Farm & Home Properties

Sandy Fleming

Joanne Foyle

Joyce French

Mary Jo Gallup

Joan Geitz

Marianna Gibbens

Margi Grimwood

Patricia Harris

Gloria Hastings

Jerilynn Henrikson

Kristi Henrikson-Mohn

Kathy Herrera

Robbie Hill

Patricia Howard

Jeanie Jensen

Myra Jones

Cherlyn Jordan

Barbara Kahle-Kaniper

Elaine Karr

Sharon Karr

Kathy Kessler

Kiefer Consulting LLC

Marilyn Kile

Deanne Korsak

Mary Kretsinger

Carol Krueger

Marilyn Laird

Mary Ann Law

Pat Linn

Dema Marsh

Pamela Matlock

Beverly Mavity

Kelly Mayer

Linda Metcalf

Janet Miley

Beverly Miller

Sharon Miller

Theresa Muckenthaler

Elizabeth Nail

Kay Neill

Kathy Palafox

Jan Peak

Jane Peck

Poehler Merchantile Antique

Mary Pool

Lois Potts

Jane Reeble

Jan Rensing

Joyce Reynolds

Sharon Roland

Bonnie Schmidt

Judy Schmidt

Judy Schroeder

Janice Schulte

Mary Lou Scofield

Donita Shafer

Sue Sielert

Karen Sommers

Barbara Stallard

Myrna Stephens

Sharon Stephens

Dona Stubenhofer

Mary Beth Tabares

Laverne Tagtmeyer

Suzanne Thole

Beverly Toso

Rena Traw

Carolyn Turney

Charlene Utley

Gae Williams

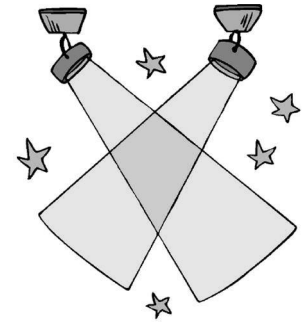
Melissa Windsor

Suellen Woelk

Tonnie Wullschleger

*Tribute donations are recognized to the honoree or to the family of memory tributes.*

## Volunteer Spotlight



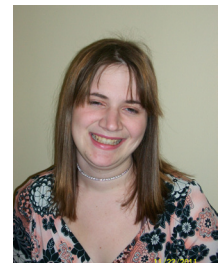
Jonathan is a 7 year old boy who was abused both physically and sexually by his mother. He was living in foster care and SOS CASA of the Flint Hills appointed Diane Wilhite as his advocate. After Diane began her investigation, Diane discovered a web of relationships, services, and history that helped her and other professionals better understand the case and Jonathan.

Jonathan and Diane spent a lot of time together doing fun things to take his mind off of what was going on at home and serious times when Jonathan would tell Diane how he felt. Jonathan looked for Diane every step of the way, and Diane was always there to support him. Diane made sure that Jonathan had the mental health services that he will likely always need, and advocated for him in the educational setting as well.

After 2 years of working with Jonathan, Diane helped to identify a possible adoptive resource for him after his parents relinquished their parental rights. Several relatives were interested in adopting Jonathan, but Diane helped to select the best option for Jonathan. His adoption was finalized this fall. SOS would like to thank Diane for her service and congratulate Jonathan on his adoption!

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Rebecca Rowilson is a volunteer who is versatile in her duties. During the summertime she volunteered her time to come to the Shelter and play games and do activities with the children who were housed there. She also spent time at the shelter helping adult clients complete online job applications. She even gave up one of her Saturday mornings to pick up massive amounts of food donations after the community ALS walk and deliver them to the Shelter.



Because of Rebecca's dedication to SOS, children and adults who find themselves in what could be a scary situation have a person from the community who they know cares enough to volunteer their time to help; someone who does not work for the organization, but shows up to help because she cares deeply for the mission of SOS and for those who benefit from our services. Volunteers help those we serve know that they are truly not alone; that there are community members who support their healing. Volunteers make a difference.

To find out how you can make a difference in the life of a child as a CASA volunteer, please contact our CASA office at 343-2744 or by email at [drussell@soskansas.com](mailto:drussell@soskansas.com). To volunteer for our Crisis Service Program contact Bev Kerbs at 342-7943 or by email at [bkerbs@soskansas.com](mailto:bkerbs@soskansas.com).

# Teach Your Daughters About Domestic Abuse

by Vicky Warry

We teach our daughters how to be independent women. We teach them to cook, clean, pay bills, take care of themselves and we teach them the facts of life. But when was the last time you talked to your daughter about potential domestic violence in her relationships?

One of my daughter's friends, we'll call her Mary, was dating a guy recently. This guy constantly belittled her, monopolized her time and discouraged Mary's relationships with her girlfriends; he even told her what she should and should not wear. Mary is a very bright girl. If asked, she would not consider herself to be in an at-risk relationship. As my daughter told me about this guy, I said "your friend needs to get the hell away from him — and fast." Eventually, since Mary was away at school, he broke up with HER. She was devastated. I think she was lucky.

One in four women is a victim of domestic violence in their lifetime. This statistic is staggering. Think about it. I would bet that you know someone living in this hell. Is it you?

Our daughters learn how to be moms and wives by what is modeled at home. If domestic violence is what they live with, then it's very likely that they will choose to be in a similar relationship. They will inadvertently choose someone to fit the mode, from the abuser in their home. It's true. They know nothing else and somehow they may think that this is normal.

However, your daughter can just as likely choose someone who seems to be a terrific guy. Abusers are predators. They know, much like a sex predator, how to mold and groom their victims. Often abusers can be quite charming—at first.

As a former police officer, I've seen plenty of domestic violence victims. I took training to help me recognize and counsel victims. I have taught my daughters to look for the signs of domestic abuse. They should know better, right? Not necessarily so. My oldest daughter dated a wonderful guy very briefly. He sent her flowers, text messages, took her to dinner. I was thrilled she found a nice guy; a fire fighter. About the third week, the signs appeared. "Where were you? I tried to call you. Who were you talking to?" He would get possessive and ugly with her. Recognizing the signs, Sara let him know in no uncertain terms that she wasn't putting up with that (I understate her reaction) and broke it off.

Personally, domestic violence has affected me. My first husband fit most of the criteria for domestic abuse, BUT he never hit me and he didn't hit the kids. Everything else was in place. I had no friends. I was told I had to stay home. I had no social life. He controlled the money and gave me an allowance. It was minimal. Sometimes, because a bill was due, I had no money for groceries. He would not help with the kids. When he got mad, he hit "things" instead of me. I was virtually a prisoner. I was a "good wife" though; I was determined to make it work. When I chose to do some volunteer work for my local ambulance department and get more involved with church, things went pretty bad. He couldn't contain me any longer. He was losing control. The verbal abuse escalated. I looked to my parents to help me and they did. I filed for divorce and left. He called, threatened suicide, threatened me and threatened the kids. It was incredibly

## Teach Your Daughters, continued

frightening. When I joined law enforcement a few years later and carried a weapon then the threats stopped. Yes, I threatened HIM. Yet twenty years later, I am still haunted by the horror of that fear.

Then there is my sister. She married young. This guy was possessive and controlling. She thought it was love, and was flattered. Twenty-five years later, almost every bone in her body had been broken by him. She reached the climax of her relationship on the day he held a loaded gun to her head. She told him, "Go ahead, do it. I'd rather be dead than be with you." He hesitated and she ran. She never went back. It's been 5 years, but her life will never be "normal". Too much damage has been done. Her fingers hurt sometimes because they have all been broken and her ribs hurt when she coughs. They were broken too many times—like the night he kicked her into unconsciousness. When she woke up he kicked her again.

Her emotional well-being is another story. Thank God she never had children with him, but sadly she will never be a mom. Did I know what was going on? Yes, I did, but I would never have even imagined to what extent. I offered her sanctuary. Why didn't she come? Because he would kill me. And my parents and my children. I learned this later.

I know more stories. I know more people. The lawyer I met whose husband—also a lawyer—smashed her face in. She was permanently disfigured. She got away. Then, there's the friend of a friend whose family got her away . . . but she went back. Yet, he loves her and though he beat her unconscious, he promised he'd never do it again when she returned. He doesn't work, made her buy him a new truck, and supports his drug habit. They moved far away from her family, and he threatens to kill her pets if she leaves. Her life is probably hell, but I just hope that she survives.

So, what do we teach our daughters? Do we teach them about this kind of hell? How many of you have talked to your girls? How many of you live like this today and your daughter will follow? Help is there. It's easily accessible. Let's talk to our girls. It's our job as a mom, or a dad, and you may in fact save your child's life one day.

Here is a website that lists the sign of a potential abuser. Please read and discuss it with your daughter. I promise it will be one of the most important lessons she ever learns. Please contact me if I can ever help you, offer you resources, or you just want to talk. Please feel free to share this post on your page.

[http://conquerdomesticviolence.com/Warning\\_Signs.htm](http://conquerdomesticviolence.com/Warning_Signs.htm)

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