



2008 Annual Report



"I truly believe, with all my heart and soul, that together we can make a difference."

John Walsh

Host of America's Most Wanted
Keynote Speaker 2008 Speaking of Children

PROJECT
Harmony



Dear Friends,

In 2008, John Walsh, the TV host of *America's Most Wanted* whose son Adam Walsh was abducted and murdered, delivered the keynote speech at our inaugural event for our Speaking of Children series. While touring Project Harmony with the *Omaha World Herald's* Mike Kelly earlier that day, Walsh stated:

"Every community should have a Project Harmony. This is a model for the nation. You do your work with grace and dignity."

The "YOU" Mr. Walsh is speaking about is this community. Project Harmony is a model because YOU have joined in the efforts to respond to children who have been abused.

In 2008, your involvement and support allowed Project Harmony to respond to 2,278 children. The majority of the children served were under the age of six; 64% of the children who came to Project Harmony were evaluated for alleged sexual abuse. The astonishing number of children evaluated at Project Harmony for allegations of abuse or neglect is but a reflection of the depth and breadth of child abuse in every community. This community chooses to confront each instance of abuse with grace and dignity for the child – and the means to prosecute the offender whenever warranted.

In response to a growing need for our services over the last several years and the ever-present demand to do more, the Board of Directors undertook a strategic planning process to clearly express the scope and focus of the work done at Project Harmony. Board and staff have adopted the following as their shared mission:

The mission of Project Harmony is to protect and support children, collaborate with professionals and engage the community to end child abuse and neglect.

In 2008, three critical initiatives took place.

First, Project Harmony was able to hire a full time Medical Director. Suzanne Haney, MD, FAAP came to Project Harmony from Norfolk, Virginia where she completed fellowship training in child abuse and neglect. Dr. Haney's skills and experience have allowed the agency to broaden the range of abuse evaluated through our program to include serious injuries, life-threatening neglect and abuse that has resulted in a child's death. This increased scope of capabilities has enabled broader partnerships with The Nebraska Medical Center and Creighton University Medical Center. It has also strengthened Project Harmony's longstanding partnership with Children's Hospital & Medical Center. In addition, Dr. Haney's expertise has aided child abuse evaluations in neighboring states.

The second major initiative is the full-scale staffing of the Triage Center in partnership with Child Saving Institute. This child-friendly space includes caring professionals who provide refuge for children who have just been removed from their homes for abuse or neglect. Warm and inviting, our Triage Center minimizes trauma for the children during the difficult process of protective placement. In 2008, the Triage Center served 80 children a month, providing them hot meals, medical services, clothing and personal items and the time and space to play and rest while waiting for foster care or out-of-home placement.

Finally, the Training Institute established in 2007 is continuing its work to improve the response to child abuse reporting and investigations. Debra Anderson, MSW, PhD, leads these efforts. Her work with professionals and concerned community members during 2008 has resulted in more than 6,000 individuals attending training at Project Harmony or in their local communities and workplaces.

All of this, and more, would not be possible without YOUR involvement. Thank you for making Project Harmony "a model for the nation."



Gene Klein, LCSW
Executive Director



Lisa Mellen
Board President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene Klein".

Gene Klein, LCSW
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Mellen".

Lisa Mellen
Board President

Project Harmony 2008 Annual Statistics

SERVICES PROVIDED

Forensic Interviews Conducted	1134
Child Abuse Medical Exams Conducted	1167
Advocacy Service Contacts Provided to Victims	3259
Triage Center (established August 2008)	317
Total Service Contacts	5877
Unduplicated Children Served	2278

Counties Served

Douglas	1389	61%
Sarpy	439	19%
Other Nebraska Counties	43	2%
Iowa Counties	391	17%
Other States	16	1%
Total Counties	2278	100%

Ages of Children Served

0 to 6	1205	53%
7 to 10	619	27%
11 to 15	351	15%
16 +	103	5%
TOTAL	2278	100%

Gender

Female	1508	66%
Male	770	34%
TOTAL	2278	

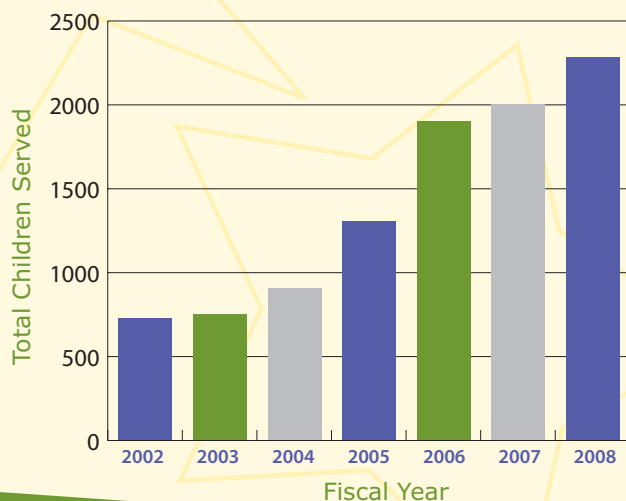
Type of Abuse

Sexual	1349	59%
Neglect	612	27%
Physical	198	9%
Sexual and Physical	108	5%
Pornography	11	1%
TOTAL	2278	

Relationship to Alleged Perpetrator

Other Family Member	636	28%
Parent's Boyfriend/Girlfriend	511	22%
Father	406	18%
Family Friend/Acquaintance	369	16%
Mother	175	8%
Unknown/Not identifiable	97	4%
Stepfather/Stepmother	72	3%
Child Care Provider	12	1%
TOTAL	2278	

2008 Children Served



2008 Revenue and Expense (Unaudited)

Revenue

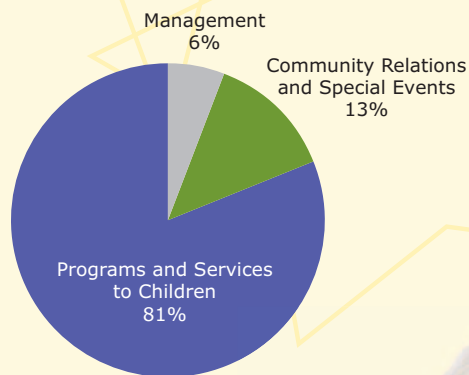
Contributions and Donations	84,159
Contributed Services	8,000
Foundations and Grants	224,903
Special Events	402,039
Government Contracts	872,310
Professional Fees	207,172
Other Earned Income	217,742
Total Income	2,016,325

2008 Operating

Expense

Programs and Services:	
Interviews	265,883
Referral and Coordination	312,851
Medical	427,939
Training and Education	298,675
2009 Program Designations	300,000
Total Program Expense	1,605,348
Support Services:	
Community Relations and Special Events	261,119
Management	111,618
Total Support Expense	372,737
TOTAL EXPENSE	1,978,085

Where the Funds Were Spent



2008 Board of Directors

Lisa Mellen, President
The Gallup Organization

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Immediate Past President
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Jeff Wilke
Data Media Solutions and Jelecos

Child Abuse in the Omaha Metro

During each **month** in 2008:

- ★ More than 500 reports of child abuse were investigated.
- ★ More than 100 children were removed from their homes for alleged child abuse.

Just in the last year, 2,278 children were provided medical exams and forensic interviews at Project Harmony.

- ★ 64% of these children were evaluated for child sexual abuse.
- ★ More than 50% of these children were under the age of six.

What happens if we do not address this problem?

When children are abused there are multiple traumatic effects:

- | | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| ★ Fears | ★ Low self-esteem | ★ Physical injuries |
| ★ Nightmares | ★ Sexually transmitted diseases including HIV | ★ Self-destructive behaviors including suicide |
| ★ Depression | ★ Hostility | |
| ★ Phobias | ★ Victimization | |
| ★ Anxiety | | |

Child abuse is everyone's problem. Children need adults to stand up and ensure that kids are a priority. Every child deserves to be loved and cared for; when a child is being abused, we, as a community, must step in.

What can Project Harmony do?

Project Harmony protects children and creates a positive environment for the investigation and the assessment of child abuse and neglect. Project Harmony has made a dramatic difference in the handling of abuse and neglect reports and investigations, while reducing the long-term traumatization for the child and family.

Project Harmony
responds to child abuse
in Douglas and Sarpy
Counties as well as in
Pottawattamie and
16 southwest Iowa
counties.



Services

Forensic Interviews

When requested by law enforcement or child protective services, a child interview specialist conducts a recorded forensic interview with the child. One of the goals of this interview is to reduce the number of times the child must tell the story of his/her abuse. Reducing the number of interviews reduces the trauma to the child.

Medical Examinations

Our medical and nursing staff specialize in child abuse assessments. Their role is to provide physical and sexual abuse assessments and comprehensive physical exams for alleged child abuse victims. They work with non-offending family members, foster parents and agencies in making referrals for ongoing care of the children.

Referrals and Advocacy

Professionals assess each child's needs and refer them to the appropriate therapy, support groups and other resources. Families also receive help in understanding the child protection system. Regular follow-up contact with the family assures a better case outcome.

Case Staffings

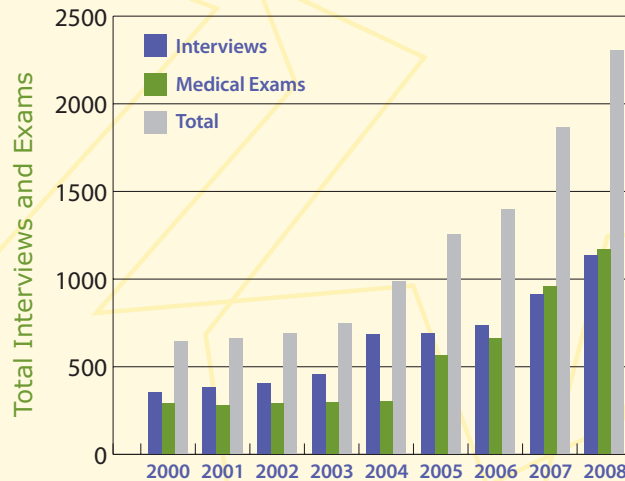
A multidisciplinary team consisting of law enforcement, child protective services, medical professionals, prosecutions, school personnel, Project Harmony staff and other professionals regularly review cases to make sure children do not "fall through the cracks." The team also discusses general issues and works toward making changes and finding solutions to problems in reporting and investigating child abuse, and ensuring that children receive therapy and other needed services.

Training

In 2008, Project Harmony sponsored or provided training and education to over 4,250 professionals representing more than 90 public and private agencies. This means that each month an average of 350 individuals received information about child abuse and neglect. Some of the training topics included:

- ★ The process of child abuse investigations,
- ★ Recognizing and reporting child abuse and
- ★ Testifying in court.

Forensic Interviews and Medical Exams Conducted at Project Harmony



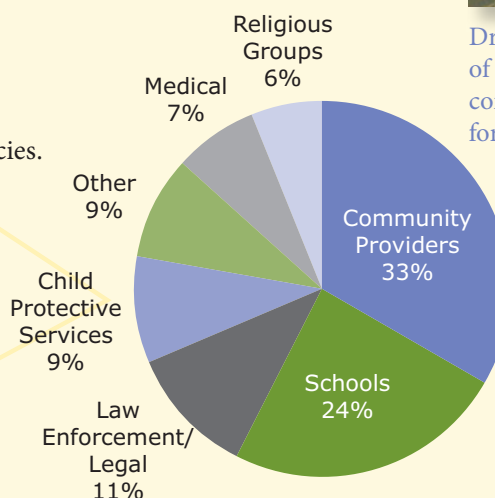
Medical Director Dr. Suzanne Haney and young patient.



One of two child-friendly medical exam rooms at Project Harmony.



Dr. Deb Anderson, Director of Training and Education conducts a training session for Omaha-area educators.



Training Audiences

2008 Calendar of Events



John Walsh
Host of *America's Most Wanted*
delivered the Keynote Speech at
2008 *Speaking of Children*.

March 5, 2008 Speaking of Children

Keynote Luncheon Speaker: John Walsh
Training Presenter: Kenneth Lanning, FBI (ret.)
Honorary Chairs: Beth and Harley Schrager, Terri and Phil Schrager
Event Chairs: Patty and Jim Jansen and Kate and Rod Kestel

On Wednesday, March 5, Project Harmony presented the inaugural "Speaking of Children." Held at Qwest Center Omaha, the day encompassed morning and afternoon training sessions with Kenneth Lanning, FBI (ret.) and a noon luncheon with featured speaker John Walsh, host of *America's Most Wanted*. More than 1100 attended the lunch, with 500 participating in the training sessions.

Gene Klein, Board President Leigh Ann Retelsdorf and John Walsh presented Kids First Awards to five individuals in recognition of their professional service and personal commitment in the field of child welfare. This day was made possible through generous corporate and community sponsorship. The event succeeded as "one extraordinary day to inspire and inform the community in the fight against child abuse."



Lions Club members
Bob Frederick, Mike Kiner and
Jim May present the proceeds
of Hops for Harmony to
Executive Director Gene Klein.

April 10, 2008 Hops for Harmony

The Papillion Area Lions Club hosted Hops for Harmony. This event was held at the German-American Society and featured more than 100 different beers from around the world as well as local brew masters with handcrafted Nebraska beers, wonderful food, a raffle and silent auction. Their outstanding efforts raised \$15,000 for the children served by Project Harmony.

April 22, 2008 Harmony Hues Art Show

Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy joined us in honoring the young artists from schools throughout the metropolitan Omaha School Districts whose art brightens Project Harmony. These children were commended for the generous use of their talents; family and friends joined them at this annual event.

Thank you to our 2008-2009 Artists and their Teachers!

Millard Public School District

Peter Kiewit Middle School

Teachers: Cecelia Birkhead and Susan Pierson

Omaha Public School District

Skinner Magnet Center

Teachers: Pat Miltner, Lisa Opava and Susanna Clinton

Edward "Babe" Gomez Heritage Elementary School

Teachers: Stephanie A. Carlson-Pruch and Julia Gilreath

Highland Elementary School

Teacher: Mary Gradoville

Westside District 66 Community Schools

Teachers: Cherri Derr and Cecilia Schultz

2008 Kids First Awards

Kelly Brumm, Protection and Safety Worker

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Nicole Goaley, Deputy County Attorney

Douglas County Attorney's Office, Juvenile Division

Judy Kay, Interim Executive Director

Child Saving Institute

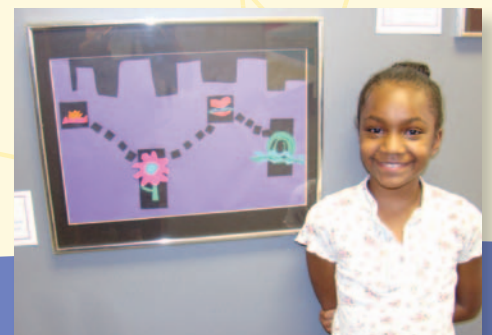
Trevor O'Brien, Lieutenant

Omaha Police Department

Helen Sinh-Dang, MD, Pediatrician

Project Harmony Child Protection Center

A proud and
happy artist; one of
the many whose art is
displayed throughout the
Project Harmony facility.





Participants line up for the 5K portion of the West Omaha Rotary Trail Run and Bike Ride.

May 10, 2008 West Omaha Rotary Trail Run & Bike Ride

Held at Heritage Park, 72nd & Ak-Sar-Ben Drive, and featuring the Kid's Mighty Mile and Toddler Trot as well as a 5K and 22-mile Bike Ride, West Omaha Rotary's event had something for everyone! Proceeds benefited Project Harmony and the West Omaha Rotary Foundation's Scholarship Fund.



Co-Chairs Jim Jansen (left) and Dean Rasmussen (right) present a check to Gene Klein and Lisa Mellen on behalf of Prairie Life Fitness.

June 3, 2008 The Prairie Life Fitness Project Harmony Golf Invitational

The *Prairie Life Fitness* Project Harmony Golf Invitational was held Tuesday, June 3rd at Indian Creek Golf Course. Fifty foursomes enjoyed sunshine and great golf for the benefit of the children served by Project Harmony Child Protection Center.

In its thirteenth year, the Invitational has surpassed \$1.4 million in total funds donated; many of the event sponsors have been involved since its inception. Event chairs, Dean Rasmussen, Jim Jansen and Diane Sorensen presented proceeds of this year's event, \$175,000, to Executive Director Gene Klein and Board President Lisa Mellen at the Invitational Awards Dinner.



"Halfway to St. Patrick's Day"
Co-Chairs Liz and Mike Jensen, Liz and Tim Langan, and Molly and Ryan Zabrowski certainly know the meaning of "wearin' o' the green" (well, five out of six anyway).

September 19, 2008 Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Celebration

The Project Harmony Service League hosted its fifth annual "Halfway to St. Patrick's Day" Celebration! at the Omaha Firefighters' Union Hall on September 19th. More than 700 tickets were sold for the event. The casual party started with Irish music by Ellis Island and continued with The Fishheads. Attendees dined on corned beef and brats provided by Omaha Steaks and prepared by Matt's Grill and Catering along with the traditional cabbage and potatoes. More than \$65,000 was raised to help victims of child abuse.



Project Harmony thanks all whose gifts have supported and sustained our program over the past year.

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 Pictured with
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In Memory of Etta Sugarman Mehlinger
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Project Harmony
Child Protection Center
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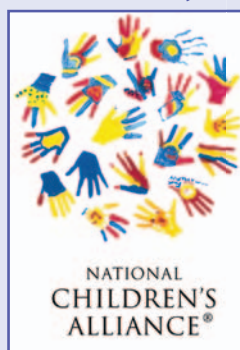
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