

PROJECT  
Harmony



*"Be brave.  
Ask children the  
hard questions."*

Antwone Fisher

*Award-winning Hollywood producer/screenwriter, author and child abuse survivor  
Keynote Speaker 2009 Speaking of Children*

**2009**  
**Annual**  
**Report**



**Gene Klein, LCSW**  
**Executive Director**



**Leo Knowles**  
**Board President**

## Dear Friends,

In 2009, Project Harmony hosted the second “Speaking of Children” and welcomed Antwone Fisher as our keynote luncheon speaker. Soft-spoken and articulate, Antwone held more than 1400 Qwest Center guests in rapt attention as he related the story of his childhood and teenage years, a story that many may recognize as it was presented in the Denzel Washington film *Antwone Fisher*. As a child Antwone suffered sexual, physical and emotional abuse; as a teenager, he was homeless. In the end, three factors provided him with the tools needed to survive: a caring teacher, the expert, compassionate treatment of a US Navy therapist and his own will to overcome the hand he had been dealt. His story eloquently demonstrates the daunting experience of growing up with the odds stacked against you.

In truth, nothing brings home the plight of children who are subjected to the worst that life has to offer better than the story told by the child. At Project Harmony this past year our staff heard more than 2100 stories that in some aspect echoed that told at the Qwest Center by Antwone Fisher. Our expert staff and partners, each of them specially-trained and committed to the well-being of children, are here to listen, to respond and to help bring solutions to the lives of the children who come to Project Harmony every day. Project Harmony works - hard and well – in collaboration and with a single mission:

*To protect and support children, to collaborate with professionals and to engage the community to end child abuse and neglect.*

We were honored to have been asked in 2009 to present our model of child protection at the Every Child Matters Child Abuse and Neglect Summit in Washington, DC. We know that this is truly a working model and one every community can achieve.

Further, during 2009, we determined that the facility that has been our home since 1996 can no longer house the increased volume of services provided each year. As a result, Project Harmony has undertaken the acquisition of a larger facility. We look forward to the next chapter in our own story and look back with deep gratitude for your very generous support and with pride in what we – working together – have accomplished for the children of our community.

Sincerely,

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

Gene Klein, LCSW  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leo Knowles".

Leo Knowles, President  
Board of Directors

## Project Harmony 2009 Annual Statistics

### SERVICES PROVIDED

Forensic Interviews Conducted	1235
Child Abuse Medical Exams Conducted	1266
Advocacy Service Contacts	
Provided to Victims	3532
Triage Center	852
<b>Total Service Contacts</b>	<b>6885</b>
<b>Unduplicated Children Served</b>	<b>2180</b>

### Counties Served

Douglas	1306	60%
Sarpy	419	19%
Cass County	38	2%
Iowa Counties	401	18%
Other States	16	1%
<b>Total Counties</b>	<b>2180</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Ages of Children Served

0 to 6	1185	54%
7 to 10	578	27%
11 to 15	320	15%
16 +	97	4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2180</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Gender

Female	1408	65%
Male	772	35%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2180</b>	

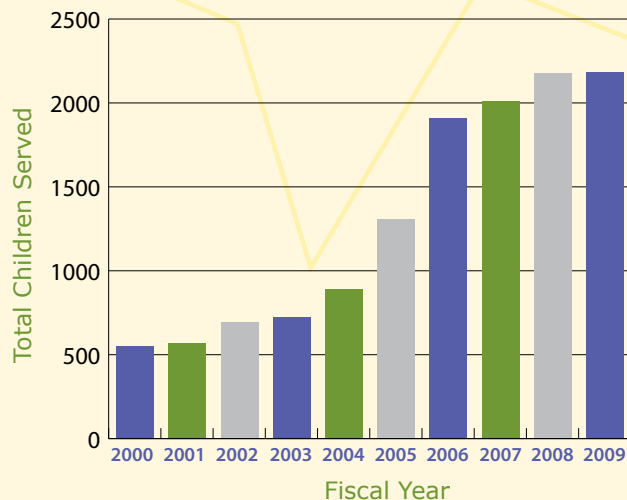
### Type of Abuse

Sexual	1301	60%
Neglect	583	27%
Physical	170	8%
Sexual and Physical	110	5%
Pornography	16	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2180</b>	

### Relationship to Alleged Perpetrator

Other Family Member	603	26%
Parent's Boyfriend/girlfriend	478	21%
Father	404	18%
Family Friend/Aquaintance	345	16%
Mother	171	8%
Unknown/not identifiable	86	4%
Step Father/Mother	90	4%
Child Care Provider	3	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2180</b>	

### Children Served



## 2009 Revenue and Expense (Unaudited)

### Revenue Sources

	2009 Operating
Contributions and Donations	173,173
Contributed Services	8,500
Foundations and Grants	253,000
Special Events	350,200
Government Contracts	818,490
Professional Fees	237,000
Other Earned Income	169,000

**Total Income 2,009,363**

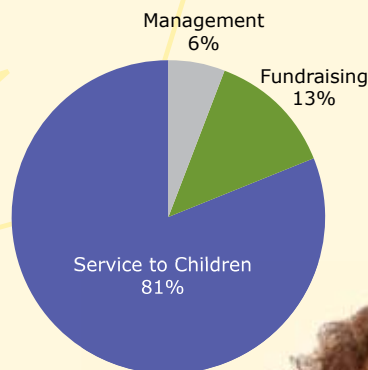
### Expense

Programs:	
Interviews	267,203
Referral and Coordination	412,280
Medical	443,544
Training and Education	294,208
2010 Program Support	218,265
<b>Total Program Expense</b>	<b>1,635,500</b>

Support Services:	
Fundraising and Special Events	262,221
Management	111,642
Total Support Expense	373,863

**TOTAL EXPENSES 2,009,363**

### Where the Funds Were Spent





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

## 2009 Board of Directors

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*Jelevos*

## Child Abuse in the Omaha Metro

During each **month** in 2009:

- ★ 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, 2,180 children were provided medical exams and forensic interviews at Project Harmony.

- ★ 65% 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           | ★ Physical injuries                            |
| ★ Nightmares      | ★ Sexually transmitted diseases including HIV  |
| ★ Depression      | ★ Self-destructive behaviors including suicide |
| ★ Phobias         |  |
| ★ Anxiety         |  |
| ★ Low self-esteem |  |
| ★ Victimization   |  |

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.



# Services

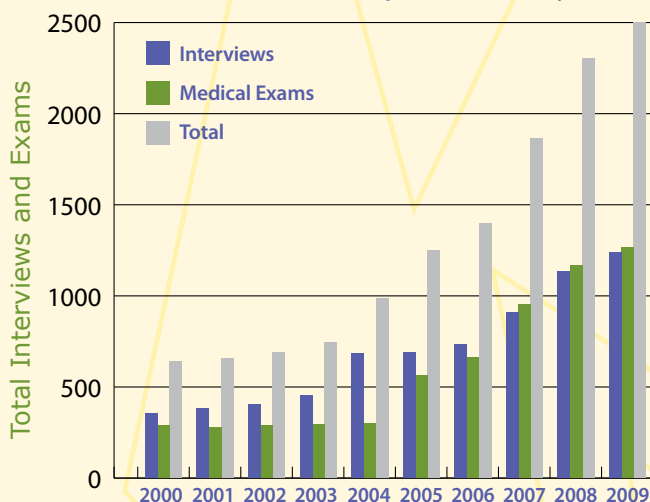
## Forensic Interviews

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.

**Forensic Interviews and Medical Exams Conducted at Project Harmony**



## 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, prosecutors, school personnel, Project Harmony staff and other professionals regularly review cases to make sure children do not "fall

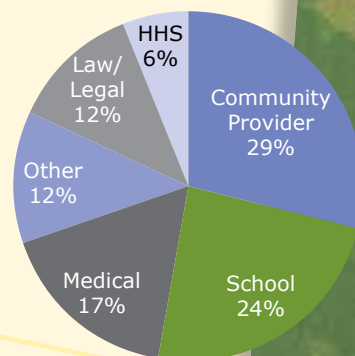
Medical Director  
Dr. Suzanne Haney  
is Nebraska's only  
Board Certified Child  
Abuse Pediatrician  
and assists with  
investigations  
throughout the  
region.



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

With an email distribution list of over 1500 individuals, Project Harmony actively promotes training and education opportunities to child abuse and neglect professionals throughout the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area, the 16 counties we serve in southwest Iowa, and the state of Nebraska. In 2009, Project Harmony provided training and education to over 6000 students, professionals, and citizens, representing a 25% increase in the number of people trained compared to the previous year. On average 16 trainings were offered each month, so that an individual seeking education and training about child abuse and neglect could find a session at least 4 out of 5 days each work week.



**Training Audiences**

Training on a variety of child abuse topics is regularly provided at Project Harmony as well as throughout Nebraska and Iowa.



Medical Exams are held in a child-friendly environment.



# 2009 Calendar of Events and Highlights of the Year

## March 11, 2009 ★ Speaking of Children

Keynote Luncheon Speaker: Antwone Fisher  
 Training Presenter: Bruce Perry, MD, PhD  
 Honorary Chairs: Howard and Rhonda Hawks  
 Event Chairs: Cathy Bonnesen and Jane Pohlman



*Antwone Fisher*

Project Harmony's 2nd Annual Speaking of Children, held on Wednesday, March 11th at Qwest Center Omaha, attracted 1400 attendees. Antwone Fisher is an award-winning Hollywood producer and screenwriter as well as an eloquent story-teller. On the evening of March 10th, Mr. Fisher fielded questions at Film Streams following the sold-out screening of *Antwone Fisher*.

The 2009 Speaking of Children focused on the impact of childhood trauma and the importance of treatment for child victims. Dr. Bruce Perry, Senior Fellow of The ChildTrauma Academy, presented morning and afternoon training sessions for more than 700 professionals. An additional 700 luncheon guests from the community-at-large attended Antwone Fisher's keynote address. Once again, generous corporate and community support provided "one extraordinary day to inform and inspire the community in the fight against child abuse."

### Honored at *Speaking of Children* were the 2009 Kids First Award honorees:

<b>Tricia Freeman</b>	Deputy County Attorney Sarpy County Attorney's Office
<b>Ronda Newman</b>	Children and Family Service Administrator Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
<b>Cathy Ronk</b>	Detective, Criminal Investigation Division Council Bluffs Police Department

## April 30, 2009 ★ 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.



*Mike Kiner, Gene Klein, Amy Chisholm, Jim May, Jim Jansen and Bob Frederick at Hops for Harmony.*



## June 2, 2009 ★ 14th Annual Prairie Life Fitness Project Harmony Golf Invitational

The Prairie Life Fitness Project Harmony Golf Invitational was held Tuesday, June 2nd at Indian Creek Golf Course. Forty-eight foursomes enjoyed a balmy day and great golf for the benefit of the children served by Project Harmony Child Protection Center. In its fourteenth year, the Invitational has surpassed \$1.7 million in net proceeds; 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, \$130,000, to Project Harmony at the Awards Dinner held that evening.

*Gene Klein, Diane Sorensen and Dean Rasmussen*

## August 22, 2009 ★ Project Harmony Poker Run

The Project Harmony Poker Run on August 22nd was co-chaired by Diane and Terry Sorensen, Sandy Prochaska and Luke Cochran. More than 200 bikers participated in the day long event. As a result of the wonderful turn-out and generous sponsorship support, proceeds of more than \$6,500 were presented to Project Harmony Child Protection Center!



*Poker Run Co-Chairs  
Sandy Prochaska, Luke Cochran,  
Terry Sorensen and  
Diane Sorensen*



*Dawn Busenbark, Henry Davis,  
Don and Kim Kleine enjoy the  
"Halfway to St. Patrick's Day"  
Celebration.*

## September 25, 2009 ★ 6th Annual "Halfway to St. Patrick's Day" Celebration!

Event Chairs: Jennifer and Burke Harr,  
Jamie and Joe Johns, Becca and Rory Sudbeck

The Project Harmony Service League hosted its sixth annual "Halfway to St. Patrick's Day" Celebration! at the Omaha Firefighters' Union Hall on September 25th. The casual party started with Irish music and continued with dancing to On The Fritz. More than 500 attendees dined on corned beef and brats along with the traditional cabbage and potatoes. More than \$60,000 was raised to help victims of child abuse.

## October 22, 2009 ★ Project Harmony Multi-Disciplinary Team Presents to National Summit

On Thursday, October 22nd, Project Harmony professionals presented to a summit of federal officials and policy makers in Washington DC. The Every Child Matters Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect Deaths was held in response to a report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services indicating that the number of abused children who died increased from 2001 to 2007.

Teresa Huizar, director of the National Children's Alliance, selected the Omaha advocacy center because of its unique comprehensive approach to child abuse intervention. "Project Harmony is the premier example of a child advocacy center doing early intervention work that clearly identifies children at risk and reduces child abuse fatalities," Huizar said.

Members of the presenting team included Medical Director Dr. Suzanne Haney, Barry DeJong of Nebraska Health and Human Services, Director of Service Coordination Colleen Roth, Douglas County Attorney Don Kleine, Sgt. Teresa Thorson of Omaha Police Department Child Victim/Sexual Assault Unit and Executive Director Gene Klein. (photo at right)



*Project Harmony's Multi-Disciplinary Team was well represented in Washington, D.C. These professionals meet regularly with others in Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie counties to coordinate case progress for children.*

## November 11, 2009 ★ Project Harmony Service League Annual Meeting

The Project Harmony Service League presented 2009 proceeds of \$70,000 to Project Harmony at their Annual Meeting at the Happy Hollow Club. The event served to thank retiring board members and welcome new members. Among those honored at the meeting was 2009 Project Harmony Service League Outstanding Volunteer Rory Sudbeck. The Pioneer Award was given to Kevin Thompson for his vision, perserverance and diligence.



*Project Harmony Service League  
Outstanding Volunteer Rory Sudbeck  
with his wife, Becca.*



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

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*Speaking  
of Children  
Honorary  
Chairs  
Howard  
and Rhonda  
Hawks with  
Antwone  
Fisher.*

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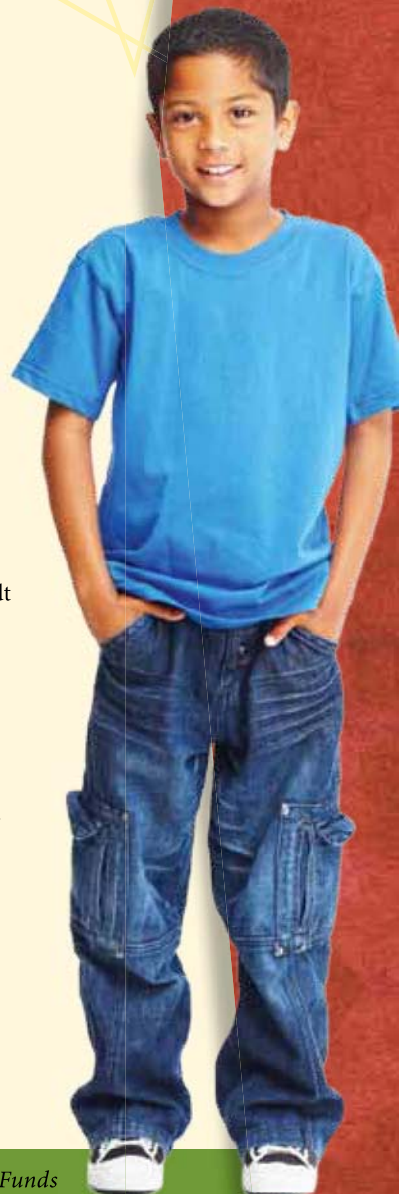
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 Pottawattamie County  
 Prairie Lane Elementary School Staff  
 Ralston Police Department  
 Republic National Distributing, Inc.  
 River Wilds Golf Club  
 Norman Rockwell Elementary School  
 The Rose Theater  
 St. Andrew's Pointe  
 St. James/Seton  
 Cub Scout Pack #380  
 St. Margaret Mary Church, Circle 3  
 St. Pius X Catholic Church  
 8th Grade Discipleship  
 Preschool Program  
 St. Robert's Ladies Guild, Circle 2  
 Salon Aura  
 Sarah's a boutique  
 Scheels Sports  
 The Reverend John P. Schlegel, S.J.  
 UNO School of Social Work  
 Securities America  
 Financial Services  
 Select Van and Storage  
 Sgt. Pepper's Gourmet Italian  
 Skate Daze  
 Skin Renewal Suite  
 Southwest Church of Christ  
 Southwest Gables Apartments  
 Southwest Omaha Moms Group  
 Stokes Bar & Grill  
 Stone Creek Golf Course  
 Strategic Air and Space Museum  
 Swintastic Swim School  
 The Tan Company  
 Target  
 Omaha and Council Bluffs  
 Taxi's Grille & Bar  
 Tetratex  
 Thrivent Financial  
 The Tiburon Knitting Group  
 TOPS  
 Trinity United Methodist Church

20th Century Fox  
 UNO Mavericks  
 Upstream Brewing Company  
 Vincenzo's Ristorante West  
 Waitt Outdoor  
 Walker Uniform Rental  
 The Weitz Company  
 Wellbound Fitness  
 Willowdale Girl Scout Troop # 3521

## Tributes & Memorials

In honor of Carol Milikin for Christmas  
 Dawn Fetsch

In honor of Diane and Larry Malashock  
 Judi and Dr. David Finkle

In honor of Denise and Jon Meyers  
 Judi and Dr. David Finkle

In honor of Natha and John Waldbaum  
 Judi and Dr. David Finkle

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah  
 of Max Gendler  
 David and Arlene Fredricks

In honor of Greg Fellows  
 Melinda and Randy Hall

In honor of Jill Reel and Jeff  
 Burianek Family  
 Marilyn Hrbek

In gratitude to Phil Schrager  
 Liz Hruska

In honor of Elmer Jackson's Birthday  
 Barbara and Joe Jackson

In honor of Jenny and Brian Doyle's  
 Wedding  
 Barbara and Joe Jackson

In honor of Kate Kestel's Birthday  
 Kathleen Kalkwharf

In honor of Bob Goodman's Birthday  
 Diane and Dr. Larry Malashock

In honor of Jeff Cohn's Birthday  
 Diane and Dr. Larry Malashock

In honor of Jake Hillyer's Birthday  
 Gina Tejral

In memory of Vicky Ciurej's Father  
 Judi and Dr. David Finkle

In memory of Greg Fellows  
 Margie and Barry Blocher  
 Julie and Bob Elias  
 Tina and Clark Flowers  
 Judy and Dr. Skip Gist  
 Melinda and Randy Hall  
 Barbara Jessing  
 Susan Kineen  
 Carol and John Lehotyak  
 Pam and Shaun Linehan  
 Delisa and Dave Novak  
 Ann Vasilisin

In memory of Ruth Marie (Preis)  
 Osterman  
 Leigh Cheloha  
 Brenda and William Gentleman  
 Cynthia Gillilan  
 Doreen Nelson  
 Robert Osterman  
 L. J. Salerno  
 Judi Thallas  
 Carolyn and Tom Upton

## 2009 Project Harmony Community Cabinet

Annie Bird  
 Susan A. Buffett  
 Will and Geri Clanton  
 Robert Doyle  
 Renee and Patrick Dytrych  
 Jane and John Ellsworth  
 Janice and David Faulkner  
 Susan and Ken Ferrarini  
 Therese and Dr. Timothy Fitzgibbons  
 Kay Lynn and Dr. John Goldner  
 Mary and Charles Heider  
 Gloria and Howard Kaslow  
 Maureen and Richard Kizer  
 Mary Ellen Knowles  
 Diny and Jim Landen  
 Dianne Seeman Lozier  
 Jodie and Bill Mackintosh  
 William March  
 Anne and Dr. Michael McGuire  
 Dr. Janie and Gregory Mikuls  
 Jeanie Neff  
 Kim and Jay Noddle  
 Sandy and Dave Parker  
 Mary Lynn and Richard Reiser  
 Jane and Tom Rogers  
 Beth and Harley Schrager  
 Terri and Phil Schrager  
 Carol and Dave Van Metre  
 Dr. John Walburn  
 Terry Watanabe  
 Gail Werner-Robertson  
 Judy and Gale Wickersham  
 Lyn and John Ziegenbein

## 2009 Project Harmony Service League

Matthew Enenbach, President  
 Emily Codr, Vice President  
 Denise Bartels, Secretary  
 Brian Doyle, Treasurer  
 Burke Harr, Events Chair  
 Sherry Falke, Membership/  
 Outreach Chair  
 Debbie Boler  
 Christine Benson  
 Karen Brouillette  
 Cristina Castro-Matukewicz  
 Amanda Chantiam  
 Judi Finkle  
 Bob Frederick  
 Patty Jansen  
 Kate Kestel  
 Amy Knight  
 John Langan  
 Liz Langan  
 Sarah McGowan  
 Micki Pane  
 Yvonne Pflug  
 Dan Preusser  
 Rory Sudbeck  
 Kevin Thompson  
 Molly Zabrowski



Special  
 thanks to  
 those whose  
 generous gifts  
 truly support  
 Project  
 Harmony as a  
 community-  
 based child  
 protection  
 center. Please  
 contact our  
 Development  
 Office at  
 402.595.1326  
 with any  
 correction or  
 omission.





Project Harmony  
Child Protection Center  
7110 F Street  
Omaha, NE 68117

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please call

**1-800-652-1999 in NE**  
**1-800-362-2178 in IA**

## Project Harmony Staff

### Administrative and Development

Gene Klein, LCSW, Executive Director  
Colleen Roth, LMHP, Director of Service Coordination  
Anne Weitz, Development Director  
Amy Chisholm, Development Specialist  
Greg Fellows, Office Manager  
Amy Carnes, Administrative Assistant  
Michelle Haynes, Administrative Support  
Rachel Masker, Administrative Support  
Carol Lehotyak, Billing Specialist

### Forensic Interview Services

Suzie Mistry, LMHP  
April Anderson, LCSW  
Sally Kaplan, LMHP, CMSW

### Medical Services

Suzanne Haney, MD, Medical Director  
Lisa Johnson, APRN  
Dina Burns, RN

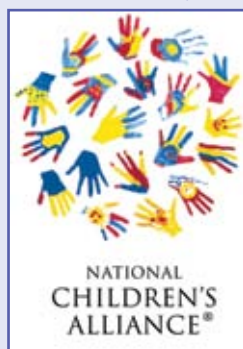
### Coordination and Referral Services

Jackie Simmons, MSW, Case Coordinator  
Jackie Fink, Referral Specialist  
Ilka Ray, Referral Specialist

### Project Harmony Training and Education Institute

Debra Anderson, MSW, PhD, Education and Training Director  
Ivy Svoboda, MSW, Education and Training Coordinator,  
Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers

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