

Mary Abbott Children's House

Child Abuse Response

P.O. Box 6316, Norman, OK 73070

(405) 579-5800

www.abbott-house.org



Volume 38, Spring 2010

WELCOME NEW STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS



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NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE®



MISTI HENDRICK FORENSIC INTERVIEWER

Misti comes to Abbott House with a Bachelor Degree of Social Work from the University of Oklahoma and experience with child welfare services (including a recent completion of her practicum). Through both her volunteer work and various past job experience, Misti brings with her almost a decade of experience with children and the medical field. Misti currently lives in Norman, and with her addition to the staff, we now have two full-time forensic interviewers.



GENEVIEVE "GINNY" MEYER FAMILY ADVOCATE/VOL. COORDINATOR

Ginny comes to Abbott House with undergraduate degrees in Gerontology and a Master's degree in Social Work. She served as a therapist at Varangon Academy – a residential treatment center for boys ages 13-17 with behavioral issues. She also has experience as a Social Work Case Manager at Norman Regional Health System with a focus on the oncology and medical surgical floors. She has worked in home health and hospice, where she still volunteers her services.



RICHARD CARLSON BOARD MEMBER

"I gladly accepted...because of my association for almost 30 years with Dr. Mary Abbott whom I loved dearly and considered a treasured colleague and mentor...I believe strongly in the work that Mary Abbott House does." -Dr. Richard Carlson

Originally from Connecticut, Dr. Richard Carson has spent the majority of his life serving children. With his BA in Chemistry from Wittenberg University and MD from the University of Cincinnati in hand, Richard served for three years in the US Navy. Most recently, he has retired after 31 years in Private Practice as a pediatrician in Norman. He now teaches Tap Dance at Modern Dance Arts Studio in Norman and is a strong supporter of the OU School of Dance.

GLORIA JEAN FENN BOARD MEMBER

Gloria Jean Fenn is first and foremost wife (married to Phil, Methodist minister), mother (Debbie, Dale and his wife Molly), and "gramzie" to Mikaela (9) and Kiara (5).

Gloria Jean has her Master's Degree in Speech/Language Pathology. Her desire to be more intentionally engaged with children was fulfilled through her subsequent work with SoonerStart. While at Doctor's Park, Gloria Jean became acquainted with the popular and much-loved pediatrician, Dr. Mary Abbott, and was increasingly impressed with the courageous and determined stance she took on behalf of her small clients, especially those suffering any type of abuse.

Gloria Jean has been a loyal volunteer and has responded to the recent invitation to serve on the Mary Abbott House Board of Directors as "a welcomed honor, challenge, and opportunity."



If you suspect abuse or neglect, please call the 24-hour statewide hotline:
Oklahoma Child Abuse Hotline:
1-800-522-3511

Our Mission: To serve child victims of sexual and severe physical abuse and neglect through coordinated interagency investigation, intervention, education and advocacy.

YOU SERVED HOW MANY CHILDREN?!

In 2010 Abbott House has seen a steady 10% increase in the number of children through our doors. To more fully understand the extent of this statement, it is important to note that in 2009 Abbott House interviewed 652 children, a 16% increase over the prior year and the largest number of children to walk through our halls in a single year. Each time this statistic is reported, it is met with groans and expressions of despair. Why the increase? Why now?

It would be easy to blame the current economy for the increase in abuse cases. And while you could make a very compelling argument for the correlation between the increase in unemployment and the increase in physical abuse, it would be difficult to extend that to sexual abuse. Currently, sexual abuse constitutes almost 95% of our cases. Additionally, if this is the only cause for the increase, it highlights the idea that there is nothing we can do to reverse the trend.

Education is one of our most important initiatives. In July, 337 different individuals were educated on the work of Abbott House, the services provided and the state mandate to report child abuse. Over the preceding months, staff has greatly increased community outreach, social media outreach, and presentations. By educating individuals, we believe that the number of referrals coming into Abbott House also increases. Everyone knows that child abuse is bad, and that it should be reported, but may not know how to identify the signs or to whom to report the incident.

Additionally, the increase in the number of children through our doors can be viewed as an enormous gift. The increase also points to an increase in reporting. Child victims of abuse experience enough trauma without being forced to tell their story of victimization over and over again in non-child-friendly settings. By coming to Abbott House, children are able to take their first steps toward healing therefore taking one step closer to a world free of child abuse.

Memorials

In Memory of:

Brittanie Montgomery

By Herman Saltzman

Brittanie Montgomery

By David & Donna Ramirez

Mary Abbott

By Sue Wood

Pat Mayes

By Gerry Mayes

Ruth Reed Scott

By Gene & Colleen Scott

Want more? Search "Mary Abbott Children's House" and follow us on:



COME CHECK US OUT

Even if you are a devoted blog reader, check our website on a regular basis, and have heard multiple presentations on the workings of Abbott House, you are doing yourself a disservice by not having toured the facility. There is an understanding and appreciation that comes from walking the halls of our building. It is as if being in the physical space allows you to walk in the shoes of the children who visit here. Following that sentence, you undoubtedly have decided that you will NOT come on a tour, why would you want to put yourself through that torment?

By "walking in their shoes" you are much more able to understand how hopeful Abbott House is. Children who come to the Abbott House experience greatly reduced trauma, and are able to take their first steps toward healing. The healing is so evident that the children exhibit a physical change. Most recently, a young girl entered our building unwilling to talk; upon leaving the forensic interview—having felt heard—she was chatty, smiling, and literally skipped out our door.

It is imperative that children not only in our city/county/state, but all child victims are given the chance to take back control of their lives. This is the hope that fills the halls of Abbott House. What are you waiting for? Please join us to learn more about what we are doing to help children take their first steps toward healing. Guests will tour our new facility and receive an overview of our agency. Upcoming tour dates are posted on our website at www.abbott-house.org. Please RSVP.

Wish List

- ◇ Soft Drinks, Juice Boxes, Individually Wrapped Snacks
- ◇ Handheld Video Games
- ◇ Postage Stamps, Copy Paper, Colored File Folders 1/3 Cut Tabs, Envelopes No. 6 3/4, New Verbatim DVD-Rs
- ◇ Lowe's & Home Depot Gift Cards, Wal-Mart Gift Cards

Please call before coming by to drop off donations. It is important for us to protect the confidentiality of the families we serve.

Yes, I want to help children!

Please fill in applicable information.

Individual Donation \$ _____ Corporate Donation \$ _____

In Honor of _____ In Memory of _____

I would like my donation to be debited from my checking account. One time only Monthly Other _____

Please attach a voided check. Debits will be made between the 20th and the end of every month.

I would like my donation charged to my Visa or MasterCard: One time only Monthly Other _____

I am interested in volunteering.

Name on Account _____ Account Number _____ Ex. ___ / ___
Signature _____

Name _____ Email: _____
Address _____ Home Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Work Phone _____

Mary Abbott Children's House is a private nonprofit 501(c)(3). All gifts are tax deductible.
To donate online or for more information on volunteering visit www.abbott-house.org

THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK!

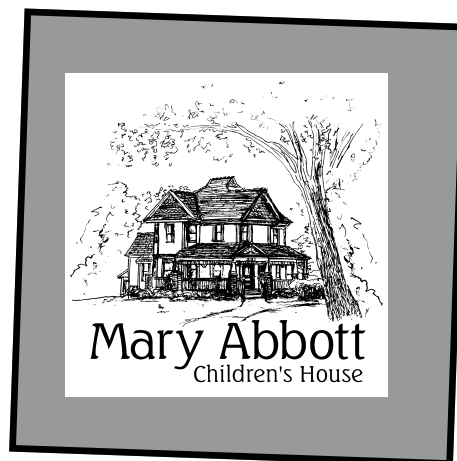
With every end there is a new beginning. Sadly, Abbott House is waving farewell to two of our beloved staff members. Vicki Boan, forensic interviewer, and Sabrina Yaw, family advocate/volunteer coordinator, have bid adieu. Both women had the incredible ability to put the best interests of the child victims we serve at the forefront of all decisions they made. It was truly an honor working with both of them and they will be missed. Sabrina and Vicki are each pursuing similar careers; Vicki as a contract forensic interviewer, and Sabrina has ventured to an NGO to further pursue the missionary work that she loves. We wish them lots of luck and look forward to crossing paths often. Thank you both for all your hard work and service to Abbott House.



Get Active! Get Involved! Volunteer With Us!

- Child Advocate**
- Administrative**
- Building and Grounds**
- Special Projects**
- Community Outreach**
- Fundraising**
- Court School**

***Background checks and training are required for all volunteer positions.*



Mary Abbott
Children's House
P.O. Box 6316
Norman, OK 73070



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Thanks for Your Generosity!

The following list contains donors contributing from March 2, 2010 to August 1, 2010. We apologize if we have mistakenly omitted your name. Please let us know.



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