



Deirdre's House
8 Court Street
Morristown, NJ 07960

www.deirdreshouse.org
973-631-5000

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Who Do I Call?

DYFS: To report child abuse by a family member or caretaker
1-877-NJ-ABUSE or 1-877-652-2873

Morris County Prosecutor's Office: To report child abuse by
someone other than a family member or caretaker

973.285.6200 (or call your local Police Department)

Fire: 911/_____

Police: 911/_____

Poison Control: 911/_____

Dr.: _____

Emergency Contact(s): _____

Important Information: _____

Save the Dates:

Friday, February 1st, 2008
Wine and Chocolate Tasting 7-10pm
Hyatt Morristown
Sponsorships available

Thursday, April 17th, 2008
Children and Technology Symposium
College of St. Elizabeth
Morristown, NJ 07960

For more information email AprilSymposium@dobcac.org



Don't Forget! April is Child
Abuse Prevention Month

Monday, June 23rd, 2008
A. Daniel D'Ambrosio Memorial Golf Classic,
Spring Brook Country Club
Morristown, NJ
Sponsorships Available

Friday, October 3rd, 2008
12th Annual Deirdre's House Gala
Spring Brook Country Club
Morristown, NJ

Please remember to include Deirdre's House
in your 2007 year-end giving.



Around The House

Winter 2007/2008

Volume 7

A Letter from the Executive Director

2007 has been a year in which Deirdre's House has seen the most egregious, headline grabbing cases of child abuse and neglect. In my five years at Deirdre's House I have seen some horrific cases, but the cases I have witnessed over the last several months have been truly shocking, whether it be the case of a 4 1/2 year old victim of a home intrusion by a convicted pedophile or a neglect case involving children so vulnerable it breaks your heart.

In each of these cases' Deirdre's House played a central role in medically treating the child victims, facilitating the investigation, and caring for the immediate needs of the victims. We calmed their fears, listened to their stories, treated their injuries, and helped them regain innocence lost. The programs and services provided at the Center allowed law enforcement and child protective services to do their jobs more effectively, while ensuring that each of these children were not forever scarred by the process of their treatment and the investigation of their case. It is through this work that we fulfill our mission of ensuring that though a child's life may have been touched by abuse it will not be forever defined by it.

Whenever I describe the situations that we face everyday at Deirdre's House—people always ask me "How do you deal with witnessing what you do on a daily basis?" An important factor in our being able to do what we do and cope with what we see is the continued support we receive from the people in our community. Though this year has been a tough time in the fight for Morris County's child victims we have been greatly heartened by the support we have received. Our Medical, Advocacy and Prevention programs funded by the donors listed in this newsletter,

saved lives in 2007. These programs honestly made a difference to the outcome of investigations, as well as the health and well being, and the long term prognosis for the success of child victims.

In many of the cases we saw this year, the Medical Program, funded by our Corporate Council, played a critical role not only in the treatment of the child victim but in the gathering and documenting of the physical evidence needed to bring their abusers to justice. Our Corporate Council members Schering-Plough, The Connell Company, Johnson and Johnson, Sanofi-Aventis, Wyeth, Novartis, Cushman and Wakefield, and Landice Treadmills, insured that state-of the art, free medical care for child victims was available without delay.

Through the support of long time donors like Jennifer and Shane Connell, Ted and Julie Chan, Dr. Lee and Amy Pressler, Dr. Trish and Kevin Luing, Bressler, Amery and Ross, PC, the family and friends of A. Daniel D'Ambrosio, Paul Miller Luxury Automobiles, the Guilford Foundation, and Suzanne and Jeffrey Citron—we were able to purchase digital recording equipment that is so vital in the forensic interviewing of child victims by the Morris County Prosecutor's Office and the presentation of those child interviews in court. We were also able to provide free clinical counseling and crisis services on an immediate basis. This immediate availability is critical because in cases of abuse, treatment postponed can be just as damaging as treatment denied.

Our prevention and community education program kicked into high gear in 2007. Through the support of First Morris Bank & Trust and the Morris County Bar Foundation

we were able to launch a PSA campaign educating the public about the importance of and how to report suspected cases of child abuse—a critical factor in actually getting to a child victim in time to actually save their lives. Under the leadership of super volunteer Donna Tyson, and with the support of the Morris County Sexual Assault Center, The United Way of Morris County and the Morris County Child Abuse Prevention Collaboration, we also conducted the first in a series of prevention centered conferences aimed at educating child welfare professionals, parents, and the general public. By bringing to Morris County nationally recognized experts in the field of child abuse prevention we hope to add another weapon in the fight against child abuse and neglect.

The time is now to get involved in the struggle to prevent child abuse and neglect. In this battle, everyone has a role to play. Involvement in the fight can come in the form of a donation, volunteering, educating your family and friends, or reporting suspected abuse. By taking any of these actions, you are taking a stand and easing the burden of child victims.

Deirdre's House is completely dependant on the generosity of private donors and we are ever conscious to use our funds efficiently. More than 93 cents of every dollar goes directly to programs for child victims and their families. Please remember us and the child victims of Morris County in your year end giving.

Thank you
and best wishes in the New Year.

Maria Vini Santore

11th Anniversary Gala



Jim and Georgia O'Brien, Maria Vinci-Savettiere, Esq., Executive Director of Deirdre's House, and Melanie Smith, Esq. at Spring Brook Country Club for Deirdre's House 11th Annual Gala.



Please remember to include
Deirdre's House
in your 2007 year-end giving.



Collaboration Corner

Deirdre's House, in partnership with Morris County Child Abuse Prevention Collaboration, successfully completed the first in a series of child abuse and neglect prevention conferences. Children and Pop Culture: Prevention of Sexual Exploitation - A Good Offense is Our Best Defense was a huge success. A special thank you to our speakers Janet F. Rosenzweig, Ph D, Certified Sex Educator; Janice Huff, WNBC Meteorologist, Host of Wednesday's Child; and David Johnston, MA, CSW, Division of Youth and Family Services who made the conference compelling and interesting. Deirdre's House would also like to thank all the participants and supporters of the conference. We look forward to seeing everyone at our April 17, 2008 conference on Children and Technology!

* For more information on Morris County Child Abuse Prevention Collaboration go to www.DeirdresHouse.org *

Event Spotlight



Joseph Longo, long time supporter of Deirdre's House, and winner of the BMW X-5 hole-in-one prize sponsored by Paul Miller Luxury Automobile.

The Deirdre's House 4th Annual A. Daniel D'Ambrosio Memorial Golf Classic held at Spring Brook Country Club in Morristown, NJ on June 25, 2007, proved to be an enjoyable and exciting day for all its participants, especially hole-in-one winner, Joseph Longo. Longo sunk his first hole-in-one ever with a powerful line drive on Hole Two.

A huge "thank you" to Paul Miller Luxury Automobile Group for donating the BMW and other luxury automobile hole-in-one prizes. Paul Miller and his son Trent have

been loyal supporters of the Golf Classic since its inception.

Thanks to lead sponsors Landice Treadmills, Service Metal Fabricators, The Connell Company, and Steve Toma/Astrolab. This year's Golf Classic was a huge success, raising over \$90,000 for the Center. For information about how to sponsor or participate in next year's Golf Classic to be held June 23, 2008 at Spring Brook Country Club., please contact Sandi Mayer at (973) 285-6620 or sandi@dobcac.org.

2007 Contributions received through November 2007

Please contact us if your name was inadvertently left off this list.

\$25,000 +

Guilford Foundation
United Way-Morris County

\$15,000 - \$24,999

Ted & Julie Chan/Fond du Lac Cold Storage
Shane & Jennifer Connell/Connell Company
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Inc.
Greg & Maria Savettiere/Landice
Treadmills, Inc.
Moretti Family/Service Metal
Fabricating, Inc.

\$10,000 - \$14,999

National Children's Alliance

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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Bressler, Amery & Ross PC
Polo Ralph Lauren
Novartis Pharmaceuticals
Jason Weaver & Employees of
Morristown Smith Barney
Donna & Alan Tyson
Schering Plough Corp.
Stephen & Laura Toma/Astrolab
Morris County Bar Foundation
Paul Miller, Inc.-Luxury Cars
Nancy Miller-Rich & Jeffrey Rich
Carol & Les Armour

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Page Hill Foundation
United Way-TriState
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in honor of Daniel D' Ambrosio
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in memory of Deirdre
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David Shea
Lisa Bosco & Alexander Tafro
Gene Thomas

to \$499

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in honor of John by Lynn
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Jill Critchley Weber
in memory of Dan D' Ambrosio
Mary Williams
in memory of Patricia Hammond
Leigh & David Wohlfarth
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Kathryn Keller
Betty Boyd
in memory of Pat Hammond
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Stephen Gardner
Marion Harris
William & Erica Kelly
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Patricia Merkel
Francine Myers
Thomas & Vera Roche
in memory of John McKenna
Jack Schrier
from Vincent Fox
Janine & Joseph Turner
Atlantic Mutual-Denim Day
Stephen Gardner
June & Robert Hunt
James & Elizabeth Tunny
The Turtle Co.

Deirdre's House Welcomes New Board Members

Deirdre's House would like to announce the addition of four new members to our Board of Trustees. Everyone at the Center is very excited to have them join us. We know their professional expertise and dedication to the children of Morris County will help us to continue to consistently improve the level of services we provide.

Ida Cuccia

Ida is a New York native and a graduate from Marymount Academy in New York. She is currently a Vice President at The Provident Bank and is the Branch Manager of their Morristown Office. Ida has more than 20 years of banking experience in the Consumer and Business Markets and holds a New Jersey State Real Estate License. Ida actively represents The Provident Bank at many community events held in and around Morristown.

Donna Tyson, Esq.

Donna was born in Philadelphia, PA. She earned an A.B. from Muhlenberg College, as well as a J.D. from St. John's University School of Law. Prior to raising her four children, Donna investigated and supervised investigations of employment discrimination for New York City Commission on Human Rights, NYC. Other more recent positions held include writing/editing charitable organizations' newsletters, as well as serving officer/board/chairmanship positions within educational and charitable entities. Donna enjoys serving on

the Board of Observers of Muhlenberg College, as well as the Parents' Council of Rhode Island School of Design. She is pleased to join the Board of Deirdre's House where she currently works as a volunteer.

Edwin Zipf, Esq.

Ed is a lifelong New Jersey resident. He was born in Newark, N.J. and graduated from Rutgers University and Seton Hall School of Law (cum laude). At Rutgers he captained the varsity lacrosse team. He has been practicing law with Bressler, Amery & Ross, P.C. since 1986 and has been a partner since 1991. He resides in Bernardsville, N.J. with his wife and son and enjoys volunteering in a number of community organizations including Deirdre's House.

Kim Speedy, Esq.

Kim is a native of New Jersey and a graduate of Montclair State University (cum laude) and New York Law School (cum laude). Kim practiced bankruptcy and reorganization law with Dewy & LeBoeuf (formerly LeBoeuf Lamb Greene & MacRae) and served as a law clerk for a federal bankruptcy judge. She currently resides in Chester, N.J. with her husband and son and serves on the Board and as Gala Co-Chair for Deirdre's House. Kim has also volunteered as a fundraiser for various other nonprofits organizations and owns and operates her own antiques business.

Child Abuse Statistics

- 2,429 children visited Deirdre's House from January 2006 through September 2007.
- Child Abuse is reported-on average-every 10 seconds.
- Over 2 million reports of child abuse or neglect are made each year.
- The average age of a victim of abuse is 9 years old.
- Approximately 1 in 7 youth online (10 to 17-years-old) received a sexual solicitation or approach over the Internet.

973-631-5000

www.DeirdresHouse.org

Congratulations...

to our 2007 Connie Strand Award for Excellence in Child Advocacy recipient Peggy Adams. Peggy Adams recently retired after 34 years as Recreation Director of Morris Township. In 1994, Jim O'Brien asked Peggy to join the Board of Trustees of Deirdre's House as a founding member, and she has been an active Board member ever since. Her support of and enthusiasm for children and the issues affecting their lives is boundless. Her involvement and dedication to the community includes raising funds for and lending her expertise to many children's charities including Deirdre's House, the Girl Scouts, and County College of Morris scholarships.

2,482

**The number of
Children Abused or
Neglected
EACH and EVERY Day
in America.**

*You can save a child's life. Take Action -
Don't wait for someone else to do it*

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected in New Jersey, *please* call: 1-877-NJABUSE or your local police department.



973-631-5000

www.deirdreshouse.org

Deirdre's House Scholarships

Since opening our doors in 1996, Deirdre's House has provided a safe, comfortable, home-like environment for child victims. In keeping with that mission, Deirdre's House realizes that it is important that child victims escape the hurt and pain they have experienced and delight in just being a child. Our S.H.I.N.E., DEAR Camp, and Healing Fund scholarships are designed to give children who have been abused, neglected, and/or witnessed abuse in their home that opportunity. These monetary scholarships help child victims, and their families, move forward in the healing process and regain self-esteem. This is important because children who have been exposed to abuse face a variety of challenges well beyond their initial trauma. They are at risk for a variety of emotional responses such as depression, anxiety, aggression, and low self esteem. In addition, these children face a higher rate of re-victimization as well as an increased risk of low academic performance, suicide, eating disorders, and risky behaviors, such as promiscuity, cutting, and substance abuse. With these children facing such risk factors, participation in summer, after school and extracurricular activities is an important preventive and early intervention measure. Times when children are left unattended, such as summer and after school hours, are reported to be when youth are most likely to become victims, and/or engage in risky behaviors. Research also shows that early intervention and attention to the emotional needs of abused children greatly increases their chance for success and reduces the negative impact of abuse. The following quote, from a thirteen year old girl's DEAR Camp application letter, says it all; "I will have a chance to be a child again. When I was with my biological family, I had to be the adult, and take care of my Dad. I just want to have fun and be with other kids."

The following are brief descriptions of the scholarships that Deirdre's House offers.

S.H.I.N.E. (Scholarships Helping Inspire New Expectations) is an opportunity for a child to participate in mainstream educational activities, such as: music, arts, sports, educational courses, and other community-based programs. Funding awards allow those who need it most the chance to improve their self-esteem, increase independence, and truly "shine."

DEAR Camp (Day Education Arts Recreation) is an opportunity for a child to participate in summer camp or summer camp related activities. Funding awards provide the opportunity for children to increase their social skills and self-esteem, as well as enjoy a fun and carefree summer.

The Healing Fund is an innovative program created to address the financial needs of Morris County's child victims by helping them and their families receive funds to assist with crisis, emergency and other unique situations, health and hygiene costs, and appropriate family and/or school social activities. By offering this foundation of support during a time of trauma, families can focus their attention on the welfare of the child, heal, and work to build financial and family stability. In addition, funded activities allow child victims to regain a sense of "normalcy" and help restore social skills and family dynamics often damaged by the trauma of abuse.

You can make a difference. Deirdre's House offers opportunities for individuals or groups to sponsor a child to attend summer camp or participate in an after school or extracurricular enrichment program. The gift of \$300-\$500 can send a child to summer camp and provide them with essential items such as sunscreen, sneakers, towels, etc. A donation of \$200-\$400 can provide a child with approximately 3 months of after school activities such as dance class, gymnastics, sports, or tutoring/academic assistance. Deirdre's House ensures that all gifts to these programs are used exclusively to provide scholarships or requested supplies. There is no better way to ensure that you are truly helping those who need it most—the children.



A Day of Caring

On October 4th, 2007 Novartis employees participated in "A Day of Caring". A group of six Novartis employees (seen in above photo) spent the day cleaning, organizing and beautifying the center. Thank you!! Deirdre's House would like to extend a BIG thank you to everyone who has participated in "A Day of Caring" in this past year. Without your continued dedication we would not be the comfortable, inviting and child friendly Center that we are.



"Deirdre's House ensures that though a child's life may be altered by abuse, it will not be defined by it."

~Maria Vinci-Savettiere, Executive Director of Deirdre's House