

A BRIGHTER FUTURE



KIDS HOUSE OF SEMINOLE

# A BETTER WAY

OCTOBER 2009-SEPTEMBER 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



Wayne Densch  
CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER



**Kids House Leadership Staff:**  
 (L to R) Dana Karen, Juliette Kong, Nancy Crawford,  
 Laura Phipps, Marcie Dearth, Odies Grant,  
 Rebecca Crawford, Nicole Brenenstuhl

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE FROM NANCY

Thank you for another year of helping children through the terror of abuse, for building hopeful futures, and for saving lives. The times may be tough but "when things get tough, the tough get going."

We have proven to be tough on abuse at Kids House and work diligently day in and day out to make a better world for our most vulnerable of children. We couldn't do what we do without you. As you read through our Annual Report for our Fiscal Year October 2009 to September 2010, I hope you recognize the great impact your support, your partnership, your contribution, and/or your time and skills have had in our ability to help more children on the path to recovery and a brighter, happier, healthier future.

We hope you will continue to join us in this fight against child abuse or if you haven't had an opportunity to participate, this will be the year. We need you on our Kids House Team.



## CHAIRMAN MESSAGE FROM GEORGE SMITH

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Chair for the Kids House Board of Directors this past year. During these challenging economic times when more children are in need than ever before, it is clear that we as a community and organization must all pull together to ensure that Kids House remains strong. What the community needs most is for Kids House to be sustainable. We must continue to do what we do well. Our programs are strong and provide for the highest quality services to children and families in need. We will continue to provide any child in need with advocacy, forensic interviewing, and medical or mental health services. As we move forward, we will continue to collaborate well with our community. Our strong community partnerships are evident by those who fill the pages of this report. We will continue to strengthen existing partnerships while fostering new ones. We must all work together to build a foundation of financial stability that will ensure Kids House remains strong during any downturn of economic conditions in the future.



Administration: (L to R) Back Row: Mary Knurek, Allie Yadav, Christen Moffitt, Hollie Bauer, Ashleigh Whitman Front Row: Dana Karen, Nancy Crawford, Marcie Dearth



Child Advocate Program Staff:  
 (L to R) Back Row: Heather Owen,  
 Lourdes Davis, Rebecca Crawford;  
 Front Row: Kim Moore, Jennifer Napier



Mental Health Program Staff:  
 (L to R) Back Row: Mike Bombka,  
 Marisol Tobey, Naomi Wheeler;  
 Front Row: Cherilyn Rowland Petrie,  
 Nicole Brenenstuhl, Soni McCarty



Child Protection Team Staff:  
 (L to R) Back Row: Jan Carlson,  
 Odies Grant, Tiffany Anderson,  
 Dr. Neal Silverstein, Laura Phipps  
 Front Row: Amy Burrows,  
 Jennifer Reed, Eunice Carasas



Family Connections Program Staff:  
 (L to R) Heidi Doby, Jennifer Mauco,  
 Juliette Kong, Abby Gadson

# IN THE COMMUNITY

# STATISTICS

▲ Kids House's Professional Tools Training Program aims to educate the community on child abuse related issues. In 2009-2010 the staff presented 32 trainings throughout the year to 463 individuals from varying professions including law enforcement, paramedics, medical professionals and students, and community members.

▲ New training opportunities were developed throughout the year for volunteers interested in representing Kids House. A Speakers Bureau has formed to include community members that have participated in a training to learn about Kids House and child abuse prevention. Participants are outgoing, professional and have a passion for the work we do. Each is assigned events and speaking engagements throughout the year to help spread the message of helping stop child abuse.

▲ This past year, Kids House has been proud to embark on a new training initiative in partnership with CBC of Seminole. Kids House's mental health program staff hold an expertise that is worth sharing. The training offers foster parents and child welfare professionals an opportunity for advanced and focused training related to some of the most traumatized children they come across.

▲ Volunteers are a key piece of our puzzle. We could not do all that we do without the help of the talented and dedicated individuals that give their time to helping our agency and our children. In 2009-2010, 491 volunteers donated 5,298 hours of their time to Kids House.



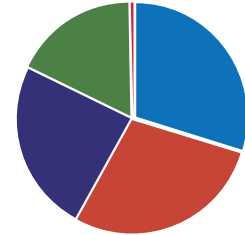
Pam and Katie Weber pose for a photo at the 2010 Easter Egg Hunt. Each year Katie creates one of a kind Easter Baskets to be distributed to the kids.



Volunteers from Longwood Hills Congregational Church's Youth Group prepare food and treats for the families at the 2009 Holiday Party.

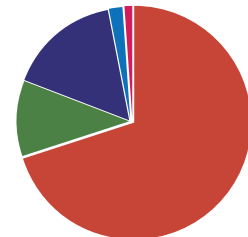
## TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED – 2256

Age Group	Female	Male	Total
0-4	344	328	672
5-9	323	318	641
10-14	330	217	547
15-18	261	133	394
Unknown	2	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1260</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>2256</b>



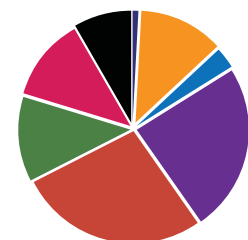
## ALLEGED OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD

Parent	70%
Relative	11%
Other Known Person	16%
Unknown	2%
Stranger	1%



## NEW CHILDREN SERVED BY MALTREATMENTS

PRESENTING MALTREATMENT	Percentage
Death by abuse	1%
Neglect	12%
Other	3%
Physical Abuse	24%
Sexual Abuse	27%
Substance Abuse	12%
Witness to Violence	12%
Parents Needs Assistance	8%



# ANNUAL MEETING AWARDS

Kids House is so fortunate to have the support of strong individuals and a supportive community that enrich the agency and the lives of the children we serve. Kids House recognizes those who have had the greatest impact each year at our Annual Meeting. Listed below are our 2010 honorees!

▲ **VOLUNTEER GROUP AWARD: Rob Hulstedt** on behalf of Pershing, LLC. The employees of Pershing have been outstanding volunteers dedicating their time to many events and fundraisers throughout the year. Their hard work and reliability have been an asset to the Kids House team.

▲ **OUTSTANDING MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM MEMBER AWARD:** given this year to a partner agency representative who exemplifies outstanding dedication to the children in our community. Kids House was honored to recognize individuals from each agency in the Multidisciplinary Team. Each individual worked tirelessly for the past year, protecting our children and fighting for their safety.

Seminole County Sheriff's Office (Law Enforcement Officer):  
Seminole County Sheriff's Office (Child Protective Services):  
Lake Mary Police Department:  
State Attorney's Office 18th Judicial Circuit Seminole:  
Longwood Police Department:  
Department of Children and Families:  
Oviedo Police Department:  
Seminole County Public Schools:  
Florida Hospital Altamonte:  
Casselberry Police Department:  
Altamonte Springs Police Department:  
Sanford Police Department:  
Winter Springs Police Department:  
Seminole Behavioral Healthcare:  
Community Based Care of Seminole:

**Inv. Dana Ortiz**  
**Natalie Cummings**  
**Lt. David Prince**  
**Dora Cyphers**  
**Corp. Travis Grimm**  
**Patrick Halnon**  
**Lt. Adam Egert**  
**Britt Smith**  
**Bill Heinrich**  
**Corp. Carlos Hernandez**  
**Det. Kevin Acosta**  
**Inv. John Foshee**  
**Det. Thomas Padgett**  
**Sheila Davis**  
**Chadra Roberts**



***Strong individuals. Supportive community.***

▶ **INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER AWARD: Jim Salvano.** Jim has dedicated himself to cleaning and maintaining the beautiful fountain outside of Kids House. Jim's positive attitude and dedication are appreciated by staff and our children.

▶ **COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD: George Smith and Bill Robinson** on behalf of Wharton-Smith for their many contributions of service and dollars.

▶ **LEADERSHIP AWARD: Leif Chase** for his dedicated leadership and expertise that he has devoted to our Finance Committee and Board of Directors.

▶ **OUTSTANDING MEDIA PARTNER:** presented to two dedicated partners: **Jim Payne** of WESH Channel2 for his continued partnership and involvement with the Kids House Field of Dreams Gala and the Jim Payne Blue Ribbon Run for the Kids; **Michael & Sheila Kramer**, of *Lake Mary Life Magazine*. The magazine has been a supporter of Kids House for many years and continually recognize and feature our organization in their publications.



Outstanding Multidisciplinary Team Award recipients accept their awards from Sheriff Don Eslinger and Laura Phipps, Kids House Medical Trauma Program Director.



Jim Salvano accepts the Individual Volunteer of the Year Award from Sheriff Don Eslinger.



Leadership Award recipient Leif Chase accepts his award from Sheriff Don Eslinger.



Michael and Sheila Kramer accept the Outstanding Media Partner Award presented to Lake Mary Life Magazine from Sheriff Don Eslinger.



George Smith and Bill Robinson of Wharton-Smith accept the Community Partner Award from Sheriff Don Eslinger.



Rob Huldstedt and staff from Pershing LLC. accept the Volunteer Group of the Year Award from Sheriff Don Eslinger and Marcie Dearth, Kids House Development Director.



## PROGRAM UPDATES

▲ **CHILD PROTECTION TEAM:** The Child Protection team continues to maintain an excellent standard of quality services provided to aid child victims of abuse. Despite many challenges over the last year, none interfered with our service to children. One of the biggest success stories for the past year was the successful implementation of the Early Steps Program. Early Steps is Florida's early intervention system that offers services to infants and toddlers (birth to thirty-six months) with significant delays or a condition likely to result in a developmental delay. Early intervention is provided to support families and caregivers in developing the competence and confidence to help their child learn and develop.

Dr. Silverstein, Medical Director of our Child Protection Team has been intricately involved in the "Crying Baby Project", an innovative program initiative launched by Children's Medical Service (CMS). Crying is the main trigger for an adult to violently shake an infant. Shaken Baby Syndrome, now more commonly known as Abusive Head Trauma, is one of the most common causes of death by physical abuse to young children in Florida. The program's goals are to educate the public and provide valuable insight and resources to reduce Abusive Head Trauma in infants.

▲ **CHILD ADVOCATE PROGRAM:** The Child Advocate Program has seen many successes over the past year. Above and beyond the advocacy services provided to families, the child advocates were able to provide positive change and support through several initiatives. The Nurturing Parent Program, a 15 week parenting course, provided struggling parents with sound skills, advice and support. In addition, a weekly support group was conducted for parents of sexually abused children to meet and support one another. New initiatives helped the program advance quality services. This includes the development of new outcome based measurements that show the effectiveness of advocacy and intervention as well as improved assessment of families needs.

The CHILD ADVOCATE PROGRAM has successfully implemented a new food insecurity assessment this past year to families falling below the poverty level. This has allowed us to better identify children that are dealing with hunger so that we can provide immediate assistance, and find long term solutions. The economy remains tough and our families are still struggling to provide the basic needs to their children; however, we have been successful in providing some essential items to children such as beds, clothing, warm winter jackets, shoes, and hygiene products. It doesn't end there! Our community has been very supportive of our families and what they are going through. Because of the generosity of our community, we have been able to provide entertainment and joyful memories to our families through movie tickets, zoo tickets, sporting tickets to Magic and UCF basketball games, bikes, computers and much more.

▶ **MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM:** The Mental Health Program continues to provide outstanding expertise and specialization in treatment to our children. Kids House has maintained a mental health staff of therapists with almost 40 years of experience combined. Each is committed to staying abreast of the latest treatment models, such as EMDR, and continues to have a thirst for knowledge in order to continue to provide the very best treatment to our children and families.

In addition, the Mental Health Program has recently partnered with the University of Central Florida's Marriage and Family Research Institute (MFRI). Through this partnership, the MFRI will provide research and program evaluation in order to assist Kids House in future growth and development. This level of research and evaluation will also strengthen our position for grants and funders in the future.

▶ **FAMILY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM:** Family Connections has seen the building and strengthening of the program's skills in Family Team Conferencing in such a tremendous way that other community programs have begun utilizing the technique. In addition, the integration of the Behavioral Health Assessment Program provides adult clients with access to mental health services and substance abuse treatment. The Family Connections Program is a successful partnership program with Kids House, Community Based Care of Seminole, Human Services Associates, and the Seminole County Sheriff's Office.

▶ **MEDICAL TRAUMA PROGRAM:** This past year, the Kids House Medical Trauma Program embarked on a new partnership with Florida State University Medical School, Orlando Campus. Third year medical students now have the opportunity to fulfill their Community Medicine Clerkship at Kids House. Through this experience with Kids House, medical students witness not only the immediate impact of child abuse, but through their interaction with families, law enforcement, social service agencies and attorneys, they learn the "ripple effect" that child abuse has on children, families and the community. Kids House looks forward to our newest partnership with Fortis College of Nursing, which will provide similar opportunities to its students. The Medical Trauma Program staff has continued to develop the Physicians Alliance which continues to allow physicians to learn about the medical problems of child abuse and to provide accessibility to services for children who otherwise might not receive the needed care.

Committed physicians not only work with our medical staff, but also participate on the Kids House Board of Directors and attend fundraisers and social events. Quarterly meetings include quality lectures that allow members to obtain continuing medical education credits, thanks to our partnership with the Florida Area Health Education Center.



# DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Our Children's Advocacy Center's ability to help an ever-increasing number of children depends on the community's investment in our efforts. Yet despite many economic challenges, Kids House's Development Program experienced many advances this past year including the launch of a corporate major gifts campaign. The effort resulted in strengthened partnerships and generated over \$100,000 in gifts and pledges. Our Development Program further expanded with the addition of a grant writer to provide further sustainability of Kids House.

With the support of committed donors, sponsors, volunteers and participants our special events also experienced growth this year. The 3rd Annual Field of Dreams Gala was a sold out event and the Kids House Klassic golf tournament raised more this past year than any time in its nine year history, nearly doubling its revenue.

Moving into the next year, Kids House looks forward to expanding upon our successes in addition to expanding our endowment and our major gifts strategies. Our efforts in building relationships with mission-based donors who recognize the importance of our work will no doubt lead to long term growth and more opportunities for our kids.



## SUCCESS STORIES

**Vanessa:** *I used to like spending time with my dad. It made me feel special when he would come into my room and snuggle with me at night. But then he started touching me. I didn't like it and sometimes it hurt really bad. For a long time, I was afraid my mom would be mad at me or wouldn't believe me if I told. When I did tell though, she did believe me and instead said she loved me and was going to help me. She took me to Kids House. I was scared but they made me feel safe. I've been going to Kids House for a long time now. I talk to a therapist a lot. She is helping me to see that I am brave and good – that it wasn't my fault and that I have a whole life ahead of me to make good memories so I can let go of the bad ones.*

**Matthew:** *The last time my father hit me I had to go to the emergency room. I couldn't see because my eyes were so swollen and blood was everywhere. I slept at the hospital that night. The next day, my aunt took me to Kids House to talk to some people about what happened. I was afraid but everything hurt so badly I didn't want to feel like that anymore. They made me feel safe and told me they were going to help. It was hard because I loved my dad, but I told them what my dad had done and what things were like at home. I still miss my dad, but I don't hurt anymore.*

# EVENTS

**Promise to Protect** November 2009 \$182,765.00 in cash and pledges  
**Field of Dreams Gala** April 2010 \$283,103.00  
**Kids House Klassic** October 2009 \$34,235.00  
**Jim Payne Blue Ribbon** 5k Run for the Kids May 2010 \$44,962.00



The course is set for the 9th Annual Kids House Klassic held at Timacuan Golf Club.



Golfers enjoy the scenic course, beautiful weather and a great day of golf at Timacuan.



Michael Strahan of the New York Giants makes a surprise visit to Kids House's Field of Dreams Gala and helps with the live auction.



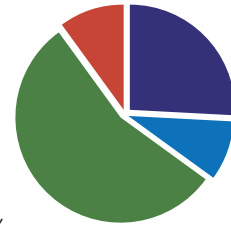
Nearly 200 children joined us for the Kids Run at the 2010 Jim Payne Blue Ribbon Run for the Kids.



Winter Springs and Oviedo Police Departments pose for a quick photo before the 2nd Annual Cops for Kids House flag football game.

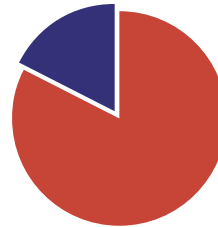
## REVENUE

Donations: 9% Fundraisers: 26%  
 Grants: 55% CAC Other: 10%



## EXPENSES

Programs: 82.5%  
 Administration: 17.5%



Guests enjoy the 3rd Annual Field of Dreams Gala held at the Venue on the University of Central Florida campus.



The beautiful Sanford River Walk provides the perfect backdrop for an evening stroll.

## MAKING POSITIVE MEMORIES

Kids House is proud to offer safe, free, and fun opportunities throughout the year for families to create happy memories. We appreciate the support and donations provided by the community to make each seasonal event memorable.



Eager little boys search for easter eggs filled with goodies at the Easter Egg Hunt.

Superheroes, princesses, goblins, ghosts and ghouls all spent a cool October evening trick-or-treating through the halls of Kids House. Crafts, games, and candy were enjoyed by all who attended the event. 124 children and 50 adults were able to attend this enjoyable event.

Over the Thanksgiving holiday in 2009, Kids House was able to provide 71 children and 38 adults with everything necessary for a memorable and delicious Thanksgiving dinner.

Each December, Kids House plans a festive Holiday Party for children to enjoy. In 2009, 255 children and 125 adults attended the party. Each child met with Santa Claus, played crafts and games and ate plenty of delicious food. Additionally 168 children received holiday gifts through our outreach efforts.



Staff dressed in Alice in Wonderland themed outfits gather for a photo at the 2009 Halloween party.

Generous support from the community allowed Kids House to provide a full Christmas sponsorship to our neediest families. 89 children and 42 adults received a plethora of gifts as well as a gift card for groceries. Each one was able to have a very Merry Christmas thanks to our community. In addition 168 gifts were given out to additional families struggling during a hard economic time.



Food Baskets overflowing with items for families were passed out to families in need for the Thanksgiving holiday.

In April 2010, 56 kids made their way to an exciting Easter Egg hunt. Each child filled their baskets up with eggs full of special treats. They also had a chance to meet the Easter Bunny and play fun games.

Many thanks to the Sanford Beauty Academy who hosted 32 children and 13 adults at their facility for an evening of pampering and fun. Beauty Night offered children: manicures, pedicures, and haircuts in August 2010.

In August 2010, back to school time was made very special for our children as 285 received brand new backpacks filled to the brim with supplies. The backpacks were a sure sign that each one would be able to start the school year on the right foot.

The ability to look forward and plan for the future can be complicated in difficult economic times. The staff at Kids House are committed to continuing quality programming and services while expanding much needed initiatives to aid our children.

The **CHILD PROTECTION TEAM** will continue to focus on improving the quality of services provided to children and their families. We look forward to providing an informational session for our local legislators this year. This occasion will enhance our opportunity to provide optimal services to children and their families. In addition, the Child Protection Team plans to move forward with the Drug Endangered Children's Task Force launched in previous years. The Child Protection Team will be actively involved in the next phase of the project while collaborating with community partners to address the needs of children in dangerous drug environments in Seminole County.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The **CHILD ADVOCATE PROGRAM** plans to work on the development of a family booklet to help prepare families during their journey through the child welfare system. The informational pamphlet will be a joint effort by the Multidisciplinary Team in order to educate parents/ caretakers on different types of abuse. The booklet will also help them understand the different professional agencies that will be involved in their lives and what roles they will play. An additional initiative is the creation of an



on-line forum/support group for parents of sexually abused children. This will provide an environment where parents can support each other in a safe and monitored setting. Parents will have an opportunity to access support straight from their homes and will help reach out to parents who are hindered from support due to lack of transportation and/or child care.

The **MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM** will continue its efforts towards becoming a Medicaid provider. In addition, the staff will continue to work with the Marriage and Family Research Institute and we look forward to seeing results of the evaluation this year. In addition mental health staff will continue to offer the reputable, specialized trauma focused therapy to our most vulnerable children. The Mental Health team hopes to expand the groups offered to children as well as adding a component for parents which is critical to the healing process for children.

The **FAMILY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM** looks forward to expanding the program's resources and expertise by networking and connecting with other community resources. In addition, staff plan to develop a plan for Family Team Conference coaches and certification for this critical role.

The **MEDICAL TRAUMA PROGRAM** remains focused as the number of serious medical neglect allegations continues to rise in our community. We will continue to explore innovative partnerships to provide the medical care our children have been deprived of. While members of our Physicians Alliance generously donate necessary consultative and treatment services, other children are without critically needed medication and medical supplies. A partnership with an area pharmacy will fill this need and prevent further, life threatening neglect.

As the number of serious medical neglect allegations continues to rise in our community, we continue to explore innovative partnerships to provide the medical care our children have been deprived of. While members of our Physicians Alliance generously donate necessary consultative and treatment services, other children are without critically needed medication and medical supplies. A partnership with an area pharmacy will fill this need and prevent further, life threatening neglect.

***If you suspect a child you know is being abused  
please call: 1-800-96ABUSE.***

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Altamonte Springs  
Police Department  
Casselberry Police Department  
Community Based Care  
of Seminole  
Department of Children  
and Families  
Department of Health  
Florida Hospital Altamonte  
Lake Mary Police Department  
Longwood Police Department  
Office of the State Attorney –  
18th Judicial Circuit  
Oviedo Police Department  
Sanford Police Department  
Seminole Community  
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Seminole Community  
Public Schools  
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Winter Springs  
Police Department



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