



The Bridge

Easing the journey for abused children

SPRING 2007

A NEWSLETTER OF BLUE SKY BRIDGE CHILD AND FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM



IN THIS ISSUE

Letter from the Executive Director	1
Cyberspace Conference	1
Blue Sky News	2
Volunteer Spotlight	2
Event Spotlight	4
Calendar	4
Wish List	4
Donors	5

The Bridge is a bi-annual publication of Blue Sky Bridge, a child and family advocacy program that eases the journey for abused children.

Letter From The Executive Director

By Norma Portnoy

Can you guess what these children have in common?

- A 9 year-old girl whose 16-year-old brother molested her for a year before she cried out for help
- A 3-year-old boy whose mother's boyfriend sexually assaulted him when she went shopping
- A 13-year-old girl who was sexually assaulted by her grandfather
- A 16-year-old who was sexually abused by her teacher

Answer: All these children received services at Blue Sky Bridge.

I could have written a message about Blue Sky Bridge and the benefits we provide to the community. However, our clients, partner agency personnel and prevention class attendees say it best.

Read what our clients say about us:

"The phone call initially helped us to notify the police. And the fact that they reassured us we weren't overreacting or crazy. The services provided for my child at the center were superb."
— Mother of child interviewed at BSB

"The most helpful service I received is the counsel and care. An excellent place. I was very comfortable as well as my children. Very impressed with everything."
— Father of child interviewed at BSB

"The most helpful services I received were info as to what comes next, recommendations as to counseling, everything."
— Grandparent of child interviewed at BSB

Here's what some of our partner agency staff wrote:

"I could not do my job without BSB! Thank you for all that you dothe staff is kind, knowledgeable and helpful to victims, families and members of various agencies. You are all invaluable resources!"
— Law enforcement personnel

"I'm very grateful you are available for the victims of crime. To date, your services have helped with some of the most difficult child abuse cases I've had and I know the families have been grateful too. Thank you again."
— Social Services staff

"Staff is great. They are very knowledgeable, very sensitive and very professional. Boulder County is so fortunate to have this resource."
— Social Services staff

"I would like to thank all of the staff at BSB for their constant support and guidance. Walking into BSB is like getting a hug, and given the stress level of the work that is conducted there, the supportive environment is just as important to all of us as detectives, specialists and advocates as it is for the families we bring you."
— Law enforcement personnel

(continued on page two)

Cyber Crime Conference Helps Protect Children

By Amy Halvorson

On February 2nd, Blue Sky Bridge sponsored the conference **Understanding Youth, The Internet and Predators** at the Radisson Conference Center in Longmont. The presenter, Jim Tanner, Ph.D., is a leading expert on cyber crime and a respected sexual abuse investigator who trains police departments how to identify and uncover criminal evidence. He spoke to 68 attendees on:

- Six ways youth use the Internet
- Current trends among youth's Internet use
- How sex offenders use the Internet
- How cyber criminals steal identities and take over computers
- How to protect your computer, your children and yourself from cyber crime
- Five steps to managing an offender's computer use

(continued on page three)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Riegel
Chair

Rob Shapiro
Vice Chair

Edward B. McCabe, MD
Secretary

Ted Pritchard
Treasurer

Greg Brown, MCJ
John Grigsby
Jane Jenkins
Christopher Leh
Annette Mainland
Lisa Stoken
Kelly Wyatt
Michelle Young, JD

STAFF MEMBERS

Amy Halvorson
Office Manager

Marcie Howell, BSW
Director of Client Services

Jennifer Martin, LCSW, MSW
*Forensic Interviewer &
Family Advocate*

Michelle Peterson, MEd
Director of Forensic Services

Norma Portnoy, MSW
Executive Director

Kitty Sargent, MSW
Director of Education and Prevention

© **The Bridge, Blue Sky Bridge**
**The Bridge is published
twice a year.**

Editor
Kitty Sargent, MSW
Director of Education and Prevention

Graphic Design
Betsy Johnson Design

Printing
The Village Printer

Featured Writers:
Amy Halvorson
Norma Portnoy

Contributors:
Amy Halvorson
Norma Portnoy
Kitty Sargent

For further information about our programs and services, please call 303-444-1388 or visit our website, www.blueskybridge.org.

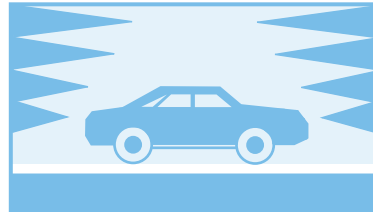


BLUE SKY BRIDGE NEWS

New Website, New Look

We hope you noticed the new design of this newsletter. We have a new Website as well. Our site has a new look and is easier to navigate. We have lots of new information and capabilities. You can register for

events including fundraisers and lectures and make donations online. Please visit us at www.blueskybridge.org and see what's new at Blue Sky Bridge!



Cars for Blue Sky Bridge

Do you have a car you want to get rid of? Don't want the trouble of selling it? Blue Sky Bridge can solve your problem because we now accept car donations! It is simple and easy. Just call Cars for Colorado at

303-853-4125 or 800-551-9401 or visit www.Carsforcolorado.org. They take care of everything at no expense to you, and you get a charitable deduction.



Blue Sky Bridge honors Ted Pritchard, Dave Riegel, and Floyd O'Kelly for their outstanding service.

Volunteer Spotlight

Each year we like to recognize the unsung heroes of our agency – our volunteers. People volunteer for Blue Sky Bridge in many capacities. We have interns; committee members who do fundraising, educa-

tion, and event planning; people who do special projects; and of course, our Board of Directors. To all of you, we say thank you – we couldn't do it without you!

Executive Director Letter *(cont.)*

(continued from page one)

"As a law enforcement officer who has been trained by Blue Sky Bridge, I am more prepared to conduct a child sexual assault investigation. If I have to interview a child myself, I am better equipped to do so."

— Law enforcement personnel

People who attend our sexual abuse prevention classes love us too!

"This was a very informative class. Very worthwhile. I wish every person could attend a class like this."

"Excellent instructor. Sexual abuse prevention is a very difficult material to teach, but critical to teach it."

"This was a very well taught course with excellent principles to apply and practice daily. I learned so much, not only professionally, but personally. This could really make a difference."

— From attendees of BSB education sessions ■

Create Safe Families

Blue Sky Bridge is committed to preventing sexual abuse. We teach primary prevention classes to keep abuse from happening in the first place. Our audiences include parents, teachers, civic groups, church members, and other community members. Call our office at 303-444-1388 or visit our Website at www.blueskybridge.org for more information about the class, which is called Raising Sexually Healthy and Responsible Children. There are steps families can take to manage the risk of their children being victimized or becoming sexual abuse perpetrators.

1. Educate Everyone in the Family

Understand healthy sexual development in children as well as the sexual behaviors that may be troubling. An excellent resource is Toni Cavanaugh Johnson's *Understanding Children's Sexual Behaviors*, available at Blue Sky Bridge classes. Learn the warning signs of sexual abuse in children as well as signs an adult may be an offender.

Non-touching behaviors can also be abusive. Exhibitionism and showing pornography to a child are two examples. Teach children the proper names for all body parts. Acquaint them with the Touching Rules (available at www.blueskybridge.org) and help them identify whom they could go to for help. Attend a Blue Sky Bridge class to learn more.

2. Open the Lines of Communication

Talk openly to your children about sexuality and answer their questions frankly.

If children ask, they are ready to hear the answer. Let everyone in the family know it is good to ask questions. It is important for adults to set the tone by talking about sexual behaviors and speaking up about abuse. Make sure children know they can come to you for help with anything.

3. Set Clear Family Boundaries

Set clear boundaries with family members and other adults who spend time with children. If your child is uncomfortable with someone, tell the person (i.e., you don't want your child to sit on his/her lap).

As the child matures, your family boundaries may need to change (i.e., knock on the door before entering an adolescent's room).

4. Know Your Local Resources and How to Use Them

Make a list of whom to call for advice, information, and help. Blue Sky Bridge can be reached at 303-444-1388.

Visit www.blueskybridge.org for links to other organizations.

Call Childhelp® National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD if you have concerns a child may be suffering abuse.

5. Care Enough to Reach Out

Seek advice from social services, law enforcement, or Blue Sky Bridge if you are concerned about sexualized behavior, whether that of an adult or child. If you are concerned about your own thoughts and feelings toward children, call Stop It Now at 1-888-PREVENT. ■

Childhelp® Child Abuse Hotline

The Childhelp® National Child Abuse Hotline, 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453), is dedicated to the prevention of child abuse. Professional crisis counselors provide confidential, toll-free assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week to:

- Children who are being abused and want help
- Frustrated parents who are about to lose control and are seeking help
- Adults and children requesting the local telephone number to report cases of abuse
- Adult survivors of child abuse who are feeling unsafe or suicidal
- Adults requesting parenting tips, definitions of child abuse, or names of recommended books about parenting, child development, and adult survivor issues

The Hotline offers crisis intervention, information, literature and referrals to thousands of emergency, social service and support resources. All calls are anonymous and confidential.

Cybercrime Conference (cont.)

(continued from page one)

All of the "scary but true" information was well-received by the audience consisting of detectives, district attorneys, child and family advocates, therapists, support agencies and others.

Predators

Dr. Tanner said Internet predators are smart, cagey, disciplined and very patient. They go into chat groups trying to lure vulnerable children into sexually explicit conversation. Conversations begin as friendly and can go on for weeks before they become sexually explicit, involving sexual role-playing and graphic discussion of sexual activities. They often follow up by encouraging a face-to-face meeting. Predators are expert liars and they make it difficult for law enforcement officials, forensic interviewers, psychiatrists and friends to discover exactly what is happening. Children who are lonely, wanting closeness and respectful of authority are especially vulnerable.

Dr. Tanner instructed law enforcement officials how to test home computers and

extract a world of online activity within only two minutes. Records of online conversations can give law enforcement officials hard evidence of a person's attempts to lure children. Police officers try to document evidence of criminal intent as early in the process as possible in order to spare victims from deeper involvement.

How to Protect Your Family

To limit any outsider's access to your home computer, follow these suggestions:

- Use a firewall
- Use difficult passwords
- Use a router to keep home computer identities from becoming known
- Use anti-virus software regularly
- Scan disks and update virus definitions frequently

Wireless networks need to be password-protected because a radio signal can carry 700 feet from its transmitter. There is no such thing as too much cyber protection. In addition, parents should monitor their children's activities in online chat

groups; set limits when necessary; place the computer in an open, observable area; and discuss any concerning online encounters with the child. ■

Coming Soon - Moveable Feast™ X

Mark your calendars for the 10th Annual Moveable Feast, Blue Sky Bridge's signature fundraising event. We look forward to seeing you on May 12, 2007 in Boulder and on May 19, 2007 in the Longmont/Niwot area. Our planning committee is working diligently to line up an enticing array of beautiful homes to host the evening, and as always, a delectable assortment of cuisine options.

Details for the entire event will be included in the Moveable Feast™ invitations which will be mailed out mid-April. We anticipate a sell-out event once again, so please respond as soon as you receive the invitation. ■

Acoustic Harvest Sells Out

The award-winning bluegrass band, Hot Rize, reunited on October 6th for Blue Sky Bridge's benefit concert, Acoustic Harvest. The band played to a sold-out house at the Boulder Theater, where everyone had a grand time. Gold Circle sponsors enjoyed reserved seating at the Boulder Theater and a delightful pre-concert reception at Design Within Reach that included a private performance by the Rebecca Folsom Band. Many thanks go to our generous sponsors and our dedicated planning committee.



Blue Sky Bridge board members Kelly Wyatt and Jane Jenkins enjoy Acoustic Harvest reception.

SPONSORS

Holland and Hart LLP
Applied Trust Engineering
Crispin Porter & Bogusky
Sargent Bickham Lagudis
Ted Pritchard
Heidi Winquist, DDS
Bank of the West
Peak Pilates
Vectra Bank
Downtown Boulder, Inc.

In-Kind

Anderson Farms
Cottonwood Farms
Daily Camera
Design Within Reach
Fergus Sound Enterprises
Fiori Flowers
Harvest Wine and Spirits
Andy Horita
KBCO
KGNU
Bob and Carolyn Koss
L. Kyer designs!
Left Hand Brewery

North Boulder Liquor
Oskar Blues
The Rebecca Folsom Band
Sturtz & Copeland Florists
& Greenhouses, Inc.
Village Printer
Whole Foods Market
Kelly and John Wyatt

2006 Acoustic Harvest Committee

Jane Jenkins, Chair
Brenda Byrne
Deb Chen
Rebecca Folsom
Nicole Griffith
Lib Iderton
Bob Koss
Libby Kyer
Patty Meneley
Jenn Northington
Floyd O'Kelly
Norma Portnoy
Nanette Schunk
Kelly Wyatt
Michelle Young



The Rebecca Folsom Band gives an exclusive performance at Design Within Reach.

Blue Sky Bridge Celebrates Ten Years of Service

Blue Sky Bridge celebrated our tenth birthday on November 2nd with a reception at the Leanin' Tree Museum of Western Art. We celebrated our achievements and honored the people instrumental in founding our agency, and those who helped us along the way. We are truly blessed by our supporters.

We Would Like to Honor the Board Chairs From the First Ten Years, 1996-2006

1995-1996	Barb Paradiso
1996-1997	Mary Lacy
1997-1998	Bert Dempsey
1998-2000	C.J. Galbraith
2000-2001	Caroline Himes
2001-2002	D.D. Mallard
2002-2003	Laurie Kennedy
2003-2004	D.D. Mallard
2004-2004	Lora Atkinson
2004-2005	Chris Leh
2005-2006	Rob Shapiro
2006-2007	Dave Riegel

Top Ten Reasons Blue Sky Bridge is Crucial to Our Community

- Makes our community safer for children
- Helps to prevent child abuse
- Helps lessen lifelong effects of child abuse
- Minimizes the trauma of investigations for abused children
- Provides support for families
- Makes investigations more effective
- Increases successful prosecutions of perpetrators
- Supports early child abuse reporting
- Raises community awareness of child sexual abuse issues
- Advocates for social change

WISH LIST

Children's movies in Spanish (G and PG)
Gift certificates to Cartridge World
Stamps
Copy paper
Bottled water
Board games
Grocery and Target gift certificates

CALENDAR

APRIL

CLASSES:

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention 1
Monday, April 9, 2007
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention 2
Wednesday, April 16, 2007
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Columbine Elementary

MAY

CLASSES:

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention 1
Monday, May 7, 2007
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention 2

Monday, May 14,
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Nederland Elementary School
Cafeteria

LECTURE

Infant Mental Health - Prevention, Promotion and Treatment

Friday, May 4, 2007
8:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Presented by Christy Ballentine, Ph.D.
Mental Health Center Serving Boulder and
Broomfield Counties, Norton Room

SPECIAL EVENTS

Moveable Feast X™
May 12, 2007 - Boulder
May 19, 2007 - Longmont/Niwot

SPRING 2007 DONORS

The gifts reflected were received from July 20, 2006 through February 26, 2007. If your name was inadvertently omitted, please contact us at 303-444-1388.

\$20,000 and up

Cam and Sally MacMillan
VALE Grant

\$10,000-\$20,000

Foothills United Way
National Children's Alliance

\$5,000-\$9,999

A.V. Hunter Trust
Boulder County
Commissioner's Office
City of Boulder
Boulder Police Department
City of Longmont
LMC Community Foundation
VOCA Grant

\$1,000-\$4,999

Applied Trust Engineering
Boulder Wealth
Management, LLC
Daniel Barron and
The Barron Family
David and Sharon Riegel
David Martinez and Joy Lanzano
Downtown Boulder, Inc.
First Congregational Church
Heidi Winquist and Rob Shapiro
Holland & Hart, LLP
Jewish Communal Fund
Lee and Shawna Sands
Linda and Jim Karagas
Longmont Community
Foundation
Michael D. Yokell
Micro Motion, Inc.
Nancy Mercure
Neal Feagans and Joanne O'Shell
Oskar Blues
Pixie and Edward McCabe
Priscilla and Ted Pritchard
Rick and Carolyn Chadwick
Scott Lynn
Sexual Assault Prevention
Fund (SAPF)
The Byrne Group - ReMax Alliance
The Community Foundation
Serving Boulder County
Weaver Family Foundation

\$500-\$999

Andrew and Audrey Franklin
Anne Butterfield
Bank of the West
Catharine Merigold
CCX Corporation
Derk Norton, Eugenia Szeto,
Phoebe, and Sonia
Eileen M. Foster
Gene-Elaine and David Hooley
Kim and Kathleen Wennesland
Leslie and David Sosnowski
Paul Harris and
Janet Eden-Harris
Peak Pilates
Markowitz and Wong
Orthodontics
Suzanne Ezell
Whole Foods Market

\$200-\$499

Andrew and Judy Cousins
Anne and Sandy Butterfield
Annette and Keith Mainland
Bill and Vicki Ray
Brenda and Arno Niemand
Cahill, O'Kelly, and
Associates, P.C.
Carolyn and Joe French
Cary and Barbara Messinger
Christopher Leh and
Natalie Hanlon-Leh
Clarence and Karen Jeffries
Deb Malden and
Michael Donovan
Doris Hass
Ed and Marycaye Johnson
Francis McGinty
Gary and Harriett Shockey
Gary and Patricia Ann Andrew
Greenbelt Construction, Inc.
Greg Brown
Gregory Johnson
Helen Roe and Med Bennett
Hendrik and Johanna
Ketellapper
Jack and Marsha Walker
Jackie and Michael Lewis
James and Jane Wheeler
James Mull
Jennifer Lock
Jody and Kenneth Meuse
John and Lori Marcin
Joyce and Doug Howell
Laurie Kennedy and Tim Kyer
Leonard & Nancy Johnson
Lyons Community Montessori

Michelle and Jim Young
Norman Newton
Patti and Eric Tussey
Paul Hansen and Mimi Farrelly
Rich and Carolyn Schenker
Robert and Catherine Murphy
Robert Krenz and Carolyn Grant
Sally Dignan
Sandy and Mike Karpuk
Sara and Tom Mayer
Scott and Jennifer Moore
SpectraLink
Teresa and James Vratny
Terry Holum
Val and Richard Friesen

\$100-\$199

Andrew Tirman
Anonymous
Barbara Miller
Bernard Daina
Bill Rollin
Bruce and Lucinda Sanders
Cheryl Haugen
Dan and Robin Catlin
Deb and Karl Chen
Dee and Tom Perry
Devi Sues
Edward Altman &
Dina Brudenell-Altman
Ellen Greenhouse, Ph.D., P.C.
Henry and Claire Sargent
Jack and Jean Hodges
Jon Brookshire
Karen Lynch and Michael Glantz
Kay Quain
Kenneth and Diana Kahn
Kevin Byrne
Light of Christ
Lynn and Ed Trumble
Margaret and Richard Morgan
Marilyn Winokur
Marlys and Philip Robertson
Mike Roemer
Monica Bottagaro and
Aaron Norton
Paige Norton
Rebecca and Roger Folsom
Richard and Mary Bradley
Roger and Renee Nichols
Ruth and James Shery
Steve Sabo
Thomas Kammer, D.D.S
William and Joan Nagel

\$1-\$99

Abraham Flexer
Alison Shainline

Amy Norton and Thomas Beck
Ann-Marie and Brian Tewey
Brad and Robin Gutknecht
Brenden and
Kathryn Ann Vaughan
Broomfield Dental Care, P.C.
Carol and Harvey Segur
Carolanne McKirnan
Carolyn Freece
Carrie and Ken Henderson
Charlotte and Paul Ewing
Colleen Ostlund
Elizabeth and Thomas Mulvahill
Elizabeth Lazarus
Erin and Earl Weincek
Frederick and Betty Daake
Garilyn Andrew and
James Robb
Gene and Nancy Hagan
Heather Maggard
Helen Balis
Henry and Jeanette Masengale
Jack and Brenda Zellner
James Frazier
James Tailer and Donna Davis
Jane Jenkins and
Howell Felsenthal
Janice and Victor Shayne
Jay Simonelli
Jean Gribben
Jennifer and Rick Reynolds
Jerry and Janet Gilland
Jessie Schwartz
Jim Bodin
Joanne Krumel
John and Gayle Hamer
Juli Duffer and
Paul Leuthaeuser
Julia Cantarovici
Justin Hoffenberg
Karen Louis and Bob Bauer
Karie Koplal
Katherine and
Dennis Nattress
Kathleen and Joe Contrino
Kathy and Charles Minter
Kelly and John Wyatt
Kristin Groth and Jeff Moline
Lauren Hannon
Lisa Marie Franz
Louisville Montessori
Margaretha Maloney and
Robert Palaich
Mary McArthur
Michele Pelanne and Joseph Alper
Mr. and Mrs. Alm
Nancy Travis

Nicole Griffith
Nola Salisbury
Pat O'Kelly
Renee Schiffhauer
Robert and Julie Kirby
Sally and Douglas Porter
Sally and John Powell-Ashby
Sharon and Tim Renshaw
Subhendu and Bishakha Datta
Sue and Steve McGrath
Susan Coit
Susan Gemmill
Susan Ingraham
Sylvia Singer
Thomas and Sandra Hay
Valerie Meyers
Viki and J.P. Kirk
Webster Cash, Jr.

In-Kind

Anderson Farms
Bob and Carolyn Koss
Bob Mohling
Clarence Wood
Costco Wholesale
Cottonwood Farms
Daily Camera
Dairy Center for the Arts
Delta Sigma Pi
Design Within Reach
Dora Rodriguez
Fergus Sound Enterprises
Fiori Flowers
Foothills Kiwanis Club
Greg Lefferdink
Jennifer Lock
Jim, Jodi, and Molly Hayes
KBCO Radio
Kerry Hassler
Kevin, Vicki, Caila, and
Hayleigh Criss
KGNU Radio
L. Kyer Designs
Lauren Hannon
Mary Schweitzer
Maryan Jaross
Michael Boone
Mistie Brackett
Office Depot
Oskar Blues
Rebecca Folsom
Share-A-Gift
Sturtz & Copeland Florists
and Greenhouses

We regret the omission in our last newsletter of the ongoing and remarkable financial support Blue Sky Bridge receives from the City of Boulder.

2006 Blue Sky Bridge Facts at a Glance

351 children received services at Blue Sky Bridge including crisis intervention, forensic interviews, and mental health referrals.

Sexual abuse investigations accounted for **97%** of the children we served. Investigations also involved physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect or witnessing violence.

62% of our clients were girls and 38% boys.

More than **80%** of the child victims served were 12 years or younger.

Our clients were predominantly Caucasian (69%) and Hispanic (23%).

Abuse cases were distributed across all household income levels.

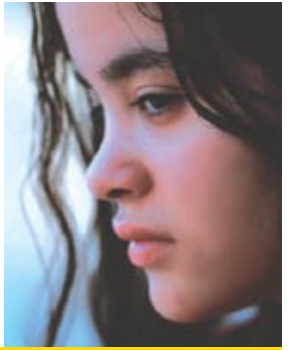
284 non-offending family members received crisis intervention counseling and support services at Blue Sky Bridge.

The perpetrator was someone the child knew in **92%** of cases.

The perpetrator was a member of the family in **68%** of cases.

33% of perpetrators were younger than 18 years old.

Blue Sky Bridge reached 3,346 people through our outreach and prevention programs.



GET THE FACTS ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE

It happens to kids more than adults.
66% of rapes are committed against children. 29% of rapes are committed against children under the age of 12.

It happens a lot more than you think.
One in 4 girls and one in 6 boys will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday.

People who sexually abuse kids usually aren't strangers.
More than 90% of people who sexually abuse kids are friends or family members.

Some of your friends have probably been sexually abused and you don't know it.
90% of victims don't tell anyone.

It happens right here.
12,500 children living in Boulder County will likely be sexually abused before they turn 18.



Child and Family Advocacy Program
P.O. Box 19122
Boulder, CO 80308

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Boulder, CO
Permit No. 1511