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Networking with the Private Sector

Over the years, the private sector has been getting more and more involved in the prevention and eradication of child abuse and neglect. Businesses and community organizations have put time, energy and money into this effort. And, frankly, it is becoming increasingly important that they do so. Why? It will be necessary to give some background information in order to understand.

With the child abuse and neglect legislation of 1975 came certain mandates. Two of the several mandates involve reporting and investigation practices. First, the law requires a 24 hour ability to respond to complaints. Second, the law requires a central registry to keep track of complaints, investigation responses and dispositions. An agency must report receipt of a complaint to the central registry within a 14-day period, with the investigation completed and the disposition made by 45 days after the local agency's receipt of complaints.

One of the many benefits of the central registry is that it generates statistics, allowing the analysis of trends in reporting since the initiation of the law. Clearly, reporting has increased dramatically over the years. Remember that every complaint requires a rapid investigation by local agencies. When one considers that the complaints have risen from 21,045 in 1975-1976 to 40,581 in 1982-83, one can see that the needs of agencies for personnel to respond to this increase is great.

Have agencies been able to increase staff at the rate that complaints have increased? While this is not an easy question to answer without asking every local agency across the state, Anita Prince, Training Specialist with the State Bureau of Child Welfare Services, thinks the answer is "no." Prince explains, "The Bureau of Child Welfare Services did a survey of agencies in 1981, and we've watched the trends in hiring since that time. We do not find that the total number of CPS workers has increased or decreased appreciably since then. However, at the time of the survey, a number of workers who had been with an agency for 15 years had been doing CPS casework for only one or two, indicating that agencies

were trying to meet the demand by shifting responsibilities. We also found a pattern that indicated that new workers being hired were placed directly into CPS caseloads; and that with reductions in forces, rather than laying people off in other programs, agencies were transferring workers to CPS. The result, I think, is that agencies are not able to provide a wide variety of treatment and prevention services but are making an effort to keep pace with CPS investigation demands."

What has caused such a strain on the system? Budget cuts. While the needs of families and children are on the increase, and the demands for investigations of

for child protection in Virginia, one can readily see some changes over the years.

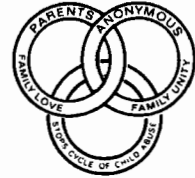
Miriam Justa, Program Specialist in the State Bureau of Child Welfare Services who is responsible for overseeing the funds used for the Child Protective Service grant program, explains, "Initially, all federal money was used for special projects, such as the prevention programs funded throughout the state, and the Virginia Child Protection Newsletter. However, the state funds started decreasing, so some of this money now needs to be used for such things as supplies, travel and training. Therefore, with both state and federal monies decreasing and the needs of CPS on the increase, less money is available for special programming."

The money crunch is not the only reason for private sector involvement, however. VCPN is reminded that in the early days of responding to children's needs, communities offered a broad base of support through the development of settlement houses, safe places for children to reside. As a matter of fact, social work developed out of this movement. Over the years, the responsibility shifted from the community to the professionals, with social workers being the primary support for children suffering from maltreatment. "We need to revitalize that important community link that we lost for awhile," states Justa. "Child abuse is a problem that deserves the response of both public and private sector. We all own it."

What does this mean? It means that the private sector is important in formulating a response to the problem of child abuse not only because of monetary reductions, but also because of a responsibility to protect the children of their communities. It is essential that private organizations provide resources, both through services and funds, if the prevention programming which has had to be sacrificed is going to be provided again.

The linkage between the public and private sector is the focus of this article. VCPN is happy to introduce some of many community businesses and civic organizations which are responding to this need.

continued on page 3



reports are mounting steadily, the budgets with which agencies have to work have decreased since 1980. Again, it is difficult to deal with the subject of budget cuts without talking to all agencies, as each agency receives funds from a variety of sources: the federal government, the state, and localities. However, by reviewing the changes in federal monies given to the State Department of Social Services which is responsible

VaNCPCA News

Virginia Chapter of the National Committee
for the Prevention of Child Abuse
205 W. Franklin St., Richmond, Va. 23220



Virginia Chapter hopes the New Year has been prosperous, healthy and peaceful for all of you. At our annual board meeting in December, we reviewed 1984, applauded our successes and committed to expand our efforts to prevent child abuse in Virginia. We want to thank all of you for supporting our efforts.

New officers were elected and we welcome Harriet Russell—President, Peg Freeman—Vice President, Larry Jarman—Treasurer, Lee McAlpine—Secretary, and JoAnn Tuohey—Immediate Past President. We have also added twenty new board members.

The annual retreat, held November 9 and 10th, featured David Cunningham, presenter from National Chapter. The focus was upon determining chapter goals and creating a two-year plan. A full report is available from the Chapter office. Some highlights are described below.

Hugs and Kisses: In 1984 there were 174 performances of "Hugs and Kisses." Over 60,000 children were reached. We are in the process of evaluating the play and thus far the response has been extremely positive. We are tightening up the coordination of schools and social services and developing a "Hugs and Kisses" coloring book and a teacher inservice package. Theatre IV is projecting 95 performances for the spring tour and 120 for the fall tour. Call 1-800-235-8687 to reserve a performance in 1985.

No Hitter's Day: Remember "No Smoker's Day?" Well, NCPA has created a "No Hitter's Day" as a child abuse and neglect awareness and fund raising tool. The Richmond Braves and the Tidewater Tides have each agreed to dedicate a baseball game to our cause. They should be fun and informative days. Please support us by attending! Spend a fun afternoon with a child or a friend. If you live in a community with a Division I school, check to see if they are sponsoring a "No Hitter's" game on April 27.

Perinatal Program: Hurray! We were awarded a grant of \$10,000 from NCPA to set up a demonstration program for pregnant adolescents. We will be working with Parents Anonymous on this project.

Comic Book: We have 5,000 copies of the Spider Man and Power Pack comic books. It includes two stories that teach children how to protect themselves from being sexually abused. The cost is \$.50 per copy. It was featured in TIME Magazine and is endorsed by NEA.



Harriet Russell



Peg Freeman



Larry Jarman



Lee McAlpine

Legislation: VaNCPCA has been an active advocate for children during this session of the General Assembly. A full report will be given in the next newsletter.

Membership: Our goal is to increase our membership by 1,000. We need *YOU!* Your voice helps us to increase our strength as advocates for children and families. Fill out an application and send it in today. Join us in our effort to prevent child abuse!!!

Virginia Realtors' Association Grant: A \$15,000 donation from the Virginia Realtors' Association has been made to a coalition composed of VaNCPCA, Parents Anonymous, and the Virginia Department of Social Services. The money is designated for an information packet about child abuse prevention. The packets will be distributed to all new home buyers, as well as any interested persons.

As a further commitment, the Virginia Realtors' Association plans to sponsor a statewide walkathon to benefit child abuse prevention. All proceeds will go to the coalition.

The Association also plans to assist each locality in fund raising in order to sponsor a local performance of "Hugs and Kisses."

Conference: Don't forget to sign up for the 1985 Virginia Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect. The dates are April 24-26, 1985, and the place is the Richmond Marriott Hotel. Call or write us for more information. (See also Conference Highlights, this issue of VCPN.)

Prevention Month: We are compiling a packet of possible activities and programs that can be implemented in Virginia's localities during the month of April. It will be sent out to local social services agencies, civic groups, churches and others. Call us if you have ideas to share.

King's Dominion: King's Dominion has offered to assist VaNCPCA with a fundraiser. They are issuing VaNCPCA and Parents Anonymous coupons for a \$4.50 discount. The coupons can be used for 7 different days in April. For every coupon that is used, King's Dominion will donate a portion of the admission to us. We will have entertainment and parenting skits available on the 7 days. Please call us for coupons—for yourself, your family, your friends. We have thousands to give away. Help us prevent child abuse by having fun at King's Dominion!

Networking with the Private Sector continued from page 1



The Junior League of Richmond

The Junior League had its origin in 1901 when a small group of "leisure class" young women in New York decided to get involved in their community in an organized fashion. The purpose was to train young women to be active and educated members of their community. The idea caught on, and Junior Leagues sprang up all over the United States, Canada and Mexico. Presently, the Association of Junior Leagues, Inc., has 258 leagues in its roll of member organizations.

While individual clubs can decide the areas of involvement, active volunteerism is required of all members, whether employed or not. All over the United States, Junior Leagues have recorded many years of active involvement in the prevention of child abuse and neglect. In the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Leagues are no exception. Because of shortage of space, VCPN is only able to cover the activities of one League. However, the staff wishes to recognize the amazing and energetic accomplishments of Leagues throughout the state.

Kay Whitworth, President of the Richmond Junior League, recalls that the beginning of their involvement was in 1926 when the 59 founding members developed the Memorial Guidance Clinic for Children. This involvement continued through the years. As a part of their 50th anniversary celebration the League cosponsored a conference on children in 1977. The same year, the Family Crisis Center opened. Again, league energies and dollars contributed substantially to this initiative.

At present, the Junior League of Richmond, along with the Department of Social Services, is funding the 1985 Virginia Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect which is highlighted in this issue of VCPN. Harriet Russell, co-chair of the committee sponsoring the conference, explains what an incredible undertaking this is. "There are 18 League members actively involved in this endeavor," she explains. "We must arrange the entire operations, from contacting possible speakers to making certain that everything is in order at the Marriott, including audiovisual equipment, rooms, food, and even water! A great many details must be considered in order to undertake the organization of a conference of this magnitude."

Secondly, several women from the League have adopted the state office for Parents Anonymous as their project. There

are nine volunteers filling different functions for PA: one assists the director; one serves as the editor of the newsletter; another developed a slide presentation; a fourth has done all the "leg work" for the development of a new chapter of Parents Anonymous and will act as the area coordinator, helping maintain the chapter through money she received for the project from a League grant; a fifth volunteer is a coordinator for a PA sponsored play therapy group; a sixth is PA's official clown, going to many PA activities where the children are present; the seventh is a sponsor of the original Richmond Chapter of PA; an eighth did a needs assessment in inner city Richmond for PA, and, as a result, has developed a new mothers group which will be funded through a grant from the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse, and the last is a new volunteer who plans to assist with this new mother's group. "We are so excited about this new mothers project," emphasizes Johanna Schuchert, Executive Director for Parents Anonymous. "It is one of 5 projects being funded in the United States. We are enthusiastic about getting it started and are relying on our League volunteers to continue their work with the project."

The Richmond League also is involved with legislative process. Members of the Public Issues Committee actively review legislation around the issue of child abuse and neglect.

"The Richmond League has had a long history of commitment to children," says Whitworth. "These projects are merely a continuation of that commitment."



Girl Scouts of the United States of America

Girl Scouts was developed in 1912 by the American humanist Juliette Gordon Lowe with the purpose of building good character and citizenship among girls from seven to seventeen. Through the Girl Scout program, a girl has an opportunity to explore interests and develop positive attitudes which can affect their lives as adult women and members of a community.

The Girl Scout organization is a national one with 336 councils throughout the United States. Each Council is comprised of many Neighborhoods which are, in turn, made up of several troops.

One council, the Commonwealth Girl Scout Council of Virginia, Inc., serves 31 counties and the cities of Richmond, Peters-

burg, Fredericksburg, Hopewell, Colonial Heights and Emporia. Serving approximately 11,000 girls with the help of approximately 3,500 adults, this council has displayed innovative programming because of their concern for the "latchkey" child.

"About a year ago some program volunteers and I were meeting to discuss what direction we should be taking to continue to meet the needs of our communities," says Sue Williams, Director of Program Services of the Commonwealth Council. "Several of the volunteers commented on their concern for the many girls in our council who are home alone for many hours, often caring for a young sibling. We decided to explore programming possibilities."

The result of this meeting led to research about the problem and linkages with local protective service workers. The conclusion that there was a strong need for a Girl Scout program led to the development of "Taking Care of Me."

"We wanted to deal with issues deeper than safety and childcare," Williams explains. "We also wanted to deal with difficult issues such as sexual abuse. Therefore, we developed a comprehensive program to teach children to take care of themselves."

The program has two books, one for the girls and one for the leaders. The topics covered are varied, including Child Care, Personal Safety, Cooking, Emergency Procedures and Fire Safety. It is the Personal Safety component that deals with topics such as how to handle strangers and what to do about uncomfortable touching. These books will be sent to the troops for review in order that troops can make program plans for their use.

The Council staff and volunteer trainers have been trained by CPS workers. These local volunteer trainers will then train the Girl Scout leaders. "We wanted professionals training Council members because we consider this to be a very sensitive topic, especially the sexual abuse component," Williams explains.

Because of the sensitive nature of this program, each troop leader is requested to hold a parent meeting to discuss the topic, and to obtain individual permission for their child's participation. In addition, each participating child will develop a contract with her parents to work with them and discuss the individual topics to be covered in the program.

Eventually the Council members hope to carry this program to children outside the Girl Scout community. "We hope to research the areas and try to take our program into those communities that appear to have the greatest need," Williams says.

Interestingly, the National Office of the Girl Scouts of the USA released a memo this

continued on page 6

4 Virginia Conference Draws National Speakers

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the enactment of Virginia's Child Abuse and Neglect Law. A statewide conference, 1985 Virginia Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect: Together for Children, is planned for April 24-26, 1985, to celebrate this milestone in child protection. The Conference will be held in Richmond, Virginia, at the Marriott Hotel. The Conference is being sponsored by The Junior League of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Social Services. However, 24 other agencies, such as the Governor's Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect, the Virginia Chapter of the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Parents Anonymous, and the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation are assisting in the planning.

The conference will feature 59 workshops which focus on:

- Child Sexual Abuse
- Prevention
- Parenting Programs
- Intervention
- Networking
- Program Development: Ideas, Funding, Marketing
- Legal Issues: Confidentiality, Child as Witness, Courtroom Preparation, Liability
- Cultural and Minority Issues
- The Role of the Workplace in Strengthening Families
- School Based Prevention
- Cycles of Violence
- Alcoholism and Child Abuse and Neglect
- Children with Special Needs
- Missing Children

Several of the speakers are nationally renowned in the area of child maltreatment. This article features a sample of the prominent speakers participants can look forward to hearing.



PHOTO BY CLAIRE I. YAFFA

Dr. Vincent J. Fontana

Vincent J. Fontana, M.D., F.A.A.P., Medical Director of the New York Foundling Hospital for Parent and Child Development: Dr. Fontana has a long and meritorious background in his concern for child abuse and neglect. He has served many years under mayors Lindsey, Beame and Koch as chairman of the Mayor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect in New York City. In addition, he authored the first text written on the subject of child maltreatment, *The Maltreated Child*, now in its fourth edition, as well as a

book titled *Somewhere a Child Is Crying*, a best seller published by McMillon and Mentor books.

Dr. Fontana, founder of the Temporary Shelter Rehabilitation Program for Abusing Parents at New York's Foundling Hospital for Parent and Child Development, has received many humanitarian awards for his pioneering efforts in the area of child abuse and neglect. Among these are the Dr. Frank L. Babbott award for his distinguished career in pediatrics and his recognized contributions to the medical profession and to the community; the Medal of Honor awarded by St. John's University for his outstanding contributions to human and child welfare and his recognized leadership and pioneering efforts in the field of maltreatment; the New York University Service Citation for service to the community; the Pope John XIII Medal awarded by the College of New Rochelle; and the Award for Combatting Child Abuse awarded by the National Catholic Resettlement Council.

Dr. Fontana will be the keynote speaker for the April Conference. As an ardent child advocate, Dr. Fontana will challenge the Commonwealth of Virginia to become an active participant in the solution to the problem of child abuse and neglect.



Dr. Anthony Shaw

Anthony Shaw, M.D., Director, Department of Pediatric Surgery, UCLA School of Medicine, Duarte, California: For many years, Dr. Shaw lived and worked in Charlottesville, Va., where he was Chairman of the Department of Pediatric Surgery. While in Virginia, he made a substantial impact on the handling of child abuse and neglect. He founded the first multidisciplinary team in the state at the University of Virginia Hospital. In addition, he was one of the primary authors of the Virginia Child Abuse and Neglect Law of 1975.

Dr. Shaw served on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect in Virginia for five years, and was the Committee's first chair. In this capacity, he gave many workshops, spoke at several conferences and addressed many seminars. Dr. Shaw's commitment was to furthering the efforts to end child maltreatment.

Dr. Shaw will open the conference on Child Abuse and Neglect by discussing the development and impact of Virginia's Child Abuse and Neglect Law.



Charles H. Whitebread

Charles H. Whitebread, Esq. George T. Pfleger Professor of Law, University of Southern California Law Center, Los Angeles, California: Professor Whitebread was Professor of Law at the University of Virginia School of Law from 1968 to 1981 where he received the Distinguished Professor award in 1972 and again in 1980. In addition to teaching law at UCLA, he is on the faculty of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va.

Professor Whitebread has written numerous law review articles and reports for such national commissions as the President's Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence and the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse. He has written several books, including one titled *Children and the Legal System*, Foundation Press, 1983.

Professor Whitebread will address the

Governor's Advisory Committee

The Governor's Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect (GAC) was established ten years ago when the 1975 child abuse reporting statute was enacted. The purpose of the GAC is to advise the Department of Social Services, the Board of Social Services, and the Governor on matters concerning programs for the prevention and treatment of abused and neglected children and their families.

The GAC is composed of seven persons appointed by the Governor for three year staggered terms, and several permanent members including the Director of the Virginia Division for Children, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Commissioner of the Department of Health, the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Mental Retardation, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, the Director of the Division of Youth Services, and the Attorney General of Virginia, or their designees. The GAC meets at least quarterly, more often if the need arises.

The history of the GAC is inextricably linked to the efforts of one man—Dr. Anthony Shaw. His accomplishments as a child advocate are difficult to separate from the GAC.

When Shaw, a Pediatric Surgeon, came to the University of Virginia Hospital in 1970,



Conference participants during the Plenary Legal Session. He will explore the difficult and rather tenuous relationship between the law and children.



Joyce Thomas

Joyce Thomas, R.N., M.P.H., Director of Child Protection, Children's Hospital National Medical Center, Washington, D.C.: As Director of the Division of Child Protection at the Children's Hospital National Medical Center, Joyce Thomas is responsible for the administration, program development, and supervision of a multidisciplinary specialized unit in which professional staff provide services to physically abused and neglected children, child victims of sexual abuse and adolescent sex offenders.

In addition, Ms. Thomas serves as a consultant to a variety of individuals and health facilities nationally and internationally, particularly in the areas of child abuse, child sexual abuse, child and family health needs,

communicable disease, program management, public health and health promotion. She has published numerous articles on the topic of child maltreatment and is co-editor of the forthcoming book, *Child Sexual Assault: The Health Care Challenge*.

Ms. Thomas received her R.N. from Merritt College, California, and her Masters in Public Health from the University of California School of Public Health.

Ms. Thomas will hold two workshops, one dealing with the issue of child fatalities, and the other dealing with child physical neglect.



Senator Christopher J. Dodd

The Hon. Christopher J. Dodd, United States Senator from Connecticut: Senator Dodd is founder and co-chairman of the Senate Children's Caucus. In the 1983 session of Congress he sponsored and secured passage of the Child Abuse Prevention National Federal Challenge Grants Act which

provides for a Federal Match of \$1 for every \$3 states allocate to child abuse prevention. This will be a considerable benefit to Virginia and its Family Violence Prevention Program. The Senator is a member of the Labor and Human Resources Committee and is the ranking minority member of the Family and Human Services Subcommittee.

Senator Dodd has a strong commitment to children and the prevention of child abuse and neglect. He plans to address the Conference during the closing Plenary Session, where he will discuss the efforts needed to protect children, now and in the future.

Conference fees are \$50.00 for the full 2½ days or \$25.00 for a single day. Anyone interested in more information or registration materials should write:

1985 Virginia Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect
205 West Franklin Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Multidisciplinary networking is the primary focus of this conference. It is an opportunity for lay people and professionals alike. Sign up soon!

Information in these biographical sketches were provided by the presenter or from the Conference Committee

ry Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect

he inquired about how the Commonwealth was dealing with child abuse cases. No one knew. Some research on Shaw's part revealed that Virginia did have a child abuse reporting law, passed in 1966. According to Shaw, the law focused on M.D.'s as the required reporters, and contained criminal penalties for child abuse. There was no mechanism for providing treatment.

Shaw discovered that by 1971, there was only an average of 60-80 reported cases per year. Doctors simply did not report. Shaw feels that this was due to both lack of training and to a perception that few positive outcomes are achieved by reporting.

Along with Pediatric Social Worker, Corinne Carr, child psychiatrist James Kavanaugh, and others in the areas of medicine, law and hospital administration, Shaw established a multidisciplinary team at UVa to try to diagnose and manage cases of child abuse. This was the first MD team in Virginia, and one of the first in the United States. Within a year, UVa had identified as many abuse cases in the Charlottesville area as had been reported statewide for the previous year.

As word of the team's work spread, so did requests for training and public speaking. A community workshop on child abuse and neglect coordinated by the newly estab-

lished Center for Child Abuse Education at UVa attracted over 400 professionals including physicians, social workers, lawyers, judges, law enforcement officers and teachers to the one-day program—twice the number expected!

The final push came when Governor Holton and his cabinet held a series of public hearings throughout Virginia. Shaw addressed the group, as did the others. In every location, child abuse and the need for legislation was a topic of public concern. As a result, Governor Holton appointed a task force to recommend new legislation. Shaw collaborated with others in drafting the initial proposal and subsequently worked closely with legislators, especially representative (now Senator) Tom Michie, in drafting a comprehensive child abuse bill. The bill was passed by *unanimous* vote in both the House and Senate.

This legislation established the GAC. Although the law assigned the GAC an advisory role, Shaw had in mind a broader role for the committee including educational and activist functions. "We wanted to keep the Governor and the legislators informed, to keep the problem in focus. Child abuse needs to remain a high priority."

Shaw was appointed chair of the GAC and served in that capacity for 5 years from

1975-1980 until he left Virginia for new challenges in California. Under Shaw's direction, the committee undertook many projects. "We established the basic structure of the GAC, setting up several subcommittees. One concerned the establishment of MD teams, one on legal issues, and one on corporal punishment. Each subcommittee was charged to do research, establish goals and make recommendations."

Shaw lists the major accomplishments of the GAC during his tenure. One was encouraging the Department of Social Services with the Department of Corrections and the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation for investigating reports of child abuse in institutions. Another was the input into the development of the central registry system, a centralized system for recording complaints and gathering basic data about confirmed cases. A third was establishing the Virginia Child Protection Newsletter, originally published at UVa. Finally, GAC members spoke at many workshops and symposia on child abuse and neglect.

Ed Shull, a businessman, was next to chair the GAC from 1980-83. While Shull was chair, the GAC concentrated upon the

continued on page 7

Networking with the Private Sector continued from page 3

month stating that the Girl Scouts organization is aware of the increasing needs of the child who must be at home alone and that they intend to develop a national after school program. "It felt really good to see that we were one step ahead," Williams states proudly.

For more information about this project, contact Sue Williams, (804) 746-0590.



Boy Scouts of America

Incorporated in Washington, D.C., in 1910 the Boy Scouts of America (B.S.A.) was conceived with the idea of developing the character of boys and young men and to train them for the duties of adult life. With the declared intention "to promote the ability of boys to do things for themselves" and the motto of "Be Prepared," it is no wonder that the B.S.A. became actively involved with dealing with the latchkey child.

"The Boy Scouts does not function as a program entity in and of itself," states Harold Tate, Director of Field Service for the Robert E. Lee Council of the Boy Scouts of America headquarters in Richmond. "Rather, it functions to assist community organizations, chartered to use scouting, to reach their objectives with youth. Therefore, the B.S.A. responds to issues the community believes to be important. Latchkey children surfaced as one of those issues."

The program the National Council B.S.A. developed is called "Prepared for Today." It consists of a workbook which deals with several issues, including "Prepared to Be Home Alone," "Prepared to Fix Something to Eat" and "Prepared for Problem Solving." It is in the latter section that the problem of responding to strangers and shoplifting are covered, along with many other problems a child might encounter.

The workbook is geared for boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 11. It is not designed, however, for the child to work on alone. Rather, it is intended as a means for a child and a parent to discuss and jointly work on a variety of problems. The goal, then, is to facilitate communication as well as have the child feeling more secure and the parents feeling more confident that the family has developed appropriate responses to the latchkey situation.

"Our purpose is to serve the family in a responsible way," Tate explains. "The family structure may have changed over the years, with two parents working outside the home, or more families being headed by one parent. However, the needs of children

and their parents have not changed. We continue to respond to that fact."

"Prepared for Today" is not merely for the children who are Boy Scouts. As a matter of fact, Virginia Electric and Power Company has purchased approximately 1500 copies for dissemination to employees, and local schools have used copies. Boy Scout Councils around the state are glad to share the materials for a small fee, and are often willing to help local groups find funding for the workbooks. For more information, call Mr. Harold Tate, (804) 355-4306, or your own local Council office in Roanoke, Waynesboro, Winchester, Suffolk, Newport News, or Norfolk and Washington, D.C., in Northern Virginia.



The General Federation of Women's Clubs

Founded in 1890 as an outgrowth of a group of women in New York City, the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) is the largest organization of women in the world. An international organization, it presently has 600,000 women volunteers organized in 12,000 clubs serving the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and 45 countries and territories.

In the United States the organization is headed by a president who is elected to a two year term. Each president brings with her a project called the President's Special Project, which becomes the project of all GFWC's for the two years of her term. The current president has chosen the prevention of child abuse and neglect as her project.

The GFWC is broken into two groups by virtue of women's ages. Women under 40 belong to the Junior Women's Clubs, and women over 40 belong to the Senior Women's Clubs. Their functions in the community are the same, however.

VCPN was fortunate to be able to speak to several leaders in the Junior Women's Club division. The staff spoke to the state's Junior Chairwoman of the President's Special Project, the state chairwoman of the Junior's Special Project, the chairwoman of a district committee overseeing the activities of the President's Special Project, and a local club President. The consensus among these women is that all clubs are busy with prevention of child abuse and neglect.

The President's Special Project

After talking to Kathy Hodson, State Junior Chairwoman of the President's Special Project, it is clear that she and her counterpart for the senior clubs are hard at work. "Our primary responsibility at the state level is to write goals and objectives, disseminate information to the district chairwomen and to receive reports of club activities toward these goals annually," Hodson explains.

"I also write short information articles for the state newsletter as well as the state magazine," Hodson reiterates. "I want club members to be constantly aware of this pressing problem and their responsibility to get involved."

What happens to the information Hodson sends to district chairwomen? Laura Davis, Junior Chair of the Tidewater District which incorporates 14 Junior Clubs, explains that she "sends it on to the local club presidents. I am aware that clubs are active. For instance, some have given monetary donations to Parents Anonymous. In addition, because of the overlap between the President's Project and the Junior's Special Project, clubs may be getting more involved in the sexual abuse aspects than physical abuse or neglect."

The Junior Special Project

In the spring, Juniors hold an annual conference for district and club representatives. It was during that conference that Nancy Samuelson, Chairwoman of the Juniors Special Project, "Awareness of Child Sexual Abuse, Abduction and Identification," held a workshop introducing the topic to conference attendees. "One of the things we did at the conference is invite Joann Tuohey, then President of the Virginia Chapter for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, to introduce "Hugs and Kisses" to the participants. That was very successful in generating interest," Samuelson explains.

"I recently became aware of a videotape produced by Henri Winkler, Mariette Hartley and John Ritter called 'Strong Kids, Safe Kids,' a program which covers several topics of abuse, abduction and talking with strangers. It is intended to be seen by the entire family to generate conversation," says Samuelson. "A club could purchase the video for itself or for the local library."

Are local clubs busy with child abuse prevention projects? Joan Hughes, President of the Harrisonburg Junior Woman's club indicates that they are. She outlined three activities in which her club has become involved in the last year. First, they had anatomically correct dolls made, donating them to the local mental health center. The dolls are used in therapy for sexually abused youngsters. Secondly, they had a local professional come to a meeting to talk about child sexual abuse. "She brought with her a member of the local sexual abuse support

group," Hughes explains. "The presentation made an impact on the membership." And, third, they reprinted a child abuse pamphlet called "Pierre the Penguin." Hughes explains, "This is a pamphlet which a club member had written and designed several years ago. Our club had initially put it in doctors' offices and at the hospital. The hospital administration liked it so much that they began including it in the packet of information given to all new mothers. This year we reprinted approximately 2000 copies for continued hospital use."

Clearly, Junior Women are busy with child abuse and neglect prevention projects. Hopefully these efforts will impact towards establishing community networks in an effort to deal with the problem of child maltreatment.



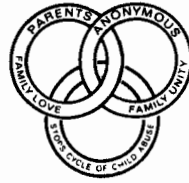
Exchange Clubs of America

In 1979, the Exchange Clubs of America, a men's service organization, adopted the prevention of child abuse as a national project. The project, named the Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, is an impressive one. "The Exchange Club Foundation has established 16 Exchange Club Child Abuse Prevention Centers in communities throughout the U.S. and one in Puerto Rico," explains Mila Guese, Director of Technical Services for this project.

The concept of this program centers around the use of lay therapist volunteers. While each center is overseen by clinical professionals with experience in the field of child abuse prevention and intervention, it is the trained volunteers who work with families referred to the agency. Each center is also responsible for conducting massive community education projects.

Each community Exchange Club must make a yearly donation to the Foundation project as minimal involvement. However, there are a variety of ways that clubs can get more involved ranging from inviting professionals who are knowledgeable about the problem of child abuse and neglect to speak at their meetings to the establishment of a local center.

"Of course, the ultimate purpose of the National Exchange Club Foundation for the Prevention of Child Abuse is helping put to an end the tragedy of child abuse. To that end, the foundation has established numerous centers throughout America," Guese concludes.



Private Sector Involvement with Parents Anonymous

Parents Anonymous, a national program which sponsors self help groups in order to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect (see VCPN, Vol. 5, an issue which discusses the work of PA in depth), depends on the involvement of the private sector.

According to Johanna Schuchert, the Virginia Executive Director for Parents Anonymous, the private sector is actively involved, specially with MILK, the self-help program at the women's correctional institution at Goochland, Va., designed to assist incarcerated women in parenting issues and to help families stay in touch during the separation. "Local food markets and ice cream distributors have donated food, Coca Cola has donated soft drinks, a dry ice distributor has donated dry ice and various businesses have donated prize items for the visits of the inmates' children at the prison. In addition, travel agencies have donated plane tickets, and hotels have donated rooms for the children who have to travel great distances," explains Schuchert. "Such contributions make this program possible."

Private enterprise helps with the MILK project in a variety of other ways, too. MILK recently instituted a series of nine classes called "Individual Living Skills Classes" which are intended to help incarcerated women prepare for returning to their communities. A local bank will lend staff to assist in the class covering financial issues. The local telephone company donated direc-

tories from all the women's home cities and newspapers from each of the cities send their newspapers so the women have access to the classified ads as well as remain in contact with the events in their communities.

Others who have assisted PA are the Junior League of Richmond, VEPCO, the Junior Woman's Clubs, the Rotary and the Exchange Clubs. "We clearly could not do the work we do without the involvement of these many organizations and their workers," Schuchert remarks with sincerity. "We are so grateful to have them here, caring as they do."

This report has covered only a few organizations and business in Virginia which are involved in combatting child abuse. However, these are indicative of the incredible energy and resources that are available for the protection of children.

It would be wonderful to be able to say that child maltreatment is on the decrease. Unfortunately, it isn't. However, agency budgets are making it imperative for civic minded businesses and organizations to continue with their caring responses to the needs of our children.

In addition, because this is a problem that affects us all, there needs to be continued coordination between the private initiative and the public mandate. "Abuse and neglect is a problem that transcends any individual program's considerations, so we cannot expect one agency to deal with it," Justa states. "The problem touches everyone."

Hopefully, with continued awareness and involvement, our country will become more and more intolerant of abusive and neglectful behavior toward children and eradication of child maltreatment will occur. Meanwhile, hats off to those who are involved already. Keep working, and spread the word. We want the protection of children to become a priority for all.

Governor's Advisory Committee continued from page 5

expansion of the MD teams (See VCPN volume 6 for more information about MD teams in Virginia.) The number grew to 79 teams and a system of regional representatives to provide coordination statewide. Schull also presented the idea of holding hearings throughout the Commonwealth, culminating in a statewide conference on child abuse and neglect.

Angie G. Alexander became chair in 1983, serving until 1984. Alexander had the difficult job of presiding over public hearings which were held in five locations from December, 1983 until June, 1984. The public hearings were intended to implement three broad goals of the GAC:

1) to develop community based owner-

ship of the problem of child abuse and neglect;

- 2) to involve local communities in identifying barriers to the resolution of the problem of child abuse and neglect;
- 3) to develop strategies for involving total communities in prevention of child abuse and neglect.

The hearings solicited comments from citizens of the Commonwealth regarding the status of child abuse and neglect in Virginia. A subcommittee was then assigned to study the comments and to formulate recommendations.

Even though the effort involved in conducting the statewide public hearings

continued on page 8

Governor's Advisory Committee *continued from page 7*

was extensive, the GAC still continued their regular projects. The subcommittee on corporal punishment concluded its study and a statement concerning corporal punishment in schools was passed. The work of the MD teams continued, with the establishment of regional conferences. And, the planning for the 1985 conference continued.

A highlight of the year was the awards ceremony held at the June, 1984 meeting. Over the years the GAC had shown its appreciation to child advocates and CPS workers. However, under Alexander, the process was formalized, with the GAC requesting nominations from across the state. Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to nine outstanding child advocates: Carol Arnold, Zoe Breen, Betsy Carter, Ray A. Fischhoff, James Holmes, Laura Knaup, Lois Lungwitz, Sheila Plott, and Johanna Schuchert. The awards ceremony will be an annual event, with the GAC soliciting nominations in January and February of each year.

One other large accomplishment concerned an agreement between the U.S. Navy and the Commonwealth to provide services for abused military children. This effort dates back to 1975 but was snagged for years as governments haggled over

costs of proposed services and how to fund them. (See VCPN volume 9 for a detailed report.) This fall an agreement was finally reached. The U.S. Government relinquished jurisdiction over 2588 acres and Virginia relinquished jurisdiction to 788 acres. Both lands are now held in concurrent legislative jurisdiction. The agreement affects 4007 persons of which 2450 are juveniles in the Jewells Point area of Norfolk. Housing areas known as Ben Morrell, Torgeson, Capeheart, Armed Forces Staff College, Atlantic Command Compound, and the Naval Base/Naval Air Station can now receive child abuse services.

The current chair of the GAC is Joann Grayson, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist. Grayson is concentrating upon three objectives. The first is the compilation of testimony received at public hearings. This volume will be published and available at the April conference. The second objective is to study recommendations offered at the public hearings. To this end, the GAC has restructured its subcommittees to include committees on Sexual Abuse, MD teams, Legal Issues, Prevention, and Department of Social Service Policy. A set of legislative recommendations was passed at the December meeting as well as endorsements

of recommendations in several other major areas. These have been forwarded to the Commissioner for consideration. The third objective is to assist with the 1985 Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (see separate article, this issue VCPN). The conference marks the 10th anniversary of the enactment of the Child Abuse and Neglect Law. The theme is looking over the past decade, and then charting a future course for prevention and treatment. The conference committee hopes to formalize a four-year action plan that will be monitored by the GAC.

Those desiring copies of the summary of the public hearings or other information about current GAC activities and endorsements may forward requests to:

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The GAC has been an active dynamic, influence over the past ten years. They welcome interest and suggestions. Become involved!



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