

# KidSafe NewsNotes

and Annual Report

Autumn 2009



## Child Protection Teams—at the Hub of Child Safety



**Carla\***, age 7, and her family had been living in their car until shortly before a referral was made to KidSafe. After staying at the shelter and working to find housing, the family finally got their own apartment. Carla and her brother are excited to have their own rooms and a safe home, and happy that they've been able to stay in the same school. Their social worker has made sure they are on the holiday donation list so they can look forward to a warm and happy holiday.

**Billy\***, a pre-school age boy, was biting, kicking, and scratching the kids around him—and grabbing their food. But after two weeks, his behavior improved dramatically. His teachers were relieved and delighted. What had changed? Among other things, his nutrition. One of the KidSafe Collaborative Child Protection Teams, the Early Childhood Malnutrition Team, had intervened to ensure that Billy received much-needed food support right at his child care center and that his mom received supports including help with nutrition choices. With enough to eat, Billy was a changed little boy.

**Kathy\***, 20, was pregnant, living with her boyfriend and their 3-year-old. No work, barely enough food at the end of the month. The three-year-old has learning delays; how will they pay for the new baby, how will they do everything they need to do, will they be able to parent both little ones? After a KidSafe Team meeting, WIC and financial services are in place, the three year old has a learning needs evaluation, and VNA home visiting services are supporting the parents and helping them prepare for the baby.

\*not their real names

These are representative examples of the KidSafe Collaborative's work with its partner agencies, coordinating essential services and supports to ensure that children are safe and well cared for!

In the past year, KidSafe's multi-agency Teams have provided support for nearly 200 Vermont children.



## KidSafe Council—At the Hub of Essential Systems

by Sally Borden

What if there were serious gaps in services to keep children safe, and nobody noticed? The KidSafe Council meets each month to ensure that gaps are identified and addressed. In October, for example, Council representatives from over 20 organizations and agencies gathered to share concerns about children impacted by their parents' substance abuse. Are agencies working in coordinated fashion to maximize supports for these kids? To what extent is the general public aware of the scope of the problem? What's available to children and teens who are exposed to their parents' substance abuse?

The Council also played a role in the past year's overhaul of Vermont's child abuse and neglect laws — massive changes which have the potential to broadly improve how we as a state respond when children have been maltreated.

### Investigate or Assess? Differential Response Creates New Options for Child Welfare Workers

For many years, when a call came into the Department for Children and Families – Family Services Division (DCF-FSD),

[www.kidsafevt.org](http://www.kidsafevt.org)



(802) 863-9626

KidSafe Council working session

(Continues on page 3)

## New Board Officers

June 2009



Jay Fayette, President



Howard Verman,  
Vice President



Jeff Morin, Treasurer



Shireen Hart, Secretary

## Welcome, New Board Members!



**Heather Cruickshank** has been with Merchants Bank for 15 years, the past three as a Vice President. Currently a member of the Downtown Action Group, and a former Board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Burlington, she also serves on a number of committees in the community. Heather lives in Milton with her "wonderful husband and two children".



**John Olson** is a financial services professional at Pastore Financial Group in South Burlington. Originally from Massachusetts, he discovered Vermont through club and school ski trips. A 2008 graduate of Leadership Champlain, he works with Rebuilding Together, Jericho–Underhill Lions Club and other organizations, in addition to KidSafe.

## KidSafe Board of Directors

*[Affiliations listed for informational purposes only]*

- |                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Jay Fayette, President</b>      | Pizzagalli Construction Company     |
| <b>Howard Verman, Vice Pres.</b>   | Strategies for College, Inc.        |
| <b>Jeff Morin Treasurer</b>        | JMM Associates                      |
| <b>Shireen Hart, Secretary</b>     | Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer    |
| <b>Penrose Jackson, Past Pres.</b> | Fletcher Allen Comm. Health Fnd.    |
| <b>Heather Cruickshank</b>         | Merchants Bank                      |
| <b>Chip Hart</b>                   | Physician's Computer Company        |
| <b>Howard Kalfus</b>               | VT Department of Public Safety      |
| <b>John Olson</b>                  | Pastore Financial Group             |
| <b>Ron Rose</b>                    | IBM Systems & Technology Group      |
| <b>Carolyn Smith</b>               | Northern Benefits                   |
| <b>Honorary Board Members</b>      |                                     |
| <b>Dr. Joseph Hagan, Jr.</b>       | Pediatrician                        |
| <b>Janet Munt</b>                  | Former Vermont State Senator        |
| <b>Mary McNamara</b>               | Retired, Vermont Catholic Charities |

## KidSafe Staff

- |                     |                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Sally Borden</b> | Executive Director               |
| <b>Anne MacLeod</b> | Development/Outreach Coordinator |
| <b>Lisa Simon</b>   | Administrative Assistant         |

## Penrose Jackson writes ...

My two years' tenure as president of the Board came to a close in July. Although it's trite, I really do need to ask, "Where did the time go?" I think the reason those 24 months passed so quickly is that KidSafe has been having fun!



Our two years' support from the Vermont Lake Monsters has not only generated dollars to support the KidSafe Collaborative's programs but has helped us gain more public recognition of what the organization does: help stitch together all of the work from the many collaborating agencies who strive to keep our community's children safe. As always, the annual luncheons were a great opportunity to see old friends and to meet new ones. (I particularly remember the challenge of keeping our recognition of Sally Borden's ten year anniversary a secret prior to the 2008 event.)

Another area of pride is the great support KidSafe receives from the State — a clear indication that the Vermont Agency of Human Services honors us as an effective partner.

As I recall Board meetings and retreats, my mind pictures a group that's stayed together. Few members have left, while new recruits joined us and quickly jumped in with time and brainpower to guide KidSafe's efforts. With every event it's great to see so many Board members with their sleeves rolled up, chipping in to get the work done. Happily, the ending of my role as chair does not mean I will leave the Board. I look forward to our continued successes.

## Jay Fayette writes...

It's an honor and pleasure to start my term as Board President, in no small part because of the inspired leadership Penrose has continuously provided to Kidsafe over her past years of service. In addition to building on key relationships, she has bolstered every effort to ensure that the KidSafe Collaborative is increasingly known across Chittenden County and the state.

At this critical time, when there is much financial uncertainty, we were fortunate to have donors who have stuck with us and many that made first-time contributions. Fortunately and gratefully the KidSafe Collaborative came through last year with all of our fundraising goals met. The year ahead however is unpredictable and the realities are upon us as they pertain to the serious downturn in giving that forecasts have been indicating. We're hoping and counting on this wonderful community to continue to make wise and generous investments in their children and families by supporting KidSafe and other nonprofit agencies that need their support now more than ever.



with a report of concern about suspected abuse, neglect or risk of harm to a child, there was one option: allegation accepted for further action? If so, the next step: carry out an investigation. At the end of the investigation, the DCF worker had to make a critical decide: should the case be deemed “substantiated” or not? If a case was deemed “unsubstantiated”, it was closed.

Now, after a thorough development process, which included input from KidSafe and its partners, there is another option when a case is first opened. Instead of opening an *investigation*. DCF can now respond with an *assessment* to determine whether the family is in need of services in order to keep the child(ren) safe.

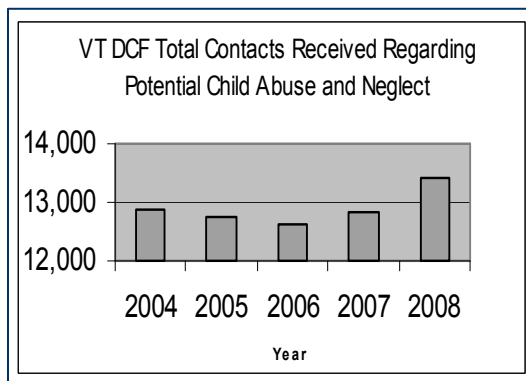
Investigation is still *the* option for certain very high risk cases, such as all sexual abuse allegations, and certain physical abuse cases (such as abuse of a child under the age of 3). If substantiated, the perpetrator’s name is entered into the state’s Child Protection Registry -- for life, unless it is expunged through a formal review process.

**The difference in “differential” response** is that the older “What happened, and is there evidence?” approach is now augmented by an approach I call “What’s the risk, and how can we help this child be safe, going forward?”. The new track allows DCF-FSD to focus on the underlying issues that can result in child maltreatment – such as substance abuse, mental health issues, etc., and to work with families to provide services to help them keep their children safe.

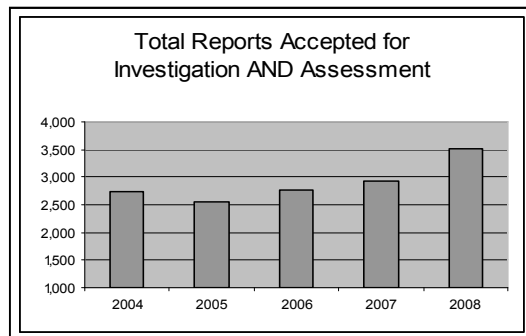
For either track – investigation/substantiation or assessment – DCF-FSD is using a formal risk assessment, which helps to predict the likelihood that the family will come back to the attention of the agency. High and very high risk cases then receive ongoing services. The idea, says DCF Deputy Commissioner–Family Services Division Cindy Walcott, is that “intervention based on the level of risk positions the division to intervene with families sooner and, hopefully, less intrusively – and more effectively.”

**One Crucial Phone Call—to One Crucial Number: Centralized Intake**

A year ago, if you were calling because you suspected that a child was being abused or neglected, you would call your local DCF-FSD office – and depending on which of the 12 offices you called, you would get one of 12 often very different responses to the same situation. Now, there are staff members whose job is to respond to all of these calls statewide, resulting in much greater consistency. In fact, the number of calls to report suspected child maltreatment has increased significantly, and so has the number and percentage of cases opened by DCF.



Compared with the previous year, there is an **11% increase in intake call volume and a 40% increase in accepted investigations or assessments**. While still lower than the national average, this represents a significant increase in Vermont, and an important commitment to intervening earlier to assure child safety.



# Honors & Transitions



## Victoria Kuck

has been honored for her work helping mothers with a history of opiate dependence regain control over their lives so that they may raise healthy children. She received a Holly D. Miller Award from the Vermont Women's Fund, presented during VWF's Celebration of Vermont Women Making Change event on May 14 at Shelburne Farms. Nominated for the award by KidSafe, Victoria was recognized for her work as a parent representative to one of the programs that works closely with KidSafe's CHARM (Children and Recovering Mothers) team. Victoria created a system of motivators and incentives to help program participants stay on track, organized a book drive to raise money, organized focus groups, and developed support resources and a mentoring program. Victoria also speaks with great effectiveness to health care providers throughout the state to help them better understand the needs of mothers in recovery. KidSafe is delighted that Victoria's work has received this wonderful recognition.



## Dr. George W. Brown,

now an Alaska resident, was an instrumental proponent of child safety in Vermont and served as Community Education Coordinator for the Community Network for Children, Youth, and Families (now KidSafe). So we were thrilled to hear he received the prestigious 2009 Ray E. Helfer, M.D. Award from the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Brown, who has practiced in Alaska for most of his medical career, was recognized for his significant contributions to the prevention of child abuse and neglect across his more than 40-year career as a pediatrician. KidSafe is proud to have been one of the beneficiaries of Dr. Brown's work. Dr. Brown received his award in April at the National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Atlanta.

At the same event, **Sally Borden** was

honored with the U.S. Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Commissioner's Award. The ACF Commissioner's Award is given biannually to one individual per U.S. state and district. Nominated by their state Governor, awardees are recognized for their outstanding contributions to child protection. Honorees include outstanding advocates, innovators, volunteers and other leaders in the field of child welfare.



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## Ron Rose

is KidSafe's computer guru. IBM Systems and Technology Senior Manager by day, nighttime sometimes finds Ron at KidSafe's Pine Street office—often, not at a desk but underneath one, rearranging computer cables and making our technological life possible. It's just one aspect of his volunteer work as a Board Member since June, 2007. In July, IBM recognized Ron through a Community Service program grant, awarding KidSafe \$1,000 for the purchase of some much needed computer upgrades.



## Peigi Huseby, RN,

long-time advocate for child safety, in her role as a public health nurse working directly with young victims of abuse and neglect, has moved from Vermont to Oregon. She is missed; in addition to her full-time work, Peigi provided essential support to numerous KidSafe projects. She has also been a donor and tireless fundraiser, originating the KidSafe 60 benefit bike ride in 2005 and creating and donating the vibrant quilts that have been sold at many a KidSafe Annual Awards auction.

*(Note: the annual bike ride continues — June 2010)*

## Nicole Grubman

who joined KidSafe in 2007 as Service Coordinator with the VT Agency of Human Services—Field Services, served on KidSafe's staff until June. In her new capacity at the Burlington Housing Authority, Nicole will continue to provide service coordination for clients; she specializes in finding stable and

appropriate housing for individuals and families in need. We wish her the very best in her new role.





## 2009 is a banner year for KidSafe. The Awards were our 20th...

...and it's been *forty* years since the first inter-agency Child Protection Team was founded, at what was then Mary Fletcher Hospital, by Janet Munt and Theresa Tomasi (left), Marion Paris (right), and other service providers who realized the need for improved communication and coordination of services to abused and neglected children and their parents. That first team was the beginning of the organization that became the Kidsafe Collaborative. These "founding mothers" were able to attend April's annual awards event, where they were recognized by a standing ovation from over 270 guests.



## ChildSafe Clinic Comes to Burlington

The new ChildSafe clinic at VT Children's Hospital at Fletcher Allen Health Care offers services in the diagnosis and management of child abuse, provided by Dr. Karyn Patno. "It is very exciting to be able to provide clinical diagnostic clinics for the recognition of child abuse," says Dr. Patno. The Burlington ChildSafe clinic, where patients are seen on Wednesdays, opened its doors earlier this year. Patients are referred to the clinic by other physicians, the VT Department for Children and Families (DCF) and concerned parents. Dr. Patno, who also sees patients on Tuesdays at the St. Johnsbury ChildSafe clinic, notes "I am very pleased to partner with the both VT Children's Hospital and NVRH to provide these services."

South Burlington pediatrician Dr. Joseph Hagan, who chairs the Vermont Citizens' Advisory Board to DCF and has cared for abused children and their families throughout the state, welcomes Dr. Patno's ChildSafe Clinic. "While identifying abused, neglected and sexually abused infants, children and adolescents is the responsibility of all physicians, nurses and health care personnel, the care of many abused children has become highly specialized. We are fortunate to have Dr. Patno bring her expertise to the Vermont Children's Hospital...the ChildSafe Clinic will provide care that is high quality, specialized, consistent and family-centered."

### 'Above and Beyond' Department: Volunteers

Dozens of volunteers give of their time and talents "above and beyond" all reasonable hope, but we're singling out three of our most faithful volunteer colleagues (l to r, below): Karen Johnson, for her stylish, colorful graphics in support of April's Silent Auction and much more...Betty Allen, for invaluable hours of work on our data systems...and Brenda Kissam, who has a patient yet persistent hand in helping us keep track of and thank our donors — and our volunteers!



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### Thank you to our 2009 Awards Event Auction & In-Kind Donors

- |                            |                             |
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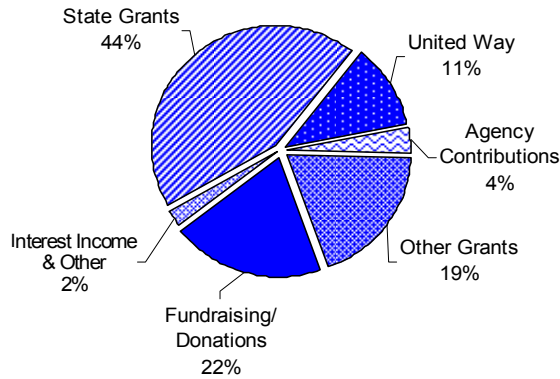


And to all of the generous bidders!

Awards event photography generously donated by Ayer Photography of Vermont

# Annual Report Fiscal Year 2009 (April 1, 2008—March 31, 2009)

## KidSafe Collaborative REVENUES FY2008-2009



Total Revenues \$ 215,776

## KidSafe Collaborative EXPENDITURES FY 2008-09

Program Services	\$	176,516
General & Administrative	\$	14,347
Fundraising	\$	16,616
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>207,479</b>
Admin./Fundraising Expense	14.9%	

## KidSafe Collaborative Partner Agencies

Building Bright Futures of Chittenden Co.	Prevent Child Abuse - VT
Casey Family Services	Sara Holbrook Center
Child Care Resource	Spectrum Youth and Family Services
Community Health Center of Burlington	Vermont Catholic Charities
CVOEO/Head Start	Vermont Children's Aid Society
The DREAM Program	VT Dept for Children and Families— Family Services Div.
Fletcher Allen Health Care	VT Dept. of Corrections/Burlington P/P
Greater Burlington YMCA	Vermont Department of Health
HowardCenter	Visiting Nurse Association
Kids on the Block -Vermont	Winooski Family Center
King Street Youth Center	Women Helping Battered Women
Lund Family Center	Women's Rape Crisis Center
NFI -VT	

These organizations contribute to KidSafe's collaboration through Partner Agency dues and grants

## Foundation and Grant Support

Chittenden Card for Kids  
 Fanny Allen Corporation Foundation  
 Fletcher Allen Community Health Foundation  
 Permanent Fund for the Well-being of Vermont Children  
 Richard and Deborah Tarrant Foundation  
 United Way of Chittenden County  
 United Way of Chittenden County Hometown Heroes  
 Basic Human Needs Fund of the  
 Vermont Community Foundation  
 Vermont Women's Fund  
 VT Agency of Human Services, Field Services Division  
 VT Dept. for Children & Families, Family Services Division  
 VT Dept. of Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs

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**Northern Benefits**  
**PKC Corporation**  
**Richard Tarrant, Jr.**  
**The Tech Group**

## KidSafe Collaborative

308 Pine Street Burlington, VT 05401

802.863.9626 kidsafevt@kidsafevt.org www.kidsafevt.org

KidSafe Collaborative is a United Way of Chittenden County Member Agency. KidSafe Collaborative (d.b.a. Community Network for Children, Youth & Families) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Federal Tax UD # 03-0303867.



# Thank you, KidSafe Supporters

Our list reflects contributions received from **April 1, 2008** through **March 31, 2009** and those made for events occurring during the same financial year. Donations received after March 31, 2009 will be acknowledged in future publications. Please let us know if your name has been omitted or listed incorrectly.

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*(does not include Community Yard Sale donations by the thousands!)*

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United Way of Chittenden County  
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Vermont Public Radio  
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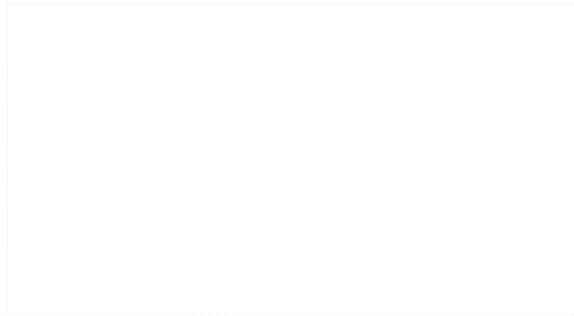
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A vertical graphic with a light yellow background. At the top, there are three stylized orange figures with their arms raised. Below this is a blue horizontal bar with the text "Save the date . . ." in white cursive. Underneath the bar, the text "21st Annual Awards Luncheon" and "Tuesday April 13, 2010" is written in a dark blue font. Further down, "DoubleTree Hotel, South Burlington" and "Lauren Bowerman & Howard Kalfus Emcees" are listed. At the bottom is the KidSafe Collaborative logo.

*Save the date . . .*

*21st Annual Awards Luncheon*  
**Tuesday April 13, 2010**

DoubleTree Hotel, South Burlington  
Lauren Bowerman & Howard Kalfus  
Emcees

**KidSafe Collaborative**  
of Chittenden County

*A great holiday gift for kids*

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Dr. Lewis First  
Emcee



This year's honorees,  
with Sally Borden



DCF Commissioner  
Steve Dale

## At KidSafe Collaborative's Annual Awards, it's all about the people...



**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT** Sarah B. Sinnott, Family Support Worker & Parent Program Coordinator, Visiting Nurse Association Family Room

*"Sarah embodies the KidSafe mission through her tireless commitment to children in need, her firm belief that one must always have hope and vision, and her ability to inspire that in others."*

### OUTSTANDING NEW PROFESSIONAL

Amy Malinowski, Public Health Nutritionist, VT Dept of Health

*"Masterful...Amy worked with schools to assure there was adequate nursing, access to dental care, mental health services and other primary prevention efforts."*



### OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER

Dot Foster, Foster Grandparents Program, United Way Volunteer Center

*"Delightful, charming and warmhearted...[She is] in the classroom three days a week."*

**OUTSTANDING COLLABORATION** Chittenden County Truancy Project, Burlington (numerous schools and agencies, county-wide), accepted by Martha Maksym, United Way of Chittenden County and dedicated to the memory of D.G. Weaver

*"The drop-out rate has fallen more than 65% since 1998 ..."*



**GREGORY PACKAN CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY AWARD** Connie Curtin, Former Executive Director, VT Parent Information Center/ Co-Director, VT Family Network

*"Connie has worked to improve federal and state laws and practices in special education. ...Helping families advocate for their children with special needs soon became her life's work."*

**OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL** Karen Shea, Child Safety Assessment Manager, Vermont Department for Children and Families, Family Services

*"Truly a leader who looks at how will this improve child safety for Vermont's children."*



We are grateful to all of the “eventful” people, who help keep resources flowing—awareness, morale, funding and fun— during challenging times.



**KidSafe 60 — June '09**  
 Thank you, Riders, Sponsors,  
 Volunteers, Donors and  
 Grand Isle State Park



**Vermont Lake Monsters Partnership**  
 Centennial Field — Summer 2009  
 Thank you, VT Lake Monsters!



Courtesy of Michael G.W. Stein

**6th Community Yard Sale—August**  
 Champlain Valley Exposition • With Kids on the Block—Vermont  
 12 Sponsors and Business Donors, countless item donors,  
 dozens of volunteers and 1500+ shoppers



**Wine Tasting Fundraiser—August**  
 Halvorson's, Church Street  
 Sponsored by Church Street Wine Cellars,  
 Thank you, Merchants Bank & Guests

**Vermont Agency Foundation Golf Benefit — July 2009 — Williston Golf Course**  
 Thank you to the Vermont Agency and all who helped raise \$9,000 for KidSafe Collaborative programs!