



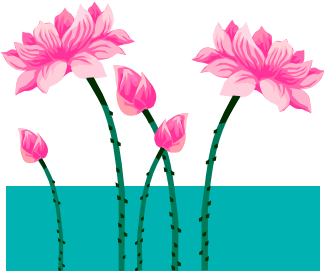
# The Volunteer Voice

Children's Advocacy Center of Manhattan

Spring 2006

333 East 70<sup>th</sup> Street · New York, NY 10021 · phone (212) 517-3012 · [www.childhelpusa.org/manhattan](http://www.childhelpusa.org/manhattan)

## Volunteer Appreciation



National Volunteer Week is April 23<sup>rd</sup> to April 29<sup>th</sup>, and the staff of the CAC would like to take this opportunity to send our sincere thanks and gratitude to our valuable volunteers. We thank you for devoting your time and attention to the very important issues of child abuse prevention and treatment. It would be difficult for us to do the work we do without your help and support. Contributions by volunteers have enabled us to serve more clients, offer more services and reach out to our community.

Through childcare, case tracking, tutoring, mentoring, donations, outreach and countless other activities, volunteers help to maintain the high quality of care offered by the Center.

We would be pleased if you would join us for *Volunteer Appreciation Night* at the Center on *Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm*. We are fortunate to benefit from the talents, enthusiasm and hard work donated by all of you!

## Upcoming Events

Springtime is a busy season for the Children's Advocacy Center. Please mark your calendars!

**Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**  
*National Day of Hope*

**Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**  
*Volunteer Appreciation Night at the CAC*  
6:00 to 7:00 pm

**Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**  
*Race to Erase Domestic Violence*  
Sponsored by the New York Junior League  
Co-ed 5K Race, Women's Half-Marathon  
To register, visit [www.nyrr.org](http://www.nyrr.org).

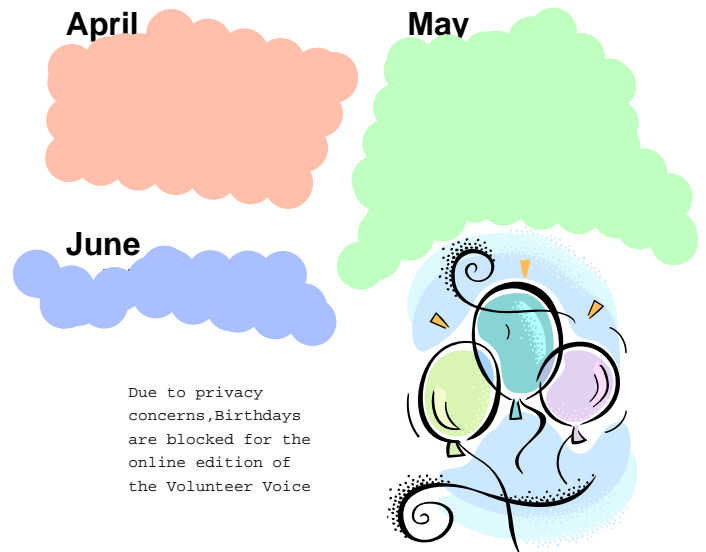
**Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**  
*Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Health Fair*  
3:00 to 6:00 pm  
Please contact Mary if you are interested in volunteering at the CAC information table.

## Volunteer Birthdays

April

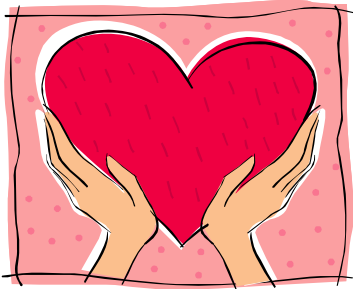
May

June



Due to privacy concerns, Birthdays are blocked for the online edition of the Volunteer Voice

# April Is Child Abuse Prevention Month



April is designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Every year the Children's Advocacy Center works to spread awareness of child abuse and prevention in our community.

On February 14, 2000, the United States House of Representatives passed a resolution in support of the efforts of Childhelp USA to recognize the problems of child abuse and neglect and enhance public awareness through a day of hope. This year, the National Day of Hope will be April 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Children's Advocacy Center will join with Lenox Hill Neighborhood House on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, in honor of the seventh annual National Day of Hope. We will host an information table in front of the Center from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm providing information to the community on child abuse prevention and treatment resources. For additional information about the National Day of Hope, visit [www.childhelpusa.org](http://www.childhelpusa.org).

## Effective Prevention Strategies

Child Abuse Prevention starts with healthy families. Research has identified certain protective factors in families to be correlated with reductions in child abuse and neglect, including:

- Knowledge of parenting skills and child development
- Healthy social connections
- Effective problem solving and communication
- Concrete support in times of need
- Healthy interpersonal relationships
- Social and emotional competence of children

Strategies to promote protective factors include:

- Facilitate friendships and mutual support among parents
- Strengthen parenting resources and skills
- Link families to services and opportunities
- Value and support parents
- Facilitate children's social and emotional development
- Observe and respond to early warning signs of child abuse or neglect

## The Scope of Child Abuse And Ways to Stop It

Child Abuse is an issue facing all communities in every region of our country. In 2003, 906,000 children were found to have been victims of abuse or neglect in the United States. 77,086 children were found to have been victims in New York. An average of four children die every day as a result of child abuse or neglect in the United States (an estimated 1,500 in 2003).

Informing yourself about ways to stop child abuse is a first step in becoming part of the solution.

### Ten Ways to Stop Abuse:

- 1 Act on your suspicions. If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, trust your instincts. Suspected abuse is enough of a reason to make a report to the authorities. You do not need proof.
- 2 Be aware of unexplained injuries. Note unusual burns or bruises in the shape of objects, or unconvincing explanations of a child's injuries.
- 3 Notice changes in behavior. Abuse can lead to many changes in a child's behavior, ranging from becoming isolated and withdrawn to becoming overly aggressive.
- 4 Notice a child's fear of going home. If a child is a victim of physical or sexual abuse, he or she may display apprehension about leaving school or going places with the abuser.
- 5 Notice if a child is expressing an inappropriate knowledge of sexual relations. If a child is a victim of sexual abuse, he or she may exhibit overly sexual behavior, or use explicit sexual language.
- 6 Notice unexplained weight loss or other signs that a child is not getting enough to eat. Underfed children may be unusually sluggish or fatigued.
- 7 Notice if there is an unexplained drop in a child's attendance at school. Children may be unable to attend school due to injuries from their abuse or intentionally held out of school to cover up visible signs of abuse.
- 8 Notice if a child is stealing or begging for food from fellow classmates or members of the community. Children who do not get enough to eat may resort to trying to obtain food in whatever way they can.
- 9 Notice a child's lack of personal care or hygiene. Young children who have been neglected or abused may appear dirty or uncared for or have unsuitable clothing for the weather conditions.
- 10 Notice if there is a decline in a child's performance in school. Abuse may affect all aspects of a child's life, including their grades.

([preventchildabuse.org](http://preventchildabuse.org) and [safehorizon.org](http://safehorizon.org))

# CAC Poster Project

In honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the CAC sponsored its eighth annual poster project. Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth grade students in School Districts 2 and 4 were invited to participate by designing a poster based on the theme *Children are Fragile, Handle with Care*. We are truly impressed with the students' artwork. The entries are wonderful! Their art shows great creativity and an understanding of our cause.

The first place entry was created by Ozra Yazdani, a fourth grade student at P.S. 130. Ozra's entry will be made into a poster and distributed to schools, hospitals, and community centers throughout the five boroughs. We would also like to congratulate our second, third, and fourth place winners: Stacey Chen from P.S. 130, Juliana Gluck and Ellie Abrams from P.S. 163, and Luis Puntiel from P.S. 18.

Special thanks to [BarnesandNoble.com](http://BarnesandNoble.com), Bank Street Bookstore, Sam Flax New York, and New York Central Art Supply for their generous gift certificates that were presented as prizes to the winners.

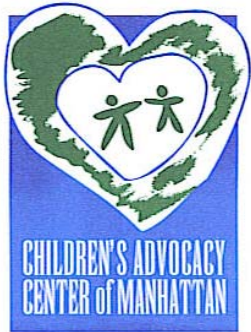


First Place Entry, Artist: Ozra Yazdani, P.S. 130, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Art Teacher: Ms. Chan

“We must give more in order to get more. It is the generous giving of ourselves that produces the generous harvest.” – Orison Swett Marden

“A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity.” – Buddha

“More than machinery, we need humanity. More than cleverness, we need kindness and gentleness.” – Charlie Chaplin



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