K

risti House’s therapy depart-

ment provides critical, life-

renewing service to child

victims of sexual abuse following best

practice protocols. The number of

children needing therapy, however,

has long far exceeded the number

of children we can serve. Growth

of the therapy department has

been a priority.

Phase II of the strategic plan

for therapy expansion is nearing

successful completion. This phase

encompassed hiring two more

master’s level clinicians and

adding a satellite office in north

Miami-Dade. The North Office at

State Road 441 and Northwest 185

Street was opened this past fall, com-
plementing the satellite office in

south Miami-Dade which opened a

year before in fall 2006. These loca-
tions, in addition to Kristi House’s

central facility on the University of

Miami/Jackson Hospital campus,

enable clients to have their weekly

appointments closer to their home

neighborhoods.

With the trans-

portation challenges we all face

in Miami, this has helped to remove a

significant barrier to accessing services.

The past two years of expansion

have enabled the therapy staff at

Kristi House to nearly double the

number of children provided serv-
ices, so that now we are treating

nearly half of the 600 to 700 children

we see in case coordination each

year. The cases Kristi House cannot

accommodate are referred to other

agencies, although Kristi House is

still the only organization in

Miami-Dade coordinating serv-
ices for child sexual abuse vic-
tims and their families, and one

of an extremely limited number of

agencies that take clients regard-
less of their ability to pay.

Most of the budget for the

therapy unit is funded by private

sources; that is, foundations

and individuals who understand

that therapy can mean the difference

between overcoming the trauma of

abuse or a life of suffering, stress and

shame. As vital as it is, public sources

of support for therapy services are

extremely limited.

The therapy program now

includes 10 therapists, the clinical

supervisor, and an intern program we

seek to expand in the coming year—

continued on page 3

Touch A Heart Dinner raises record support

T

de 8th Annual Kristi House Touch a Heart Dinner &
Auction was a sold-out success netting $371,000.

Diane de Olazarra, Philanthropic Chair, and Lindy
Colson and Debbie Burman co-chaired the November 9th

event at Four Seasons. Organized by a dedicated committee

of volunteers, this signature event for Kristi House has

become a favorite among fine afficionados and lovers of

gourmet food and rare auction opportunities.

White flowers donated by Fresh Market and Dole and
arranged by Layne Tidwell greeted guests in understated ele-
gance for the five-course gourmet meal and wine pairings.

Republic National Distributing Company

continued on page 7

Dinner Co-chair Lindy Colson, Executive Director Trudy Novicki

and Dinner Co-chair Debbie Burman
From the Executive Director

In this issue you’ll find the cover article updates you on our progress in expanding therapy so that all children victimized by sexual abuse can receive counseling here, by our specialists. You’ll also find a brief update on our new program for commercially sexually exploited children, an area where no services exist in our community.

You’ll see in these articles and others that people want to help. We are often reminded of this at Kristi House. It’s what keeps us pushing forward, striving to find ways to garner support to address unmet needs for services.

In November, a team of skilled and dedicated volunteers hosted our 8th annual Touch a Heart Dinner with record proceeds. This exquisite, signature fund raising event run by volunteers consistently earns more than 10% of our annual budget, and couldn’t happen without our volunteers’ work, and the generous support of our underwriters, auction donors and attendees.

In December, we saw companies, organizations and individuals coming together to give for holidays. We had groups of university students taking up collections for Kristi House, turning out to volunteer for events, and planning and funding parties. We had business people and social groups holding their own fund raising and toy drives, and bestowing boxes of new presents for our children. We saw young children foregoing presents and opting instead for their gifts to go to Kristi House kids.

And throughout the year, our Breaking the Silence donors have sustained their pledges of support, providing vital funding for services. This annual giving program launched last spring brings together volunteers and patrons of Kristi House who understand the devastating impact of child sexual abuse on the individual and community, and share our commitment to ending it in Miami.

On April 23 we will bring together a new group of concerned and caring community leaders at our annual Breaking the Silence luncheon to be held at the Country Club of Coral Gables. We invite you to join us by contacting me, or Development Director Alina Nunez, at (305) 547-6202. We hope you will consider becoming part of Breaking the Silence for child sexual abuse victims so that their secrets aren’t locked away forever, and Kristi House can carry out its vital work on their behalf.

Mission Kristi House provides a healing environment for all child victims of sexual abuse and their families, regardless of income, through prevention, treatment and coordination of services with our community partners.

Vision Kristi House strives to end the epidemic of child sexual abuse in Miami-Dade County by healing those who have been victimized and breaking the cycle of abuse for future generations.

Values Kristi House is dedicated to respecting, protecting, and healing the children and families that pass through its doors.

Kristi House Services Case Coordination & Case Management • Information & Referral • Advocacy • Therapy • Parents’ Groups • Criminal Justice Support • Education • Emergency Assistance • Transportation • Community Outreach • Comprehensive Behavioral Assessments
New mini-van keeps Transportation Program going

It is a privilege to be able to report to you that Kristi House friends answered our call this past fall to fund a new mini-van purchase for our Transportation Program. Thanks to donations from many supporters and assistance with a special at-cost price facilitated by Mercedes-Benz of Coral Gables, a new Honda Odyssey van is in service.

In an effort to ensure that lack of transportation is never a barrier to families getting the help they need, Kristi House has long been dedicated to providing transportation assistance for our children and families for appointments here and at other agencies involved with their cases. Even with the collocation of many of the entities involved in cases, often families must travel to other agencies to get all the help they need. Then, ongoing weekly therapy appointments can pose transportation challenges for those juggling children, work and home, on top of the upheaval of child sexual abuse.

You may recall I reported to you in the last Kristi House News that the original Kristi House van was rapidly approaching a quarter-of-a-million miles of service! Needless to say, it was in dire need of replacement.

Kristi House extends its gratitude to the donors listed to the left who answered our urgent plea for assistance and funded this capital purchase. We also thank Leon Medical Centers for taking care of the signs for the new van.

Only $1,170 of the van’s purchase price remains outstanding. If you would like to contribute to help complete the campaign, please call us at (305) 547-6802. Or, at www.kristihouse.org, click on the “Mini-Van Fund” link from the main page to make your secure donation online. Thank you.

Executive Director Trudy Novicki takes the old van away for its final departure from Kristi House.

Therapy Expansion II (continued from page 1)

the final phase of our strategic plan.

The therapy program and Phase II expansion is being supported with grants from several foundations we sincerely thank: The Blue Foundation, Peacock Foundation, Paul Palank Memorial Foundation, Hector Family Foundation, Allegany Franciscan Ministries, Foss Family Foundation, Junior League of Miami, and The Ethyl and W. George Kennedy Family Foundation. The National Children’s Alliance has awarded Kristi House Program Expansion grants for two years in a row for therapy expansion. Only a couple of these NCA grants are made annually in the entire country of more than 600 Children’s Advocacy Centers.

In addition, supporters at Kristi House’s annual Touch a Heart Dinner & Auction answered the call to fund a therapist position for a year.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Kristi House’s North office needs support for furnishings to finish creating a warm, child-friendly environment. An envelope is enclosed if you can help, or donate securely online at www.kristihouse.org.

Twenty-one generous donors pledged their support to fund a master’s level clinician who will be able to treat 40-50 clients in the course of a year. Thank you to all! ♥
Dr. Walter Lambert named Concern 2007 Award winner by Health Foundation of South Florida

Health Foundation of South Florida awarded Dr. Walter F. Lambert, medical director of the Child Protection Team, one of its prestigious Concern Awards in December, an honor well deserved. In his role with CPT, Dr. Lambert provides both medical and administrative leadership for the multi-disciplinary team of experts charged with evaluating alleged child abuse and neglect for all of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. CPT is one of Kristi House’s major partners that come together on cases at the Children’s Advocacy Center.

In his position for more than two decades, Dr. Lambert has developed an international reputation for forensic medical examinations of children, daily witnessing heart-breaking, often unspeakable acts of abuse perpetrated on young, vulnerable victims. Dr. Lambert conducts medical exams and provides expert testimony for court, helping judges make critical dependency and placement decisions.

Dr. Lambert has been a leading advocate for children at Kristi House since its formation in 1996. Most recently he has helped to successfully locate forensic medical examinations of children under 12 to the child-friendly Kristi House in an effort to reduce trauma to children and follow best practice protocols.

Before going to medical school, Dr. Lambert worked as a social worker, beginning his lifelong dedication to advocating on behalf of those without a voice in the system and working with families from diverse backgrounds. Combined with his own Cuban heritage, his experiences and background have made him uniquely equipped to address the interplay of cultures when assessing abuse and neglect, critically important in South Florida.

Dr. Lambert is dedicated to sharing this experience and knowledge, both the triumphs and bitter losses, lecturing throughout the country and abroad. As a pediatrician with the University of Miami School of Medicine, he also teaches medical students, just another “blessing” according to him since he enjoys it as much as his work with children.

In 2004 at a Kristi House national conference, Dr. Lambert recalls, he witnessed the breaking down of one more barrier to helping sexually abused children in the South Florida community. The barrier was the long-held belief that if no medical evidence of injury was found, the sexual assault didn’t happen. At the conference conducted for doctors, social workers, cops and counselors involved in the investigation, prosecution and treatment of child sexual abuse, “for the first time people started hearing, and believing, that a negative exam doesn’t mean the abuse didn’t occur,” he said.

“This was a sea change in understanding, and, with vastly more exams not finding evidence than those that do, landmark progress. Dr. Lambert delivered the message at the conference through his popular slide-lecture covering child sexual abuse from ancient times to current protocols challenges. And he said, that was ‘the beginning of really being heard.’

What truly sets Dr. Lambert apart — beyond his striking appearance, beyond his incredible level of tireless energy, beyond the career that most people would find unfathomably difficult — is that Dr. Lambert sees and knows the child welfare system from both the inside and the outside. As the father of six children adopted from the State, and a foster parent along with his wife to

continued on next page
The Kristi House Children’s Advocacy Center model is based on inter-agency collaboration to handle child sexual abuse cases. Our Center’s Multi-disciplinary Team is the only entity in the county dedicated to this mission of system coordination to ensure that all emotional, physical and legal needs for child sexual abuse victims are provided. MDT partners include the State Attorney’s Office Children’s and Special Needs Unit and Sexual Battery Unit, Dept. of Children and Families, University of Miami Child Protection Team, Jackson Memorial Hospital Rape Treatment Center, law enforcement, and Guardian ad Litem. This team provides children and their families comprehensive services from investigation, through prosecution and treatment.

nearly two dozen kids over the years, he has the unique perspective of a parent and professional in the system created to protect our kids. Daily he sees what’s wrong, and what’s right, and finds the ability to keep tackling challenges without surrender. Dr. Lambert says he has simply been fortunate to have been blessed with the ability to do it. He scoffs at the notion that he’s chosen an extraordinarily difficult, stressful line of work; regarding it more as “a privilege, not a sacrifice.”

Dr. Lambert would be distressed if we did not extend credit for his and CPT’s success to his outstanding staff and colleagues with whom Kristi House works closely as well.

Culturally Modified Trauma Focused Therapy

For two years Kristi House has been a participant in a national pilot program to adapt a best practices therapy protocol for the specific needs of Hispanic families. Dr. Michael de Arellano from the Medical University of South Carolina comes to Kristi House for training of our clinical staff and regularly provides telephone supervision support to our therapists.

Rachel Lloyd

Kristi House has received seed funding from Women’s Fund of Miami-Dade and several individuals for its new prevention program to address the needs of commercially sexually exploited children. Kristi House began this program with a community-wide training conference in September led by Rachel Lloyd, director of one of the most successful programs operating in the country. GEMS (Girls Educational and Mentoring Services), based in New York, is dedicated to empowering young women 12 to 21 years who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking to escape the commercial sex industry.

Rachel is providing ongoing technical support to Kristi House, which currently has four girls in the case coordination portion of the program. They range in age from 12 to 17 years old. We are also conducting an outreach prevention program in an at-risk middle school. For more information, please contact Sandy Skelaney at (305) 547-6800 or via email, sskelaney@kristihouse.org.
Supporters

**Touch a Heart Dinner Sponsors**

Kristi House extends its deepest gratitude to the following generous sponsors:

**Honorary Chairs**

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Diane and Allen de Olazarra – The de Olazarra Family Foundation
Swanee & Paul DiMare

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Audrey & Jack Ross
Michael Ross
Cheryl & John Strom
Michael Weintraub, Esq.
Touch A Heart Dinner sells out and raises record proceeds (con’t. from page 1)

and Ravenswood Vineyard were Wine Sponsors. Mike Bittel of Sunset Fine Wine & Spirits served as wine expert, along with Christopher Zoller. Julia Bianchi served as Table Host chair, and Lee Zoller headed up the wine auction of 50 lots of rare fine wine.

“This event has grown into such a success for Kristi House over the years because of the volunteers who make it all happen,” said Trudy Novicki. “Many of them have given their time and talent for years, and we are deeply indebted to them for helping to fund so many needs.”

Kristi House extends its heartfelt thanks to committee leaders Diane de Olazarra, Philanthropic Chair; Debbie Burman and Lindy Colson, Co-Chairs; and the entire dinner committee: Shakyra Adorno, Emma Afra, Florence Anderson, Maria Beguiristain, Julia Bianchi, Berta Blecke, Natalie Brown, Etain Connor, Roxana Garcia, Linda Levy Goldberg, Barbara Hinterkopf, Judy McCleary, Margaret Nee, Sheri Orlowitz, Layne Tidwell, Cynthia Trescott, Sharon Watson, Judy Zeder and Lee Zoller.

SAVE THE DATE!
Friday, November 7, 2008
Four Seasons Hotel

Platinum Heart Sponsors Hugh & Eliza Culverhouse

Silver Heart Sponsors Susan & Chuck Vodicka

Yolanda & Juan Trescastro of Royal Caribbean International, Silver Sponsor

Sybil & John Barkett of Shook Hardy & Bacon, Silver Sponsor
Supporters

Touch a Heart continued

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Glenn Huber of BNY Mellon, Silver Sponsor, with wife Jaye

Jon & Nancy Batchelor

Silver Sponsors Carol & Al Novak with Jay & Suzanne Ziskind

Silver Sponsors Janet & Jimmy Ellison with Thelma Hall & Alan Ellison

Judy Frates Meyer, Berta & Jim Blecke, Silver Heart Sponsors, with Delores Batchelor of Worldwide Holidays, Inc.

Dr. J.P. & Maggie Austin

Fredric Saunier and Jean Nee
Volunteers Make the Difference  By Lauren Diamond, Volunteer Coordinator

Kristi House is fortunate to have the support of many volunteers who work with us regularly, serving as ambassadors, working with our kids, and helping in so many ways. Their generosity makes the lives of clients, during what is perhaps their darkest days, a little brighter, planting the seeds of hope and caring in everything they do. Many groups also come to us to help with special projects and at holiday times, sharing their time and treasure with our client families.

Hat’s off to…

• FIU’s Alpha Xi Delta sorority and Brustman Carrino Public Relations who hosted our annual Halloween party for client families.
• Our high school volunteer Bibi Moghani, who has been making and delivering holiday goody bags, and donating beautiful holiday gifts throughout the year.
• Our volunteer Sara Sunet who donated awesome back-to-school supplies in wonderful goody bags, as well as Halloween goody bags.
• Our volunteer James Mansur and his wife Ana, along with Audrey Muller and Sara Sunet, for volunteering at our annual Touch a Heart Event.
• Dr. Raysa Richardson and her staff for “adopting” another family in need again this year with gifts of clothing, toys and money.
• Toy donor Lourdes Reich, who, with the help of her daughter on her birthday asked her guests to bring a new toy for Kristi House children instead of herself.
• Katerina De La Rosa, Ryan Baldeo and Giselle Vargas, seniors at John A. Ferguson High School in the International Baccalaureate Program, who are creating gorgeous, hand-made greeting cards for Kristi House to use for clients and supporters during the year.
• Dr. Peri Young and daughter Reily Simon for donating toys when Reily asked her guests to bring presents Kristi House kids instead of for her.
• Brigette Nachtgall-Connor and nearly 100 ladies of Key Biscayne who conducted a huge toy drive for the holidays.
• Jeannett Slesnick for making sure our teens have good reading material with boxes of books collected in her annual book drive.
• The Tuesday Morning Sewing Group of South Miami Lutheran Church for keeping our walls colorful with their handmade quilts that clients and staff both enjoy.
• The Touch a Heart Committee and the entire group of some three dozen volunteers who helped make the 8th Annual Touch a Heart Dinner & Auction such a success once again at the Four Seasons.
Kristi House strives to raise awareness of child sexual abuse as well as support for children needing services in events throughout the community. We thank Touch, Sports Club/LA, Best Publications and Cielo Garden & Supper Club for their generous support, along with everyone who participated with us this past fall season.

**SOUTH BEACH**

Heal a Heart Happy Hour at Touch

ABOVE: Executive Director Trudy Novicki with Judge Beatrice A. Butchko and Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle

RIGHT: Kristi House Board Member Sarah Washburn with Ben Epstein & Kadies Black at September event

**DOwNTOWN/BRICKELL**

Heal a Heart Happy Hour at Sports Club/LA

Kristi House’s Community Outreach Team Leader Maria Clara Rodriguez, organizer of the event to raise funds for emergency client needs, with DJ Marc Leventhal, who graciously donated his services for the October event.

**COCONUT GROVE**

Best Publications Launch Party at Cielo

City of Miami Commissioner Mark Sarnoff with Kristi House Board President Margaret Nee at Cielo Garden & Supper Club in August.

Kristi House’s Bianca Fernandez with Connie Russell, Tracy Towle, Erika King and Cynthia Bettner, publisher of the Best of Coconut Grove Dining & Entertainment Guide which made Kristi House beneficiary of the evening’s proceeds.

**KEY BISCAYNE**

Kristi House Volunteer Coordinator Lauren Diamond with Volunteer Carolyn Simmons at Key Biscayne Community Foundation’s Non-Profit Expo in November.

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**A CLIENT POEM**

Careless people all around,
with careless doubts in the sky,
Hopeless thoughts were actually found,
when people thought that all kids lie.

Your knowledge of strangers really doubts,
that the scariest stranger is in your house.
He or she, yes they can be
brother, mother, father, daughter...

Cousins, friends, neighbors, family...
you may not know, they can be really close.
It hurts when you know
that the truth to be told.

That the closest stranger lived in my house,
I learned too late, but I learned to be great.
Young as I was and nobody knew, I could
trust no more, I am truly blue.

The only one to help was my mother,
only thing is, she pondered,
Betrayed by men’s trust, so young was I,
that with men be alone, I say not I.

Survived the traumatic event right now, this
is all thanks to mom and Kristi House.
Now if they said I’ve been victimized,
all I can say is “No, I survived.”

♥
Holiday party is a blast!

More than 300 Kristi House children and members of their families enjoyed holiday festivities at the annual Kristi House party hosted in their honor by volunteers. Led by Kristi House Board Member Tricia LeClair, the evening of activities included music, Santa Claus, food and fun for all at the Betty Boo Party Kingdom.

In addition to raising supporting funds and tapping her own resources for this special night, Tricia secured other underwriters (see right) and personally selected and wrapped new presents (with help from her mom!) for every child to take home.

Many groups of friends, colleagues and professional associations conducted toy drives for Kristi House children, ensuring that all received wonderful, age-appropriate gifts.

Special thanks also goes to organizer extraordinaire Christine Molinares, who assisted Tricia every step of the way; Rebecca Novicki, who took professional photos of all the families as a special keepsake; Pam Mekras and The Miami Dance Project for providing entertainment at the party; and Armando Cabane who gave his time in the Santa suit.

We are grateful to all the underwriters, volunteers and participants who made the party great.

We apologize for any errors or omissions; please contact Kristi House at (305) 547-6832 with correction.

Client Holiday Party & Toy Drive Supporters

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<th>Name and Company</th>
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<td>Brigitte Nachtigall-Connor</td>
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<td>and the ladies of Key Biscayne</td>
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Holiday Drive Donors

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We apologize for any errors or omissions; please contact Kristi House at (305) 547-6832 with correction.
Kristi House Offers Corporate Education Program

Sexual abuse is all-too prevalent in our communities, with one out of four girls and one out of six boys abused by the age of 18. There are an estimated 39 million adult survivors in the United States today. It could happen to a child you love at anytime. Knowledge and awareness is the key to putting an end to this epidemic.

Kristi House encourages employers to bring this awareness to their employees by facilitating two presentations made by our Community Outreach Program specialists especially for adults: Internet Safety and What Every Adult Should Know About Sexual Abuse. Each presentation is one-and-a-half hours long, presented in two sessions at the company site on agreed upon dates and times. A donation toward the expansion of this program will be graciously accepted. The following is a brief summary of the two presentations:

**Internet Safety Presentations**
This presentation was developed by NetSmartz® for use with children of all ages and adults. It’s a PowerPoint and video presentation format, with real-life clips of situations to educate students, parents and communities. Slides detail the following concepts:
- Online risks, statistics, resources
- Tips for keeping children and young adults safer online
- Encouragement for parents to examine their kids’ online behavior
- What steps parents should take to prevent victimization
- What all adults need to watch out for on the Internet and how to avoid risks.

**What Every Adult Should Know About Sexual Abuse**
This presentation is intended to educate adults on issues related to child sexual abuse. It begins with the presentation of a video explaining Kristi House services and the facilities. The material is offered in lecture form and group participation is encouraged by welcoming questions and discussion. The curriculum includes the presentation of the following concepts:
- Definition of child sexual abuse
- Signs and symptoms of sexual abuse
- Reporting abuse
- Services offered at Kristi House

Don’t Wait Until Something Happens
For more information about how your company can protect itself and your employees can protect children, please contact Development Director Alina Nunez at (305) 547-6802 or send email to her at anunez@kristihouse.org.

www.kristihouse.org