It Happens.
It Hurts.

There’s Help.

Annual Report 2000-2001
Kristi House provides a healing environment for child victims of sexual abuse and their families through community collaboration and system coordination.

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

Major donors to Kristi House are recognized with a personalized plaque which contains a colorful handprint created by residents of the Gladstone Center — a residential treatment facility for sexually abused girls.
The past year has been a time of growth and maturity for Kristi House’s programs and its partner agencies at the Orlowitz Lee Children’s Advocacy Center. During 2001, we have perfected our skills in working together as a team for the benefit of children who are victims of sexual abuse. This multi-disciplinary team, consisting of representatives from the State Attorney’s Office, the Department of Children and Families, the City of Miami, Metro Dade and other Police Departments, the Guardian Ad Litem Program, the University of Miami Child Protection Team and Kristi House therapist and case coordinators, meets each week to staff all new and pending cases. Forty representatives of the multidisciplinary team attend each staff meeting, and an average of sixty cases are reviewed. This process ensures that each child is being protected, receiving the services they need and that perpetrators are being held accountable.

The Kristi House programs provided at the Center and in the community also continue to develop. We have expanded in several areas including case coordination, therapy and outreach and education. Our case coordination program, which assists families with investigation, prosecution and treatment issues, now offers personal home visits for families who are unable to come to the Center. We believe that this level of service is an important step in serving the young victims of sexual abuse. Over the past year, 618 children have received the services needed to facilitate their recovery, and since the Kristi House program began in 1996, more than 2,400 children have been served.

We have hired three new, dedicated therapists to assist with our expansion. Now staffed with a total of four therapists, Kristi House offers individual, group and family counseling for victims and their families. A consulting child psychiatrist also visits the Center on a weekly basis and psychiatric evaluation and services are provided at no cost. In addition to services provided at the Center, therapy is also provided in Homestead, and pediatricians from the University of Miami Child Protection Team perform forensic medical exams for child sexual abuse victims in non-acute cases. This is one area where we expect continued expansion and plan to hire more therapists to handle our growing caseload.

The Kristi House outreach and education program has taken on a leadership role in the community. Our outreach team has personally made safety presentations to more than 1200 elementary and middle school students this past year. Those students who were identified as victims were provided additional services.

When we opened our doors in 1996, our annual budget was approximately $150,000. For the fiscal year 2000-2001, we have grown to an operational budget of more than $1,000,000. The Kristi House Board of Directors and staff worked tirelessly to expand the Center and to increase services to children and families. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of numerous individuals and organizations in our community. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the children of Miami-Dade.

Looking to the future, we hope to become the Center of choice for all issues concerning child sexual abuse. We are currently only serving 1/3 of the children in Miami-Dade County affected by sexual abuse and we hope to some day serve all children in need. In order to reach this goal, we are striving to achieve a level of capital that will allow us to expand both physically and administratively ultimately becoming a facility that is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Child abuse continues to devastate the lives of children across our nation. Until a time when all children are safe, we must maintain our focus and vision by continuing to provide a place where children are seen, heard and believed.

Berta B. Blecke
Board President

Benjamin Murray
Executive Director
This Annual Report showcases the strides we have made in our fifth year of operations. From the period July 1, 2000, to June 30, 2001, Kristi House’s has honed its skills, expanded its staff and served more than 618 children who were victims of sexual abuse.

Our Major Accomplishments in 2000-2001 Include:

- Served 618 child victims of sexual abuse and their families.
- Provided transportation for 124 clients in need.
- Provided therapy to 105 children and their families.
- Founded a clinical training program with local universities engaging master level interns and practicum students.
- Provided presentations to educate over 1500 students on abuse issues, violence and alternatives to violence.
- Provided direct services for 40 children through the intake advocate program.
- Interviewed and trained 17 volunteers to work with children at the Center.
- Developed a pilot project with the University of Miami Child Protection Team and the City of Miami Police Department to perform medical exams for non-acute sexual abuse cases at the Center.
Case Coordination

During this fiscal year, Kristi House provided case coordination and personal advocacy services to a total of 618 children. Because the legal system can be difficult to negotiate, and gaining access to supportive agencies and therapy can also be complicated, Kristi House case coordinators work directly with families to facilitate the process.

Our case coordinators provide an avenue for families to work with law enforcement agencies and/or the State Attorney’s office when a criminal investigation process is necessary. They also educate the families about the investigative and prosecutorial process and connect children and families to appropriate service providers in the community. Kristi House provides a vital support system to victims encouraging them to pursue all avenues of treatment and all legal means to stop the abuse and ensure long-term recovery.

Kristi House case coordinators also help families get transportation to appointments, and assist with setting doctor appointments and therapist appointments. In addition, the Kristi House van was utilized to provide 293 trips last year, thus eliminating one of the primary barriers to treatment.

Families and child victims are referred to Kristi House from a variety of sources including the Department of Children and Families, law enforcement agencies, schools, and family members. Kristi House is able to offer a clear set of recommendations and linkages to a fragmented system of care in our community. Working closely with the therapy department, the case coordination team is able to implement initial therapy appointments for children within 14 days of referral.

Since opening in April 1996, Kristi House has provided services to nearly 2400 children in Miami-Dade County. The demographics of our clients are as follows: 80% female, 20% male, 45% Hispanic, 40% African American, 13% White, and 2% other. Regarding age, 7% of the clients are infants to 3 year olds, 20% are between 4-6, 31% are between 7 and 10 years, and 42% are between 11 and 17 years old.

Therapy

Therapy is an important component of the recovery process. To meet the growing needs of our clients, Kristi House hired three new therapists that offer individual and group therapy to children and their families. The addition of these therapists brings the Kristi House therapy team to a total of four full-time professionals.

The therapy department provided services to 105 children and their families. We have also contracted with a licensed psychiatrist who meets weekly with therapists to monitor medications and review all client files. This ensures that the children are getting the highest level of care.

As part of our ongoing effort to offer more services to

There’s Help

A man on drugs broke into a home and traumatized two young children. Their fear was so great that they were afraid to go to school or leave their mother’s side. Kristi House made it possible for the family to temporarily move to a homeless assistance shelter while working on placing them in permanent housing.
clients and the community, Kristi House expanded group therapy to include groups for pre-teen girls ages 11-14 and boys ages 6-8 and formed a parent support group that meets weekly at the Center and is run by two bi-lingual therapists.

Educational Programs:
Child Victim Rapid Response Program

We are ending our third year of involvement with the CVRRP, which was jointly funded by the State of Florida and the Department of Education. Our goal with this outreach program is to increase community education and awareness regarding abuse issues and family violence, and be part of the solution.

During the year, we made 17 presentations to adults in the community and 54 to children in school. Ten presentations were made to parents and educators and 7 were education-training sessions made to other professionals, including, therapists and daycare workers. Through the CVRRP we were able to reach 1500 students educating them on violence issues and alternatives to violence in schools as well as issues on abuse. We teach them safety skills to help prevent them from abuse and we encourage disclosure of any abuse.

Statistics show that 75% of children don’t disclose sexual abuse. The reasons vary from fear to guilt to shame. Our message to these children is clear. “You are not to blame for what happened to you and we are here to help you.”

Intake Advocates

The role of our two intake advocates has also expanded over the past year. The intake advocates provided 164 direct service contacts to victims and their families. While only forty children were considered victims of crime many others received services that don’t fall under the victim category such as being bullied or sexually harassed at school. Once a child is referred to Kristi House he/she receives at least two services, an initial interview and a crisis follow-up. If the child requires additional services he/she is then referred to community groups, emergency legal services or therapy depending on the situation. Last year Kristi House served 105 children who did not fall into the victim category providing at least 200 direct service contacts.

The Kristi House staff participated in 18 in-service trainings conducted by a number of community agencies. These in-services provide the staff an opportunity to gain information about potential referral sources for our clients. It also allows other agencies to learn more about the services offered here at Kristi House and the Orlowitz Lee Children’s Advocacy Center.

It is essential that Kristi House remain connected to the community. To achieve this, our educational director remains actively involved in a number of community task forces including: Safe Zones Miami, the Domestic Violence Task Force, Project Yes, the Safe Start Initiative, the Growing Healthy Task Force, and the Prevention and Intervention of Abuse, Neglect and Violence Task Force.

There’s Help

A young woman was raped and now has a 5-year old daughter. The child was repeatedly sexually abused by her stepfather until caught in the act by the mother. Kristi House helped the mother get a divorce and provided family counseling, transportation and financial referral assistance to the victim and her family.
Kristi House also provides ongoing professional development training for all our staff both in-house and for other agencies.

**Volunteer Program**

The Kristi House volunteers play a vital role in creating a safe environment for children to receive services. Children arriving at the Center often must wait while their parents or family members are attending appointments. While they wait, they are greeted by volunteers who play with them and provide structured activities in efforts to lessen their anxiety. This year we trained 17 new volunteers who generously give their time and attention to children in need.

**New programs**

**Internship Programs**

Kristi House developed a bachelor’s level internship program and became an approved site by several local colleges and universities. Last year we provided an internship for one student from Florida Atlantic University who worked with us as a case coordinator from January to May of 2001. Additional interns are expected in upcoming semesters.

**Medical Exams Department**

A pilot project was developed with the University of Miami Child Protection Team and the City of Miami Police Department and implemented in March 2001 to perform medical exams for non-acute sexual abuse cases at the Center. Because a medical exam for sexual abuse can be extremely traumatic for a child we have designed and furnished a special exam room complete with all necessary medical supplies geared to a child’s special needs. Although the number of children we see in this area is low, we hope the program will grow so that a child is not subjected to additional trauma.

There’s Help

A 5-year old boy was repeatedly sexually abused by his stepfather and now suffers from severe trauma. His mother is in jail and Kristi House worked with law enforcement to help remove the boy from his stepfather’s care and grant custody to the boy’s grandparents. Kristi House provided the family with free legal services, psychological evaluations and family therapy to help them heal.
**Fundraising**

Through grant writing, direct solicitation and special events, Kristi House raised $1,320,712 in revenues in 2000-2001. The sources of these funds are illustrated below:

- **Government Grants** 63.0%
- **Contributions** 24.0%
- **In-Kind Donations** 7.0%
- **Fundraising** 6.0%

**Summary Financial Statements**

**Statement of Financial Position**

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<th>2001</th>
<th>2000</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Current Assets</td>
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<td>Property, Plant &amp;</td>
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<td>Equipment and Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Current Liabilities</td>
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**Statement of Activities**

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<td>Total Support and Revenue</td>
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<td>Expenses</td>
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Kristi House wishes to express our sincere appreciation to the individuals and corporations who have given so generously. Please know that each donation helps heal the hurt caused by sexual abuse.

**Individual Donors**

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Donations from individuals and corporations ensure that Kristi House and the Orlowitz-Lee Children’s Advocacy Center will be able to continue providing quality services and programs to children in Miami-Dade. All gifts to Kristi House are tax deductible.
Giving Hearts Can Help Heal the Hurt

Child Abuse Statistics:

- 18,000 reports of child sexual abuse maltreatment are reported in Florida annually.
- In 2000, there were more than 3,000 children who were reported to DCF as potential victims of sexual abuse in Monroe and Miami-Dade Counties.
- 30% of children who are sexually abused are under the age of 6.
- Nationwide, 1 out of 3 girls and 1 out of 6 boys experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of 18.
- 75% of children don't disclose sexual abuse.
- 30% of abused children come from abused parents.
- 70% of children in domestic violence shelters are physically abused or neglected.
- 40% of suspected child abuse also included a history of domestic violence.
- 70% of the men who sexually abuse were sexually abused as children.
- 80% of Kristi House clients are female.
- Without treatment as many as 40% of abused children will become child abusers.
- Kristi House is currently only serving 1/3 of the children in Miami-Dade County affected by sexual abuse and we hope to some day serve all children in need.

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The children depicted throughout this Annual Report are volunteer models and not actual victims. We thank them for their time and participation.

The Kristi House Orlowitz-Lee Children’s Advocacy Center caters to the needs of abused children by providing case management, law enforcement, medical, legal and mental health services all under one roof.

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