



Amani Center

Columbia County Child Abuse Assessment & Treatment Program



Giving child victims in Columbia County a voice and helping them to heal...

Amani Center
PO Box 1001
St. Helens, OR 97051
(503)366-4005
amanicenter@comcast.net
www.amanicenter.org

Spring 2011 * April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

The Truth About Child Abuse

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Our Mission

The Columbia County Child Abuse Assessment Center strives to minimize trauma to child abuse victims through professional medical diagnosis and treatment in a secure and child-friendly environment with the goal of preventing child abuse in all forms.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2011

- **April 30 ~**
Race Against Child Abuse
Downtown St Helens
8:00 am
- **April 30 ~**
Bake Sale to benefit the Amani Center
Downtown St Helens
(look for the booth at the Race Against Child Abuse)
8-11 am
- **September 10 ~**
Luau & Auction Fundraiser
Columbia County Fairgrounds
4:30 pm

** For more information about all of our events, please visit our website at www.amanicenter.org*

CHILD ABUSE FACTS/STATISTICS

- Nearly five children die every day in America from abuse and neglect.¹
- In 2009, an estimated 1,770 children died from abuse in the United States.²
- In the same year, Children's Advocacy Centers around the country served over 254,000 child victims of abuse, providing victim advocacy and support to these children and their families. In 2010, this number was over 266,000.³
- One child is reportedly abused or neglected every 36 seconds.⁴
- Only one out of three people report child abuse.⁵
- The Department of Justice estimates

that there is 1 sex offender per square mile in the United States.



2009 NATIONAL ABUSE STATISTICS²

- Approximately 702,000 children were victims of maltreatment (unique instances).
- Victims in the age group of birth to 1 year had the highest rate of victimization, at 20.6 per 1,000 children of the same age group in the national population.
- Of the children who experienced maltreatment or abuse, over 75% experienced neglect; more than 15% were physically abused; just under 10% were sexually abused; and just under 10% were psychologically maltreated.
- Nearly 90% of all recorded and duplicate perpetrators of child maltreatment were parents of the victim(s).

2009 OREGON ABUSE STATISTICS⁶

- 67,885 reports of child abuse/neglect were made in Oregon.
- The Department of Human Services Child Welfare assessed 42% of these reports.
- 11,090 children were found to be victims of maltreatment.

2009 COLUMBIA COUNTY ABUSE STATISTICS⁶

- 2,197 reports of child abuse/neglect were made in Columbia County.
- The Department of Human Services Child Welfare assessed 56% of these reports.
- 192 children were found to be victims of maltreatment in Columbia County.

¹ Every Child Matters Education Fund (2009). We Can Do Better: Child Abuse and Neglect Deaths in the U.S., ² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Administration for Children & Families. Child Maltreatment 2009, ³ National Children's Alliance January through June 2010 national statistics and July through December 2010 national statistics collected from Children's Advocacy Center members, ⁴ Children's Bureau, "Child Maltreatment, 2004," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2005), ⁵ US Department of Justice, ⁶ Children First for Oregon, Status of Oregon's Children 2010.



Join Our Community in the RACE AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

It's that time of year again...when our amazing community comes out (rain or shine) to hit the pavement in an effort to help children. The Third Annual Amani Center Race Against Child Abuse will take place on Saturday, **April 30th** at the Plaza Square in front of the Columbia County Courthouse in downtown St. Helens. Participants can choose to take on the scenic 5 kilometer course that winds through our beautiful town or stroll the one mile course

around the historic city blocks near the courthouse. An event t-shirt is free with paid registration. *Advance Registration is highly recommended.* For more information or to register in advance, check out the Amani Center website at amanicenter.org or contact the Amani Center at (503) 366-4005.

A big Thank You goes out to all of our incredible sponsors! This event would not be possible without your support.

8:00 ~ Check-In & Race Day Registration

9:00 ~ Race Begins

* Arrive early to check out our Sponsor booths! This is a family-friendly event. Strollers and participants of all ages are welcome and encouraged!

In Memory of Our Friend & Volunteer, Larry Johnstone

It was a great honor to have had Larry Johnstone as an Amani Center Team Member. On December 21st, 2010, Larry arrived at the Amani Center, on his "day off" with a gift of coffee for the staff. Larry was stopping by to check in and make sure there was nothing we needed help with before leaving for the holidays. On this day, the Amani Center staff did not know this would be the last time Larry Johnstone would ever serve the children of Columbia County again. Larry passed away later that afternoon.

Upon retirement from the US Postal Service, Larry found a volunteer opportunity serving as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). Through this experience, Larry was introduced to the Amani Center, where he joined our team of volunteers in the spring of 2008. Larry provided Family Support Services to the children and families served by the Amani Center.

Larry was so passionate about helping children that he was more than willing to do even the most mundane tasks, such as taking out the garbage, doing the laundry or putting together mailings for fundraisers. He saw the value in every detail needed to keep our office working efficiently, so that we could focus on our mission that Larry believed in so strongly. Anyone who spoke with him or watched him work knew that his true love was the kids.

Larry had the ability to connect with a child of any age or background and make them feel comfortable and safe in an uneasy situation. On any given day, Larry could be found playing a video game with a teen, sitting on the floor working a puzzle, or reading a book with a child. It was not unusual to observe Larry, a 6 foot tall teddy bear of a man, doing the "Dora Dance" with a three-year-old. To make a routine eye exam more exciting, Larry would put on an eye patch with the children and say, "Aaaaaarg," as they pretended to be pirates together. By the time each child left the Center, Larry knew their interests, hobbies, and talents. Larry truly enjoyed the one-on-one time he had with each child.

The Amani Center staff routinely heard feedback from families about how wonderful Larry was. Larry's humility and dedication was inspiring. Larry committed himself daily without any desire of recognition. Larry's selflessness was evident in his enormous commitment to serving the children of Columbia County in a compassionate and empathetic manner.

Larry volunteered approximately 32 hours a week at the Amani Center. The hours that he gave allowed for more direct services to children and their families. Everyday, without fail, no matter the weather or the hectic schedule, Larry would arrive at the Center and say, "It's a beautiful day, isn't it?" Larry would bring staff coffee from Starbucks stating, "I've got to keep you caffeinated so you can keep helping these kids!"

Larry was a kind, sensitive and gentle soul who was and is our irreplaceable angel. If there were ever a Champion for Children, Larry Johnstone is it.



Why a blue ribbon?

The color blue was chosen to represent the bruised and battered bodies of the thousands of children that are abused everyday. It serves as a constant reminder





Amani Center

A 501 (c)(3)
nonprofit agency

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St. Helens, OR 97501
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EMPLOYEES

Lisa Galovich
Executive Director

Darcy Thomas
Administrative Assistant

Cassy Miller
Intake Coordinator &
Family Support Services Specialist

Amanda Kauffman
Child Forensic Interviewer &
Family Support Services Specialist

Lesley White
Child Forensic Interviewer

Marie Scott Brown
Medical Examiner

Linda Eddy
Medical Examiner

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dawn Hunt - Chair
Tami McDonald - Vice Chair
Andrew Bliss - Treasurer
Stacia Tyacke

* For information about
becoming a Volunteer,
visit our website:
www.cmanicenter.org



Help Us Prevent Child Abuse

Here is what you can do:

- Understand the causes of child abuse and learn all you can about abuse and neglect.
- Learn to identify the warning signs that a child is being abused.
- Report any known or suspected case of child abuse.
- Seek help if you feel you are at risk of abusing a child.
- Be a friend to a child or parent in need.
- Alert others to the problem. Many don't recognize or understand the effects of physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Below are some tips to help parents prevent or detect abuse:

- Be involved in your children's activities.
 - Notice when someone spends a lot of time with your child. Talk with your child about what they do, who else is there, what kind of games they play, etc.
 - Believe your child. Listen seriously and sensitively to what your child says.
 - Teach your child, "Your body belongs to you."
 - Explain to your child not to keep secrets that feel scary or uncomfortable.
 - Go through rules with your babysitter when your child is present.
- Also remember:**
- Bad things sometimes happen even when we do our best.
 - Discuss abuse prevention in a constructive manner, just as you would other safety concerns. Fear does not keep children safe.

If a child discloses abuse:

1. Listen.
2. Don't panic, express shock or sadness.
3. Write the information down right away.
4. Don't question the child any further about the abuse.
5. Let them know it is not their fault that they were abused.
6. Let them know you are glad s/he told you.
7. Inform the child that you will tell someone whose job it is to help keep children safe.
8. Contact authorities immediately:
 - Columbia County's Department of Human Services Child Welfare Hotline 1-877-302-0077; or
 - Call CCOM (non emergent phone number), 503-397-1521; or
 - In the case of an emergency, 911.
9. You can follow up with the Amani Center for support, advice or assessment services at 503-366-4005.



Thank You to Our Shining Stars

YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!

Aaron Susee Construction
Alyse Lansing & Joe Gass
Ardis Sussell
Audrey Webster
Betty Harrington
Bob & Carla Barchus
Carol & Gary Eckart
Carol Girt
Columbia River Piecemakers
Quilt Guild



Diane Hutson
Heidi Hougard
Howard & Darla Knytych
Karen & James Beaston
Kathryn Johnstone
Linda Reichel
Lori Mason
Marilyn Naish
Marjorie Kundiger
McDonald Family



Nick Galovich
Pat & Jill Loupin
Patsy Marshall
Rose Jensen
Scappoose Police Officers Guild
Sheryl Stafford
St. Helens Marina
Anonymous Friends of the
Amani Center



Together we raised \$738!



THANK YOU Scappoose Sears

For donating 2% of your
proceeds on
December 4, 2010 to the
Amani Center
in your

"Give With Your Heart"
Campaign!

Bake Sale

To benefit the Amani Center
with matching funds from Thrivent

Saturday
April 30th
8-11am



In Old Town St. Helens
230 Strand Street
(Next to the Old Courthouse)
Look for the booth at the
RACE AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

For more info, contact
Marilyn Naish (503) 397-3483

Save the Date

Amani Center
Luau & Auction
Fundraiser

9-10-11

Tickets, Tables,
Sponsorship & Event
Information at

www.amanicenter.org
or (503) 366-4005

The Amani Center
PO Box 1001
St. Helens, Oregon 97051

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
ST. HELENS, OR
PERMIT NO. 229



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