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**2003 Child Protection Award Given to Linda Asbee
by the Greater Long Beach Area Child Abuse and Domestic Violence
Prevention Council**

The children of Long Beach and *For The Child* have an invaluable friend in Linda Asbee. The *Greater Long Beach Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Prevention Council* honored her with their Child Protection

Award for five years of volunteer work on *For The Child's Child Abuse Response Team*, for being a foster mother to 45 children over a period of seven years and for being a child advocate and generous donor.

When Linda Asbee carries a pager for work as a realtor, she expects business news. One week per month she carries two pagers – the second may bring the news that a young child has been sexually abused and needs her help. She lets her clients and business colleagues know she may have to leave mid-sentence if this beeper sounds and they understand. For over five years, Linda has been a *Child Abuse Response Team (CART)* volunteer, ready to respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week to hospitals in Long Beach, San Pedro and Redondo Beach. She is motivated by “being there to offer counseling services to the family and knowing the children feel more protected when they have an advocate, a neutral party who is there to help.” She gives the child a teddy bear and explains what is happening; she talks with the family and tells them about *For The Child's* counseling services – critical assistance they might not have known was available without her help.

A former foster parent for seven years, Linda knows that counseling services are lacking for sexually abused children. It was while she was searching for treatment services for one of her foster children that she discovered For The Child. In addition to CART, Linda responds when needed for many FTC projects. She has baked angel bread dough ornaments for the “Be An Angel for a Child” holiday campaign, participated in the Family to Family project, providing

gifts to our most needy families, spoken at events, and on the back of her business card..."A \$500 donation will be made to *For The Child*, or a charity of your choice, at close of escrow, when I assist you with the sale or purchase of a home."

For her personally, CART is the most rewarding volunteer experience. She knows not everyone feels they can go to the hospital and deal with people experiencing this type of crisis. "What makes it hard is dealing with the issue in general. Once you can get past that and focus on the people and what you are there to do, you can disassociate yourself from the trauma and help." Even though she had some background in working with children in emergency situations, she found FTC's 40-hour training essential to doing this work.

Always wanting to help, Linda suggests others get involved by donating funding to support services, donating teddy bears, providing Christmas gifts, or providing opportunities for *For The Child* to speak to large groups.



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