



*For The Child*

# Friends Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1  
November-December  
2011

Formerly Cedar House  
and Sarah Center

*Helping abused and neglected children and their families in the Greater Long Beach area heal and create safer lives and brighter futures for over 37 years.*

## If you can dream it, you can do it. Walt Disney

Just before last year's holidays, a Long Beach High School counselor was working with one of her "senior stand-outs" on college applications when this young woman shared that she was "where she was today" because of Miss Brooke's work with her at her elementary school in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade!

She told the counselor she was mean, angry, acting out and doing poorly in school until the For The Child "bus" and Miss Brooke came along and believed in her.

When she would do something bad, For The Child's therapist would always bring out the good things she did to remind her that she was a good person. She listened, she talked and she helped this

child understand her anger. She gave her suggestions of better ways to handle her anger and helped her begin to do the things she needed to do to have a brighter future. This young woman took it from there!

Her high school counselor was amazed she could remember with such clarity how much Miss Brooke had helped her.

### **For The Child On Wheels**

For The Child's dedicated therapists meet children at their schools on "the bus" - our 36' mobile treatment vehicle.

Since 2002, with the help of volunteer drivers, the bus has arrived onsite at local elementary schools to provide the space needed for confidential counseling with children.

Students having problems when abuse, neglect, exposure to violence or other risk factors interfere with their ability to function in school or in the community are referred by their parents or school personnel.

Our partner elementary schools are Barton, Edison and Dooley. We also provide therapists to Franklin Classical Middle School students, but without the colorful mobile which isn't as "cool" with this age group.

In an effort to reach children earlier, we are also working with the Perry Lindsey and Carmelitos Head Starts.

**For The Child assisted over 700 children in our treatment programs last year.**

## Trees of Hope 2011 At McKenna's On The Bay and Fora in Naples

*Your Name Here*



Please help us fill our trees with ornaments. Your name or that of a loved one, colleague, grandchild or... will be placed on an ornament at the restaurant of your choice. You can also honor or remember someone.. An acknowledgement will be sent at your request.

There are only two stars on the top of the trees (\$1,000 each), large ornaments are \$500 and smaller \$100.

Go to [www.forthethechild.org](http://www.forthethechild.org) for more information or give us a call at (562) 422-8472

## For The Child's Kids' Place now at 6 Los Angeles County Superior Courts - 2 more in January

For The Child opened Kids' Place, the first children's waiting room in a Los Angeles County Superior Court for all children infant to 13 whose parents have business before the court in 2002 in Long Beach. In March we celebrated our 50,000<sup>th</sup> child visit at that site.



We are now operating these fun and safe Kids' Place sites in the Antelope Valley, Pomona, Santa Monica, Compton and Downtown Los Angeles (Stanley Mosk) courts. From July through October these children's waiting rooms had over 8,800 child visits. In January we will begin managing the Airport and Van Nuys courthouse waiting rooms.

Children absorb stress from their parents, so our staff are really on the front lines of helping these children have a fun and relaxed time while at court. The quality of our interaction with each and every child and parent who visits Kids' Place is important to us. For many children this is the first time they have stayed with "strangers" and they can be upset, afraid and even a bit frantic. Understanding, comforting and engaging these children is crucial to the child's sense of safety and well-being.



2011-2012

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For The Child

### Cedar House Location

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## Parents Key to Children's Well-Being

### FTC Staff in Washington DC for Conference and Discussions with Members of Congress

Maribel Chavez, FTC Parent Advocate/Community Organizer, traveled to Washington, DC November 16-18 to represent For The Child at the *National Federation of Families For Children's Mental Health* annual conference. Maribel is the Key Parent Contact for Project ABC, a collaborative of several public and private agencies (including FTC) working to build a more effective "system of care" for very young children (birth to five) involved with child protective services in our community.

On Policy Day (November 17<sup>th</sup>) Maribel and other conference participants went to Capitol Hill to speak to members of congress about the importance of funding mental health, counseling and parenting services for at risk families with young children.

The National Federation of Families is a family run organization that provides advocacy for the rights of children and youth with emotional, behavioral and mental health challenges (including problems caused by abuse and trauma). They provide training, leadership, technical assistance and advocacy to families and to parent partners in programs like ours so that parents, professionals and community volunteers work in partnership to make sure families get the supports and services needed to help children grow up healthy, safe and able to maximize their potential.

***Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another.***

***Erma Bombeck***

Erma Bombeck's reflection on volunteers is absolutely perfect. We are honored by the many volunteers who help us in our work. They have a generosity of spirit and compassion that leads them to care about our children and families.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets went out to 102 of For The Child's neediest families on Sunday, November 20th thanks to the incredible generosity of over 30 community donors, including: Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Vanguard Logistics, National Council of Jewish Women, Long Beach OB-GYN, Seal Beach MOMS, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary #48, CSULB School of Social Work—Dr. Yolanda Green and the students of the Tessie Cleveland Committee, Linda Kimberly and Kent Huber, Joyce Singer, Carol Ann Sherman, Candice Till, Al Weingartner, Pamela Fields, Adriana Feinberg, Ed Clifton, Caroline Klund, Kathy Andrews, Diane Preston, Carol Hanna, Janice Kleinberg, Anne Trubridy, Claudia Kennedy, Dennis and Michele Dahlhausen, Josephine Dahlhausen, Melodie Bitting, Barbara Egyud, Laura Sblendario, Cynthia Slater, Mary Zendejas and Duwayne Tsu.

An amazing group of volunteers led by Linda Kimberly (former board chair and chief elf) then sort, boxed, delivered and gave out the food and turkeys to families selected by our therapists as particularly in need of assistance this holiday season.

**December 17th and 18th toys, books and other gifts will be chosen by the parents of over 270 children from community donations—to help call Linda Kimberly or Denise Dahlhausen at 562-422-8472.**

## Looking for Holiday Books for Parents to Share with Young Children?

*Recommendations from LMFT Cari Teran, FTC Supervising Therapist*

**I Love You Stinky Face:** Lisa McCourt and Cyd Moore. **No Matter What:** Debi Gliori. **If You Were My Bunny:** Kate McMullin **The Runaway Bunny:** Margaret Wise Brown and Clement Hurd. **Love You Forever:** Robert Munsch and Sheila McGraw. **The Kissing Hand:** Audrey Penn, Ruth E. Harper and Nancy M. Leak (particularly good for children with separation anxiety).

***Additional suggestions at [www.forthethechild.org](http://www.forthethechild.org).***

## Long Beach City Plus Pass New Way to Save on Fun and Give!

A new, easy way to get savings at restaurants, shops, entertainment venues and services has just launched in Long Beach. It is a win-win-win for you the purchaser, local merchants, and For The Child.

**The Plus Pass is \$30 and can be purchased at [www.lbcpp.com](http://www.lbcpp.com). \$10 of each card purchased will be sent to For The Child if you put "FTC" in the code requesting a charity donation.**