

SUMMER 2003 A PUBLICATION OF FOR THE CHILD

For The Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse  
4565 CALIFORNIA AVENUE, LONG BEACH, CA 90807  
562-422-8472 • www.forthethechild.org

## 2nd Annual Children's Circle of Friends Raises \$46,000 for Abused Children

Volunteer table captains (see page 2) invited their friends and colleagues to breakfast on April 29th, during Child Abuse Prevention Month, to hear the stories of children like Amy. If they were moved by what they heard at the breakfast, these volunteers told their friends, they hoped they would give to support For The Child's work with abused and at-risk children.

Amy (name changed) was almost three when Diane Webber and her husband Michael first became her foster parents, Diane told the 200 attendees. She was placed in protective custody because her mother, under the influence of drugs, threw her against a wall and verbally threatened to kill her. The police brought Amy to the emergency room with a broken shoulder, a concussion and numerous cuts and bruises.

When the Webbers first met Amy, 10 days after the assault, it was impossible, she said, not to see the anger and neglect. She had a security blanket, which was little more than a rag. She was extremely underweight, just 21 lbs. Besides the broken shoulder, Amy had ear infections, her hair was falling out and she had signs of possible sexual abuse. The medical issues were the Webbers' first hurdle and they later found out the emotional problems would be longer lasting. She overwhelmed them with her verbal skills and frightened them with her rage.

For The Child Associate Clinical Director Francine Togneri and these dedicated foster parents worked with Amy for over two years, while she went through 6 changes in social workers, to reduce the effects of her abuse and meet the challenges of going through the court hearings for a potential reunification with her mother, when she released from prison for the abuse. The courts, Diane said, had great respect for For The Child's opinions and reports on Amy's wellbeing. "The Judge always read Francine's reports and her orders were based on FTC's recommendations over lawyers and social workers."

Finally, Diane related, she and Francine helped Amy adjust to being adopted when a wonderful match was found. It has been several years since Amy has been in treatment with For the Child. Her concentration in school is slowly improving with her adoptive parents assistance, and her verbal skills are still amazing everyone. She learned to speak Spanish in about six months from her new parents and sister.

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**POWERPOINT  
PRESENTATION**

**UNITED PARCEL SERVICE**

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## Pirate Drew Dedicates His 3rd Birthday Party to the Children at For The Child

With the assistance of his mother Heidi Xitco, 3 year-old Drew transformed himself from Pirate to Robin Hood. Guests to his 3rd birthday party were asked to bring "one new, really good, soft, cuddly teddy bear for Drew's Hugs and Love Treasure Chest", in lieu of a gift.

Drew donated 31 stuffed animals to the children at For The Child. He didn't mind giving them up, but wanted to know why the kids weren't at his birthday party!

### FOR THE CHILD BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2003-2004

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## 2003 Children's Circle of Friends TABLE CAPTAINS

The following people took the brave step of asking nine of their friends and colleagues to come to breakfast at 7:30 on a Tuesday morning to consider giving to support services for vulnerable children. Their work was key to the success of the Second Annual Children's Circle of Friends Breakfast. We thank them for their assistance and leadership. Many children will have a chance at a better life thanks to their work.

**Trish Biggs**

**Carolyn Brockman**

**Steve Carlsen**

**Janet Daniels-Walberg**

**Bev Fancher**

**Bill Gailey**

**Linda Kimberly**

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**Sharon Miller**

**Penny Stephens**

**Diane Webber**

**Toni Whitesell**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### Have experience driving a motorhome or truck?

Experienced drivers are needed for mornings and afternoons to drive our 36-foot mobile therapy unit to local school sites.

### Like to read and play with children in a childcare setting?

We need you to read and do projects with children at Kids' Place, our children's waiting room at the Long Beach courthouse, while their parents complete their business with the Courts.

### Want to teach young children ways to be safe and protect themselves and be a puppeteer at the same time?

Team with another volunteer to present an Aware Bears® puppet-assisted presentation on personal safety and good touch/bad touch at schools and other organizations.

**Contact Sunny Breed, Volunteer Coordinator,  
for more information. 562-422-8472.**

## Children's Circle of Friends

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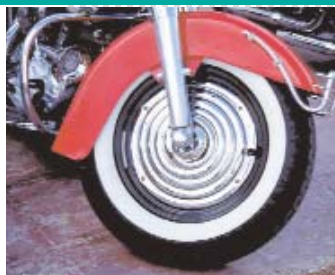
She has also learned to play the piano, the clarinet and the flute. Diane still talks with her every Friday night. She still is aggressive when under stress, but Diane knows she will never be a victim again.

Board members Dr. Nancy Kimber, Steve Carlsen and Bob Luman were joined at the podium by Diane, Edison Elementary School Principal Scott Wilcox and Executive Director Beverly Fancher to deliver the message of how many children in Long Beach needed assistance, the intensity of the abuse many experience, the effects it has on their ability to function in school and in the community and to review some of the ways For The Child assists these children and families to lead healthy, productive lives. Bruce MacRae and his staff at UPS provided a PowerPoint presentation that did a terrific job of visually enhancing the speakers' presentations and appeals.

These supporters and breakfast sponsors generously donated over \$46,000 to help children like Amy.

## Light & Life Church—Belmont 2nd Annual "Ride Wild for The Child"

**Save the Date:** The 2nd "wild" ride will be held Saturday, September 27. Last year's ride raised \$1,564 to benefit FTC children and families. Light & Life hopes to double that amount this year.



**The Ride & Day's Events:** The ride begins at Light & Life Belmont, 201 Covina Ave. #10 at 9 a.m. Starbucks will provide coffee during the hour of registration. The ride starts at 10 a.m. The route will be from Belmont Shore to Dana Point (via 405 fwy) and back to Long Beach (via PCH). Upon their return, the participants will gather at the Blue Cafe for lunch, music and door prizes.

**Register:** Registration is \$30 for the rider and \$15 for passenger. Send a check or money order to 201 Covina Ave. #10. Long

## Johnny Rebs' Peanut Campaign Raises over \$6,000 for Abused Children



*Volunteers Penny Stephens and Judy Miller introduced FTC to the Carters and accepted the check on behalf of the agency from Roger L. Caris, Manager of the Long Beach Johnny Rebs'.*

For The Child received \$6,627 from Johnny Rebs' Southern Roadhouse restaurants to provide counseling and other services for abused children. Business owners Cheryl and Larry Carter's "Shell Out for Charity" campaign invites customers to donate their spare change to charities for the free peanuts on the tables. Driven by the issue of child abuse, their patrons gave the largest donations ever to For The Child.

Beach, CA, 90803. Make sure your name and For The Child are clearly marked. Registration includes T-shirt, Starbucks coffee (and donuts), lunch at Blue Cafe, door prizes, and more.

**Sign up now: Sign up early and get all of your motorcycle riding friends to join you!!**

Contact Trish if you have any questions at 562-439-7434 .



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**Drew Xitco, 3 years old,  
our youngest Donor**

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## **Volunteers Enjoy the Hospitality of John Morris at Mum's Cohiba Room at For The Child's Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner**



*County retirees Carol Koelle and Larry Van Avery are congratulated on their 10 years of volunteer work at For The Child by Supervisor Don Knabe and Matt Knabe.*



*Patti Trujillo, FTC's volunteer coordinator Sunny Breed, and Patty Mehl after the dinner. Patti and Patty's "On The Day You Were Born" project gave 300 children birthday baskets last year.*



*Children's Circle of Friend's Table Captain Don Fancher, Child Abuse Response Team Volunteer Bryan Littlefield, Board Member Bob Luman, Mobile Treatment vehicle volunteer drivers Ed Dupras and Ed Clifton, and volunteer recycler/donor Chuck Larson enjoy the dinner and program.*

*Thanks . . . to John Morris for his generous donation of dinner at Cohiba.*