



An agency of the Child Abuse Prevention Center
www.liftchildren.org

REFLECTING ON A BUSY AND EXCITING YEAR

An update from Deputy Director Katie Smith

In 2007, Lift the Children provided direct service program grants to our five Romanian partners totaling nearly \$141,000, which covers—or leverages—from 33% to 100% of our partners' program costs. We helped 10 abandoned “children” from orphanages attend university and saw three of them graduate last summer armed with 4-year university degrees. Our funds established two programs for children with special needs in communities with families desperate for help and guidance. We continue to support Casa Speranta for HIV+ children, now teens who have grown up loved and guided in family style homes. Our resources have fostered further development of the Toy House, a Bucharest program to combat child abuse and abandonment by providing pre-school education for poor children, after school support for older youth, and education and social support for their at-risk families.

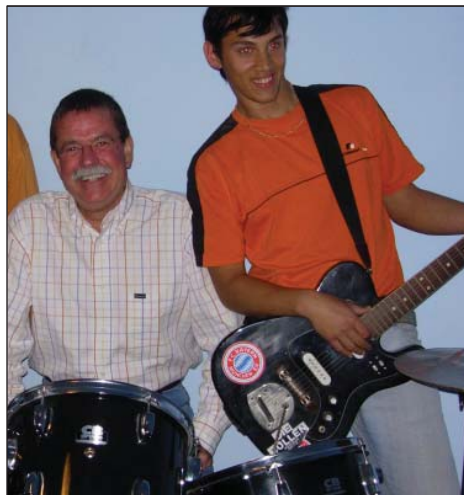
Lift the Children training and education, delivered by top-notch trainers from the Child Abuse Prevention Center, reached more professionals and para-professionals than ever before. In the past 14 months, we have trained nearly 87 Romanian physicians, nurses, and caregivers about the relationship between healthy brain development and warm, responsive interaction—holding, cuddling, looking, talking—with the abandoned babies in their wards. With the pro-bono help of U.S. child maltreatment specialist Dr. Jim Crawford from Oakland Children's Hospital, we educated 95 physicians about child sexual and physical maltreatment. We trained 42 social workers and hospital educators in Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) and how to implement an SBS parent education program in hospitals and foster care programs. With translated posters and informational materials developed by McNally Temple plus SBS simulator dolls, two new SBS parent education programs have been adopted at a



major Bucharest hospital and at a county child protection agency to educate natural and foster parents of infants and toddlers. We also trained 67 social workers in infant brain development and how to promote positive parent-child interaction in the at-risk families with whom they work.

What's next? UNICEF and the Romanian Ministry of Health are very interested in incorporating our Shaken Baby Syndrome hospital-based prevention program into their national strategy. In 2008 we hope to receive their support, plus additional funding from the American Academy of Pediatrics, to support the transfer of expertise from our U.S. physician, Dr. Crawford, to his Romanian counterpart, Dr. Tatiana Ciomartin. In addition to continuing our five Romanian partnerships, including training for teachers and social workers to support parents in preventing child abuse, we will also begin a new partnership in Guatemala. There, our focus will be prevention of abandonment and abuse through community-based family strengthening activities conducted from a center that is administered by the families and the community it serves.

THE GIFT OF MUSIC—KUDOS TO RAY McNALLY



Lift the Children could not end 2007 without acknowledging the tremendous support of Ray McNally, Board President of the Child Abuse Prevention Center. Lift the Children benefits from Ray's interest in and appreciation for our work and his deep compassion for the children in our programs.

On a 2006 visit with three of the teenage boys in Long Term Foster Care, we were treated to an impromptu concert led by the musician foster dad on guitar and keyboards. Once Ray saw the boys' interest in music and their growing relationship with the foster dad, he wanted to do more. He subsequently donated the money to

purchase a drum set, which was all the boys needed to form a real band. Since then they have performed at numerous school and community events. Their self esteem has gone through the roof and their relationships with the foster family quickly deepened. Florin, now 17 years old, entered a community talent contest and ended up with a first place ribbon for his singing. On our trip this past November, Florin sang for us the night before he left for the national televised competition in Bucharest. He didn't win, but the experience was unforgettable for a boy who had spent nearly his entire life in an orphanage. Florin will graduate from high school in 2008 and has

see *Kudos* on back page

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS, GLOBAL FRIENDSHIPS

Lift the Children will be involved in at least two important training and educational exchange programs in 2008. The first, funded by the U.S. State Department through its Volunteer Visitor Program, will bring 10 Guatemalan professionals to the Sacramento region in April—Child Abuse Prevention Month—for a week of site visits and training in child abuse prevention. Coordinating with the Child Abuse Prevention Center and its large network of local programs, Lift the Children will host professionals who hope to learn how child abuse prevention efforts are supported through public/private partnerships. To assist them as they take the first steps in Guatemala toward the development of initiatives that protect children, we will coordinate visits to a myriad of programs that support families and keep children safe. The professionals will also have an opportunity to see how organizations like the CAP Center advocate for children at the legislative level. They

will participate in meetings that convene representatives from law enforcement, education, health, legal, and social assistance arenas to improve outcomes for children and families. They will also benefit from targeted workshops at the CAP Center.

Shortly after the Guatemala visit, Lift the Children expects to host 10 professionals

from Russia who will spend three weeks gaining professional expertise in community-based child abuse prevention. This program, funded by a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development through World Learning, emphasizes educational and cultural exchange for visitors from emerging democracies. The professionals will be

housed with local families to learn about American culture. They will engage in everyday activities with each host family, while also participating in site visits and meetings with professionals at all levels of child abuse prevention and intervention. This visit will provide an incredible learning experience for the visiting Russians, the entire staff at the CAP Center, and other participating local agencies. It will be a unique opportunity for host families to share the many positive American values that seem to get lost or go unrecognized in the current international political climate.

Hosting a visitor from another country can be a rewarding and educational experience, building grassroots ties between cultures. Nine friends of Lift the Children opened their homes to our Romanian colleagues in 2005. For both the visitors and hosts, the experience was unforgettable. The Romanian guests learned about the lives of real American families and local families learned about places they may never get a chance to visit. Mihaela Nicolacscu from Fundatia Copiii Nostri describes her unique homestay experience:

“Having the wonderful possibility to be hosted...by American families, we were thus able to actually share...information about daily aspects of life as well, and participate in recreational activities together. This was a perfect opportunity to become aware of and understand less obvious aspects of life as experienced by a family in the United States. Many of our personal questions were answered and we could in turn answer many of the questions of our host families, as ambassadors of the cultural environment we were coming from.”

Lift the Children is looking for volunteer host families for upcoming homestay programs, lasting up to three weeks. If you would like to learn more about this wonderful opportunity, please call Mary Jennings at 916-244-1929 or Katie Smith at 916-244-1964.



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A Tribute to Robert Conheim

We were very sad to learn that Lift the Children and CAP Center Board Member Robert Conheim passed away July 15 at the age of 63 after battling brain cancer.

With integrity and compassion, Robert always advocated for the public good. A longtime friend and supporter of Lift the Children, Robert embodied the values he supported. Although he was looking forward to making his first trip to Romania when he retired as an attorney with the California Waste Management Board, his illness ultimately prevented this travel.

Robert was an ardent supporter and rider of the Capitol Corridor Amtrak train from Auburn to Sacramento, and was affectionately dubbed the "Lord Mayor" of the Capitol Corridor riders. The Auburn City Council, in a unanimous recent vote, named the Auburn Amtrak Station in his honor.

We wish to thank each of you
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 to Lift the Children
 in honor of Robert



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END OF YEAR 2007

Kudos...

plans to attend university; something he had never imagined might be possible. Lift the Children will support him in his efforts.

Last spring Ray McNally also visited our partner program, Children on the Edge, where he learned of their need to create a new logo and marketing materials for fund raising. Without hesitation, Ray volunteered to design the logo and develop materials. Ray's wonderful staff at McNally Temple

did the design work from start to finish, then went on to develop a new brochure and letterhead, print everything, and ship it all to Romania. All design work, printing, and shipping were done pro-bono!

And when Ray got wind that Sheila Anderson and Katie Smith would attend an international conference on child abuse and neglect in Lisbon, Portugal en route from Bucharest to California, Ray volunteered to

design and produce a table display for the Lift the Children exhibit booth.

Ray McNally's efforts are certainly not confined to Lift the Children. He has done extensive market research, design and development work for all the agencies of the Child Abuse Prevention Center. We are all grateful for Ray's support and very proud that he represents the best of what a Board of Directors can bring to its agencies.



The mission of Lift the Children is to reduce the incidence and impact of child abuse, neglect and abandonment wherever it occurs. We empower communities to support families; we empower families to raise healthy, happy children. **Our vision** is for children everywhere to live in safety and dignity in families and communities that love, nurture, protect and educate them.

Who do we help?

What do your dollars support?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abandoned HIV+ children and youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home style care in small family groups; transition to independence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abandoned siblings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster and group homes for sibling groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older youth exiting orphanages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of independent living skills and community integration • Prevention of human trafficking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and families living in extreme poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child and parent education center with home visitation and family support • Prevention of child abuse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with special needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Therapeutic activities for children, support for their foster and natural families
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caregivers, child welfare professionals, doctors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and sharing of best practices in child development, family support services, and child abuse prevention

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to Lift the Children, please use the enclosed envelope, or visit our secure Web site to donate online.



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