



# The Washoe County Child Advocacy Center Quarterly Newsletter

*August 2017 Issue*



**The Washoe County Child Advocacy Center is proud to present our very first quarterly newsletter! We hope to keep you informed about all of the exciting things happening at the Washoe County Child Advocacy Center.**

## Sharing Our Story

The Washoe County Child Advocacy Center (“Washoe County CAC”) opened in 2014 as a coordinated response to child abuse cases.

The mission of the Washoe County CAC and the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) is to ensure the health and safety of each child in a child-friendly environment for the purpose of minimizing trauma, providing advocacy and supporting effective investigations and prosecutions.

Without a CAC, a child would likely tell their story of sexual or physical abuse over and over again to police, doctors, prosecutors, social workers, judges and many others.

They may have to talk about that traumatic experience in a police station, where they feel they may be in trouble. In addition to being interviewed by multiple members of these agencies, the child would have to go to various, unfamiliar locations where they may feel uncomfortable, and scared.

CACs are child-focused centers that coordinate the investigation, prosecution and treatment of child abuse cases while helping abused children heal from the abuse. CACs emphasize the coordination of investigation and intervention services by bringing together professionals and agencies to form a MDT.

The first CAC was created in 1985 in Huntsville, Alabama. The creation of CACs have revolutionized the way we respond to child abuse. Since its creation in 1985, there are now over 1000 CACs operating in the United States.

Although some aspects of a multidisciplinary approach to child abuse cases can exist without a facility, a supportive, child-focused facility is fundamental to a CAC. A CAC facility is designed to create a sense of safety and security for children during these difficult times. It’s a place of healing and hope and justice.

### **How the Washoe County CAC Benefits Our Community:**

- ◆ Reduces short-term and long-term trauma for the child
- ◆ Offenders are held accountable
- ◆ Offenders serve longer sentences when agencies utilize a CAC /MDT approach in child abuse cases and work as a team
- ◆ Reduces duplication of efforts and costs

# Introduction - Friends of the Washoe County CAC Board of Directors

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**We are very excited and proud to have such a wonderful and supportive Board of Directors. We know you will be just as impressed with their professionalism and community support as we are here at the Washoe County CAC.**

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**CINDY CARANO**

Cindy Carano began learning the intricacies of hotel/casino operations at a young age. As a junior high and high school student, she worked at the Eldorado Hotel Casino in a wide range of areas, including reservations, front desk, night audit, cost control, food and beverage, management information systems and PBX.

After graduating from UNLV, Cindy joined the Hyatt Regency San Francisco where she held the position of Corporate Management Trainee. While at the Hyatt Regency, she worked in several capacities mastering the various aspects of hotel and restaurant operations.

In 1985, Ms. Carano joined the Eldorado management team as Reservations Supervisor. She quickly moved her way up to Hotel Manager and then on to the position of Director of Hotel of Operations.

In 1997, Cindy moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, accepting the title of General Manager for a group of Bed and Breakfast Inns. Upon her return to Reno, she acted as Director of Development for a local private school during a period of two years. In 2003, Cindy again joined the Eldorado as Community Relations Manager, representing the business on several committees in the community. In 2005, she returned to the hotel division as Executive Director of Hotel Operations.

Recently, her attention turned once again toward her passion for involvement in the community. Today, she leads Eldorado Resorts Reno's Community Relations department as Executive Director and is enjoying spearheading the properties' commitments to the betterment of Reno's education programs, the growth of arts and culture, and the corporation's civic giving.

"I was pleased to join the Board for the Friends of the Washoe County CAC as I was not aware that we had this program for child victims of sexual abuse. As a result, I think the need for awareness is key in the fundraising for the programs that will make this a successful entity. Our most vulnerable citizens deserve these services, so we can break the cycle of abuse in their lives."

**40 - 80%** of juvenile sex offenders have themselves been victims of sexual abuse.

~ Advances in Clinical Child Psychology



# Introduction - Friends of the Washoe County CAC Board of Directors

Ryan Dolan attended Reno High School and later attended Arizona State University where he graduated with a bachelor's in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Business and Communication. Supplementing his business degree, Ryan also graduated at the top of his class from the National Automobile Dealers Association Academy.



**RYAN DOLAN**

Ryan has been the CEO of Dolan Auto Group since 2010. His responsibilities include oversight of all ongoing operations at each of the auto group's dealerships: Dolan Lexus, Dolan Toyota, Dolan Mazda, and Dolan KIA; as well as, employee relations, customer care, relationship management and so much more. With the help of the Dolan family and the Dolan Team, Ryan has brought the Auto Group to the next level.

In addition to business dealings, Ryan and the entire Dolan family have always enjoyed being heavily involved in the Northern Nevada community by helping others. Along the way, Ryan became the creator of the annual Dolan Class Project which provides northern Nevada schools with at least \$60,000 a year. Alongside the annual school project, Dolan Auto Group is heavily involved with Nevada Wolf Pack Athletics, Northern Nevada Food Bank, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, among numerous other organizations that impact the community in a positive way. Ryan recently joined the Friends of the Washoe County CAC Board as he is extremely passionate about the organization and youth in our community having the chance to succeed and heal from abuse.

Ryan loves being a resident in the northern Nevada community with his family. He currently resides in South Reno with his wife and four (4) children.

**3** out of **4** adolescents who have been sexually assaulted were victimized by someone they knew well.



~ 2003 National Institute of Justice report



**CHAD FELIX**

Chad Felix developed his thorough understanding of the title and escrow process by spending three years in Customer Service after joining Western Title in 1995. Since then, he has served as a Marketing Representative and now manages the sales team, utilizing his considerable talents to see a transaction through from the first stage of the property profile to closing and delivery of final documents.

As a native Nevadan, Chad enjoys the recreational opportunities that abound this area. Among his favorites are wakeboarding, golfing and waterskiing.

"I joined this Board because I felt I could help make a difference with fundraising and helping raise awareness about what the CAC does on a daily basis."

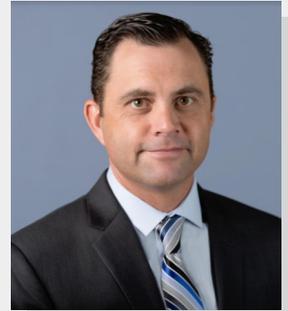
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Jesse Haw is a third generation home builder and developer who grew up in Sparks and graduated from University of Nevada, Reno. He is past president of local and state builders associations and was named Builder of the Year in 2008 and 2015.

He currently serves as President of the Barracuda Championship which has raised over \$3.6 million for charities. Jesse's company has donated hundreds of acres to the public for things like elementary, middle and high schools as well as parks and open space.

Jesse served in the Nevada State Senate in 2016 and has also served on various other county boards. He also coached high school soccer for eight (8) years. He has two (2) daughters at Reno High and, when not spending free time with his family, enjoys the wilder side of the Nevada outdoors.



**JESSE HAW**

"I believe in helping those who cannot stand up for themselves. As a citizen, it's imperative we all do what we can to make our community better. I serve on the board because when I saw that I could help, even in a small way, it became not a choice but a compulsion."



**KATY SIMON  
HOLLAND**

Katy Simon Holland retired in 2013 after serving in local government for more than 25 years, most recently as the Washoe County (NV) Manager for 15 years. As County Manager, she oversaw a budget of \$800 million and 3,200 employees serving a population of 423,000. In 2016, she ran for and was elected to the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, overseeing a District with 65,000 students and a budget of more than \$700 million.

Katy has returned to consulting as President of Simon and Associates, and in that capacity has worked with local and state government clients throughout North America in Nevada, California, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, North Carolina, Washington, Alberta Canada, Maine, and Massachusetts, as well as non-profits and corporations such as Qualcomm, Baxter Healthcare, Sony, Mitsubishi, Amoco Oil, USWest technologies, and many others in leadership development, vision, strategy, and innovation.

Named one of "Twenty People to Watch in the New Millenium" by the Reno Gazette-Journal, Katy is a Credentialed Manager through the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), and serves on the faculty and as Innovation Mentor for the national local government Innovation Academy through Alliance for Innovation and Arizona State University. She has also served on and/or Chaired the Board of Alliance for Innovation/Innovation Groups, the National Association of County Administrators, the ICMA Center for Performance Measurement, and many other civic and non-profit entities including the United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra, the Children's Cabinet, the Nevada Women's Fund, the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN), the Child Advocacy Center, the Access to Health Network, the Nevada Land Trust, and the Tahoe Fund.

Katy resides in Reno, Nevada with her husband and is a proud mother and grandmother.

# Introduction - Friends of the Washoe County CAC Board of Directors

Michael Pagni is an attorney with McDonald Carano Law Firm whose law practice focuses primarily on real estate and water law, corporate and transactional law, administrative law and government relations.

Michael has served and continues to serve as outside counsel to several large public agencies in Northern Nevada, and served as general counsel to Governor Jim Gibbons in his 2006 gubernatorial campaign.

Prior to law school, Michael served as legislative intern for Senator Harry Reid in Washington, D.C. During law school, he served as a law clerk for the Honorable Melvin Brunetti, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the Honorable Howard D. McKibben, former Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Nevada.



**MICHAEL PAGNI**



**1** in **4** girls and **1** in **6** boys will be sexually abused before they turn **18** years old  
National Sexual Violence Resource Center



Lisa Ruggerio has over two decades of experience as a consultant in the private and public sector. After serving on numerous directorial boards and being elected to the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, she is nationally recognized as an authority on school district-community collaboration and safety.

Lisa has spearheaded several high-impact initiatives, ranging from leadership strategy to grant implementation, acting as a facilitator and championing equity as a priority for the US Attorney General's Officer Operation Weed and Seed Program, Reno Police Department, Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association, Nevada Department of Education, and the Gang Alternatives Partnership. Most recently, she served as the Executive Director for a national nonprofit making change in the substance misuse prevention field.

## **LISA RUGGERIO**

Lisa thrives as a connector for underserved populations and top-tier professionals. With a Bachelors in Social Work from University of Nevada, Reno and Advanced Standing Master's Studies, she has a deep understanding of human social interactions and a drive to serve. Lisa lives by the motto, "Connecting Communities, Creating Change."

"I am honored and humbled to work in an advocacy partnership with our District Attorney to care for Washoe County's most vulnerable population, our children. The very important role the CAC serves is meaningful to me because we ensure our most precious resource will heal from trauma that no child should ever endure."

**Next Washoe County CAC Steps—In addition to working tirelessly to gain our Non-Profit Status (it shouldn't be long now), we have also been on an amazing journey of strategic planning with a wonderful facilitator! Thanks, Mat Sinclair!**

# Improvements to the Washoe County CAC

The Washoe County CAC has been in the process of improving our building to make the environment even more child-friendly as well as helping victims and their families have the most positive and healing experience possible while at the Washoe County CAC. We have moved the therapy offices to a more secluded and peaceful area within the Washoe County CAC. This relocation of a space will help the victims experience a more peaceful setting during their therapeutic process without distractions while in a session.

Additionally, after receiving a wonderful donation from the Builders Association of Northern Nevada and Bill and Jesse Haw, the Washoe County CAC finished construction on its new tranquil serenity garden. The goal for the garden is to inspire peace amongst those who are entering the center. The serenity garden is bright, colorful and quiet. We are all enjoying this newest gift!



We attempted to utilize our space to create more effective interview rooms. Thanks to donated time and supplies from Rob Smith of Montane Building Group, Inc. we were able to take a large office and make it into two offices. Rob and his team worked many hours to spruce up our walls and add a coat of paint to the interior walls of the Washoe County CAC. Also, despite being open a short period of time, our needs have increased and our previous recording system was outdated. We were fortunate to receive some grant funding to help fund a new recording system.

Special thanks to Rob Smith, Hannah Veselik, and all those who helped!

**The effects of child sexual abuse can be long-lasting and affect the victim's mental health. Victims are more likely than non-victims to experience the following mental health challenges:**

- ◆ About four (4) times more likely to develop symptoms of drug abuse
- ◆ About three (3) times more likely to experience a major depressive episode as adults
- ◆ About four (4) times more likely to experience PTSD as adults

~ 5.H.M. Zinzow, H.S. Resnick, J.L. McCauley, A.B. Amstadter, K.J. Ruggiero, & D.G. Kilpatrick, Prevalence and risk of psychiatric disorders as a function of variant rape histories: results from a national survey of women. *Social psychiatry and psychiatric epidemiology*, 47(6), 893-902 (2012).

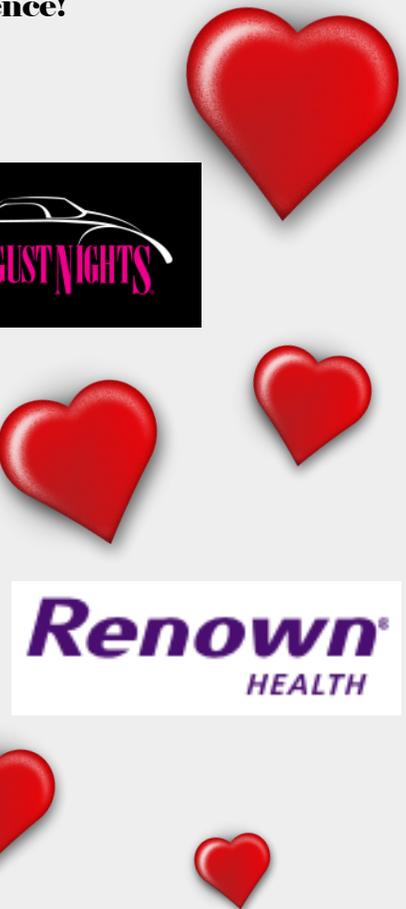
# To Our Generous Donors - We Thank You

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**We are so honored to be the recipient of your generous donations in support of the Washoe County CAC. You have truly made a difference!**

Judy and Allen Ashby  
M. Barulich  
Kristin and Andrew Beraci  
David and Denise Callen  
David and Ronda Clifton  
Kari Cordisco  
Cutting Edge Construction  
Kathleen Fralick  
Karen and Bruce Hahn  
William Haw  
A.J. and Suzette Hicks  
Larry and Marianne Hicks  
Hot August Nights Foundation  
Victoria Jakubowski  
Erica Jackson  
Joseph and Shelley Kresyman  
Master Service Plumbing, Inc.  
Greg and Keni McKenzie

Kimberly and Duane Meyer  
B.J. North  
Melissa Ogg-Farnsworth  
Dorothy Peterson  
Renown Health  
Gloria Salem  
Sierra Mountain Behavior Consulting  
Rachel Tatro  
Richard and Cathleen Trachok  
Ashley Trogdon  
Kathleen Weber  
Barbara Weinberg  
Lindsay Wentker  
Eric and Isabelle Wilson  
Kent Young  
Sheila Young  
Zephyr Wellness



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**We would like to express our extreme gratitude to Foundry for designing all of our beautiful new brochures. We can't forget our amazing and dedicated volunteers-we appreciate you so much, Shelly Kresyman and Kim Meyer.**

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## Special thanks to...

Builders Association of Northern Nevada  
Upland Contractors  
Montane Building Group, Inc.  
Signature Landscaping  
Artistic Fence Co.  
Jesse and Bill Haw  
Kathleen Kosman  
Mat Sinclair

# 2017 Events - It has been a busy year for us!

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**The Washoe County CAC has been busy spreading the word about child abuse prevention and raising funds to help support the Washoe County CAC's mission. We have been collaborating and creating partnerships across the community and are so grateful for those who have supported us.**

**The Washoe County CAC has been on the Jon Sanchez Show twice, and has done several news segments. We have been involved in outreach in the community by facilitating trainings for new judges, law enforcement, prosecutors, medical providers, social workers, and mental health providers.**

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## April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### Stand Up for Children at NoVi

On April 6, 2017 the Washoe County CAC hosted a Stand Up for Children Annual Event. The Eldorado Resort-Casino generously hosted us and provided delicious drinks and appetizers. The event was hugely successful in raising awareness around child abuse, as well as receiving donations to help the CAC continue to expand.



**STAND UP**  
for children



# 2017 Events - It has been a busy year for us!

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## April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### National Child Abuse Prevention

*Nevada Legislature - Carson City*



Every April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and, in 2008, Pinwheels for Prevention was introduced as a national symbol for child abuse prevention. The blue pinwheel represents reflection of hope, health and safety. The Washoe County CAC wore their blue and helped decorate the city in blue pinwheels to bring awareness to this great cause.



## May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### Love By The Glass at Dolan Lexus



The Washoe County CAC partnered with The Builders Association for the second year in a row to host the Love by the Glass event. Dolan Lexus kindly held this event for us in their beautiful facility. There was wine and beer tasting, fabulous hors d'oeuvres provided by the Eldorado, silent auction, and a fun photo booth. We appreciate everybody that was a part of this amazing event!



"Let's raise children who won't have to recover from their childhoods."

~ Pam Leo



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