

January 2010

## Executive Director's Message

**Tamara "Tammy" Burton**

**Happy New Year!** As we ring in the New Year, the Santa Rosa Kids' House has a lot to be grateful for. This year, donations from **421** individuals, businesses and private foundations have supported the delivery of services to **127** children in our community. In addition, the State Attorney's Office filed charges to prosecute **85** cases related to the victimization of children while Lutheran Services, Florida provided specialized sexual abuse treatment to **53** children and **19** of their caregivers!



While we have these rescues to celebrate, one disturbing trend noted in our data is the increase in the percentage of male abuse victims served by our center. While the national data reported by **Children's Advocacy Centers** indicates **34% of children served are boys and 66% of children served are girls, Santa Rosa Kids' House served 54% boys and 46% girls in 2009.**

One explanation for this higher rate of male victims is that 34% of Santa Rosa Kids' House children were confirmed as victims of physical abuse - almost double the rate of physical abuse cases reported in the national Child Advocacy Center data. Because both National and Florida data indicate that more boys died as a result of physical abuse than girls, **I challenge**

### What is SRKH?

The Santa Rosa Kids' House is a Child Advocacy Center that has been serving abused and neglected children in Santa Rosa County since June 2008. As one of over 900 Child Advocacy Centers in the United States, the Santa Rosa Kids' House mission is to deliver a well-coordinated and multi-disciplined response to child abuse in an environment that puts the needs of children first.

## Contact Us:

SRKidsHouse.org  
850.623.1112

## Quarterly

### House Stats

(2009, Quarter 4)

- New Children Seen: **20**
- Total Alleged Offenders: **21**
- Cases Accepted for Prosecution: **19**
- Children Receiving Medical Exams : **11**
- Children Receiving Counseling: **30**
- New Referrals to Counseling: **11**
- Forensic & Specialized Interviews Conducted: **16**

## Donor Spotlight:

Insight Marketing Communications



Insight is a full service marketing communications firm based in Navarre with offices in Panama City and Phoenix, AZ. They offer clients in a wide variety of industries ways to enhance and build their brands by being both efficient and effective.

**each of you to seek out ways that you can support vulnerable families this year.** Research tells us that families with a good working knowledge of parenting and child development, access to concrete and social supports during a time of crisis, and strong nurturing relationships do not abuse their children.

If I can ever be of any assistance to you please don't hesitate to call me at 623.1112 or [email](#) me.

Best Regards,  
*Tammy Burton*

## Events & Projects

### Ways to Support the SRKH

We have a variety of ways that you can help the Kids' House.

- **2nd Annual Fundraising Luncheon:**

In conjunction with National Child Abuse Prevention month the SRKH will host their annual fundraising luncheon on

**Tuesday, April 22 from 11:30 am to 1 pm at Sikes Hall, Whiting Field.** We are currently seeking individual,

business and corporate sponsors. Please contact Tammy for details. [Email](#) her or call 623.1112. Stay tuned for more information on ticket sales.

- **Christmas Angel Tree Program Successful:** During the Christmas Angel Tree and Toy Drive, local individuals, businesses and clubs succeeded in preserving the tradition of Christmas for 184 Santa Rosa Kids' House children. This has been a particularly difficult holiday season for many families and we appreciate your support in making this holiday a joyful one for our children!
- **Those Who Make a Difference Concert:** On Wednesday, Jan. 20th the SRKH Staff, Volunteers and Board Members were honored at a concert dedicated to "Those Who Make a Difference" at the National Naval Aviation Museum at NAS, Pensacola. The concert was organized by Lourie Woolard, facilitated by Master of Ceremonies, Quint Studer, and featured music from Ronnie Levine's One World Beach Band and Nashville's "The Firestarters".



## New Faces at the House

### New Admin Asst. and Board Member

#### New Admin. Assistant - Ann Resto

The SRKH will welcome Ann Resto as the new Administrative

Insight is proud to have designed the new marketing materials for the Kids' House.

For more information on Insight, [click here](#) or call Sabrina McLaughlin at 850.712.0538 or [email](#) her.

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## **Newsletter Sponsors Special Price for Newsletter Sponsorship**

*Looking for an affordable way to market your business to those who support the Santa Rosa Kids' House?*

*Instead of \$250, we are offering newsletter sponsorships for only \$100 until February 28.*

*For a \$100 donation you can place your logo linked to your website and a 25-word description at the bottom of the newsletter you sponsor. You will receive a report of traffic generated by the e-news to your site!*

*For more information, contact Tammy Burton at 623.1112 or via [email](#).*

Assistant on Monday, January 25. Ann is a long time resident of Milton and an active member of the community. She brings more than 11 years of clerical and administrative experience, along with a deep passion for the mission. Welcome Ann!

## **New Board of Directors member - Adair Cotton**

The SRKH also welcomes Adair Cotton, Chief Deputy of Courts and Information Technology for the Santa Rosa County Clerk of Court. She is a native of Santa Rosa County, where she is a member of Milton Kiwanis, Milton Rotary, Santa Rosa County Chamber Board of Directors, Leadership Santa Rosa Alumni and Santa Rosa Medical Center Women's Advisory. Mrs. Cotton also participates in the United Way Loaned Executive Program and is a Trustee for the Woodmen of the World Lodge 906. Mrs. Cotton has been a long time supporter of the Santa Rosa Kids' House and we look forward to her leadership on the board.

## **2009 Child Abuse Death Review Committee Report Released**

**Published January 2010**

For the complete report, [click here](#). Quick facts from the report include:

- There were 201 child deaths verified as a result of abuse and neglect for 2008. Of those deaths, the committee reviewed 198.
- Neglect represents the leading cause of deaths for children in 2008, which is consistent with the last 8 years in Florida (30% of deaths due to abuse, 70% of deaths due to neglect).
- The number of traumatic injuries of children increased 23% for children between 2007 and 2008 (45 physical abuse deaths in 2007, compared to 59 in 2008).
- Bed sharing and unsafe sleep environments were the leading cause of death in children under one year of age and the second leading cause of all verified child abuse and neglect deaths for Florida in 2008. While 2008 saw 118 reports of sleep related deaths of children to the abuse hotline, only 54 were verified due to abuse or neglect and alcohol and drugs were factors in the majority of these deaths.
- In 2008, the number of drowning deaths among Florida's Children under 5 years of age DECREASED for the first time in 5 years for 2008! However, it is known that many drowning deaths are not reported to the Abuse Hotline for review and investigation because authorities feel the families of the deceased children have "suffered enough".