



# Protecting Our Children Heart of Illinois Safe From the Start

## A Message From Sara....

*As July approaches, it allows us to reflect on another successful year of service. At the close of this fiscal year, Heart of Illinois Safe From the Start has provided over 1,300 direct service hours to over 80 new clients. We have also participated in over 36 awareness/education activities. These numbers reflect the hard work and dedication of our staff.*

*In Peace,  
Sara Dillefeld  
Program Administrator*



## FY'2010 Issue 3

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A special thanks goes out to our community partners who dedicated their time in April to promote child abuse awareness. Take a look some of the fun we had...

Hands Around the Courthouse



Tri-Cap Parent Retreat



Center for Prevention of Abuse, Children's Garden



April Breakfast Launch



# SAFE FROM THE START YEAR 8 RESEARCH REPORT

This is a brief sampling of the information available from the research report. To obtain additional information, call Sara at 686-5229 or email her at [sdillefeld@hoisafefromthestart.org](mailto:sdillefeld@hoisafefromthestart.org)

## Main Findings:

<i>Demographic Characteristics</i>	
STATE	HOI SFS
Mothers' age ranged from 15-52	Info not available
Fathers' aged ranged from 16-90	Info not available
Average age of children = 4.32	Average age of children = 4.63
Child Gender: 45% female/ 55% male	Child Gender: 40% female/ 60% male
Racial/Ethnic Identity: 44% Caucasian, 23% African American, 18% Hispanic	Racial/Ethnic Identity: 57% Caucasian, 21% African American, 4% Hispanic
58% had a household income of \$15,000 or less	51% had a household income of \$15,000 or less

<i>Sample of Referral Information</i>	
STATE	HOI SFS
Self- Referral = 11%	Self- Referral = 8%
Police Dept. = 4%	Police Dept. = 0%
Intra-Agency = 8%	Intra-Agency = 47%
Teacher/Child Care = 12%	Teacher/Child Care = 16%
Social Service Providers = 15%	Social Service Providers = 10%
Victim's Advocate = 6%	Victim's Advocate = 6%
DCFS = 16%	DCFS = 3%

<i>Type of Violence Exposure</i>	
STATE	HOI SFS
80% witnessed domestic violence	79% witnessed domestic violence
18% were victims of child abuse	21% were victims of child abuse
2% were victims of community violence	1% were victims of community violence
5% witnessed community violence	4% witnessed community violence
6% were victims of sexual abuse	6% were victims of sexual abuse
14% for other reasons	14% for other reasons (grief/loss, traumatic incident)

<i>Sample of Presenting Problems</i>	
STATE	HOI SFS
42% had aggression toward siblings	48% had aggression toward siblings
43% had clingy behavior	54% had clingy behavior
37% showed aggression toward parent	47% showed aggression toward parent
36% had sleep problems	38% had sleep problems
18% had signs of depression	23% had signs of depression
25% had signs of anxiety	35% had signs of anxiety

<i>Sample of Risk Factors</i>	
STATE	HOI SFS
Homelessness = 14%	Homelessness = 18%
Single Parent = 72%	Single Parent = 70%
Unplanned Pregnancy= 73%	Unplanned Pregnancy = 74%
Watches Violent TV = 46%	Watches Violent TV = 56%
Father in Jail = 55%	Father in Jail = 60%

### **Impact of Services:**

Matched pre and post intervention assessment data from the Child Behavior Checklist showed a significant decrease in symptoms post intervention. Following services there were identified improvements in child functioning, caregiver knowledge of children’s exposure to violence, and caregiver knowledge of child development.

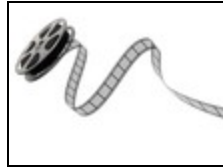


Safe From the Start Sites: Heart of Illinois Safe From the Start (Peoria County), Safe from the Start of Northwest Cook County of the Child Advocacy Center (North and Northwest Cook County), Madison County Safe From the Start of the Phoenix Crisis Center (Madison County), Decatur Safe From the Start of the Macon County Child Advocacy Center (Macon County), Safe Start Site of the Child Abuse Council (Rock Island County), Start Early, Start Right of the South Suburban Family Shelter (South Suburban Cook County), Metropolitan Family Services (the Roseland and Pullman Communities in S. Chicago), Family Focus Englewood (South Central Chicago), Children’s Home and Aid Society (Bloomington), Casa Central (Chicago), Heartland Human Care Services (Chicago), and Pillars (Berwyn)

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



Crittenton Center will host Kid's Day on July 31st from 10-4 at the Shoppes of Grand Prairie.



Bring the family to watch movies under the stars at Wildlife Prairie Park. Movies begin at 8pm, \$15 per car.

July 2nd... ET

July 9th... Planet 51

July 16th... Monsters vs Aliens

July 23rd... Astro Boy

July 30th... Shorts



## Happy 4th of July!

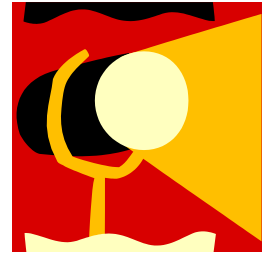
Trivia Question: Who was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence?

*Have a Happy and  
Safe Summer*



Heart of Illinois Safe From the Start sponsored a conference entitled, ***"Sunshine for the Soul" A conference on Understanding Child Trauma, Attachment, and Exposure to Violence*** on May 24th. Dr. Celia Johnson and Dr. Diane Zosky were the featured speakers. 93 people attended.

# Coalition Spotlight



**Julie Donaldson**  
**AOK Coordinator/Health Educator,**  
**Tazewell County Health Department**

The All Our Kids (AOK) Early Childhood Network is a collaborative effort between the Illinois Department of Human Services (Maternal & Infant Health Bureau and Child Care Bureau), the Illinois State Board of Education, local health departments, family members, and other local agencies serving very young children and their families. The Tazewell County AOK is located at the Tazewell County Health Department.

The AOK Network is a community-based collaboration that is committed to developing a high-quality, well-coordinated, easily-accessible system of care that will promote positive growth and development for children 0-5 and their families. The overall goal of the AOK Network is to ensure that all children under the age of five years and their families have the opportunity to receive the services they need - from prenatal care to well-baby checkups to parenting education to specialized services, such as speech therapy, physical therapy or home visits. There are 12 community networks in Illinois. Tazewell County AOK includes a wide range of service providers who work together to ensure that babies are born healthy, children remain healthy and enter school ready to learn, and families are satisfied with the services that they receive.



Tazewell County Health Department

More information on Tazewell County AOK can be accessed at: [www.tazewellhealth.org](http://www.tazewellhealth.org) or [www.aoknetworks.org](http://www.aoknetworks.org)

*Are you interested in joining our Coalition? We meet 3 times per year to network and learn more about how violence affects children. We have a diverse membership that is dedicated to working together to help families experiencing violence. If you would like to learn more, please call our office at 686-5229.*

Answer to Trivia Question on pg. 4: John Hancock. He actually signed his name so large in the middle of the document that the others had to sign their names around his.

# Heart of Illinois Safe From the Start



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Providing Support, Education,  
and Counseling to Children  
Exposed to Violence ages 0-5



**Do you know a child who is experiencing negative effects from exposure to violence? Refer them to our program for free counseling services. Call 686-5229 for more information or check out our website at [www.hoisafefromthestart.org](http://www.hoisafefromthestart.org) to download a referral form.**

*Current Coalition Members: Peoria Sheriff's Office, Tazewell County Health Dept/AOK, Peoria City/County Health Dept, Bradley University, Peoria County Bright Futures, the Center for Prevention of Abuse, Children's Home/Good Beginnings and Caregiver Connections, Family Violence Coordinating Council, Methodist, PCCEO, Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, Child Care Connection, Peoria Police Dept, Child Advocacy Centers of Peoria and Tazewell Counties, Boys and Girls Club, Child and Family Connections, Tazewell/Woodford County Head Start, Mental Health Assoc, DCFCS, Red Cross, CASA of Peoria County, Rogy's, Counseling and Family Services, Resource Link @ OSF Children's Hospital, Crittenton Center, District 150*

BREATHING THE CYCLE OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE !!



This image was drawn by a child witness of domestic violence who was staying in an Illinois Domestic violence shelter. Each year, ICADV member programs serve over 7,000 child witnesses of domestic violence