



Children's Assault Treatment Services

Northridge Hospital Medical Center



NEWSLETTER

CATS Designated as a L.A. County Sexual Assault Response Center

CATS is the only center that serves sexual assault victims of all ages 24-hours a day, seven-days per week in the San



Left – Right: CATS Clinical Manager Kathy Adams, BSN; MaryAnn Lague, RN; Dianne Bedford, FNP; Valley Trauma Center Case Manager Wendy Massey, MFT

Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, Burbank and Calabasas/Agoura areas of Los Angeles County. On May 13, 2004 CATS became one of a handful of recognized, designated sexual assault response centers in Los Angeles County. Los Angeles is the first county in the country to develop a certification process for Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART). A SART is

a coordinated interdisciplinary intervention model between law enforcement, crime laboratory, District Attorney's Office, medical and advocacy experts to meet the forensic needs of the criminal justice system and the medical and emotional needs of the sexual assault victim.

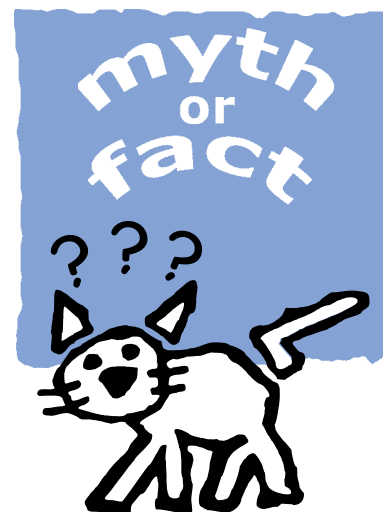
The County has been working on developing the standards and protocols for the last two years. The County standards were developed in an effort to promote the most appropriate level of care for victims of sexual assault within Los Angeles County. The goal is that all victims of sexual assault will be treated in designated centers where healthcare practitioners have specialized training in treating victims of sexual assault, in the collection of evidence and in providing expert testimony in court.

CATS Remains Open

The Children's Assault Treatment Services program, located on the grounds of Northridge Hospital Medical Center, Sherman Way Campus, will remain open and fully operational at its current site even after the closure of the Sherman Way Campus.

CATS will transfer its affiliation (not its location) to the Roscoe Boulevard campus of Northridge Hospital Medical Center. The Roscoe Boulevard campus, located in Northridge, will continue to serve the residents of the San Fernando Valley.

Shattering Myths of Child Abuse



myth: Children are rarely sexually assaulted.

fact: Anyone can be a victim. It is estimated that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually assaulted by the age of 18 (*Prevent Child Abuse California*).

myth: Child sexual abuse is an extreme form of abuse that is a one-time occurrence that happens abruptly.

fact: Child sexual abuse usually develops over time, is usually repetitive and escalates unless reported.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Cost of Child Abuse
- Sponsor Profile
- Casino Night Recap
- DNA Evidence
- Victory for Victims Walk
- **AND MORE!**

Children's Assault Treatment Services

Founded in 1997 in response to a community need, Northridge Hospital Medical Center's CATS is the only 24 hour, 7 day-a-week program for victims of physical and sexual abuse of all ages in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys of Los Angeles County, California. CATS has three service components: 1) Medical evidentiary examinations and forensic interviews provided in a supportive environment by specially trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners; 2) Case managed counseling and referrals; and 3) Outreach and training.

scope
of problem

Total Estimated Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States: Statistical Evidence

The estimated nationwide costs resulting from child abuse and neglect are considerable. The following data represents the estimated nationwide costs resulting from abuse and neglect. These costs can be placed in one of two categories: **direct** (those costs associated with the immediate needs of abused or neglected children) and **indirect** (those costs associated with the long-term and/or secondary effects of child abuse and neglect). The estimate of \$94 billion per year is conservative.

Each year, more than three million children are reported as abused or neglected in the United States. And three children die each day from abuse and neglect in this country. The amount of pain and suffering is incalculable.

Direct Costs	Est. Annual Cost
Hospitalization	\$ 6,205,395,000
Chronic Health Problems	2,987,957,400
Mental Health Care System	425,110,400
Child Welfare System	14,400,000,000
Law Enforcement	24,709,800
Judicial System	341,174,702
Total Direct Costs	\$ 24,384,347,302
Indirect Costs	
Special Education	\$ 223,607,830
Mental Health & Health Care	4,627,636,025
Juvenile Delinquency	8,805,291,372
Lost Productivity to Society	656,000,000
Adult Criminality	55,380,000,000
Total Indirect Costs	\$ 69,692,535,227
TOTAL COST	\$ 94,076,882,529

Source: Prevent Child Abuse America, 2001

Corporate Sponsor
profile

Panera Bread

Panera Bread, the nation's leading bakery-cafes, is now open in Studio City. As part of its "Operation: DoughNation" program, Panera Bread has partnered with the Children's Assault Treatment Services (CATS), select-

ed by Panera employees. Tip boxes at the registers are tallied up and funds are matched by Panera, with a check donated to CATS. Northridge Hospital Medical Center is honored that Panera Bread has chosen CATS as its community program.



Bread is the passion, soul and expertise of Panera Bread – and it serves as the centerpiece for nearly everything the bakery-cafe offers. Offerings include hot paninis and made-to-order sandwiches, hearty soups served in bread bowls and hand-tossed salads. Bagels, pastries and baked goods as well as hot and cold espresso beverages round out the menu.

Panera Bread bakery-cafe is located at 12131 Ventura Boulevard in Studio City and is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

We're
Always
Available



CATS is available to conduct on-site workshops on Mandated Reporting & Child Abuse at Los Angeles-based agencies.

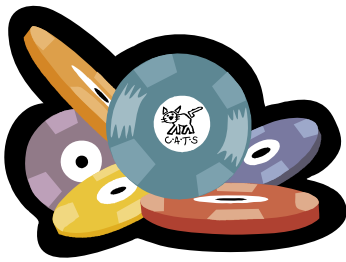
For more information, please call Priscilla at (818) 908-8789.



Visit our web site at: www.abuse-assaultservices.org and check out our on-line computer based training on reporting child abuse.

Together we can make a difference

Everyone Was a Winner at Casino Night!



On August 28, 2004, more than 140 guests joined the CATS Meow Guild for the 2nd annual Casino Night. Hosted and 100% underwritten by Meissner Manufacturing Co., Inc., the evening was a Hawaiian Style affair to remember. Activities included Black Jack, Craps, Roulette, Every Hour on the Hour Drawings, Live Entertainment, a Silent and Live Auction and appetizer and dessert buffets to die for. Guests savored Mai Tai Madness while bidding on items ranging from vacation packages to helicopter rides. Once again, Casino Night was a huge success.



Hmmm...should I hit or stand?



Our hostess with the mostest Christine Schaeffer with Kevin Malone

On behalf of Northridge Hospital Medical Center and the entire CATS staff, a BIG thank you **Christine Schaeffer**, Vice President, Meissner Mfg. for her unwavering support.



Silent and live auction items aplenty!

FORENSICS: DNA Evidence

DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, evidence properly collected can solve cases previously thought to be unsolvable. Evidence invisible to the naked eye can be the key to solving a crime. The DNA collected by CATS forensic nurse examiners has been instrumental in the conviction of many sexual perpetrators.

What is DNA?

DNA is the fundamental building block for an individual's entire genetic makeup. It is a component of virtually every cell in the human body, and it's the same in every cell. For example, the DNA in a man's blood is the same as the DNA in his skin cells, semen, and saliva.



Where is DNA contained in the human body?

DNA is contained in blood, semen, skin cells, tissue, organs, muscle brain cells, bone, teeth, hair, saliva, mucus, perspiration, fingernails, urine, feces, etc.

Is DNA a powerful tool?

Yes, because each person's DNA is different from every other individual's, except for identical twins. Because of that difference, DNA collected from a crime scene can either link a suspect to the evidence or eliminate a suspect, similar to the use of fingerprints. It also can identify a victim through DNA from relatives, even when no body can be found. And when evidence from one crime scene is compared with evidence from another, those crime scenes can be linked to the same perpetrator locally, statewide, and across the Nation.

Where can DNA evidence be found at a crime scene?

Numerous cases have been solved by DNA analysis of saliva on cigarette butts, postage stamps, and the area around the mouth opening on ski masks. DNA analysis of a single hair (without the root) found deep in the victim's throat provided a critical piece of evidence used in a capital murder conviction.

Source: *National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence, National Institute of Justice*

Young & Young-at-Heart Run for a Good Cause



Sixty-eight year old **Richard Tamouch** began running in May 2000 with the encouragement of his daughter. He runs about 1,000 miles a year (about 20 To 25 per week) and trains on hills, stairs, grass and trails. Richard has competed in approximately 15 races yearly and has run 2 marathons, 7 half marathons, as well as 5Ks, 8Ks and 10Ks. His medals include five firsts, four seconds and four thirds. Says Richard, “I enjoy running because it keeps me mentally and physically alert – one thing in my favor is that there are not very many men in my age division. I see each race as an adventure.” It goes to show that it’s never too late to start!

Fifteen year old **Sarah Hankowski** is a student at L.A. Baptist High School. Sarah began running in middle school and surprised everyone by beating most of the boys in her class! Sarah was encouraged by her PE teacher to join the JV Cross Country Team during her freshman year and medaled in her very first high school track meet. Sarah’s Mom, **Joy Hankowski**, is an ER Nurse at Northridge Hospital and a flight nurse for Mercy Air. Both mother and daughter participated in the “Victory for Victims Walk/Run” together.



Richard and Sarah are shown receiving their medals from Olympic Decathlon Gold-Medalist **Rafer Johnson**.



Mark your calendar for April 10, 2005

**Don't miss the 3rd annual
Victory for Victims
5K & 10K Walk/Run**

For sponsorship or volunteer opportunities,
please contact Gail Hynick at
victory4victims@aol.com or at
(818) 363-5035



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