

*Dick Zacharias on his 50th birthday - with brother Jim.*

# Zacharias

sexual abuse center  
*from here to healing*

## The Zacharias Center Story

*Richard Zacharias' Family and Friends Continue His Legacy of Caring and Hope*

The Zacharias family came to LaCASA 19 years ago in an unusual but special way. In memory of Dick Zacharias, his family and peers wanted to give a substantial gift to a non-profit that would elevate it from a start-up to a thriving organization. This loyal and generous group, led by one of Dick's best friends Morris Belzberg and brother, Jim Zacharias, took a risk in choosing LaCASA, a small, grassroots organization doing a huge job, to be the charity that their foundation would support in perpetuity. Jim joined the Board of Directors, and both he and Morris spearheaded the foundation's continuous growth.

"They interviewed many and chose LaCASA," recalls Dick's daughter, Nancy Zacharias. "And they did so in precisely the way my Dad would have wanted. No shiny hospital wings . . . No fancy publicity or public recognition . . . No notoriety in philanthropic journals. Instead, they got straight to the heart of the matter by establishing the framework for a revenue stream that enabled LaCASA to establish and maintain a spectrum of support programs for children and others traumatized by sexual violence."

The Zacharias name on the center is very inspiring to his family, who are all involved in the effort. Dick's brother, Jim, stepped up and guided the support group as did many friends and relatives. "I could never have imagined the profound impact the members of the Zacharias Foundation would have on LaCASA - and on me personally," said Executive Director Torrie Flink. "We were in their backyards doing work that rarely came up in conversations in comfortable North Shore communities," she recalls. "The foundation's support meant that, for the first time, LaCASA was afforded the resources to reach children through intervention, prevention, advocacy, and counseling." "I often wonder how Dad would feel with his name emblazoned on the center," said Nancy. "Sexual abuse was a topic that was very much in the closet. . . and, to a large degree, still is."

"Horace Mann said, 'Be ashamed to die before you do something for humanity,' but Zacharias Center's original donors, and today's generous supporters, will never be ashamed," she points out. "It's imperative for those who are fortunate to get involved in organizations that promote help and understanding. I'm honored to have been a part of this group's effort so many years ago - and to continue to call them my friends and mentors today. Thanks to everyone who assure that the love felt for Dick Zacharias lives on through his family and friends—and through the life-saving work at Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center."



*The Zacharias family is proud to be associated with an organization dedicated to helping others' lives become whole. Clockwise: Steve Zacharias (standing), Nancy Zacharias Freedman, Beverly "Bubbles" Zacharias, and Dan Zacharias.*

## Zacharias Center Thanks Staff, Supporters at Annual Dinner



*from left: Bev Sleep (Board Member), Stacey Coleman (Counselor), Liz Lucas (volunteer), Kevin Kearney, Karen Hummerich (volunteer), Michelle Minarcik (Legal Advocate), and Tom Paulley.*



*New Board President Brad Jenks, past Board President Elise Potenz and Executive Director Torrie Flink enjoyed the festivities.*

"Our Annual Dinner is my favorite event of the year," said Executive Director Torrie Flink, "because it's when our staff and volunteers get honored for their hard work. And we can never say 'Thank You' enough!"

The event was held in the beautiful lobby of Trustmark Insurance in Lake Forest. Trustmark has supported our agency financially and with volunteers for years. The highlight of the evening was the formal announcement of the agency's name change from Lake County Council Against Sexual Assault (LaCASA) to Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center and unveiling our new logo. Board and Marketing Committee Member Beverley-Ann Sleep outlined the process and rationale for change (see her remarks in full on page 4). A new slate of officers was also sworn in including a new Board President, Brad Jenks of Star Capital Management, who replaced Elise Potenz.

## Rummaging Up Support

Annual rummage sale raises over \$15,000 and community awareness

Our annual Giant, Upscale, Tented, Three-Day Rummage Sale was a huge success, raising over \$15,000. In addition to sending hundreds of people home with gently used items, the event provided them with a new awareness of the vital, unique services that our organization provides.

"There's an incredible energy around Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center that makes this more than just an event where people can find bargains. Many who came in search of bargains also found an organization they want to be a part of," said Event Co-Chair Laura Hampton.

"Our Second Hand Roses Committee, which organizes and runs this event is just unbelievable," said Executive Director Torrie Flink. "In addition, we receive an amazing amount of support from local businesses, who donated everything from the tent over our heads [Stellar Productions, Lake Bluff], to picking up donated items [Two Men and a Truck] to hauling away items which didn't sell [1-800-GOT-JUNK]." "There's no way we could have had a well organized and successful fundraiser without everyone's help," added Mary Jarvis Meyer, a longtime supporter who drove from her new home in Toronto, Canada to work the sale.



*Rummage Sale "Second Hand Roses" (standing from left) Linda West (Special Events Coordinator), Alison Kollof, Ila Brown, Laura Hampton (Co-Chair), Mary Jarvis Meyer; (seated) Marlene Koskotas, Charmaine Roth, and Caryn Pignato.*

Co-Chair Joanne Simons praised Salutos, In-laws, Kaiser's Pizza, Pizza Hut, and Gurnee Pizza for donating the food and beverages needed to keep staff and volunteers going for three days straight. And Brad Jenks, our recently appointed Board President, who served as Fund Development Chair during the event exclaimed "On behalf of Zacharias Center's Board of Directors, 'Thank You' to everyone for their tireless work and the huge amount of money and time donated to help us succeed! Just think how many people will receive services from Zacharias Center because of their commitment."

## LaCASINO Royale Event Makes New Friends – and \$134,000

LaCASINO Royale 2007 took place at Exmoor Country Club in Highland Park on September 15. There was plenty of Monte Carlo-style mock gambling excitement and an incredible buffet. Classic movie music filled the air, courtesy of pianist Jim Blockinger, who volunteered his talents. Special guests included members of the Aunts & Uncles Club, generous supporters who pledge a minimum of \$1,000 annually to support our Children's Program. The event is underwritten by "Uncles" Jon Mills (Highland Park) and Morris Belzberg (Rancho Mirage, CA).



*Torrie Flink and Linda West watch as Jon Mills thanks the Aunts & Uncles and other event attendees.*

A short, meaningful program emphasized Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center's vital mission and included poignant comments from a rape survivor. Both host Jon Mills and Executive Director Torrie Flink urged all to visit the center and see for themselves the special healing nature of the facility. "Thanks to everyone's planning and hard work, LaCASINO Royale was an exciting and fabulously successful event," said Co-Chair Michelle Jenks of Gurnee, who also helped coordinate the evening's live auction that raised nearly \$60,000 in 15 minutes. Also serving as Co-Chairs for the event

were John and Connie Klein of Mundelein. The highlight of the live auction was the sale of 12 Adopt-a-Family sponsorships for \$3,000 each to: Jim and Wendy Abrams, Anonymous, Jim and Peggy Belmonti, Bob and Carole Berk, Jean and Bob Gelbort, Bill and Diane Hart, Nettie and Richard Isenberg, Lois and Jon Mills, Dana Deane and Kevin O'Connor, Marsha Serlin and Jerry Sloan, Dr. Roopal Thakkar and Dr. Mavi Thakkar, and Mike and Ellen Valentine.

"This was our most successful LaCASINO Night ever, and we couldn't have done it without the support of our Aunts & Uncles and many dedicated event volunteers," said our exuberant Executive Director Torrie Flink. "From the minute people arrived, they were caught up in the theme and the spirit of what has turned into a not-to-be-missed annual event. People are already asking us about attending next year's event."

## Youth Allies C.A.R.E. Bowling & Costume Party Raises \$1,415



*Everyone had a great time at the Youth Allies C.A.R.E. event at Bertrand Bowling in Waukegan.*

Great prizes were awarded including a Gap gift card, a Zune, a CD player, Blockbuster gift cards, and Marcus Theatre gift cards.

### Kids Urged To "Be Creative" in Fighting Sexual Abuse

Thanks to all who planned, coordinated and attended this fabulous event at Bertrand Bowling in Waukegan on October 26. A \$20 fee included bowling, pizza, soda, music, costume judging, and karaoke.

The theme was "Be Creative" and guests were! 78 participants, including kids and their families, showed up ready to have fun, and fun they had, including: bowling, pizza and soda. But the fun didn't stop there, as music and laughter filled the room and amazing costumes were judged. Batman and Robin made an appearance, along with fairies, a scarecrow, Shaggy, Elvira, and Masquerade folks, a Nerd and many others.



*Event Co-Chair Michelle Jenks assists Volunteer Auctioneer John Salstone.*



*Silent Auction Chair Nan Streicker (gold jacket) oversees the bidding.*



*These kids aren't clowning around when they raise money for Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center's kids' programs.*

Youth Allies C.A.R.E. (Creating a Rape-Free Environment) is committed to increasing awareness of Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center's programs, services and the issues of sexual violence, at their schools, with friends and family, and in doing solicitation with vendors and the community. The committee did a phenomenal job and the event was a huge success, raising \$1,415.00!

# Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center: Previously Known as LaCASA

Beverly-Ann Sleep, Board Member for Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center, previously Lake County Council Against Sexual Assault (LaCASA), reminds us of the old German proverb that says: “To change and to change for the better are two different things.”

Led fearlessly by Marketing Chair Richard Backwell, initial discussions in the marketing committee were about the reasons for changing a name that has until now served us so well and had strong emotional connections for so many. Until we could justify the change, we couldn't even begin to think about what the new name would be. We realized that change, although difficult, is essential to our survival. Donors were using the geographic limitation of the Lake County part of our name to reject requests for funding. And, although our name is well-known among professionals, our purpose needs to be more easily recognized by the community, so that telling someone we worked for LaCASA did not confuse us with other businesses or agencies.



*Board Member Bev Sleep thanks everyone for making a difference at Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center's annual dinner.*

Change is not easy if you are not willing. So with a group of highly motivated and creative people we had brainstorming sessions to determine a new name. Every word used in the name was discussed - nothing was left to chance - always keeping the reasons for a name change in the forefront. Our name had to say what we did; no acronyms. We had to clarify precisely what our organization and our wonderful facility offers to the community. It became obvious and logical that we change our name to Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center.

The final stage of this process was to design a logo that represents the seriousness of our work,. Thanks to a very creative young man, it is also positive and uplifting. First, and most importantly, our new logo must appeal to survivors. In addition, it needed to appeal to a wide age group in our prevention program and general community,. Every last detail was painstakingly considered by the team. The final result, with the tag line “From Here To Healing,” is the result of many meetings and the willingness of all those involved not just to bring about change, but to change for the better. Finalizing the name change and logo may look like we have reached an end, and I want to express my appreciation to all those involved. But I know that every single one of us on the marketing committee sees this change as the start of a new awareness and presence in our community, a change that can only strengthen the incredible, lasting work that Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center's staff and volunteers do each day.

## What Can Individuals Do?

The key to reducing the threat of sexual assault and abuse in our community is awareness. But what can one person do to encourage others to Do Something About Sexual Abuse, Now? The answer is A LOT. Take every opportunity to make a positive difference in the way people think about sexual abuse, and unify those around you in the effort to stop sexual abuse.

### Ways You Can Make A Difference

- Never condone jokes or forward emails that objectify women.
- Ask your healthcare provider to talk about sexual violence with patients.
- Make the personal decision to avoid abusive or demeaning behavior in your personal life, your home, your workplace and in social situations.
- Talk to your family, friends and colleagues about your decision to do something about sexual abuse, and urge them to do the same.
- Ask your employer to address sexually inappropriate behavior and the threat of sexual violence in the workplace.
- Call your child's teacher or principal to request sexual assault prevention education in school . . . and invite them to contact Zacharias Center.
- Invite Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center to speak at a civic organization to which you belong.
- Ask your local Girl or Boy Scout Council to include sexual assault awareness training for leaders.
- Share what you've learned about sexual abuse during a Sunday School class.
- Raise money or collect “wish list” items for Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center.
- Partner with your library to set-up a display of books, brochures, and relevant materials.

### Facts About Sexual Abuse and Assault:

- Every 45 seconds a woman is raped in America.
- 1-in-3 girls and 1-in-6 boys will be sexually assaulted or abused by the age of 18.
- 75% of rapes are committed by someone known to the victim; such as a family member, friend, date, co-worker or neighbor.

*“What Can Individuals Do” courtesy of Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape – [www.pcar.org](http://www.pcar.org)*

## New Staff Includes Two Men

When Joe Howard joined LaCASA/Zacharias Center in 2001, he was our first male staff member. Although we had male volunteers, we had not benefited from the full-time perspective of a male staffer. Joe set about applying both his enthusiasm and Master's Degree in Social Work to our development and marketing efforts. "I feel lucky to be working at an organization that combines my interest in healing and mental health with concerns for social justice and anti-violence work," he said. "I am humbled by the kindness and generosity of spirit that I encounter in our supporters. I feel a part of a great team."



*Jeff Blumenfeld (Grants Manager), Joe Howard (Director of Development), and Adam Robinson (Children's Counselor).*

the mission, where I could respect the people, and enjoy working with them as well," Jeff said. "I consider myself to be the luckiest person I know as I found all of the things that I was looking for, and more. I can't think of a more important mission; the people who work here are some of the most professional and kind people I have ever had the opportunity to know. Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center is like an extended family."

Children's Counselor Adam Robinson brings a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology and four years' experience working as a therapist with underprivileged children, adults, and families. "Zacharias Center is exactly the right fit for someone with my experience and commitment to helping people in need," Adam explained. "I've worked with a large caseload of culturally diverse clients with a wide range of symptoms and challenges. But never have I seen such a comprehensive staff of experienced professionals, working together in such a supportive environment, to help people through the healing process."

The most recent man to join our staff is Grants Manager Jeff Blumenfeld. "I was looking for a grant writing position where I could be committed to

## Sexually Reactive Children

**This article was written by Children's Counselor Adam Robinson and details the concept of sexually reactive children.**

A child's sexual development generally falls under the biological and social/personality realms. Normal childhood sexual exploration serves as an information gathering process. It allows children to visually and tactually explore each other's bodies, and also to explore gender roles and behaviors. Normal sexual play generally involves children of similar age, size, and developmental status. Most importantly, participation in such play is on a voluntary basis. Further, these behaviors are limited in type and frequency, and the child's interest in sex and sexuality is balanced by a curiosity about other aspects of his/her life.

"Sexually reactive" children appear to be sexually preoccupied, and interpret most situations as sexually charged. While all children engage in sexual behaviors as they mature and develop, sexually reactive behaviors are excessive, compulsive, and unresponsive to appropriate limitations and redirections (e.g., sexual language, propositioning; name calling, excessive masturbation; rubbing against other children or furniture; touching or grabbing others' genitals, and asking others to touch his/her genitals; engaging in kissing, fondling with other children; sexualized gesturing; inviting others to isolated places (e.g., washroom, closets, etc.); exposing him/herself to others, and/or pulling down the pants of other children). These behaviors are often characterized by compulsivity, frequency, and sometimes force. Confusion, fear, and anxiety, which are shaped by the child's history, are fundamental to this type of behavior. Again, this behavior is non-normative in typical childhood development. Its presence is a strong indicator that the child may have experienced some type of trauma (e.g., sexual abuse, molestation, exposure to pornographic material, exposure to adult sexual behavior, etc.).

Prepubescent children may engage in these non-normative behaviors to achieve self-comfort when they're bored, insecure or lonely. Conversely, pubescent children do so for sexual gratification. So while the behaviors may look the same, their purposes are significantly different. Thus, early intervention, ideally prior to puberty, is critical. It is important to understand what happened (define the sexualized behavior), who started it, and where the child learned the behavior (specified by assessing the child's history). Specific treatment modalities include group therapy, family therapy, and individual therapy. Treatment is focused on behavioral correction, addressing trauma issues, and developing corrective relationships. Specific approaches may include art therapy, play therapy, sand tray, and behavioral approaches (which requires a caregiver to be involved).

# Thank You To The Donors Who Supported Our Events

Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center wishes to gratefully acknowledge the following businesses and individuals that generously supported our special events, programs and services with donations of goods and services in 2007. We apologize for any errors or omissions in creating this list.

1-800-GOT-JUNK	Designs for Dignity	J & L Catering	Robinette Demolition
Abbott's Creative Services	Fox News Chicago & Anita Padilla	J.S.M. Janitorial Service	Salata Gurnee Funeral Home
Avante, LLC	Joanna Glover, Harpist	Jimano's Pizzeria	John Salstone
Balmes Flower Shop	Giordano's	Joseph J. Henderson & Sons	Cindy Semet
Bigolin Maintenance Services	Greens by White, Inc.	Kaiser's Pizza & Pub	Stellar Productions
Jim and Johanna Blockinger	Gurnee Community Church	LPK International	Target, Gurnee
Scot Gallup & Celtic Marketing, Inc.	Gurnee Counseling Center	Ed Mattingly	Rick Valicenti, Thirst
Burris Equipment Company	Gurnee Police Department	Mike's Bikes	Two Men and a Truck
Buss Landscaping Company	Haapanen/Burkett, Inc.	Panera Bread	Uno Chicago Grill
Jean Cozier	Initial Tropical Plants	Pizza Hut	Village of Gurnee
Dana Deane	In-Laws Restaurant & Lounge	RBR Productions	Kathy Weinstein

## Where There's A Will, There's A Way To Help

If you are a survivor, or a member of your family has been helped by this organization, or for other reasons you feel a deep connection to the cause, please consider planned giving as a way of giving back. When estate planning you could remember Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center by either designating a cash gift, or, detailing a percentage of your estate to go to the agency. Professionals in the field also have other planned giving options. Contact your own or we can refer you. Contact Joe Howard, Director of Development at 847-244-1187 ext. 23 or [jhoward@ZachariasCenter.org](mailto:jhoward@ZachariasCenter.org).



*Executive Director Torrie Flink (center) thanks Women's Resource Fair organizers Linda Kroll and Penny Lindstrom for their support of Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center.*

## Women's Resource Fair Supports Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center

We were honored to have been chosen as this year's charity beneficiary from the ticket sales from the Fourth Annual Women's Resource Fair. The fair was presented under one roof on November 2-3 at Highland Park Community House, and proceeds went to Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center.

The event featured 50 exhibiting local businesses and organizations, and 25 educational lectures by noted experts in the areas of Health & Wellness, Education, Holistic Products, Healthy Home, Empowerment and Counseling.



# Know Your Legal Rights

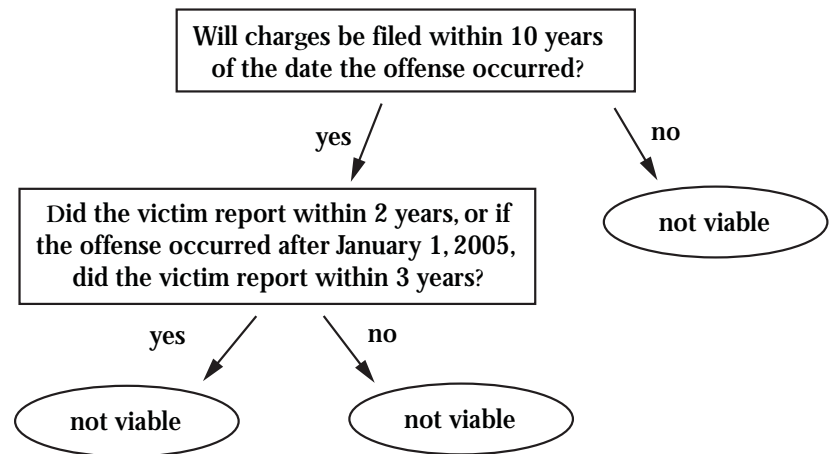
The statutes of limitations are always an issue of concern for both child and adult victims of sexual violence,” says Michelle Minarcik, Legal Advocate at Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center. “The laws concerning sexual crimes in Illinois were completely rewritten in 1984 and have been modified several times since then, especially with regard to the statutes of limitations concerning sex crimes.”

The statutes of limitations for adult victims states that prosecution is possible, if charges were filed within ten years of an offense reported within two years (or three years if the offense occurred after January 1, 2005).

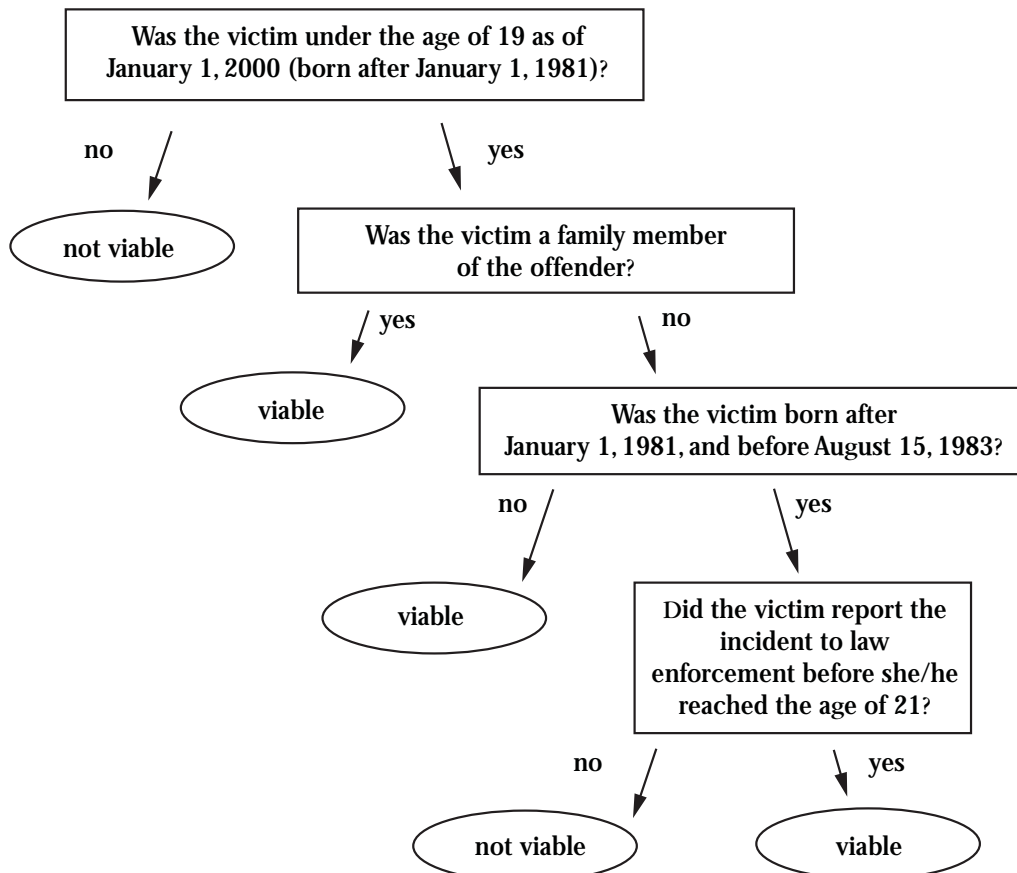
Children under 19, as of January 1, 2000, who were victimized by a family member, can still press charges until age 38, with no reporting limitations. Child victims with non-family offenders, must report by their 21st birthday and press charges before they reach age 28.

Questions? Contact Michelle Minarcik, Crisis Intervention Advocate - Legal, at 847-244-1187 ext. 20 or [mminarcik@ZachariasCenter.org](mailto:mminarcik@ZachariasCenter.org)

## Adult Victim



## Child Victim



# Zacharias

sexual abuse center  
*from here to healing*

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## 2008 Calendar of Events

We are celebrating our 25th Anniversary **throughout** 2008!

April 5 Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center Open House

June 20 Sixth Annual Women Helping Women luncheon at Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center. Robin Stone will be keynote speaker. She is former editor of Essence magazine and is a professor at New York University.

Oct. 4 Casino Night at Exmoor Country Club, Highland Park.

For additional information, contact Linda West at (847) 244-1187 ext. 21 or [Lwest@ZachariasCenter.org](mailto:Lwest@ZachariasCenter.org).

Visit our new website at  
[www.ZachariasCenter.org](http://www.ZachariasCenter.org)

- To learn more about our organization and key issues
- To securely register on-line for upcoming events
- To find out how you can become a volunteer
- To make a donation or join our Aunts & Uncles Club
- To suggest ways we can work together to reduce the threat of sexual assault and abuse.

Thanks again to volunteer webmaster Scot Gallup for his extraordinary creativity and care in designing our new on-line home.

## Zacharias Center Board of Directors

President - Brad Jenks Vice President - Clifford Sanderson  
Treasurer - John Bratsakis Secretary - Beverley-Ann Sleep

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Judith Ward Reuter  
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## Zacharias Center Staff

Toren G. Flink, Executive Director, ext. 16  
Lynn Osborn, Associate Director, ext. 28  
Cathy Guzolek, Director of Administration, ext. 11  
Joe Howard, Director of Development, ext. 23  
Jane Hunter, Director of Community Education, ext. 26  
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Sandra Heraver, Prevention Specialist, ext. 25  
Georgia Vasquez, Bilingual Prevention Specialist, ext. 22  
Lori Viera, Bilingual Counselor, ext. 13  
Adam Robinson, Children's Counselor, ext. 27  
Stacey Coleman, Adult/Adolescent Counselor, ext. 31  
Tammy Hicks, Crisis Intervention Advocate - Medical, ext. 30  
Michelle Minarcik, Crisis Intervention Advocate - Legal, ext. 20  
Consuelo Sanchez, Office Manager, ext. 19  
Linda West, Special Events Coordinator, ext. 21

## Zacharias Center Support Groups

**Fundamentals of Healing** - 12-week introductory group offers information and support for adults just beginning to come to terms with issues of sexual violence in their lives. There are groups for both Spanish- and English-speaking clients.

**AMAC Therapy Group** - 16-week group provides advanced therapeutic guidance and support for survivors of childhood sexual abuse who have had previous therapy.

**Caregivers Group** - 6-week group gives support and information to adults who are in parental roles to children who have been sexually abused. Topics: child development, childhood trauma and its impact on the family, mandated reporting, boundaries, discipline, and communication.

**Latency Age Group** - for children 8-12 who have been sexually abused. May be held in conjunction with caregivers group. Topics covered include understanding sexual abuse, safety, feelings and coping with feelings, and boundaries.

**Adolescent Groups** - offered for young people 13-18 who have been sexually abused. Topics: safety, feelings, coping strategies, relationships, intimacy, and sexuality.

Please call Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center to sign up. Groups are run on as needed basis.

## Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center

24-Hour Crisis Hotline: (847) 872-7799  
Non-Emergency Office Phone: (847) 244-1187  
Website: [www.ZachariasCenter.org](http://www.ZachariasCenter.org)  
TTY: (847) 244-1367