

WHO NEEDS A FILM ABOUT MENTORING?

TWENTY THOUSAND FOSTER YOUTH

ALAN LANDSBURG, PRODUCER, "HAND TO HAND" PRESIDENT, ICAN ASSOCIATES

Who needs a promotional film presenting a view of mentoring? There are thousands of reasonably well-known stories about mentoring successes. Ask anyone who has been involved with the wide variety of programs already under way throughout the United States. Ask about which mentoring role is hardest to fill. The answer is first to find individuals who are willing to help the half million children placed in foster or group homes. Los Angeles County alone has over 20 thousand of these children.

The mentoring effort needs support, of both hearts and bank accounts. Stirring the hearts is the primary goal of the new mentoring film called "Hand to Hand." We've put a face on the huge task of providing mentors for the thousands of Los Angeles County foster youth who may have no other adult guide or role model.

Basketball great and mentor, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, introduces the film and closes it, because as he says, "mentoring allowed me to figuratively stand on the shoulders of giants." As a result, Kareem is lending his support to the programs depicted in the film, as well as many other mentoring ventures.

Mentoring foster children in Los Angeles is a pilot program developed through the collaborative efforts of ICAN, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Los Angeles Mentoring Model Coalition (LAMM), and the many mentoring organizations and professionals throughout the county. The film "Hand to Hand" is designed to be used by local communities and communities across the nation so that kids can "stand on the shoulders of giants."

Please contact Laurence Kerr at icanlkerr@gmail.com to find out how to obtain a "Hand to Hand" DVD.

BEST SELLING AUTHORS TO SPEAK AT NEXUS XII - NOVEMBER 14

DAVE PELZER – AUTHOR OF BESTSELLER, *A CHILD CALLED "IT"*

DAVID KESSLER – AUTHOR AND ELIZABETH KÜBLER-ROSS COLLABORATOR



Dave Pelzer was a victim of one of the most extreme cases of child abuse in California's history. Finally, at age 12, he was placed in foster care until he joined the Air Force at 18. Since then, Dave Pelzer's significant accomplishments have been recognized through a number of prestigious awards and commendations. He is the author of six inspirational books, two of which were nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. His latest book, *Help Yourself for Teens*, assists young adults through real life situations. His first book, *A Child Called "It"* has been on the New York Times Best Seller List for over six years.

His unique outlook on life, sharp wit and wry humor entertain and encourage us to truly commit to overcome any challenge, as we live life to its fullest. For the past 20 years Dave has dedicated his life to helping others help themselves.

David Kessler began his first book, *The Needs of the Dying* (now available in its 10th anniversary edition), under the guidance and encouragement of two extraordinary women: Elisabeth Kübler-Ross and Mother Teresa. David had worked in hospice for over twenty years, when the book was published.

Thirty-six years after Elisabeth Kübler-Ross wrote her groundbreaking book, *On Death and Dying*, and shortly before her death in 2004, she collaborated with David Kessler on her final book, *On Grief and Grieving*.

Don't miss a unique opportunity to hear these remarkable speakers and inspirational men. For more information: Dave Pelzer's website – www.davepelzer.com; David Kessler's website – www.davidkessler.org



MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - DEANNE TILTON DURFEE

*"The Hearts of small children are delicate organs
A cruel beginning in the world can twist them into curious shapes
The heart of a hurt child
May fester and swell until it has become a misery to carry within
Easily hurt and chafed by the most ordinary things."*

- Carson McCullers



Picture yourself as a child who every day hears the cries of your baby sister. You hear the violent sounds of your mother and her boyfriend. You can't yell loud enough to be heard and no one knocks on the door. And then, one day, a woman in a uniform rescues you, not because anyone heard YOU, but because someone heard the gunshots.

Your mother and your baby sister are dead. No one talks to you about what happened. They say everything will be okay. You are placed in a foster home, a clean fresh place filled with happy faces...but they are strangers. No one understands the grief you are holding inside, how much you long for your mother or how guilty you feel about not protecting your baby sister.

Then, you are moved to another home, then another, then another. Now you are a teenager in your 15th foster home. There's no one who knew you when you were small, nobody who knew you last year. You have no consistent caring adult in your life, no one to brag to about a good grade, no one's voice is in your head to stop you from doing something that would disappoint them. No one talks to you about your mom or your baby sister.

So, why not steal the candy, try the drink, take the drug?

You've lost your trust, now you're losing your conscience. You've become one of the statistics:

National Institute of Justice: As adolescents, or adults, abused children are more likely to commit violent crimes, drop out of school, or become unemployed or homeless.

Centers for Disease Control: Adult survivors of abuse are more likely to suffer heart disease, diabetes, fractures, obesity, and early death.

So, what could be different? What is different?

ICAN has worked for 30 years to bring agencies and individuals together to understand how and why children are abused, to be accountable for what we do in the name of child protection, and to do something about it.

- Our Child Death Review Team has been replicated in all California Counties, in every state in the US, and in 8 foreign countries
- L.A. County's implementation of the Safe Surrender Law has already saved the lives of 59 newborn babies
- Pool drownings are down
- Child and adolescent suicides are down
- Foster placements are half of what they were 10 years ago in LA County
- Child abuse homicides are down by one-half since 1991

However, our challenges and our work continue...

Even as we celebrate our successes, we must remember: Every four minutes, a child is born in Los Angeles County; every four minutes, a suspected child abuse report is made. Every day, four infants under the age of one week enter the child welfare system because of prenatal substance exposure. Each month, three children are killed by their parents or caretakers, and more than one child takes his or her own life. And, there are still over 20,000 children in foster care in LA County.

The most important resource we have is an informed and involved public. Friends, family, neighbors, the media, professionals, volunteers, and agencies working together. There is no one who is unable to do something to prevent the tragedy of child abuse and neglect, to mend the hearts of hurt children, and to make our future a kinder and safer place for us all.

What ICAN and ICAN Associates are doing now to help keep children and families safe and strong:

- Our LA Mentoring Model (LAMM) is responding to the critical need for mentors to fill the hole in the hearts of foster children, to help them believe in themselves and know someone believes in them
- The Governor's Office of Emergency Services is providing ICAN with a grant to create protocols for multi-agency investigation and prevention of fatal and severe child abuse
- ICAN is launching a system to track what happens to the 1500 identified newborns affected by prenatal substance abuse
- Four years ago, the ICAN Grief and Mourning Task Force launched a major annual conference on children's grief, which draws experts from across the country
- Based on our increasing understanding of how Domestic Violence and Child Abuse are interrelated, we continue our annual NEXUS Conference for a thousand professionals and volunteers who deal with family violence
- We continue to promote information sharing and public awareness - the key to preventing newborn abandonment, and preventable child deaths from accidents, suicides, and homicides
- Our programs that guide and support pregnant and parenting teenagers, and to help families and child victims of abduction have realized excellent results
- We are preventing tragic child suicides, and reaching out to schools and the community

On April 28, ICAN's Executive Director, Deanne Tilton Durfee, was honored as "Woman of Distinction" by Soroptimist International Los Angeles, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and children.

2007 CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION STUDENT POSTER CONTEST WINNERS



GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Calvin Huang, 4th Grade

SCHOOL
Castlebay Lane Elementary
TEACHER
Cindy Kamin-Brenek

CITY
Northridge
PRINCIPLE
Vivian Ihori

WINNERS

Pablo Rivas
Selena Flores
Kelsey Schwarz
Jennifer Oetzell
Josephine Young
Annie Chen
Sydney Caplow
Carmela Escarez
Jennifer Dao

SCHOOL

24th Street
Brockton Avenue Elementary
Castlebay Lane Elementary
Jefferson Elementary
Monterey Highlands Elementary
Roy Oaks Elementary
Summit View West
Washington Elementary
Washington Elementary

JUDGES

Zev Yaroslavsky
LA County Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey Bacon
Entertainment Graphic Design
Deanne Tilton Durfee
ICAN Executive Director
Kerry English, M.D.
King/Drew Medical Center
Captain Margaret Wagner
LA County Sheriff's Department
Billie Milam Weisman
The Frederick R. Weisman
Philanthropic Foundation
Judge Michael Nash
LA County Juvenile Court
**Victor Raphael
& Sylvia Shap**
Los Angeles Artists
Michael Pines, Ph.D.
LA County
Office of Education
**Dr. Lakshmanan
Sathyavagiswaran**
LA County Medical
Examiner-Coroner
Kelly Carney Sicat
Art Consultant
**Beverly Kurtz,
Monica Hylande-Latta,
Judy Myhren,
Joanne Martinez,
Jane McAniff and
Betty Stoller**
LACMA Docent Council

RECORD NUMBER OF ENTREES FOR STUDENT POSTER CONTEST

This year, 1,177 students, grades four through six, submitted their "Let's Take Care of Our Children" poster art for the 22nd Annual ICAN/ ICAN Associates Child Abuse Prevention Student Poster Contest. Three important events honored the student winners.

APRIL AWARDS RECEPTION AT KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION

Presenting the awards were Sheriff Leroy Baca, ICAN Policy Chairperson; Deanne Tilton, ICAN Executive Director; Alan Landsburg, ICAN Associates Board President; and Beverly Kurtz, Board member and Poster Contest Chair.

SPECIAL BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PRESENTATION

To recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month, the 2007 Poster Contest winners were honored in a special presentation at the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' April meeting.



Student winners and teachers with Beverly Kurtz, Coroner Dr. L. Sathyavagiswaran, Sheriff Lee Baca, Dr. Kerry English, Deanne Tilton

THANK YOU, HOWS MARKETS!

On Saturday, June 9, our good friends at HOWS Market held their Annual Poster Contest reception honoring the winners and finalists.

Welcoming the students and their friends, teachers and families were: HOWS owner Mark Oerum; his son and Granada Hills store manager, Eric Oerum; Poster Contest Chairperson and ICAN Associates Board Member, Beverly Kurtz; ICAN Associates Board Member, Russell Sun; and ICAN Assistant Director, Edie Shulman. The Los Angeles Sheriffs Department provided free fingerprinting for all the kids.

The posters were displayed at the California Department of Social Services, Los Angeles County Offices of the District Attorney and Education; and the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court. Bravo, once again to Beverly Kurtz, the judges, and our many friends who support this exciting event each year.



At HOWS - Student winners and teachers with Edie Shulman, Russell Sun, Mark and Eric Oerum of HOWS, Beverly Kurtz and LA Sheriffs Officers

YOUTHCAN HONORED AT NEXUS XI

Two very special members of the ICAN YouthCan Leadership Development Project were honored at Nexus on October 26, 2006. Both of these young men have made significant achievements in their schools and communities, and are inspirational role models for their peers.

Davian Graham first joined YouthCan while at Sante Fe Middle School. At Monrovia High, he received several awards, including Most Academic Improvement and Most Inspirational Student Athlete. He maintains a 3.5 GPA and is a Peer Counselor.

Jamal Elhardouzi maintains a 3.5 GPA and received the Buzz Award for student achievement at Walter Reed Middle School. Jamal was one of 90 students to be selected to attend High Tech High – a Los Angeles Charter School.

Many of the parents, school counselors, teachers and principals attended Nexus to support these outstanding young men. We are proud of Jamal and Davian and look forward to seeing them at Nexus 2007.



ENVISIONING A WORLD WHERE CHILDREN GROW UP FREE FROM ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND EXPLOITATION...



MARATHON PARTICIPANTS RAISE \$10,000 FOR ICAN ASSOCIATES



1ST PLACE WINNER

Brad Goldberg

2ND PLACE WINNER

Andrew Gowen

3RD PLACE WINNER

Oliver Ma

4TH PLACE WINNER

Carol Lee

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Pablo Adamo Esoin and Sabrina Li

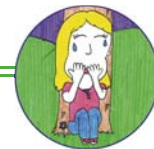
THANKS TO BRANDON KURTZ FOR DESIGNING THE MARATHON FLYER

ICAN SENDS YOUTHCAN LEADERS TO RED CROSS CAMP

For the third summer, ICAN Associates will send youth with leadership potential to the Red Cross Leadership Development Camp. In cooperation with the Los Angeles County Office of Education, school counselors identify the students. Attending youth will be honored at the Nexus Conference on November 14, 2007.



Red Cross Leadership Camp



Seven new and three returning student members of the YouthCan Leadership Development Project will spend five days at Pilgrim Pines in Yucaipa, a camp sponsored by the Red Cross, Greater Long Beach Chapter.

The Camp focuses on Leadership Development, Preparedness, a lot of fun and some pretty good food. Our kids always LOVE IT.

SUPPORT ICAN AT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES MARATHON XXIII – MARCH 2, 2008

It's never too early! The twenty-third Los Angeles Marathon will be held on Sunday, March 2, 2008. We're looking for runners, walkers and bicyclists for the Marathon, 5K and Bike Tour. For those of you who love to run or walk short distances the 5K race is perfect for you! Volunteer to pass out water and cheer on the athletes and you will get to wear an ICAN Marathon T-shirt!

For over 15 years, ICAN Associates has been one of the official charities of the Los Angeles Marathon. Each year, ICAN recruits runners, walkers and bicyclists to help raise money for the cause of child abuse prevention. It's a wonderful community and family event for all ages!

If you are interested in being a Marathon participant or volunteer, please contact the ICAN Associates office at (626) 455-4587 or go to www.ican4kids.org and click on the Marathon icon. We will send you an entry form. For further information about the LA Marathon, please visit the official LA Marathon website at: www.lamarathon.com



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE...
with your tax-deductible* donation to ICAN Associates.



It's Easy!

Donate online. Just go to www.ican4kids.org and click on "You Can Help."
OR

Send your check to ICAN Associates, 4024 N. Durfee Ave., El Monte, CA 91732 (phone: 626-455-4585).

Because of you, for the past 30 years ICAN/ICAN Associates has improved the lives of children and families in Los Angeles County and throughout the nation through education, advocacy, special projects and programs, including ~

- National Center on Child Fatality Review (NCFR)
- International Child
- Annual National NEXUS Training Conference
- Child Abuse Investigation Protocols and Training
- YOUTHCAN Leadership Development Project
- Student Poster Contest to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect.

Thousands of children continue to suffer from abuse and neglect. The work of ICAN/ICAN Associates would not continue without the generous help from supporters like you. Please accept our sincere thanks for your help with these and other ICAN, ICAN Associates, and NCFR Programs.

*ICAN Associates is a 501(c)(3) corporation, #953419515

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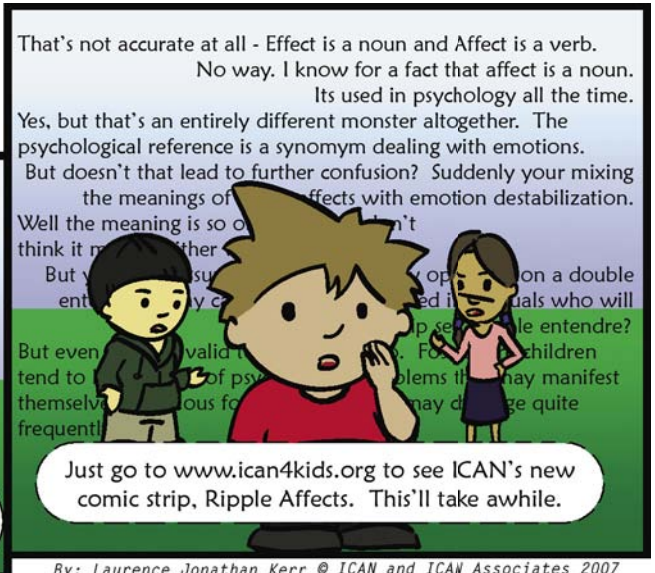
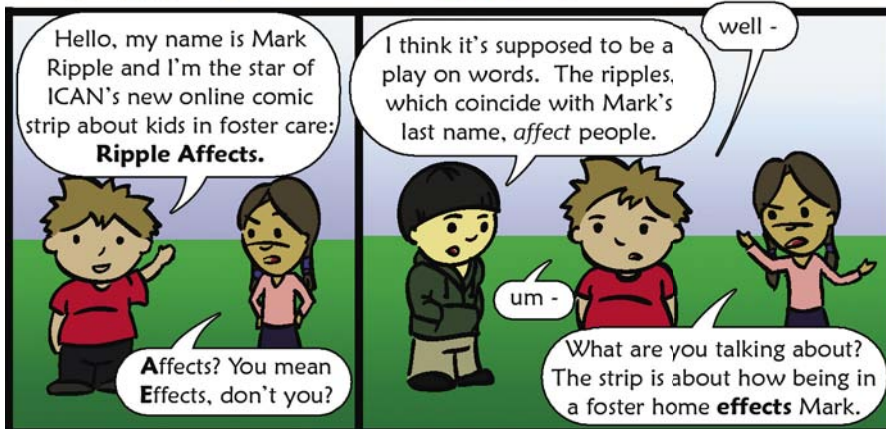
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MICHAEL DURFEE INVITED TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

Dr. Michael Durfee, Chief Consultant of ICAN's National Center on Child Fatality Review (NCFR), presented his expertise in the UK in July. The Metropolitan Police Child Abuse Investigation Command invited him to the New Scotland Yard to speak to members of the London Children Safeguarding Board about child death response and review teams. Dr. Durfee also met with multiple UK Child Death Review Teams in Bristol and Coventry.

Dr. Durfee also presented at the World Health Organization (WHO) meeting, which addressed international efforts to decrease violence, including violence in the family. The WHO documents on violence are available at http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/en/.

ICAN/NCFR materials on child death review, family violence and the multi-agency injury investigation are available at www.ican-ncfr.org.

NEXUS XI WRAPUP

ICAN's NEXUS XI Conference was a resounding success, bringing nearly 1000 individuals, agencies and organizations together for a unique and inspiring day. Attendees were greeted by Supervisor Michael Antonovich and members of ICAN's Policy Committee: ICAN Chairperson, Sheriff Leroy D. Baca; District Attorney Honorable Steve Cooley; Chief Probation Officer, Robert Taylor; DCFS Director, Patricia Ploehn; Superintendent of LA County Schools, Darline Robles; Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, Honorable Michael Nash; Coroner/Medical Examiner, Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran; Mental Health Director, Dr. Marvin Southard; City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo; and County Fire Chief, P. Michael Freeman.



John Walsh - *America's Most Wanted*



Deanne Tilton, John Walsh: Keynote Speaker, Alan Landsburg: Producer/ICAN Associates President

Plenary speakers, all nationally renowned dignitaries in child abuse and neglect, included Vincent J. Felitti, M.D. on his groundbreaking study, *Adverse Childhood Experiences: The Lifelong Effects of Family Violence on Children*; Christina Crawford, author of the best seller, *Mommie Dearest*, on her personal perspectives on childhood abuse; and the Honorable Lois Haight, Presiding Judge of the Contra Costa County Juvenile Court and former Assistant U.S. Attorney General, with a compelling message about abused children and the responsibilities of the child protection system.

At lunch, the Rainbow Riders Choir gave a breathtaking performance. Keynote Speaker, John Walsh, Host of *America's Most Wanted*, brought everyone to a stunned silence, and then to their feet, as he related the short and tragic life story of his son Adam, his work to establish the National Center on Missing and Exploited Children, and the recent enactment of the Federal Adam Walsh Crimes Against Children Act, signed a month before by the President. ICAN Associates President, Alan Landsburg, introduced Mr. Walsh with a clip from his film, *Adam, His Song Continues*.



First5LA, Nexus XI Co-Sponsor - Information Booth



Honorable Michael D. Antonovich presenting Board of Supervisors Scroll to Deanne Tilton and ICAN



France Nuyen and Beverly Kurtz, ICAN Associates Board



Patricia Ploehn, Director, LA County Department of Children and Family Services



Loren Solem-Kuehl, Cathy Walsh, Edie Shulman, Maria Melton, ICAN Administration

Our thanks to the principle sponsors of Nexus XI: **First5LA, LA County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES)**