



Summer 2006

# Kids' Turn Gazette

A nonprofit agency to help children whose parents separate or divorce

## Kids' Turn Participation Tops 10,000!

Since 1994, Kids' Turn has served over 10,000 Bay Area residents (children and parents) negatively impacted by separation or divorce. This is an extraordinary accomplishment, as Kids' Turn continues to be the single service provider of divorce programs for children and parents. Since we do not compete with any other organization for services, the Bay Area community looks to Kids' Turn to fill a very important role. We are proud to report this accomplishment and thank each and every one of you for your role in helping us achieve it. — Claire N. Barnes, MA · Executive Director

**Fifty percent of all Bay Area children** experience parental separation or divorce before the age of 18. That percentage does not include the increasing number of children of “never married” parents. Before Kids' Turn, “divorce” children are at risk for:



- sadness
- feelings of abandonment
- apathy and withdrawal from family, friends, and/or activities
- anger (at self and others), rage or even violent behavior
- impulsivity, acting out, defiance, and limit-testing behavior
- self-blame or guilt; feeling responsible for parental problems
- neglect of schoolwork and drop in grades

**After Kids' Turn,** those risk factors can be significantly reduced.

“Now she doesn't have to fear talking about the divorce...It gives a child a chance to have her own voice.” — Kids' Turn parent participant



## IN THIS ISSUE

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MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS •• 1988 CLUB UPDATE

# International Connections

**K**ids' Turn continues to conduct outreach resulting in increased visibility in the international service arena. The Kids' Turn commitment to international networking began



*Above: Ming Quan Chang (Kids' Turn Chinatown) and Claire Barnes (Executive Director) flank Belgian Government Officials (Marc Morris, Patrick Bedert and Dirk Broos)*

*At right, l-r: Elyse Jacobs and Judy Cunnington enjoy meeting with Chinatown colleagues*

many years ago with Suzie Thorn's (Kids' Turn Board Parliamentarian) membership on the Board of the International Commission on Couples and Family Relations (ICCFR). Over the

years, Kids' Turn Board members (Lionel Engelman, Jeanne Ames), Founder (Ina Gyemant) and Executive Director (Claire Barnes) have sustained an interest in the ICCFR by cultivating relationships developed in that environment. As a result, Kids' Turn's international peer group continues to grow to the benefit of the organization as evidenced by the following 2005-06 unique activities:

1. Judy Cunnington, retired Director of London Marriage Guidance Council, (London, England), spent sixty days in San Francisco during Fall, 2005. Judy participated as a workshop leader, office staff support and an overall value-added consultant to our programs.
2. In November, 2005, Kids' Turn hosted a delegation from the Belgian (Flanders) government led by Ms. Inge Vervotte, Minister of Welfare, Public Health and Family Policy. The four person delegation spent an entire week visiting San Francisco community services, family court, the Resolve to Stop the Vio-

lence Project at the San Francisco County Jail, and City Human Service administrators. The whirlwind week also included cultural and culinary experiences unique to San Francisco. At the end of the week, Minister Vervotte stated: 'This visit has favorably changed my opinion of this country and of Americans.'

3. In December, 2005, Program Director Elyse Jacobs visited London and met with representatives from three London-based social service organizations. The government of the United Kingdom is preparing to shift funding priorities from couples' services to parent education programming, and Elyse was able to articulate the body of work available from Kids' Turn. Elyse will return to the United Kingdom in July, 2006 to attend the International Conference on Children and Divorce and simultaneously continue to connect with family service providers in that country.



4. In January, 2006, Kids' Turn staff gave a presentation to a governmental delegation of thirty from Mexico. The delegates were attending a Restorative Justice Conference in

*continues on page 8*

# Meet Our New Board Members by Steven A. Kinney, Board President

**Commissioner Josanna Berkow** joined the Kids' Turn Board in January 2006. She is a seasoned family court officer and familiar with the difficulties faced by children whose lives are impacted by the separation or divorce of their parents. Commissioner Berkow sits on the Family Court bench in Contra Costa County and we welcome her East Bay perspective to our regional efforts.

## T. Berry Brazelton Visits Kids' Turn

Internationally recognized pediatrician T. Berry Brazelton, MD visited Kids' Turn in February 2006. Accompanying Dr. Brazelton was Joshua Sparrow, MD, co-author of Touchpoints 3-6. Drs. Brazelton and Sparrow last visited Kids' Turn in 2002 when Dr. Brazelton was honored at the Kids' Turn spring fundraiser.

The February 2006 visit was a luncheon conversation during which Kids' Turn staff (Claire Barnes, Executive Director, Elyse Jacobs, Program Director, Nefer'ra Amen, Organizational Capacity Developer), Founders (Jeanne Ames, John Sikorski, MD) and colleagues (Jeffrey Cookston, PhD and Graeme Hanson, MD) were able to exchange and share ideas about topics of mutual interest while exploring potential collaborations. Dr. Brazelton continues to openly endorse Kids' Turn programs and he and Dr. Sparrow expressed focused interest in the impact of divorce on children. We are privileged to mutually contribute to each other's respective areas of expertise.



***Pictured**  
l-r: Jeanne  
Ames,  
T. Berry  
Brazelton,  
Nefer'ra  
Amen,  
Elyse  
Jacobs*

**Tricia Kennedy** was voted onto the Board at its June 2006 meeting. Tricia is with American Airlines and has already generously devoted her time and energy to raising money for Kids' Turn Programs. She has actively volunteered for the Kids' Turn golf tournament and, thanks to Tricia, Kids' Turn was the beneficiary organization of the Silicon Valley Travel Business Association's Spring 2006 fundraiser. Tricia will lend a Silicon Valley perspective to Kids' Turn's regional operations.

**Tom Friesch** is rejoining the Kids' Turn Board after a two-year hiatus. Tom is a successful businessman and experienced Board member. He and his family live in San Francisco and we welcome Tom's articulate business acumen to Kids' Turn's current focus on developing a sustaining base of resources.

And finally, we thank **Lionel Engelman** for his three years of service as the Kids' Turn Board Treasurer. Lionel joined the Board at a very critical time in our growth and monitored our financial condition with judicious oversight. We thank him for his leadership and extend our appreciation for his generous commitment of time and resources.

## PBS Program Explores Divorce Impact

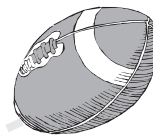
"Kids and Divorce: For Better or Worse" explores how divorce impacts children and how parents can lessen its negative effects. Divorce and its aftermath generate strong emotions and this program offers a framework for dealing with this difficult subject. Shot in various locations around the country (including San Francisco; Des Moines, Iowa; Boston; and Westport, Connecticut), the program features children and parents discussing the issues they are facing. The Kids' Turn divorce education program in San Francisco is profiled, along with efforts to reform how divorce and custody decisions are made. Finally, the program looks at the pros and cons of current efforts to encourage "shared parenting" and joint physical custody.

The tentative PBS air date is Sept 14 at 10 p.m.; consult your local listings for broadcast details.



# Celebrate Children 2006

## Scores a Touchdown for Kids' Turn



**K**ids' Turn held its annual fundraiser at the Stanford Court Hotel on May 12, 2006. The celebratory evening was planned with the leadership of the Event Chair, Torrance Bynum, and his committee, Janet Bollier and Pat DelGavio (Auction Co-Chairs), Jennifer Lewis, Melanie Skemer, Alpha Buie, Brent Seymour, and Claire Barnes. Key Events coordinated the project for the fourth consecutive year.

The event is the organization's largest annual fundraiser and the proceeds are used to help underwrite the participation of Bay Area children in Kids' Turn workshops. This year we were privileged to honor the Northern California Chapter of the National Football League Alumni, and Alumni President Jerry Mertens (former San Francisco 49er) was presented

with a Mayoral Proclamation declaring May 12, 2006 NFL Alumni Day in San Francisco. Our event featured many new elements, including music by Steven Moon, couture fashions by SWATI, as well as interactive items during the silent auction. We thank the donors, sponsors, guests, and underwriters who contributed to the success of Celebrate Children 2006.



*Above, l-r: Barbara Kinney, Nancy Bynum and Torrance Bynum (Chair, Celebrate Children 2006)*

*At left: Swati Kapoor and the SWATI models.*



## Travel Association Event Benefits Kids' Turn

**T**he Silicon Valley Business Travel Association made Kids' Turn the beneficiary of its June 1, 2006 Gala Fundraiser, *The Cat in the Cradle*. The celebratory wine tasting plus live and silent auction was held at the Toll House Hotel in Los Gatos, CA. As Alfred Gilbert, President of the Association, wrote in the gala program: "SVBTA is not only an educational organization...but also a service organization whose purpose is to improve the lives of our local citizens on all levels. Our mission tonight is to connect the generosity and support of our business

travel industry to the needs of the community, by maximizing tonight's financial contribution to Kids' Turn."

This expression of support for Kids' Turn is matched by our appreciation for the SVBTA's efforts on our behalf.

*Pictured l-r: Tricia Kennedy, Kids' Turn Board Member and SVBTA member Joseph Crawford, Esq., Vice President, Kids' Turn Board of Directors; Claire Barnes, Kids' Turn Executive Director; Melanie Skemer, Kids' Turn Executive Assistant*



# 1988 Club Hosts Mayor Gavin Newsom

This year marked the second year for Kids' Turn's 1988 Club, a group of founders and donors making a minimum cash commitment to Kids' Turn of \$1988 in recognition of the organization's founding year. 1988 Club Honorary Co-Chairs Nikki and Don King spearheaded a 2005-06 fundraising drive that netted Kids' Turn 40% over the anticipated goal. Benefits for membership in the 1988 Club include an invitation to a private party featuring a notable guest. The 1988 Club reception in March was generously hosted and underwritten by Justice Stuart and Lee Pollak at their Pacific Heights home and it was our privilege to entertain the Honorable Gavin Newsom, 42nd Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, at the gathering. Mayor Newsom spoke about the value of divorce education services and acknowledged Kids' Turn's role of conducting unduplicated programs in the San Francisco Bay Area.



Pictured: L – R, Front Row: The Hon. Ina Gyemant (ret.), Jennifer Jackson, Esq., Suzie Thorn, Esq., Jeanne Ames, Lee Pollak, Nikki King, The Hon. Isabella Horton-Grant (ret.)

Back Row: Mayor Newsom, Justice Stuart Pollak, Justice Donald B. King (ret.), John Sikorski, MD

Join the **1988 Club today** to help Kids' Turn take advantage of a \$50,000 matching pledge!

The Louis R. Lurie Foundation has pledged \$50,000 for Kids' Turn 2006-07 operations. The pledge amount must be matched by 1988 Club contributions. Any new or returning 1988 Club donors can direct inquiries to Claire Barnes, Executive Director (415.437.0700). Donors contributing \$1988 receive the following member benefits:

1. Name on Kids' Turn Letterhead
2. Special communications throughout the year from Board President Steven A. Kinney
3. Two tickets to the 2006 Fore! Kids' Turn Golf Tournament dinner OR one complimentary golfer registration
4. Invitation to a private party in 2007 featuring a notable surprise speaker
5. Two tickets to Kids' Turn's 2007 Spring Fundraiser, *Celebrate Children*
6. The gratitude of countless children who attend Kids' Turn programs throughout the Bay Area.

**MONDAY  
OCTOBER 23, 2006**

**SILVERADO  
COUNTRY  
CLUB, NAPA**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**



## THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL **FORE! KIDS' TURN GOLF CLASSIC 2006**

**SPONSOR: THE WORLD HEALTH & EDUCATION FUND**

Mark your calendar for Monday, October 23, 2006 for a fun-filled day of golf, food, fun and prizes on one of the area's most beautiful and exclusive courses. If you haven't received an invitation in the past, please call us to make sure you get on the mailing list!

**CALL KIDS' TURN AT 415.437.0700 FOR DETAILS.**

# Generous Gift to Fund Program Evaluation

**K**ids' Turn received its **largest philanthropic gift ever** in January 2006 from local businessman Halsey Minor. Mr. Minor, Principal of Minor Ventures, is a firm believer in the value of Kids' Turn programs. He is also committed to helping Kids' Turn enrich its programs, making them available for a larger service group. To that end, Mr. Minor contributed a designated gift of \$50,000 (in addition to an even larger general operating gift) to underwrite the evaluation of Kids' Turn's divorce education program and consultation support by educational curriculum specialists.

Mr. Minor's gift will fund the Kids' Turn program evaluation conducted by Dr. Jeffrey Cookston (San

Francisco State University), which is in its third year, and preliminary data are expected this year. Kids' Turn has also contracted with Dr. Anabel Jensen and Marsha Rideout of *6 Seconds Emotional Intelligence Network* ([www.6seconds.org](http://www.6seconds.org)) to help identify improved curriculum delivery methods. Dr. Jensen and Ms. Rideout are expert curriculum specialists and their background in Emotional Intelligence will improve our ability to help families.

We are gratified by the interest and financial support of an entrepreneur (Mr. Minor) whose philanthropic support will positively impact the lives of 'divorce' children in and beyond the San Francisco Bay Area.

## Let's Party

We are pleased to offer two exciting and interesting new opportunities for those who are looking to support Kids' Turn while having a little fun!

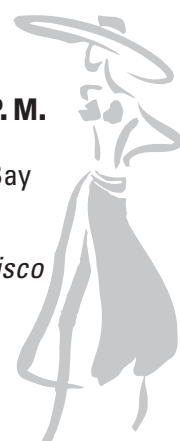
**Limited spaces** are still available at these exclusive events.

.....  
**\$100 per person**  
.....

**Let's party for Kids' Turn!**  
**415.437.0700**

## Couture Fashion Party September 17, 2006, 3-6 P.M.

Indo Western fusion fashions are the trademark of Bay Area couture Design Studio SWATI. Featured in the January 15, 2006 *Datebook* section of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, founder Swati Kapoor is described as "a feisty 35-year-old Indo-American fashion entrepreneur making waves and sparking raves in the Bay Area." Privileged guests will meet Swati Kapoor, plus view and shop her line of clothing at a private party hosted by San Francisco Family Law Attorney Barbara Moser. Enjoy drinks and the delicious fusion snacks of local Chef Rebecca Ets-Hokin, CCP.



## Reception with Dr. Isolina Ricci

**December 4, 2006, 6-8 P.M.**

Enjoy a reception at the beautiful Russian Hill, art-deco apartment of Donna & Nordin Blacker while conversing with Dr. Isolina Ricci, internationally recognized author of Mom's House, Dad's House, and Mom's House, Dad's House for Kids. The Blacker home has breathtaking views of the Bay overlooking Alcatraz.



# THANK YOU for Supporting Kids' Turn

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(Jim Bickel & Gary Nerison)

\*Any errors or omissions in this list of financial donors are unintentional.

## In Memoriam

Kids' Turn lost a dear friend, **Allan M. Levy**, this year. Survived by his wife, Pam Pierson, Allan gave quietly and generously of his time and energy to non-profit organizations like Kids' Turn and the Rally Project.

# Kids' Turn Gazette

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Claire Barnes

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## An Up-to-Date Workshop Schedule is available at [www.kidsturn.org](http://www.kidsturn.org).

### INTERNATIONAL from page 2

San Francisco, and Kids' Turn was one of a few service providers invited to present and share programming ideas.

5. In March, 2006, Kids' Turn staff met with a group of family law professionals from Japan. The Japanese group was particularly interested in the Kids' Turn Nonviolent Family Skills Program and had many questions for workshop leader John Anderson during his presentation.

6. In Spring, 2006, visitors from Australia found their way to 1242 Market Street. Australian contacts have been cultivated through the ICCFR and the American Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) organization. As with all of our international guests, ideas were exchanged and the potential benefits of Kids' Turn programming in other countries were considered. And in June, 2006, Kids' Turn sold its divorce education curriculum to a University-affiliated program in South Australia.

All of these opportunities contribute to an enriched sophistication within the Kids' Turn organization and offer the potential for additional program delivery internationally.

**"Divorce is complicated. Sometimes people put their feelings away—which makes you feel like a piece of luggage—heavy, dragging you down"** — Kids' Turn child participant