

*From Corrections to  
Connections:*  
**Working  
-With-  
Girls**



**A Newsletter Serving  
Individuals Working with  
Female Juvenile Offenders**

**Early Spring 2006**

**Issue 3**

**AMICUS Program and Updates**

Dear Colleagues,

This year the AMICUS girls programs are embarking on a new journey. We are spreading the word around the state of Minnesota that we are available to communities that are interested in building their own capacity to serve their girls restoratively using our models. We gather a group of people from a specific area to talk about what kind of girls' restorative programs would "fit" their community, who could provide them, who would support them, and how to make them sustainable. Once key stakeholders in the community have determined how they want to build their girls' services, AMICUS provides training and consultation before, during, and up to one year after the program's conception. We co-facilitate circles and groups and offer support and advice. Our long-term goal is to help communities build their own capacity to provide these services for girls in a way that is meaningful and sustainable. At this time we are in the early stages of program building in St. Louis County and in Blue Earth County. If you are from one of these counties and are interested in hearing more, or if you would like to see us look in your county's direction next, please contact Kathleen Duchene at [ksduchene@hotmail.com](mailto:ksduchene@hotmail.com) or Louise Wolfgramm at [louise@amicususa.org](mailto:louise@amicususa.org).

AMICUS will also partner with Ramsey County in a new 2 year grant from the Department of Public Safety to provide female-specific services to girls in the Juvenile Detention Center for 30-45 days. This program will include a girls group (which they will also participate in after they are released from JDC), trauma counseling, restorative justice circles, and closer collaboration with probation officers and family members while the girl is in JDC to help with transition back home. AMICUS continues to provide direct services to state commit girls and girls at Woodland Hills, as well as in the community in Ramsey County.

This issue's highlight is on Girl Violence. The issue also includes information on upcoming conferences and useful resources. If you have a specific topic you are interested in learning more about or have an announcement please email [Jennifer@amicususa.org](mailto:Jennifer@amicususa.org) and we will try and get it in the newsletter. The newsletter is distributed quarterly.

- The AMICUS Staff

## Highlight: Violence in Girls

It has been widely publicized in recent years that the level of violence displayed by girls today is much higher than it has been in the past. This was a topic in a recent presentation by Dr. James Garbarino, author of: ***See Jane Hit : Why Girls Are Growing More Violent and What We Can Do About It (Hardcover)*** at the College of Saint Catherine in Saint Paul, MN. Dr. Garbarino looked at this apparent shift in girls' behavior from an ecological perspective, a perspective he described as a phenomenon that does not have an obvious cause and effect. He had the crowd repeat several times, "It depends" because an event, such as girl violence, occurs within a context that needs to be addressed.

Dr. Garbarino proposes that girls typically learn at a younger age than boys how to find alternative means of asserting themselves and not resorting to the "default option", aggressive behavior. This socializing appears to be on the decline leading to more aggression in girls. Dr. Garbarino is quick to point out that the changes that have occurred since the women's liberation movement and the opportunities that are available to girls today are excellent. He states that we need to look at how our children are getting cognitively structured to thinking that violence is "ok" and done by the "good guys or girls" as seen in recent hero/heroine movies. He suggests that adults need to work with children on cognitive restructuring and behavioral rehearsal (helping them channel the aggression to positive outlets like sports). Another aspect Dr. Garbarino brings up is the shallow materialism of American culture and the spiritual emptiness that a lot of kids feel, they are craving for meaning, a meaning that will give them a sense of limits and help them manage aggressive behavior. He concludes by stating it is adults' responsibility to help teach kids alternatives to aggression, how they can be assertive in today's society without being violent.

### **Other Related Resources:**

#### **Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood**

This web site addresses how marketing and advertisement effects youth from infants to high school age. The "Facts" section is filled with fact sheets about exposure to TV and media ads along with statistical evidence about the effects. One specific fact sheet looks at Marketing of Violence to Children.

<http://www.commercialexploitation.com/>

<http://www.commercialexploitation.com/factsheets/ccfc-facts%20violence.pdf>

#### **Girls and Violence**

(Article by ERIC Development Team)

This article describes the scope of girls and violence, how it is different from boys, causes, and implications for interventions. Cited interventions were: gender-specific approaches, counseling services to address multiple issues including sexual abuse and domestic violence, educational/occupational support, and address needs of girls not able to stay with their families.

[http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2/content\\_storage\\_01/0000000b/80/2a/2d/9a.pdf](http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2/content_storage_01/0000000b/80/2a/2d/9a.pdf)

## Resource Corner

### ***GirlsHealth.gov(Web Site)***

A web site designed for girls includes articles on varying topics. The web site is designed for girls at a middle school level. The articles and resources are easy to read with lots of pictures and interactive features. Some of the topics the website addresses are: fitness/nutrition, future planning, bullying/safety, illness, drugs, and relationships. A highlight of the web site is their free NewMoon articles, which are written by girls for girls. The articles talk about issues girls are facing, and promote being healthy while having fun.

<http://www.4girls.gov>

### ***Center for Gender and Justice (Web Site)***

The Center for Gender and Justice (CGJ) seeks to develop gender-responsive policies and practices for women and girls who are under criminal justice supervision. The web site contains research articles, books and curricula information, trainings and workshops, and speaking schedule for Dr. Stephanie Covington and Dr. Barbara Bloom.

<http://www.centerforgenderandjustice.org>

### ***Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center (Web Site)***

This site provides a list of resources, evaluations, and performance measures for gender-specific programming in juvenile justice.

<http://www.jrsa.org/jjec/programs/gender/index.html>

### **Conference Information**

Upcoming Conference:

16th Annual Minnesota Conference on Adolescent Females:

*Rejuvenating the Optimism, Energy, and Personal Power of Working With Girls*

March 27-28, 2006

Plymouth, MN

The voices of young women are heard through panels, workshops and artistic performances; they share their success, struggles and wisdom, and show conference participants how to better support girls and their aspirations. Keynotes and workshops not only introduce innovative programs and ideas to girl-serving professionals, but also offer ways to celebrate the authenticity of young women today. *A panel of AMICUS participants will share their stories at the conference on Monday.*

<http://www.mngirls.org>

### ***The Voice of Our Girls***

Have You Ever...

By: D.N.

Have you ever lived my life?  
Spent one minute in my shoes?

If you haven't then tell me why  
you judge me as you do

Have you ever woken up in  
the morning wondering if this  
was your last day on Earth?

Have you ever left your house  
unsure if you'd return?

Have you ever seen your  
friend get shot outside his  
favorite store?

Have you ever seen your  
friend die from drugs she never  
used before?

Have you ever seen your mom  
get beat up by your Step-dad  
messed up on booze?

Have you ever had an  
unwanted pregnancy forcing  
you to choose?

Have you ever cried yourself  
to sleep at night?

Have you ever sat beneath  
the stars hoping God would  
hear?

Have you ever wanted to  
protect your friends and  
everyone in sight?

Have you ever covered up  
guilt by doing a good deed?

Have you ever lived my life?  
Spent one minute in my  
shoes?

If you haven't then tell me why  
you judge me as you do.

**Conference Recap:**

11<sup>th</sup> National Workshop on Adult & Juvenile Female Offenders. "*Clearing the Path for Women & Girls: A Call for Action.*"

October 15-19, 2005

A variety of workshops on female offender issues were held. AMICUS staff presented in two workshops. "Herstory: AMICUS Girls' Restorative Justice Programs" described our girl programming and gave the opportunity for three Ramsey County program participants to describe their experiences with AMICUS and the Juvenile Justice System. They were an impressive bunch and provided a lot of valuable feedback to workshop participants.

Katya Goodenough Gordon, AMICUS staff member, also gave her voice to the workshop, "Addressing the Needs of Female Offenders through the Circle Process."

Information presented that specifically relates to girls: A workshop presented by Danielle Hill-Scott, Gender Specific Services Coordinator, identifies various areas in which girls are in need of being served better in the juvenile justice field. A theme in her presentation was the need for girls to share their voice. She asked the girls she has worked with what they need to be successful. The following is a list of the community supports/information girls say they need:

- Medical insurance
- Substance abuse and mental health facilities
- Transportation
- Accessibility and info of existing resources
- Support from family and community
- Alternative for educational dropouts
- Teen parenting programs
- Independent living skills/programs
- Anger management programs in community
- Sex education
- Life, coping, communications, and social skills
- Community outreach
- Educational and career development/placement
- Recreation programs for girls
- Mentoring
- Individual and family therapy
- After school programs
- Effective means of reporting abuse
- Appointment setting skills
- Shelter care for girls

The conference web site provides some useful links to information presented at the conference as well as a summary of all the workshops.

<http://www.doc.state.mn.us/ajfo/>

**Please pass this newsletter along to anyone who may be interested. Requests to subscribe/unsubscribe can be made to: [Jennifer@amicususa.org](mailto:Jennifer@amicususa.org)**

**The viewpoints expressed in various resources are not necessarily the viewpoints held by AMICUS staff.**