



SCAN-IT

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Art and Play Therapy with SCAN staff member Blake Hastings

Staff member Blake Hastings splits her time working with children at the Child Advocacy Center and the Family Support Program. She helps children using art and play therapy.

As a Children's Group Facilitator for two Family Support Program Groups, Blake says she works hard to build positive relationships and rapport with children.

"This connection has been the foundation for all future interactions in the group," she said. "It's important to be reliable, predictable, and to be present when with the children."

Blake applies play and art therapy techniques to her work with children in the program. She joins them in their activities, often mirroring their motions and creating boundaries for safety.

"Letting them be the leader in the play gives them a sense of autonomy and being heard," she said.

Blake works closely with the Parent Group Facilitator to share observations about the children. This ensures that the Parent Group Facilitator has the fullest picture of the family so they can be most effective working with caregivers.

At the Child Advocacy Center, Blake performs intakes with clients and also provides one-on-one therapy to children. The intakes are particularly important, Blake said.

"The intake sets the stage for everything after the forensic interview," she said. "I provide information about what the CAC's services are, listen to their story, and gather information to inform the child/family's future treatment. We want them to feel supported and comfortable."

Blake has offered therapy to children as young as 3 and as old as 18 at the CAC. She has worked with children who have experienced physical abuse, sexual abuse, and those who were siblings of victims of abuse. Blake works mainly with art and play therapy, but also incorporates components of trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy. One client has made a lot of progress toward healing using these integrated techniques.

"The client had her own personal interest in art," Blake said. "She was already using art as a coping strategy but came to utilize it as a tool to calm herself as she worked through her trauma narrative."

Blake has supported the client in creating an inner sense of safety through art and guided imagery/visualization; this form of creative expression allows the client to develop coping skills and to increase her self-awareness.

"The great thing about art is that it's universal," Blake said. "It builds self esteem and is inherently therapeutic. Healing can be a long process, but art can be important and effective in that process."



Giving Through United Way

SCAN is eligible to receive donor designations through the United Way campaigns. Please consider contributing through United Way. Our campaign codes are as follows:

United Way Campaign: #3343 (please also list SCAN)
Combined Federal Campaign (CFC): #82607
Local Government & Schools (LGS): #166
Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC): #3646

Thank you!

Thank you to the **Children's Book Bank** for donating books to the Circle Preschool Program!

Thank you to all of our guests who attended **TASTE of Chinoiserie**. The second annual TASTE event raised more than \$45,000 toward SCAN's services to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect. Please check back to **Facebook** for photos from the event. A special thank you to our sponsors:

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Chris Welles & Willow Oaks Country Club
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Coming Events

Franco's 40th Fashion Event

October 18, 6 to 9 p.m.

*Franco's
5321 Lakeside Avenue
Richmond, VA 23228*

Join us to preview fall fashion at Franco's. The event will feature fine clothing silent auction items, hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine and a men's fashion show. It is free to attend. If you're interested in learning more about the event, please email Megan at msouthall@grscan.com.

SCAN's Annual Board of Directors Breakfast

October 24, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

*Willow Oaks Country Club
6228 Forest Hill Avenue
Richmond, VA 23225*

Join us to learn about the latest research on the impact of child maltreatment on healthy brain development. Representatives from SCAN's innovative Circle Preschool Program will share stories about how our staff members are integrating this information to bring hope and healing into the lives of the children who have been abused, neglected and exposed to domestic violence. **Please RSVP to Megan by October 17, 2012: msouthall@grscan.com or call (804) 257-7226.**

Save the Date

SCAN's Bourbon Street Event

February 9, 2013

Tuckahoe Woman's Club

Race to Protect Children 5k

April 6, 2013

West Broad Village

Windsor Farms Progressive Dinner & Auction

April 20, 2013

Tuckahoe Woman's Club

Board of Directors Member Jen Kostyniuk

Jen Kostyniuk has served as the Marketing Committee Chair for the past two years helping to communicate SCAN's important mission to protect children in the Greater Richmond community.

"SCAN's five programs must exist as we are the only organization devoted solely to the prevention of child abuse and neglect," she said.

This year, she was chair of the TASTE of Chinoiserie Committee, helping to plan and execute a special event to support SCAN's work. The event raised more than \$45,000 to support SCAN's work.

Jen says she stays motivated and interested in supporting SCAN because she knows the abuse and neglect statistics are very real in the Greater Richmond area. Hearing firsthand stories about the children and families that SCAN serves and witnessing the effectiveness of the programs are also great motivators for Jen.

Jen has been involved with SCAN since 1993 as a Tri Sigma at Virginia Commonwealth University. She then served on SCAN's Board of Young Professionals and was chair for one year. She has served on the Board of Directors for Greater Richmond SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) for the past three years.

Jen serves as Dominion's External Affairs Manager for the Middle Peninsula and the Northern Neck in Virginia. Jen has held several positions at Dominion during the past 11 years, all involving employee communications. As a dedicated volunteer, Jen serves on multiple committees, chambers, and boards throughout the state of Virginia. SCAN is fortunate to have Jen as an advocate and supporter.

[Learn more about SCAN's Board of Directors at www.grscan.com.](http://www.grscan.com)



Board Member Jen Kostyniuk, Executive Director Jeanine Harper and Board Member Kari Hyman at the TASTE of Chinoiserie event.

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Empowering Children and Families with Jennifer Gray

Volunteers support SCAN's vital work each and every day. One such volunteer has made a significant impact working with children in the Family Support Program and raising awareness through the Families Are Magic (FAM) Prevention Program.

Jennifer Gray has been volunteering with SCAN for more than a year. Jennifer is Miss Essence Virginia and recently captured the title of Miss Essence 2012.

"I got interested in SCAN because there are so many kids who are abused or their siblings are being hurt," she said. "Any form of violence still affects the children and anytime they can get art and play therapy is beneficial."

Jennifer has co-facilitated SCAN's day-time Children's Groups. She reads to the children, colors with them, and plays games. She is guided by the Facilitator who ensures she is supporting the therapeutic work with children by offering age-appropriate activities and helping children learn how to express themselves and their feelings.

"I'm not a social worker, I'm just a volunteer who enjoys working with the children and organization," Jennifer said. "The staff is so welcoming and talented that I know with their direction I am making a difference."

Jennifer also volunteers her time at public awareness events. She has attended the Vegetarian Festival, Dominion Riverrock and other large community events to share parenting information and lead people to the www.FAMRichmond.org website that SCAN offers, which has many resources for Richmond area families. Jennifer also helps distribute positive parenting tip sheets on talking with children about sexual abuse and on helping children be successful in school.

"SCAN makes a big difference by being proactive at events like this," she said. "People realize there is an organization that is here to help you."

Regularly, you can see Jennifer at the monthly Mommy and Me event at Willow Lawn. Once a month, she represents SCAN and the FAM program at this event. Jennifer talks with parents about FAM's resources and also offers crafts that are designed for parents and children to do together.

"It's natural for me to do crafts and connect with moms and children because I'm used to having to work with my own four-year old," Jennifer said. "I know when we work families them there, we are helping to facilitate what they do at home together."



Thank you Protector's Circle 2011-2012 Members

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