



# Child & Youth Care

A JOURNAL FOR THOSE WHO WORK WITH  
TROUBLED CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK

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**ASSESSMENT CENTRES:  
CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE**

**NOBEL PRIZE POET AND  
THE HENHOUSE BOY**

**FOCUS ON STRENGTHS  
AND NOT PROBLEMS**

**CRY THE BELOVED  
CHILDREN: GROWING  
UP WITH ABUSE**

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## Editorial

# New name, new face

Anyone who has been around in our profession for (gasp!) the past 35 years has had no doubt as to the meaning of the phrase *child care*. But today, everywhere, *child care* has become more associated with day care for preschool children while mothers are at work — and that is *not* the focus of the NACCW or of this journal. During this time we have seen three distinct changes in our work with troubled youngsters: the age group with which we work is far older; the difficulties they face are far more serious; the site of our work includes not only residential places but also families and communities. The new name for this journal, *Child & Youth Care*, reflects those changes and current practice more accurately. More helpfully, the journal becomes a common forum for *all* who work with young people at risk, and accords with the inter-sectoral stance of currently developing state policy which talks about “residential and community care and treatment and youth justice.”

### ... and new content

So it's not just a new name. It's a wider and more inclusive range of content matter — which will ensure that we are all better informed about the whole field of child and youth care, and about each others' roles in this work. The membership of the NACCW has been pointing out for some time



From this month readers of this journal, members of the NACCW — and indeed anyone anywhere in the world — will be able to visit the NACCW on the World Wide Web by directing their web browser at the NACCW's new home page. To

that our focus of interest needs to be widened to include the families and communities *from which* young people are admitted to care and treatment programmes — and *to which* they will probably return.

### Bigger and better

We would like to be able to sustain the slightly increased size of the journal, but this will depend on improving our circulation figures. Readers can help to promote *Child & Youth Care*, and this will ensure that we can continue with a bigger and better journal for everyone. The cherry on the top: we were originally informed that, with a new name, we would have to adopt a new International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), and this would have meant starting again at Volume 1 Number 1. But as it turned out we were allowed to change the title and keep the number, so this year it's *Volume 14* of our long-established journal.

### Paper chase

But what is going to happen to paper publishing in the years ahead? As the computer becomes more universal and the Internet is accessible to more and more people, there is a giant growth in electronic publishing — whereby we read newspapers and journals on our computer screens and not on paper. The argument for electronic publishing is compelling: we can

do this, point your browser to <http://os2.iafrica.com/naccw> and you will have access to a great deal of information about the Association, its activities, training courses, publications and people. In addition there is information about FICE SA and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as a Literature Base and a Directory of child and youth care people. An innovation is a possible Newsgroup for child care workers, and we will bring you more details on this next month. Pay us a visit!

read only the items we want to read, there is no paper to throw away, the material is up to-the-minute, past material is available in archives, we may still choose to read, download or print what is on our screen, we have access to thousands of sources, we can reply to and interact with others ... As a way of exploring this medium, the NACCW has developed its own “web site” on the Internet, and this month it will be accessible to anyone with a web browser at <http://os2.iafrica.com/naccw> where we have a comprehensive group of “pages” visible from anywhere in the world. Check it out, and we will give more details in next month's issue.

### New people

At this time of the year we have the opportunity of welcoming many new people to the world of child and youth care work. There are many newly-appointed staff members starting the new year in children's homes, youth programmes, shelters, places of safety, residential schools, etc. There are also many hundreds of new students starting their training at UNISA, technikons and other training centres. To all newcomers, welcome to the field and, also, welcome to the pages of this journal — the best place for you to meet hundreds of your colleagues, both new and old, month by month. ■

By Charles M Schultz

### Peanuts



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MARK TOMLINSON: CRY THE BELOVED CHILDREN	4
BOOK AND FILM REVIEWS: STARTING OUT	6
FOR ADMINISTRATORS: A MODEL FOR SETTING OBJECTIVES	7
JUVENILE JUSTICE: KAREN MEYER ON ASSESSMENT CENTRES	8
LETTERS: AIDS, AND PLANNING FOR ORPHANS	10
QUESTIONS: TIME OUT	10
DEBATE: CONFIDENTIALITY AT ALL COSTS?	11
NOBEL POET SEAMUS HEANEY AND THE HENHOUSE BOY	12
PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE	13
CHILD CARE WORKER'S TOOLBOX: MODELLING	14
ONE AT A TIME	15
FOCUSSING ON WHAT'S RIGHT: STRENGTH-BASED SOLUTIONS	16
CHILD CARE NEWS — LOCAL AND ABROAD	19
OLD CHILD CARE WORKERS NEVER DIE ...	20



Federation Internationale des Communautés Educatives  
International Federation of Educative Communities (UNESCO)



Association Internationale des Educateurs de Jeunes Inadaptés  
International Association of Workers with Troubled Children

Cover Picture: Domingo Batista



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## People



### Jeannie Karth

Jeannie is presently working under contract for the NACCW, training in state institutions.

Mother of two grown-up children, she was a child care worker at St Michael's Home in Cape Town for 7 years, doing on-line child care work, running the school leavers' unit and the halfway house. She was life skills teacher and recreational/educational co-ordinator.

Her own training included her BA and post-graduate teaching diploma, and then the National Higher Certificate in Residential Child Care at the Cape Technikon in the early 1980s.

In 1988 Jeannie was one of two South Africans selected for a one-year exchange in the USA with the International Learning Exchange in Professional Youthwork (ILEX).

During this time she worked in a large institution for 390 boys at Dobbs Ferry, New York, with youngsters from the housing projects of Haarlem and Brooklyn. She saw the destructive effects of drugs on family life, and the impact of violence and weapons.

For two-and-a-half years Jeannie Karth has also worked as a professional child care worker with troubled families in the community. Here she learned that poverty is not a primary factor for children in difficulties; material goods do not

meet emotional needs, and both rich and poor kids need to be loved. In the past few months Jeannie has trained widely in South Africa. So far she has worked with Siyakhatala Place of Safety, the Khuthele School in Simondium, the Val de Charron School of Industries in Paarl, the Reformatory for Girls and the Le Fleur School of Industries in Faure, the Ottery School of Industries, Galashewe Place of Detention in Kimberley, the Vikelwe School of Industries and the Ethokomala Reformatory in Ogies. She has taught two of the new courses being developed: *Core Concepts in Child and Youth Care*, and *Principles of Behaviour Management*.

She has been impressed by the eagerness of all staff to attend these courses, even when just coming off duty or about to start a shift.

"People, most of whom have not had the opportunity to train before, have been so keen to learn. I did meet several people who knew the NACCW and who had actually completed some NACCW courses; and then I met many more people who did not know of the existence of these resources for child care workers." Jeannie found that staff in these institutions felt relieved that the difficulties of their work had been recognised — the low status of the work in relation to the other professions, the poor salaries, impossible staff ratios, and the often very difficult young people they work with. Jeannie is optimistic about the field in South Africa. There are great opportunities and new roles for child care workers, specially in the community, where so much can be done for children and young people whose families are no longer able to meet their needs. ■