

ST. ANN'S HOME & SCHOOL

SPRING 2007

Celebrating 80 years of helping children and families.

What is Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD)?

by David D. Kaminister, M.D.

ON NOVEMBER 10TH, 2006 over 100 staff from St. Ann's Home and outside agencies attended a workshop sponsored by St. Ann's on RAD. The workshop was presented by Rhonda Lettington, MS, LMHC, a nationally known expert on RAD. In addition to her professional training, Ms. Lettington and her husband have been the foster and adoptive parents of several children with RAD.

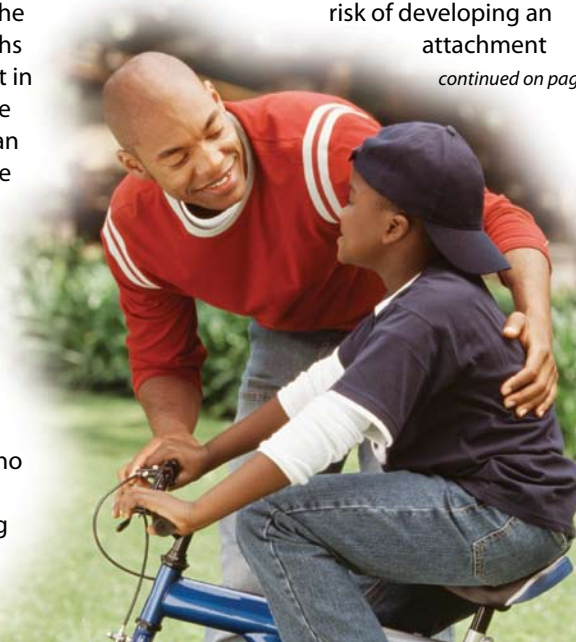
A Reactive Attachment Disorder can result when a child fails to form a normal child-parent attachment in the early months and years of his/her life. It has long been recognized that an attachment disorder can result from abuse and neglect.

During this workshop, Ms. Lettington reviewed the range of circumstances that may cause an attachment disorder. She pointed out research (Verney and Kelly, 1981) that suggests that attachment begins in utero, affected by neurochemicals and hormones, along with the mother's attitude about pregnancy and whether she used substances. This fact may explain why some parents who adopt an infant just after birth may find themselves with a child with an attachment disorder despite the fact that they have provided a nurturing home environment. Another factor contributing to the prevalence of this condition is the great success in neonatology, where

advances in health care have enabled many premature infants to be saved. While this is a wonderful outcome, the early months of life spent in an intensive care unit can increase the risk of developing an attachment disorder. Interestingly, children who are subject to receiving painful medical

treatment from their parents during their infancy (such as a child with juvenile diabetes) are also at some risk of developing an attachment

continued on page 3



New Adolescent Center Benefits from Community Support

Local Individuals, Businesses, Employees, and Foundations Rally in Support

MORE THAN 400 individuals, businesses, foundations, and St. Ann's employees have come together in the first-ever Capital Drive in the history of the 82 year old organization and have collectively contributed over \$2 million dollars toward the construction of

a new Adolescent Center. Chief among the donors is the Lynch Foundation, which provided \$350,000, in the form of a Challenge Grant. New gifts of \$10,000 and greater were matched according a dollar formula of either 1:1 or 1:1.5. The Challenge Grant enabled St.

Ann's to acquire new gifts totaling \$277,000, which, together with the Lynch match, brought to a total of \$627,000 toward the project. Local and statewide groups have generously supported the project with outright gifts. Additionally, the Board of Trustees and

the employees of St. Ann's have contributed nearly \$450,000 to the project.

Slated to open in spring 2008, the new facility is designed and engineered around the unique needs of the adolescent population. Comprised of over 28,000 square feet of space, the new facility adds adolescent classrooms, a full-size gymnasium, specialized counseling and staff rooms, adolescent dining and living

continued on page 2

A Long History of Community Support

One of the wonderful things about working on behalf of an organization with a long and rich history such as St. Ann's Home is knowing that our work will become part of that history. When I think back about how this working class community banded together to build St. Ann's because of their concern about the child welfare needs of that time, I am truly amazed. St. Ann's Home was not founded by a wealthy benefactor or government, foundation or corporate grants, but by ordinary working people who donated time, labor and a few bricks. I'm sure they never could have imagined that the fruits of their labor would be still growing 82 years later.

As you peruse this

newsletter, you will see how the community is, once again, banding together to assure that St. Ann's will continue its mission for another 80 years. The construction of our Adolescent Center this spring is the first such building project since our current buildings opened on Christmas Eve, 1925.

Such endeavors are never easy, and I am thankful for the support of the many constituents who are helping us make this a reality. Specifically, I extend my thanks to our Board of Trustees for their on-going moral and financial support. Their patience has helped us persevere through the many challenges of this project. There are also numerous

foundations, corporations, and individuals who have supported this project, and I look forward to the opportunity to honor each one in a special way as the project proceeds.

One of the things I am especially proud of is the support from our own employees. Our employees have contributed over \$200,000 to this project. This says a lot about our employees and their commitment to the children and families we serve. It's not easy work, but each one of them is making their mark on our history and the lives of the children they help.

The form and function of our mission is always evolving. While St. Ann's mission in 1925 was as an orphanage,



Denis Grandbois, President/CEO

today we provide a broad array of services, all focused on supporting children in a home environment or providing the intensive level of care needed to return children to a home and public school environment as soon as they are ready.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you would like more information about St. Ann's Home.

Board of Trustees

Mr. Steve Rosenberg,
Chairman of the Board

Mr. Denis P. Grandbois,
President/CEO

Rev. Phillip B. Earley,
Secretary/Clerk

Rev. Bryan Hehir,
Treasurer

Mr. Thomas M. McNamara

Rev. William Waters, OSA

Ms. Stephanie Aznoian

Mr. James Santangelo

Mr. Andrew Hart, Jr.

Mr. Christopher Poor

Mr. Ronald Pollina

Mr. Peter Quinlan

Ms. Julie Daniels

Mr. Jack Wilson

Ms. Gayle Fili

Ms. JoAnne Grella

Mr. Richard Deyermond

New Adolescent Center

continued from page 1

space. When the new facility is up-and-running at capacity, we will be able to provide a middle school-like environment for the adolescent boys and girls who come to us. According to St. Ann's President and CEO, Denis Grandbois, the new facility "will help allow us dedicated space to meet the growing demand for adolescent placements requiring intensive services, while addressing the unique developmental needs of adolescents, such as privacy, forming appropriate peer relationships, and learning skills needed for daily living such as cooking, shopping, and the like." The goal, according to Mr. Grandbois, is "to prepare the adolescent to return to his or her own

community school and home environment as soon as they are able and ready to do so. Reintegrating into their own community is essential to helping them

continued contributions and financial support from the community, we will be able to help many more children and families in need of the special care

Complementing our intensive inpatient services, a key component in returning children to their home and school environment is Outpatient Services which will be housed in the new facility.

on their way to becoming healthy, functioning adults."

Since opening on Christmas Eve in 1925, helping children and families has always been the mission of St. Ann's Home and School. With the

and services available at St. Ann's Home and School. To learn more about how you can become involved in helping children and families, contact John J. Rice, Director of Development, at 978-682-5276, ext. 205.



NEW ADOLESCENT CENTER

The Gift with a Legacy
Naming and Recognition Opportunities



ST. ANN'S HOME & SCHOOL

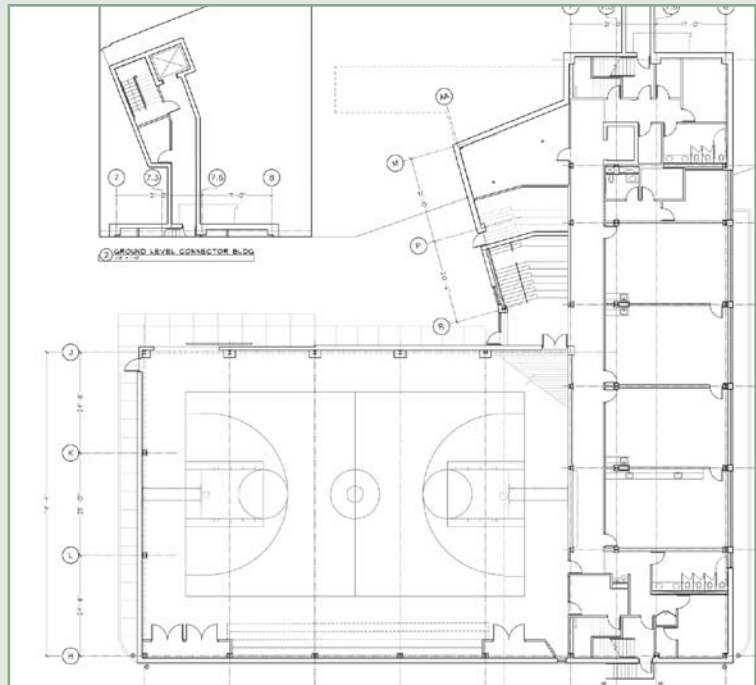
The Gift with a Legacy

Whether it is making a gift in honor or in memory of a special person, or establishing a legacy in the form of a named gift, the new Adolescent Center at St. Ann's Home and School has just the right opportunity to fit your desires.

Specific Naming Opportunities exist within the new three-floor structure, and gifts will be recognized with special signage/plaques within each space. We also welcome gifts in memory and honor of family members, friends, and others. **Contact the Development Office at 978-682-5276, ext 205 for more information or to check the availability of a specific area.**

GROUND FLOOR

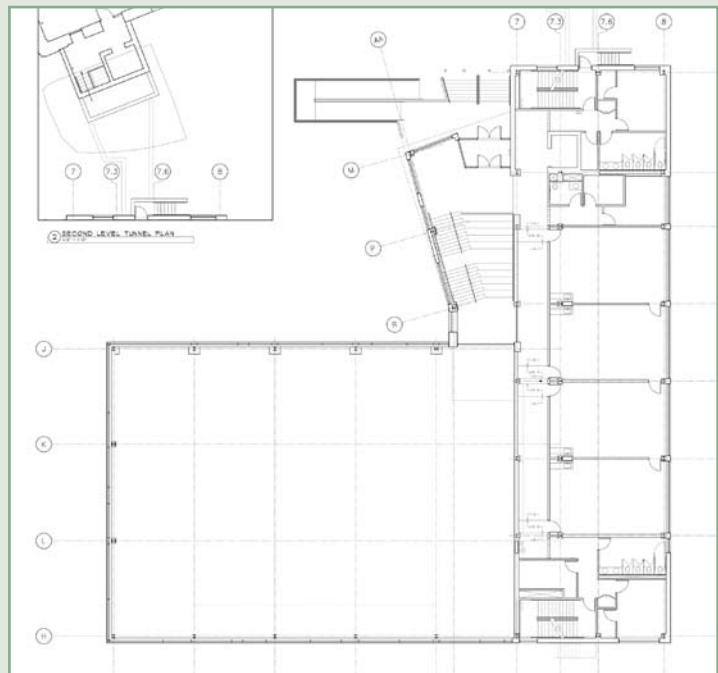
| SPACE | NAMING LEVEL |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Classroom 1 | \$25,000 |
| Classroom 2 | \$25,000 |
| Classroom 3 | \$25,000 |
| Classroom 4 | \$25,000 |
| Office | \$5,000 |
| Counseling Room | \$5,000 |
| Quiet Room | \$5,000 |



Major gift opportunities exist for naming the Adolescent Center building, gymnasium and outdoor amphitheater. Please contact the Development office regarding these naming opportunities.

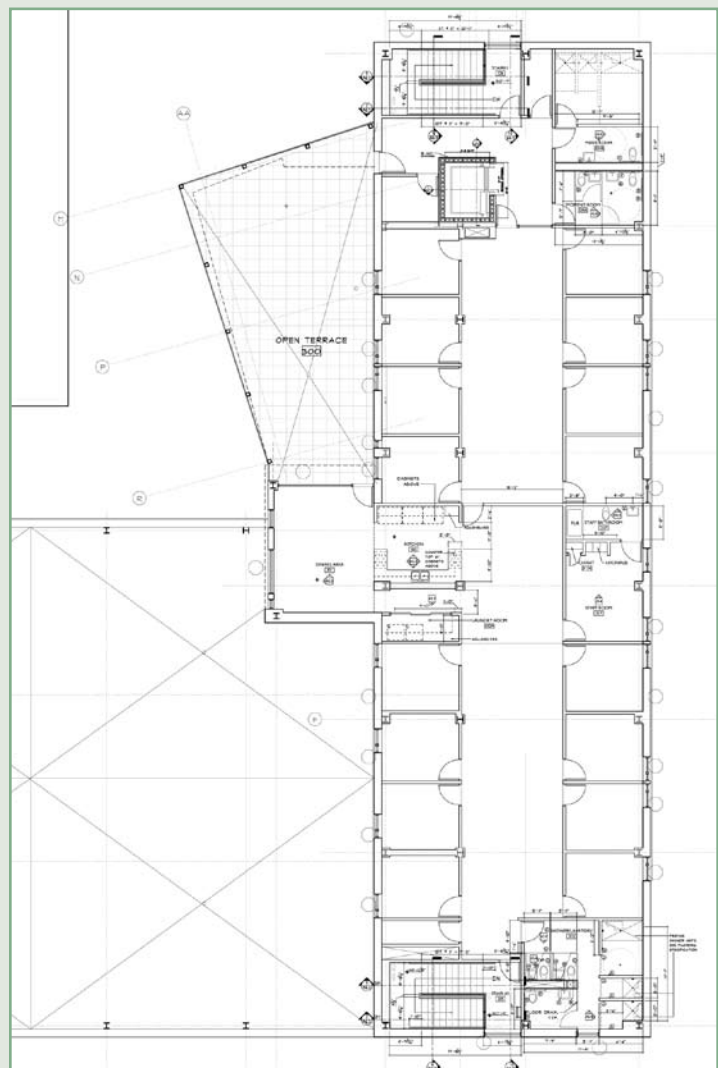
SECOND FLOOR

| SPACE | NAMING LEVEL |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Quiet Room | \$5,000 |
| Classroom 1 | \$25,000 |
| Classroom 2 | \$25,000 |
| Classroom 3 | \$25,000 |
| Classroom 4 | \$25,000 |
| Office | \$5,000 |
| Counseling Room | \$5,000 |



THIRD FLOOR

| SPACE | NAMING LEVEL |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Dining Area | \$25,000 |
| Kitchen | \$25,000 |
| Lounge | \$10,000 |
| Bedroom 1 | \$10,000 |
| Bedroom 2 | \$10,000 |
| Bedroom 3 | \$10,000 |
| Bedroom 4 | \$10,000 |
| Bedroom 5 | \$10,000 |
| Bedroom 6 | \$10,000 |
| Bedroom 7 | \$10,000 |
| Bedroom 8 | \$10,000 |
| Open Area | \$10,000 |
| Staff Room | \$10,000 |
| Counseling Room 1 | \$5,000 |
| Counseling Room 2 | \$5,000 |
| Counseling Room 3 | \$5,000 |
| Counseling Room 4 | \$5,000 |
| Counseling Room 5 | \$5,000 |
| Counseling Room 6 | \$5,000 |
| Counseling Room 7 | \$5,000 |
| Counseling Room 8 | \$5,000 |



Your Donation Can Change a Life

Become a part of the new Adolescent Center at St. Ann's Home & School

Since opening on Christmas Eve in 1925, the children and adolescents living and learning at St. Ann's Home & School, together with their families, have enjoyed warm support from the community. For this, we are forever grateful. Today, life is far more complex for the adolescents, and the numbers of adolescent boys and girls in need of services are rapidly growing. That's why your support of the new Adolescent Center being built on campus is so critical.

There are several ways to give, including

making a pledge to be fulfilled over a two or three year period; gifts of stock and/or real property; and outright gifts of cash. Won't you take a few minutes to consider your gift and help the growing number of adolescents who need intensive care and services? Recognition and Naming Opportunities are also available to donors. Please contact John J. Rice, Director of Development, at 978-682-5276 should you desire any additional information.

Thank you for your thoughtful support!

PLEDGE / GIFT CARD

NAME _____

COMPANY _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

To assist the children and adolescents of St. Ann's Home & School to build a new Adolescent Center, I/we subscribe and agree to pay the sum of \$ _____

TO BE PAID AS FOLLOWS

- Annually Semi-Annually Quarterly Monthly
 Or as follows: _____

DONOR'S SIGNATURE REQUIRED _____

Pledges payable over 36 months. Please make checks payable to St. Ann's Home.



ST. ANN'S HOME & SCHOOL

100A HAVERHILL STREET | METHUEN, MA 01844 | PHONE: 978 682-5276 | FAX: 978 688-4932 | WWW.STANNSHOME.ORG

Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD)

continued from page 1

disorder, as the infant may associate the pain of treatment with the caregiver. There are also certain psychiatric diagnoses in children, such as Pervasive Developmental Disorders, which can increase a child's risk for developing RAD.

According to Ms. Lettington, the attachment relationship between parent and baby is the prototype for all future relationships and is the template for how we relate to peers, our spouse, our children, authority figures, and teachers. With normal attachment, child behaviors such as crying, smiling, clinging, and vocalizations elicit a nurturing response from caregivers. This response begins to develop the "trust cycle" which serves as a foundation for the child's relationship to others throughout his/her life.

A child with a Reactive Attachment Disorder has difficulty forming intimate relationships. Often, these are children who have multiple failed foster care placements, as these children are prone to impulsive, disruptive, and violent behaviors. Their interaction style tends to fall into two large categories: they can be very flat, distant, and unaffectionate towards adults, or conversely, they can be highly nondiscriminatory and "promiscuous" in their attention and affection-seeking, forming a multitude of highly anxious and ambivalent "pseudo-attachments" with adults. These children come to look at relationships, particularly those with adults, as threatening and dangerous, and they look upon adults not as nurturing caregivers but as people who need to be controlled and manipulated. Many of their actions take on the quality of a child struggling for emotional and physical survival, which to them is dependent on not allowing themselves to form attached relationships in which they may be left vulnerable. As a result, many kids with RAD tend to use behaviors such as lying, hoarding, and stealing, and they often may be quite provocative in their interactions, even to the point of making false accusations of abuse or wrongdoing against caretakers. Other behaviors commonly associated with kids with RAD include animal cruelty, firesetting, and issues with eating and elimination (e.g., inappropriate wetting and/or defecation).

Children with RAD tend to be experts in the tactic of

"divide and conquer"—that is, they can present with markedly different behaviors dependent on the setting, which often leads to great



David D. Kaminester, M.D.

Reactive Attachment Disorder can be successfully managed with the right treatment and living situation.

disagreement among the adults in their life (i.e., parents, teachers, treaters) about what is best for them, which strengthens their goal of decreasing the chance of being forced to relate intimately with adults.

While there is no cure, per se, for Reactive Attachment Disorder, it can be successfully managed with the right treatment and living situation for the child. There is no psychotropic medication that is specifically prescribed for RAD, but it

often coexists with other conditions such as PTSD or Bipolar Disorder which can benefit from medication.

An important component of the treatment plan is the support of a family who is knowledgeable about this condition and its manifestations, and is willing and able to provide the firm limits, boundaries, and structure necessary to contain the tremendous agitation and behavioral problems which kids with RAD may demonstrate. Such a family will likely need the support of a knowledgeable therapist and child/adolescent psychiatrist and access to respite care or psychiatric placement periodically.

Even one caring adult can help make a typical child more capable of handling later stressors. Ms. Lettington points out that the brain is very resilient and tends to maintain a steady course even in the face of the most outrageous experiences. That is why most children born into environments of abuse, neglect, or poverty still develop normally. Scientists suspect, however, that some children are more genetically vulnerable to stress, and this, combined with bad experiences, may result in an attachment disorder not easily neutralized by a caring adult. Attachment is not an "all or nothing" developmental concept, and the manifestations of this disorder do fall within a spectrum. The most seriously traumatized RAD children will require intensive support for a long period of time as they seek to establish healthy, life-long connections at whatever level is possible for them.

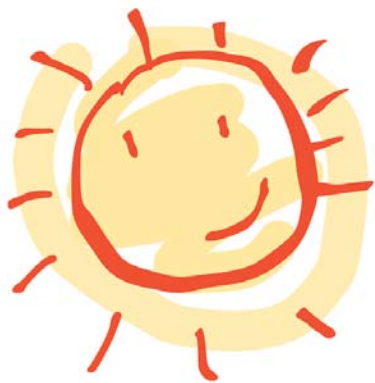
We invite you to get involved

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

is crucial to what we do at St. Ann's Home & School. Our Campaign is underway, and this effort will require a large number of volunteers. If you have a desire to help St. Ann's Home reach its goal, we would be delighted to meet with you and to determine your level of personal involvement.

For further details, contact John Rice
Director of Development
at 978-682-5276, or
jrice@st.annshome.org.

Thank you!



ST. ANN'S HOME & SCHOOL

SPRING 2007

Celebrating 80 years of helping children and families.

Did you know that...

- St. Ann's first opened its doors to children on Christmas Eve, 1925 when it was founded by Rev. Emile Bertrand, S.M., a Marist Priest who was once himself an orphan.
- Between 1935 and 1965, St. Ann's also included a rest home for elderly women.
- During WWII when fathers were away fighting, mothers often brought their children to St. Ann's on Sunday nights and picked them up Friday nights so as to allow the mothers to work in the mills.

- In 1961, unable to afford a bicycle at the Police Auction, the needs of St. Ann's children were picked up by the local newspaper and then the Associated Press. It went worldwide, even into "Stars and Stripes," resulting in letters and checks and bicycles being sent from all over the world.

Did you know the new Adolescent Center...

- Is being built adjacent to the current school and residence.

- Adds additional adolescent dorm space.
- Includes eight new state-of-the-art classrooms, which will allow us to provide our adolescents with a middle school-like setting.
- Includes a full size gymnasium.
- Encompasses 28,773 square feet.
- Includes space for our expanding Community Outreach programs.
- Will have a built-in outdoor amphitheater for assemblies and entertainment.

How to contact us

Denis Grandbois
CEO/President
dgrandbois@st.annshome.org

John Rice
Director of Development
jrice@st.annshome.org

100A Haverhill Street
Methuen, MA 01844
Phone: 978-682-5276
www.st.annshome.org

Printing donated by Flagship Press in North Andover, MA.

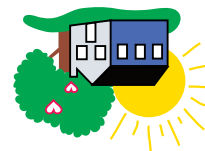


Return Service Requested

www.st.annshome.org
fax: 978 688-4932
phone: 978 682-5276
Methuen, MA 01844
100A Haverhill Street

An affiliate of Catholic Social Services, Inc.

ST. ANN'S HOME & SCHOOL



NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
LAWRENCE, MA 01842
PERMIT NO 97