



JPA

Juvenile Protective Association



March 2017

During International Women's Month, we're excited to introduce **Ask Jane**, a new feature named after our founder, Jane Addams. **Ask Jane** is your opportunity to ask questions of our clinical and social work teams — questions that keep you awake at night or greet you when you rise in the morning. Yes, the tough ones.

Here's a sample of questions we've been asked recently:

"What do I say to my student who just confided in me that he's being recruited by a gang?"

"This kid in my class just isn't doing his part. I have to interrupt lessons to deal with him. What can I do?"

"My teachers have compassion fatigue. How do I support them when we can barely keep up with the basics?"

"Is it true that boys don't have a language for discussing their feelings?"

"We just learned that several 7th grade girls are self-harming. We're not their parents. What should we do?"

"Should I keep my son back a year in Kindergarten?"

"How do I help my daughter, who is being bullied in class?"

Over the last year, it's been interesting to note that more of our time is being spent interacting with adults. It seems to us that they have burning questions and few opportunities to ask them. We know that frank questions may be seen as judgmental, critical or even uncaring. But the problems in our schools and our city are becoming even more challenging. Now is the time to ask tough questions. Our founder did and she helped change the world for the better.

Jane wrote "Social advance depends as much upon the process through which it is secured as upon the result itself." Means and ends are both important. With **Ask Jane** we honor the fearlessness of our founder by opening up the process to questions that must be addressed if we are to help kids improve their social and emotional well-being and functioning.

We welcome questions from principals, teachers, community and social workers, concerned citizens and especially parents. Your questions might be about kids in your school or community center to kids in your own home. Let's ask so we can advance the social good of our community together.

To submit your question to **Ask Jane**, click [HERE](#).

Karen G. Foley
Presidents & CEO



Celebrating International Women’s History Month with Our Founder, Jane Addams

March 8 was first celebrated as International Women’s Day in Europe in 1911. In many European nations, as well as in the United States, women’s rights was a political hot topic. [Woman suffrage — winning the vote](#) — was a priority of many women’s organizations. Jane Addams was at the forefront of this movement to involve women in the major issues of the day, demonstrating that they had power and influence well beyond the traditional areas of home and hearth.

An Illinois native and the 8th of nine children in a privileged household (her father was a friend of Abraham Lincoln), Addams co-founded Hull House in 1889 with her friend Ellen Gates Starr. It was one of the first settlement houses in the United States, serving recent immigrants, children, and families by helping them adjust to life in America and learn skills that would enable them to function well in society. She outlined their mission as follows: “...to provide a center for a higher civic and social life; to institute and maintain educational and philanthropic enterprises and to investigate and improve the conditions in the industrial districts of Chicago.”

Over the years, the organization grew to include more than ten buildings, extending its services to include child care, educational courses, an arts program, a public kitchen and many other social programs.

For these efforts and much more, Addams is regarded as the founder of the social work profession. She established the Juvenile Protective Association in 1901 with the object of providing “the first probation officers for the first Juvenile Court in the United States until this became a government function. From 1907 until the 1940s, JPA engaged in many studies examining such subjects as racism, child labor and exploitation, drug abuse and prostitution in Chicago and their effects on child development.” JPA is proud to carry on her work with children and families in need.

Aside from her commitment to the welfare of those in need, Addams was also a prominent peace activist, becoming chair of the Women’s Peace Party at the outbreak of World War I. She served as president of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom from 1919 to 1929. For her efforts, she shared the 1931 Nobel Peace Prize with Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University and presidential advisor. She was also one of the founders of the ACLU.

Jane Addams died on May 21, 1935, aged 74, but her work and inspiration have lived on, not only at JPA but in social service organizations all over the U.S. and the world. We at JPA are proud to carry on her commitment to children and families in need and are equally proud to celebrate her during Women’s History Month.

(Text Sources: [Biography.com](#), [Thoughtco.com](#), [Wikipedia](#))



Bill Addressing Childhood Trauma Introduced in Congress

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Rep. Danny Davis (D-Chicago) have introduced a bill in Congress to help “identify and aid children who have experienced violence-induced trauma.” According to the Chicago Tribune, “The Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act” would create a federal task force and expand Medicaid coverage for child trauma services, while increasing mental health care in schools, among other steps.”

According to the [National Council for Behavioral Health](#), the bill is “a potential vehicle for incorporating the science of adverse childhood experiences and trauma into federal policymaking.” It writes that “The legislation was intended to help individuals who have experienced trauma be identified and supported with the appropriate care. According to the National Survey of Children’s Health, nearly 35 million children in the United States have had at least one serious traumatic experience. These experiences dramatically impact a child’s neurological and behavioral development, long-term health, and societal outcomes.”

JPA’s therapeutic methods are based on exactly this outlook, and we are excited to see that it is receiving national attention. We know that traumatic events can have direct physiological as well as emotional and behavioral effects on children and are pleased that Sen. Durbin and Rep. Davis recognize this as well.

The bill was announced at a news conference at the University of Chicago’s School of Social Service Administration (SSA). Derrick Buckingham, JPA’s Chief Development Officer, attended the event.

“Today, there is no doubt that trauma brought on by neglect, separation, homelessness, gang or gun violence has a devastating effect on a child’s ability to learn or function,” he says. “Needless to say, this has lifelong implications. We at JPA are encouraged by the heightened attention this issue is receiving and will continue to do all we can to work in behalf of our most vulnerable citizens, our kids.”



Help Protect Kids — 9th Gear Program Looking for Mentors

Sitting inside every community in Chicago are great kids. We often hear people ask what they can do to help those who live in communities struggling with violence and trauma. One practical way is to mentor. If you've ever thought of being a mentor to promising young men and women, 9th Gear may be the program for you. We are looking for 30 adults to help students get ready for high school over the summer. Through activities, games, trips, and personal interaction, 9th Gear mentors and JPA therapists provide a strong foundation for students facing the challenges of new schools, new friends, and new neighborhoods.

Our first summer last year was a great success, with students and parents praising mentors' dedication and students glad to have had the support of caring adults. Through their interactions, students learn how to approach new situations and people, make friends, and be organized and ready for the new demands of high school. We meet primarily in North Lawndale and the program is free for participants.

Mentors receive training from JPA's licensed social workers, working in teams with small groups of students. The program lasts for eight weeks in the summer, with meetings on weekends and some evenings. We encourage mentors to join with friends; we guarantee you'll meet an amazing group of students and families. In the process, you'll help ensure that vulnerable students have the tools to succeed in high school and beyond.

You should have a college degree, be at least 21 years old and pass a background check. If you're interested in submitting a mentor application, please contact [Erin Vanden Brook](#).



ASK Jane

Ask Jane

Each Newsletter we'll feature questions from readers about issues affecting children and families affected by trauma. Have a question? Submit it [HERE](#).

Q. "Should I keep my son back a year in Kindergarten?"

A. There's no simple answer. In theory Kindergarten should be ready for the variety of five-year olds who come to them — not so much the reverse. It's hard to predict in March where he'll be socially and emotionally by August. He may make big gains in his development, especially with scaffolding by his parents and teachers that allows him to do more for himself.

That being said, it can be challenging to be the youngest one, chronologically or developmentally or both. But there will always be a least a year spread in the ages in any grade level. If he is really immature, he might benefit by taking another year to mature before entering kindergarten. However, if you wait a year, what will you be doing to challenge him and help him grow?

At JPA, we know how social/emotional skills help prepare children to be successful in Kindergarten. We even have a program called C2K that addresses some of the issues contained in this question. We'd be happy to provide information to help you decide what to do. Feel free to contact us.

Q: Why are women so prominent in health and childcare fields? Why aren't there more men?

A: Traditionally, women have gravitated toward (or been steered toward) caretaking, which was seen as an outgrowth of childrearing. For much of our social history, women have had very limited options outside of family- and child-oriented careers. Advances have enabled women to enter more male-dominated spheres, but they are still often slotted into areas like child care, teaching, and nursing.

Despite the critical importance of these fields, they have been considered low-status and therefore low-paid, yet most available to women. Stereotypically, men seek out higher status and higher paying jobs. Men who go into health care or teaching tend to be doctors, not nurses, and professors, not grade school teachers. Although this situation has changed in the last 30-40 years, issues such as pay and status disparities still reflect the need for more equitable treatment.

Successful women in these fields like Maria Montessori, Anna Freud, Melanie Klein, Karen Horney have played major roles in our understanding of child psychology, parent-child relationships, teaching methodologies, and many other aspects of "female-oriented" occupations.

We still have a long way to go to break through these traditional societal and cultural stereotypes. However, men can be as caring and nurturing as women, and women can be as driven by success and financial gain as men. But one key to eliminating the gender disparity is to give fields like social work, teaching, and child care the status and attention they deserve, recognizing the vast and far-reaching social contributions they are continuing to make.



NOTES and NEWS

March 2017



- **Denim Days to Denim Nights!** JPA's Auxiliary Board hosted a highly successful "**Fashion for a Cause**" event at Bloomingdale's in Old Orchard. Attended by nearly 100 JPA supporters, guests were able to shop with a purpose as Bloomingdale's donated 10% of all sales to benefit JPA's crucial programs for children and families who have experienced trauma and violence in their lives.

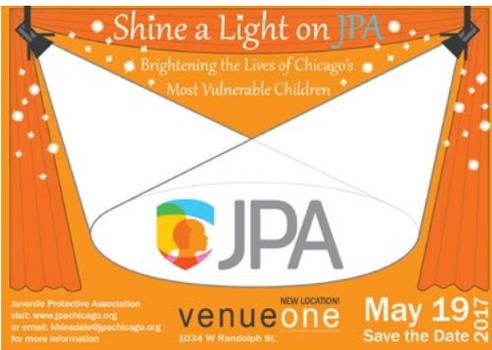
We are thankful for the generous support we received from our community of JPA friends. Special thanks to [Backpack Wine Co.](#) for providing the cocktails, [John Ballarini Photography](#) for

capturing the night's festivities, and to our raffle prize sponsors: [Trio Med Spa](#), JPA's Auxiliary Board, and [Bloomingdale's Old Orchard](#) not only for donating to the raffle, but also for hosting our event, providing hors d'oeuvres, an amazing staff and a dynamic atmosphere. We'd also like to acknowledge our stylist for the night, [Vince Theodore](#), and the lovely models who lit up the runway.

With such support from our community, donors, and local businesses, JPA's special event fundraisers continue to create awareness of JPA's important work and further our mission.



JPA's Auxiliary Board (l to r): Debbie Lamm, Mary Gibson, Dana Schwarz, Lorna Widdes, Nancy Speers, Tammy Lundal, Taylor Lindstrom, Liz Johnson, Linda Neely and Sharon Marlin (not pictured: Mary Anne Bobrinskoy, Ann Cohn, Mary Ellison and Margaret Flanagan)



• **Mark your calendars... May 19, 2017 – Spring Benefit: “Shine a Light on JPA”** There’s still time to join our Board of Directors to celebrate our 116th year of service to vulnerable children and families. This year’s event will have a fresh new look at Venue One. Our Committee has fashioned a fun, fast-paced event promoting community, music, and friendship while raising money to provide vital mental health opportunities to young children.

Through the generous support of JPA’s friends and local/national businesses, our premier live and silent auction will offer one-of-a-kind sports items, fabulous excursions, and an array of exclusive products and services. New this year are our exciting Platinum & Golden raffles, featuring a \$5,000 shopping spree at Saks Fifth Avenue Chicago and a VIP dinner for ten people at RPM Steak. **Only 100 tickets for each raffle will be sold...so the odds are definitely in your favor.**

Join us for our largest fundraiser of the year and support all the children and families who rely on JPA for therapeutic services in over 20 Chicagoland schools.