



# JPA

Juvenile Protective Association



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## Bearing Witness

When I first arrived at JPA in 2015, I found a two-volume set of books, richly clad in leather, sitting on a bookshelf in my new office. Curious to see what was inside, I opened the first volume to find page after page of searing images of child abuse. As I learned, the set was created as a comprehensive photographic reference designed to help physicians and frontline professionals identify potential cases of child maltreatment. I've always loved books but not that time. The images were unbearable. I'm sure you would feel the same.

Yet, we can't — and we shouldn't — look away. According to statistics released by the state of Illinois as of February 2017, there were over 16,000 indicated reports of child abuse in Illinois. With statistics like that, it's incumbent on all of us to ask what we can do to help. It turns out that many ways are available. You'll read about some of them in this month's issue. You'll also get acquainted with organizations stepping up to lead the fight against child abuse. You can also [click here](#) to read a report issued by the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center and co-authored by JPA's executive vice president, Dr. Stephen Budde, that offers important suggestions for improving the access and quality of mental health services to sexually abused children in Chicago.

So, please, don't look away. We have to be brave for the sake of the kids.

Karen G. Foley  
Presidents & CEO