

## INTRODUCTION: A New Editor and Edition

When I volunteered to be the initial editor of *Child and Youth Care Work* in 1982, people said it would be a challenge. Ten years later, it can only be called a challenge well worth undertaking. Not only have I been able to read dozens of rich and moving accounts of our work (all with that unique child and youth care way of seeing things), I have also been able to share in the excitement of many first publications.

If there is a single contribution of which I am most proud, it is that we—along with the *Journal of Child Care* and the *Child and Youth Care Forum*—have helped open the door for creative writing. Now, in addition to providing valuable research and practice tips, child and youth care journals also give readers a feel for what it is really like.

No one is better suited to be the next editor than Karen VanderVen, Professor, University of Pittsburgh. She has been both on the line, and in the forefront, leading the way. Recently, in the 1990 issue of this *Journal*, she wrote, "...I believe that 'if we play our cards right in caregiving work' the future is ours. The opportunity for advancing this exciting and fundamental field in the future is greater than ever, and I am looking forward to being a part of it!" Knowing her as a friend, mentor, and colleague, I am sure she will help take us there with creativity, care, and her own unique way of seeing. It is with pleasure and excitement, therefore, that I hand the pen to her.

In making the transition we worked together on this edition, which includes thought-provoking ideas, moving accounts of practice, and a report from a major meeting. We begin with Henry Maier, who, as always, provides further insight about developmental care. This time—in an article that will delight anyone who has thought of child and youth care as a dance—he writes about the role of rhythmicity in relationships. Then Scott Finnell shares an account of his agency's attempt to reduce turnover, which raises questions and offers new insight about training, age, and working couples.

Indicative perhaps of the times, we received a number of submissions last year expressing thoughts and strong opinions about the status of children and child and youth care workers. Three were chosen. First, Thom Garfat shares his moving thoughts about child and youth care workers as catalysts for the future. Then David Burgess expresses his controversial feelings about who should be admitted to college programs and Al Mayotte responds. They are followed by Brunhild Seeger di Novi's disturbing account of the influence of a presidential campaign message on a troubled child, Blaise. If any of these articles evoke strong feelings or thoughts, please write a response.

Once again, we also have essays, stories, and poems about children. "Tasha" and "Michael" are two children who had a profound effect on

Heather Taussig and Randy Cima, respectively. The Little One is Cynthia Rubenstein's way of using her experience to develop a story for abused children. "He Said He'd Love Me, If I...", Alicia Rooks, "the sad child inside", Jesse Lassandro, and "My Self", Shawn N., age 17, are poems, like the essays and story, from the hearts and souls of the authors.

Next is a report from the International Leadership Coalition for Professional Child and Youth Care: Milwaukee, 1992, a meeting that many have called one of the most significant in our history, and we close with a definition of the field.

Enjoy!

*Mark Krueger*