



**August 20, 2024**

Warm Summer Greetings!

This has been a year of challenges and change. Climate change, social media, viruses, earthquakes, and politics. Sometimes very stressful!

The Olympics served as a good stress manager.  
Simone Biles, Wow!

Simone and her siblings were in foster care until she was 6 years old. She and her younger sister were then adopted by their grandfather and his wife. Her older 2 siblings were adopted by a great aunt. Today, they're all a close knit and supportive family.

So, a big shout out to the grandparents and other relatives who have welcomed - and adopted kids, into loving and forever homes.

And, of course, so many thanks to the dedicated resource parents who provide foster care to children, particularly those with special needs.

**ICAN Update:**

from every community and discipline. This work is not easy, facing the harsh and challenging realities of child abuse. Sometimes unimaginable. So, we come together and support each other to share the stress and privilege of protecting and restoring joy to children in Los Angeles County.

Sheriff Robert Luna has actively provided leadership to the ICAN Policy committee.

ICAN Associates has been with us every step of the way, led by President Judge Mary House and President Emeritus Lindsay Wagner, with special event appearances by Justin and Keisha Chambers.

ICAN Committees and Teams are chaired by leaders from LA County Fire, Sheriff SVB, Harbor UCLA, DCFS, ISD, District Attorney, County Counsel, All For Kids, LACOE, Coroner and Didi Hirsch.

All managed by ICAN program administrators and support staff.

*Martin Luther King Jr: "We may have come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now"*

In addition to the work of our teams and committees, ICAN has sponsored conferences and events to enhance awareness, strengthen partnerships and promote prevention of harm to children and families.

The ICAN Childhood Traumatic Grief and Loss conference at the California Endowment was filled to capacity.

Inspiring messages were delivered by Sheriff Luna and DCFS Director Brandon Nichols followed by passionate keynotes from Andy McNeil and Alan-Michael Graves. Each workshop addressed important and complex challenges of responding to the grief and loss of children. Head Deputy DA Stephanie Mire and Assistant

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hope into the lives of traumatized children.

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One of ICAN and ICAN Associates favorite projects is the Children's Child Abuse Prevention Poster Art Contest. Over 700 4th, 5th and 6th graders participated this year. The artwork and the messages were again touching and profound. The winners and finalists were recognized in a celebration on the 8th floor terrace of the Hall of Administration by Board of Supervisors Chair Lindsey Horvath and ICAN Associates' Justin Chambers.

Many thanks to the Poster Art Contest Chairs Sabina Alvarez, Judge Mary House and Beverly Kurtz.



**COMING SOON!**



**NEXUS**

VIOLENCE WITHIN THE HOME AND ITS EFFECTS ON CHILDREN

The ICAN Nexus Conference: October 10th, 2024!

We're back at the Sheraton Universal Hotel for our 27th conference on Violence in the Home and its Effects on Children.

Please check the ICAN website, [www.ican4kids.org](http://www.ican4kids.org) for information on ICAN events, staff, ICAN Associates, reports, committees and activities.

With great respect and appreciation to every one of you.

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**Deanne Tilton Durfee, Doc. Hc**  
**Executive Director, Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN)**

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***“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree”***

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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<https://www.ican4kids.org>

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