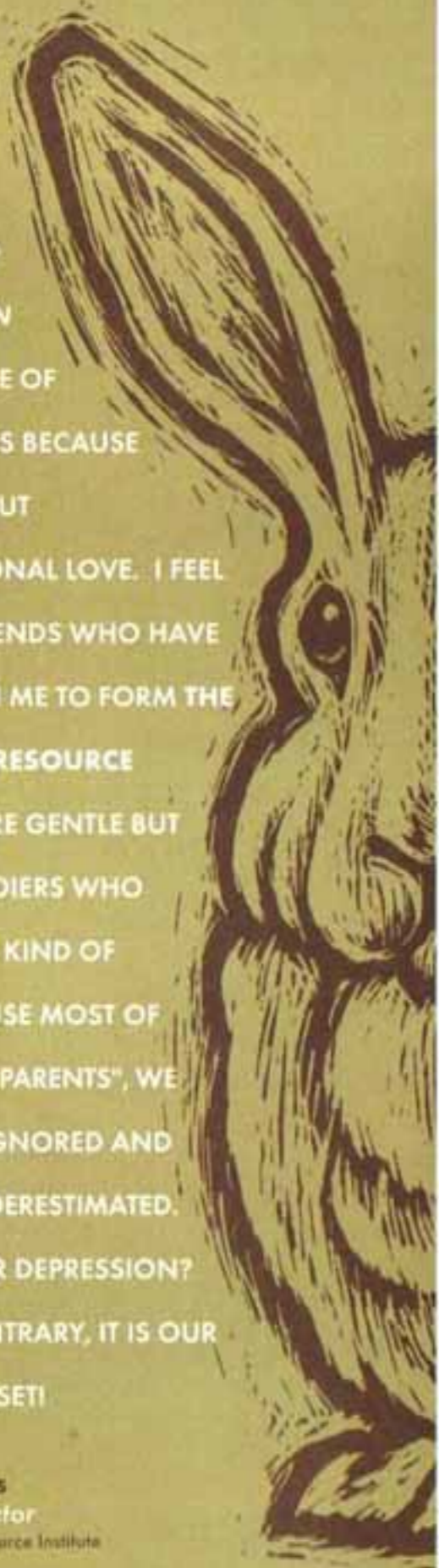


AS A PARENT  
I LOVE  
CHILDREN'S  
STORIES AND  
THE VELVETEEN  
RABBIT IS ONE OF  
MY FAVORITES BECAUSE  
IT TALKS ABOUT  
UNCONDITIONAL LOVE. I FEEL  
THAT THE FRIENDS WHO HAVE  
JOINED WITH ME TO FORM THE  
FAS FAMILY RESOURCE  
INSTITUTE ARE GENTLE BUT  
MIGHTY SOLDIERS WHO  
EXHIBIT THAT KIND OF  
LOVE. BECAUSE MOST OF  
US ARE "JUST PARENTS", WE  
ARE OFTEN IGNORED AND  
USUALLY UNDERESTIMATED.  
A CAUSE FOR DEPRESSION?  
ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS OUR  
GREATEST ASSET!

**Jocie DeVries**  
Executive Director  
The FAS Family Resource Institute



Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is an organic brain disorder caused by prenatal alcohol exposure. The affected person has:

- height, weight and growth deficiencies
- a specific pattern of facial features
- central nervous system damage, i.e., a unique cluster of behavioral symptoms



**WE PROVIDE:**

someone to talk with  
assistance in finding help  
parent support & advocacy groups  
information packets  
a quarterly newsletter  
FAS/E needs assessment manual

FAS  
FAMILY RESOURCE INSTITUTE  
PO BOX 2525  
LYNNWOOD, WA.  
98036



**F E T A L**  
UNDETECTED. AN ARMY OF VELVETEEN RABBITS  
**A L C O H O L**  
HAS BEEN MARCHING IN, THROUGH AND AROUND  
**S Y N D R O M E**

CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN WASHINGTON STATE



PROVIDED BY THE FAS FAMILY RESOURCE INSTITUTE

In April, 1990, we learned that one of our adopted children had Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. His diagnosis from Children's Hospital indicated that he would probably always need "limits and protection" like a three-year-old, even though he has a normal-to-high IQ.

As a person with FAS, he can't always connect cause and effect. He can't understand what is socially acceptable (deciphering what's right and wrong). He is hyperactive and can't stay on task without tight supervision. He is very unpredictable. The more effort we put into teaching him personal accountability the angrier he becomes.

He has many sensory integration problems which means he has great difficulty associating behavior and consequences. Morally, he is like a young child who sees life from his own naive perspective.

As we began to share our story, many other parents responded and connected with our experiences. We never realized how many parents of children with FAS felt isolated and alone. We also learned that many professionals working to help our families thought that FAS only affected toddlers and pre-schoolers. They were unaware that the behavior cluster unique to FAS in adolescents is caused by prenatal alcohol exposure. The resultant neurological damage endangers these young people and

their communities if they are not appropriately supervised and supported.

The FAS Family Resource Institute was created when isolated and frustrated parents met with some professionals who were ready to listen to them.

We held our first parent workshop in August 1991. Parents subsequently formed local support groups in communities throughout Washington state through grants



from the Children's Home Society and the Northwest Adoption Exchange. We encourage other communities to establish their own network of support as we continue to advocate on behalf of our own children.

Currently The FAS Family Resource Institute is breaking new ground for individuals disabled by FAS and their families. We have several catalysts for change: a quarterly newsletter, a phone line, and statewide trainings for families and service providers on FAS core disability issues.

We can't cure FAS. Children don't outgrow it. The defects in the brain can't be changed. But with education and advocacy, policies are changing. Parents and DSHS staff are now working together to create more compassionate programs for people disabled by prenatal alcohol exposure.

One of the hardest parts of raising a child with organic brain damage is, like the Velveteen Rabbit's experience, our efforts go unappreciated. Consequently, it is a lonely job until you find understanding and support from other parents. So, if you hear a rumbling sound and feel the ground shake, check it out! You may be approaching a Bunny crossing where you could join an army of Velveteen Rabbits!

For more information and referral call:

HARE LINE

1-800-999-3429

In Washington State  
outside Washington

1-253-531-2878

