

CARRIE HELLER, M.S.W.

LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER TRAPEZE/AERIAL DANCE ARTIST Carrie@CircusArtsInstitute.com

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Summer 2009-present: *Circus Arts Social Summer* -A summer camp for children, ages 5-12, with special needs.
- Oct. 2009-present: Cirque Du Monde
 - Guest Artist - The Bridge Runaway Shelter, GA
- June 2008-present: *Move, Feel, Learn, Live It* summer camp co-led with Christy Kennedy, OTR/L, and Annemarie Messerschmidt, MSW, Atlanta, GA
- 2006-present: *Circus Arts Institute*, Founder and Director.
www.circusartsinstitute.com
 - National Trainer: Aerial Arts and *Circus Arts Therapy*
 - *Circus Arts Fitness Training*
 - *Circus Arts Therapy* private practice for children, adults, families and groups
 - Corporate Teambuilding
- 2006-present: Aerial Trainer for Dance & Circus Arts of Tampa Bay, FL
- 2003-2008: Aerial Trainer and Consultant for *Circus Camp*.
- 2002: Cirque Du Monde: A Cirque Du Soleil outreach program.
 - “Trainer of the Trainer”
- 2001-2003: Cirque Du Monde
 - Consultant at The Bridge Runaway Shelter, GA
- 1993-2003: *Circus Camp* Founder and Director
 - A circus, performing & visual arts camp for kids ages 5 and older, adults and families.
 - Counselors In Training program
- 1991-present: Aerial supervisor and consulting therapist for Camp Winnarainbow, Ca.
- 1991-1992: North Atlanta Therapy Center
 - Play Therapy, Individual, Couples and Family Therapy.
- 1991-2003: Private Practice, Atlanta.
 - Consulting and educational services.
 - Counseling for children, teens, adults, and families.
 - *Circus Arts Therapy*, Experiential and Play Therapy
- 1988-present: Founder and Director of *Carrie Heller’s Circus Arts L.L.C.*
 - Circus Skills for Kids and Adults with an emphasis on aerial training both for fun and for the professional trapeze artist. The program offers private training/coaching, strength building, classes, workshops, performances, choreography, fitness and therapy.
- 1988-1991: The Bridge Family Center of Atlanta.

- Clinical Associate (1988-1989) and Director of Clinical Services (1989-1991).
 - Supervision and coordination of Internship Program and Sex Abuse Recovery unit.
 - Implementation and supervision of Play Therapy program for sexually abused children ages 2-12.
 - Redesigned and led Mother's Group for Mothers of sexually abused children.
 - Coordinated family therapy services to families of sexual abuse.
 - Individual, couples, family, group and Experiential therapy.
- 1988-1989: Congregation B'nai Torah, Atlanta, GA.
 - Music Teacher grades K-8 Hebrew School.
 - Music Specialist for learning disabled children. Position required program development for children in the creative use of music in learning.
- 1987: Family Service of Greater New Orleans, LA.
 - Student Intern
 - Responsible for differential diagnostic assessment, treatment planning and case management of individuals, families and couples.
 - Co-led long-term, open ended therapy group for Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse.
 - Co-led short-term group on Pain Management and Stress as well as "Beating the Binge."
- 1986-1987: Congregation Beth Israel, New Orleans, LA.
 - Music Teacher grades K-8 Hebrew School.
- 1986: Corner Drug Store, Gainesville, FL.
 - Volunteer
 - Peer counselor at runaway shelter for adolescents
- 1985-1986: Alachua County Community Program in Gymnastics Instructor, FL.
- 1985-1986: Parent Aid, Gainesville, Florida.
 - Volunteer
 - One on one contact with parents who were at risk for being abusive.
- 1980,1985: Lead Aerial Instructor Camp Keystone, FL.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND GRANTS

- 2007: Sensory Integration Overviews with Christy Kennedy, OTR/L, Atlanta, Ga.
- 2005: Circus Yoga Teacher Training, New York.
- 2002: Workshop with Gemini Trapeze from Cirque Du Soleil.
- 1993: Artist Project Grant, Bureau of Cultural Affairs.
- 1993: Acting at the Alliance Theater, Atlanta.
- 1991-1994:
 - Training in Single Point Trapeze
 - Basic training in mime, clowning, and stiltwalking .
 - Modern and Middle Eastern Dance.

- 1991: Anatomy and Physiology, Atlanta School of Massage.
- 1989: Improvisational Acting in Atlanta.
- 1988-present: Yoga training including Kripala, Hatha, Kundalini and Iyengar
- 1987: Master of Social Work Degree, Tulane University.
- 1986: Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology, University of Florida.
- 1984 : University of Haifa, Israel
- 1981-present: Martial Arts training including Karate, Aikido, Kung Fu, Tai Chi and Chi Kung(Qi Gong).
- 1973-1979: Trained with FSU Flying High Circus students in the Aerial Arts, tightwire walking, hand balancing, acrobatics and juggling.
- 1967-1972: Trained in ballet, tap, jazz, ballroom dance, and gymnastics.

MEDIA EXPERIENCE

- 2003: Ladida, TV show
- 2002: CNN
- 2000: Interact Atlanta, TV Show
- 1999: Connecting with Kids, CWK Network
- 1996: Savannah, TV Show
- 1996: CNN
- 1994: Inside Out "Building Self Esteem", TV Show
- 1994: Feed Your Mind "Dare To Be An Individual", TV Show
- 1991: McKenzie TV Commercial
- 1991: MTV Music Video, Wrap/Ichiban Records
- 1980: Photographer's Model, Telematic Manufacturing Division

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2001-present: Founding Member, American Youth Circus Organization
- 1995-2001: Atlanta Dance Initiative
- 1994-1997: Board of Directors, Devereux Center, GA.
- 1992-1998: Health Professional Affiliate for Charter Peachford Hospital, Atlanta.
- 1991-present: Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Ga. #1411.
- 1987-present: Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, National Association of Social Workers.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2009: *Circus Arts Therapy*; Definiton and Introduction.
- 2004: *Aerial Circus Training & Safety Manual* with photos
- 2001: *Circus Arts in the Classroom*: Beginning movement & brain balancing exercises.
- 1999: *Circus Arts Therapy*; beginning experiential & play exercises.
- 1997: *Kids Perform Circus Arts*, Consultant, Crabtree Publishing.
- 1992: *Aerial Circus Training & Safety Manual* (no photos)

AERIAL AND CIRCUS ARTS THERAPY PRESENTATIONS

The Inforum, GA.
Friends School, GA.
Atlanta School, GA.
Davis Academy, GA.
Horizons School, GA.
Circus Minimus, N.Y.
Wise Fool New Mexico
Vanlodostov Circus, VT.
Camp Winnarainbow, CA.
Hollywood Aerial Arts, CA.
Circus Day Foundation, MO.
Devereux Treatment Center, GA.
Congregation Shearith Israel, GA.
AYCO Social Circus Conference, IL.
Guest lecturer, GA. State University
Georgia School Age Care Association, GA.
AYCO Aerial Teachers Training Conference, VT.
City of Decatur afterschool & summer programs, GA.
Arts Enrichment Institute, Atlanta Arts Exchange, GA.
American Youth Circus Organization Festivals, FL., NY, CA.
Evelyn E. Marcelli & The Peace Corps Schools, Virgin Islands
International Child and Play Therapy World Congress, Canada

PERFORMING AND CHOREOGRAPHING EXPERIENCE

7 Course Theatre Productions The Oracle Corporation
King Plow Arts Center 7 Stages Theater
Shepard Spinal Center Festival of Trees
The Apparel Mart Project Open Hand
The Atlanta Botanical Gardens Emory University
The U.S. Virgin Islands The Westin P'tree Plaza Hotel
Scitrek Museum The Atlanta Arts Exchange
Nexus Theatre The Georgia Dome
PeopleSoft Corporation The Arts Festival of Atlanta
Winter Wonderland, '97 Center Stage Theater
Allie Awards Atlanta Live Nightclub
Randstad GA. World Congress Center
Hyatt Regency John Murray Productions
Fernbank Museum Renaissance Waverly Hotel
The Discover Mall of Georgia Flying Low Family Circus
Rayburn Congressional Center, Wash., D.C Cobb Galleria

SPECIAL SKILLS

Tennis, Water Ski, Horseback, Archery, Swimming, Diving, Music
References available upon request