

# THE OBSERVER



Monthly Publication

Volume 3 | Publication 28

---

*Reporting Accurate and Objective Information Based on Facts, not Agenda-Setting Theories*

---

Dominic Casey | Private Investigator

11:48 PM EST | February 13, 2011

## **America's Children**

Foster Care – Who and where are they?

Series - Part 4 of 5

[\(Part 1\)](#) [\(Part 2\)](#) [\(Part 3\)](#)

***"As an adult survivor, I am forever grateful to "The System" that so many in society ridicule without mercy". David Pelzer - Perspectives on Foster Care.***

During Desert Storm and Desert Shield, a USAF enlistee helped to refuel in midair the unknown activities of the F-117 Stealth fighter and SR-71 Blackbird. This soldier went on to become the first author to have four number one international best sellers of inspirational books, carried the flame in 1996 for the centennial Olympic Games and became a recipient of the National Jefferson Award which also honored Bob Hope, Sandra Day O'Connor and Colin Powell.

But why is David Pelzer so important in society? David is living proof that although "The System" is flawed, Foster Care saved his life by being his path of escape. He continues to educate the public about the advantages of foster care. As a survivor of seven years of one of the most sadistic, horrific child abuse cases in California's history, David Pelzer continued to overcome society's prejudice toward foster children and proved he had value.

David was a 'youth at risk' case whose life was saved by teachers brave enough to report to law enforcement the bruises, burns and atrocities instigated by his mother Catherine. Numerous people were aware of the ongoing tragedy, yet no one reported it until then. At the age of 12 years old, David entered a foster care home which was to become the first of ten within a six year span. Harold and Alice Turnbough are credited by David as being [his influence and inspiration](#) for "*turning a terrified child into a functional, responsible human being*" and crediting his social worker Ms. Gold for making "[The System](#)" work.

Early on David noticed that his mother appeared to have two personalities. The "Mom" personality was kind and caring, but the "Mother" was the one who starved him, forced him to consume his sibling's diaper content, beat him unmercifully, locked him in the basement and isolated him from the other family members. David became the 'selected child' of his mother's abuse. By desocializing David, in Catherine's mind she had reduced him to [A Child Called "It"](#) which is the title of his first bestselling memoir. His sequel [The Lost Boy](#) describes his life as a foster child.

Catherine Roerva Pelzer who was raised a Mormon in Salt Lake City, Utah began drinking at thirteen years old and continued throughout her life. She suffered sadistic abuse, also and when her parents

# THE OBSERVER



Monthly Publication

Volume 3 | Publication 28

divorced, the community ostracized them. Catherine married a man who suffered from depression and alcoholism and had a family. Originally the abuse to David happened when his father was traveling, however, his father became apathetic to the abuse when he became depressed and self-medicated. The life of a middle class family in San Mateo County, California, hid a world of secrets.

## **Child abuse has no economic boundaries.**

In 2008 two child advocacy groups, [The First Star](#) and The [Children's Advocacy Institute](#) released a report titled [State Secrecy and Child Deaths in the U.S.](#) stating that *"although federal law mandates public disclosure of the deaths and near deaths of abused and neglected children, the majority of U.S. states fail to release adequate information."*

First Star and The Children's Advocacy Institute said that *"The System's" secretive policies place confidentiality above the child's welfare and keep the public from having access to much needed information. They are requesting that legislators reform "The System."* By making the public more aware of the policies, which also need to become more understandable and publicized, positive change can occur.

**1,500 children die annually as a result of abuse and neglect**, but did you know that unless a person is criminally charged, Minnesota and North Carolina will not release data regarding a child's near death or death experience? To read how your state deals with this issue, [read](#) the above report.

Foster children need to be wanted, loved, cared for, protected, given direction and prepared for life's journey. A stable home environment can nurture and socialize a child to become productive adults and parents who can teach their children survival skills and how to cope with the transitions in life.

What do these people have in common? Apple Computer co-founder Steve Jobs, Babe Ruth, John Lennon, Marilyn Monroe, Cher, Ice T, Eddie Murphy, James Dean, Willie Nelson, Esai Morales, psychologist Dr. Ruth Westheimer and Domino's Pizza founder Tom Monaghan? They are recipients of kinship, foster care and/or [adoption placement](#).

Child Protective Services, court appointed Special Advocate Volunteers, Juvenile Hall Counselors and Probation Officers, Law Enforcement and Teachers need to hear your appreciation. They are the intricate ones who help to make "The System" work. Be aware and don't be afraid to report abuse.

**You can be the person to make a difference!**

## **Foster a Future!**

For more information re: David Pelzer:

[Background](#)

[Help Yourself](#)

# THE OBSERVER



Monthly Publication

Volume 3 | Publication 28

---

[You Tube Photos of David](#)

**Suggested Additional Reading:**

[Foster Parent Handbook](#)

[Foster Care Statistics 2010](#)

[Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)

[Foster Care Inquiries by State Chart](#)

[National Coalition for Child Protection Reform](#)

[Links to documents by Nick Bryant](#)

[Correspondence between Lawrence E. King, Jr. and Boys Town director Father Robert P. Hupp \(Nick Bryant\)](#)

[The Franklin Cover-Up](#)