



Create Now Founder and CEO, Jill Gurr

Using the Power of Creative Arts to Heal and Transform the Lives of our Most Troubled Youth

Jill Gurr, Founder and Executive Director of **Create Now**, has devoted the last fifteen years of her life to mentoring more than fifty at-risk and high-risk youth. Through **Create Now**, the nonprofit organization that she founded in 1996, Jill has matched hundreds of mentors with thousands of troubled children in the Los Angeles and Orlando regions.

She has recruited and trained all the mentors in her program to work with these children, especially high-risk institutionalized kids who are troubled. Through her extensive experience, Jill has the ability to develop and coordinate mentoring programs that are tailored to the mentors, as well as the children. She is currently writing a comprehensive guidebook about mentoring called, "Change Lives: Mentor Youth."

Jill is a produced screenwriter, having adapted the book *Hit and Run* by James Hadley Chase into the screenplay *Rigged*, which stars George Kennedy. This film was distributed internationally by Kodiak Films. She also wrote *Socrates*, a PBS pilot that stars Ed Asner. Reputable producers have optioned several of her original screenplays. Jill also contributed as a writer on an Internet series called "The Compatible Marriage" for eHarmony.com and has published several articles online and in small publications.

She has extensive experience (over 18 years) working with top celebrities on award-winning film and TV productions all around the world as a Script Supervisor. Jill has been a Story Analyst and a Writers' Assistant at Twentieth Century-Fox and Paramount Studios. She was the Production Supervisor for Public Access TV at Theta Cable (now Time-Warner) in Los Angeles, where she produced and directed dozens of shows for the cable channel.

Jill graduated with a B.S. degree in Broadcasting and Film from Boston University, where she was a disc jockey on WTBU radio. She also studied at the City of London Polytechnic and received a Professional Producer's Certificate from UCLA.

After graduation from college, Jill spent several years traveling and living around the world, including throughout Latin America and Europe. She is fluent in Spanish, French and Italian.

She has given seminars, been on national, local and cable TV and lectured for Rotary Clubs and other service organizations about the benefits of mentoring at-risk and high-risk youth. Jill presented at the 2007 Friends for Youth Mentoring Conference in San Francisco.

In addition, Jill spent three years doing improvisational comedy at The Comedy Store and with the performing group Constant Comedy. Through her participation in Toastmasters, she has become a polished speaker. In 2006, she won second place in the District 52 "Inspirational Speech" competition. This has given her the ability to promote her work with comfort and humor.

Media Contact:
Jill Gurr, Executive Director
jill@createnow.org
c: 323.467.9039

