



# Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County

~ To lead our community in eliminating the suffering of abused children. ~

### **The Mid-Month Memo**

Vol. 4, Issue 12  
August 17, 2015

*Diana Schunn*  
Executive Director

### **Board of Directors**

Peggy Schwendeman , President  
Community Volunteer

Keith Marshall, Vice-President  
Kansas Air National Guard

Jeff Mullen, Treasurer  
CFO, Dondlinger Construction

Sister Janet Rowley, Secretary  
Chaplain, Via Christi Health

Marc Bennett, District Attorney  
18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Sedg. County

Scott Bixler, AIA  
WoodSpring Suites , LLC

Katherine Melhorn, MD  
Univ. of KS School of Medicine

Tripp Owings  
COO, Wesley Medical Center  
Children's Hospital

Michael Ramsey, Manager, VP  
Bokeh Development LLC

Jessica Suhr  
Attorney, Kansas Legal Services

Juston White, Boys and Girls Club  
of South Central Kansas

Vonda Wilson, CPA  
Peterson, Peterson & Goss, LC

Be sure not to miss this year's Heroes Gala on October 30!  
This inspirational event honors our community heroes,  
celebrates the work of the CACSC and our partners, and  
supports advocacy & therapy for child abuse victims.

**Heroes GALA**  
Celebrating with Heroes, Humor & Hope

**SAVE the DATE**  
Friday, October 30, 2015  
5:30-9:00 P.M. Scottish Rite Center  
Live & Silent Auctions

A benefit for the  
**Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County**  
"To lead our community in eliminating the suffering of abused children."

Featuring



Guest Speaker  
**Margaret Hoelzer**  
Three-Time Olympic Medalist  
in Swimming



Host & Emcee  
**Michael Schwanke**  
KWCH Reporter & Eyewitness  
News at Five Co-Anchor

*Honoring community heroes of  
abused and neglected children.*

### **Primary Partner Agencies**

COMCARE of Sedgwick County  
Exploited and Missing Child Unit  
KS Dept. for Children and Families  
Wichita Regional Office  
KU School of Medicine - Wichita  
Office of the District Attorney, 18th  
Judicial District, Sedgwick County  
Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office  
Via Christi Health  
Wesley Medical Center  
Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center  
Wichita Police Department

### **For Your Calendar**

September 12, 2015 Race for Freedom - 5K Run/Walk organized  
by ICT S.O.S. Info at: [www.race4freedom.com](http://www.race4freedom.com)

October 30, 2015: Heroes Gala, Scottish Rite Center.

November 4-6, 2015: 39th Annual Governor's Conference for  
the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Topeka

### **Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County**

130 S. Market, Ste. B183, Wichita, KS 67202-3850  
Phone: 316-660-9494, or visit us online: [www.cacsckansas.org](http://www.cacsckansas.org)

### *Protecting Children From Sexual Predators*

In last month's newsletter section on pedophiles, we learned that over 80% of people who sexually abuse children are not strangers, but are family members, acquaintances or people working with youth in the community. Knowing that, what can parents and caregivers do to protect children from sexual predators and how can they intervene if they suspect a problem involving contact between an adult and child?

Sexual predators usually look like every other nice person in the community and they will find opportunities to participate in activities that allow them close contact with children. That means parents should not trust people solely because they are working with a respectable organization. Ask whether background checks are required of employees and volunteers, and assure yourself that policies are in place for supervision and monitoring. If your child will be alone with an adult, check references and clarify boundaries and expectations. Trust your intuition - if an adult requests "special" time or activities with your child, in which other adults or children are not included, check out what's happening; make sure those in charge are aware. Parents should never feel bad about saying no to anything that feels uncomfortable.

Many abusers cultivate relationships with children before approaching them sexually; this is called "grooming." They may ask a child to keep special secrets of a nonsexual nature to test the child. Be clear with children that ANY secrets about playing games, gifts from someone, special privileges, favors, touches, or time alone with anyone are not safe to keep from you and that they will not get in trouble for telling you anything that worries or confuses them. Listen to what children tell you and check it out, even if it sounds silly or unbelievable.

If you suspect or witness inappropriate contact with a child, it is your responsibility to assure it is investigated. Even if there is not enough evidence to "prove" abuse, interventions can address boundaries and assess safety. If your concerns are not being taken seriously, be persistent until the problem is resolved. The vulnerability of children and teens to exploitation is why we must pay attention to screening the adults who work with them and be vigilant about any indication of trouble. CACSC staff are available to help with questions.

### *How You Can Help*

You can help with donations for the children receiving services at the CACSC. The CACSC is a non-profit charitable organization that depends on grants, government funding, foundation, corporate and individual support. When children and their caregivers come to the CACSC for services they may need to spend several hours at the center. Sometimes they have been displaced from home due to the child abuse. The CACSC can use donations of bottled water, individually packaged snacks, and toys for both boys and girls, such as dolls for little and big girls, action figures, small toy cars, and balls (soccer, basketball and footballs of various sizes).



If you suspect child abuse or neglect call 911 or 1.800.922.5330

**"The purpose of child advocacy centers is to provide a comprehensive, culturally competent, multidisciplinary team response to reports of child abuse, in a dedicated, child-focused setting."**

**The CACSC is accredited by the National Children's Alliance:  
Empowering Local Communities to Serve Child Victims of Abuse**