



Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County

The Mid-Month Memo

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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

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

Heroes Gala 2014

**Please join us as we celebrate with Heroes & Hope!
Saturday, November 1st, at the Scottish Rite Center**

This year's event includes a presentation and performance by **Deondra and Desirae Brown**, who are distinguished pianists and heroic survivors of child abuse. Trained at Julliard, these sisters are part of The 5 Browns, who have performed in many public venues including Carnegie Hall and NPR's *Performance Today*. They have received extensive media coverage for their musical talents as well as their advocacy for victims of sexual abuse. Emcee for this inspirational event will be **Michael Schwanke** from KWCH. Special Wichita community heroes will be honored and there will be live and silent auctions to enhance the evening. Sponsorships are available and include seats at the event. To be a Gala sponsor, contact Theresa Lewis at 660-9494 or tlewis@cacsckansas.org. Check the website for more info.

Spotlight on Back to School

For most students, the beginning of school brings anticipation and excitement. For some of the nearly 250,000 children in foster care, a new school year can represent a time of great uncertainty and anxiety. Research indicates these students face barriers such as frequent placement and school changes, delayed enrollment, and nontransferable credits. Obstacles can be eliminated through state and local child welfare and education collaboration under the provisions of the Fostering Connections to Success & Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. To assist in these efforts, the U.S. Depts. of Education and Health & Human Services provide resources to improve the education and well-being of students in foster care. Students in Foster Care website provides information about relevant laws and technical assistance to ensure school constancy. Shared data, school stability policies and coordinated planning improve the success of students in out-of-home care.

Department of Health and Human Services - Children's Bureau Express
<https://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?event=website.viewArticles&issueid=160&articleid=4313>

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**Behind Closed Doors: A Campaign to End
Childhood Abuse, Neglect and Sex Trafficking**

We are making progress on our \$6.5 million **BEHIND CLOSED DOORS** Campaign. Once the goal is reached, renovations will begin at the former Lincoln Elementary School. This larger, child-focused facility will allow us to more effectively address the needs of the more than 2,000 abuse and neglect cases we serve. What will be added?

- Additional therapy rooms with space for 2 additional therapists
- Non-emergency medical care for victims
- Human trafficking community response
- An increase from two to four interview rooms
- Donation center to accept and process clothes and comfort items for children
- Education rooms to facilitate public and professional education

To date, we have raised \$3.72 million in gifts and pledges towards the goal. If \$480,000 can be secured by December 15, 2014, we will receive a \$500,000 grant from the J.E. & L.E. Mabee Foundation of Tulsa. As an all-or-nothing challenge, we must secure the \$480,000 or we lose the \$500,000. Contact Diana Schunn by phone or email (316.660.9494 or info@cacsckansas.org) if you can help.

Introducing a CACSC Board Member

Becky Marinelli has recently retired from the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) position at a non-profit corporation. Beyond the CFO role and adjunctively teaching accounting over the last 25 years, Becky is a Certified Public Accountant Certificate (CPA) and has worked as Controller and accountant. Her degrees are from Wichita State University: a Bachelor's in Business Administration with an accounting major and a Master's in Professional Accountancy. Becky's retirement allows her time to pursue interests such as teaching accounting and yoga classes and volunteering for non-profit organizations. Being able to share activities and time with her husband, their children and ten grandchildren is a primary goal of retirement. The CACSC will benefit from Becky's career experience and her passion for healthy families.

For Your Calendar:

Oct. 15-17, 2014: Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect, Hyatt Regency, Wichita; Info at: www.kcsl.org

Nov. 1, 2014: CACSC Heroes Gala, Scottish Rite Center

April 27, 2015: 4th Annual "Change A Child's Life," Golf Tournament, Wichita CC.

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."**

**National Children's Alliance
Empowering Local Communities to Serve Child Victims of Abuse**