



Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County

The Mid-Month Memo

Vol. 4, Issue 3
November 15, 2014

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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. ~*

Two Wichita Grandmas Make a Difference

They refer to themselves as “two water aerobics grandmas” who were so overwhelmed with horror at the 2010 child abuse death of a Newton toddler they felt compelled to try to prevent it from happening again. Several years into their effort, they are still working at preventing abuse. With yard signs that read, “Be Aware. Child abuse can be anywhere! Call 911!” they educated people about how to detect and rescue abused children. After the *Wichita Eagle* picked up the story, the Associated Press took it nationally. Now they are talking to area middle school students about all types of abuse. Beverly Van Es (Grandma B.K.) says kids start caring for younger children in their middle school years and they need to learn early about how to prevent and report abuse. Grandma Lily Hill uses a crying mechanical doll model to show the children how the brain is damaged when a baby is shaken. They both remind the middle-school students that they are all good at something and they all matter to someone! Lily and B.K. want kids to know who to talk to if they have questions and where to get help if they are being hurt. A 13 year old who once saw B.K.’s yard sign told her about his past abuse and how he is spreading the message to “break the cycle.”

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

Our \$6.5 million campaign provided funds to purchase the former Lincoln Elementary School, which will be the new home of the CACSC. Renovations are needed to move investigation, therapy, advocacy and medical partners under one roof. Over \$3.96 million has been raised. Pledges made by December 15th help us meet a J.E. & L.E. Mabee Foundation \$500,000 challenge grant. As an all-or-nothing challenge, we must raise the final \$236,000 by the deadline. Contact Diana Schunn (316.660.9494 or info@cacsckansas.org) if you can help.

Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County

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Phone: 316-660-9494, or visit us online: www.cacsckansas.org



Heroes Gala 2014

Thank you to our guests, Deondra and Desirae Brown, heroic survivors of childhood abuse. Their piano performance and the story they shared of overcoming their abuse were truly inspirational. At the event, we honored special Wichita area heroes, including Kayli Lantz, who was praised by CACSC partners for her strength in working through the trauma of her abuse by bravely testifying at trial and devoting time and effort to healing through therapy. Kayli expressed appreciation to the social worker, detectives and forensic nurse who participated in investigating her case, and her CACSC therapist and advocate for helping her through the ordeal. Our sincere gratitude to Bob and Martha Buford, Champion sponsors, and to KU School of Medicine-Wichita, Superstar sponsor. Thanks to all the VIP table hosts, eager bidders, auction item donors, hardworking volunteers and event participants who were a part of making this a successful event! A special thanks to Michael Schwanke, host & emcee, and Terry Rupp, auctioneer.

Introducing a New CACSC Team Member

Stephanie Binkley is our new part-time Child Family Advocate. Stephanie graduated from WSU with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. She has previously worked at the Behavioral Health Center completing alcohol and drug intakes and social histories on clients, the Adoption Centre of Kansas as an Adoption Social Worker, and for DCF in Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations, working in EMCU with runaway and sexual abuse cases. Married 17 years, she and her husband have a ten year old daughter who keeps them very busy with activities. Stephanie regularly volunteers as a Sunday school teacher to the 4 & 5 year olds and enjoys running and working out in her limited spare time. Stephanie feels that working at the CACSC has been a rewarding opportunity. She enjoys the staff and other team members and appreciates the work everyone does to ensure the safety and well-being of the children and assist their families obtain self-sufficiency. Regarding this beneficial role, working with families served at the CACSC, Stephanie says, "I truly believe the CAC is where I am meant to be."

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