

Pinwheel Passages

The newsletter of the
Children's Advocacy Center
of the Bluegrass



A healing place for
sexually abused children
and their families.



A Message from the Executive Director

For more than 20 years, the Children's Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass has provided hope and healing to children and families struggling to overcome the pain of sexual abuse. We were founded by a small group of committed citizens determined to improve the way our community supports our smallest, most vulnerable victims of crime. Their early leadership transformed a broken system and helped to make life safer for thousands of children in Central Kentucky.

The Children's Advocacy Center is a special place for children and families. The bright colors, child-friendly art on the walls, and the toys in the waiting room are all there to make them feel welcomed and at ease. Our caring staff members provide support for families and they are passionate about helping children overcome the profound hurt they have experienced.

I am regularly asked how our staff members are able to stomach the nature of this difficult work. "I could never do your job," they say. I understand that sentiment but also know that we're making a difference every day.

We see the relief in the eyes of a 5-year-old boy who discloses his story of abuse for the first time. He's comforted to share the painful secret he's shouldered alone for months and knows that life will now be a little safer for him. We're inspired by the teenage girl who blossoms in therapy. She now holds her head a little higher because she's learned to trust again.

Each day we witness the beautiful transformation from *Victim to Survivor to Thriver*. This is exactly the reason I tell people that I'm proud to work at the Children's Advocacy Center.

We cannot fulfill our mission alone and we need your support to help us carry out our vision. This year, more than 720 children will pass through the doors of our CAC. Will you join us in our mission to ensure that every child is provided with the best opportunities for successful healing?

Please make a financial contribution to the Children's Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass. Your investment helps bring an end to sexual abuse in our community and ensures our service is available to the children who need it most.

Best,



Andrew Oliver
Executive Director



2014-2015 Board of Directors

Derrick Whitaker
President

Bill George
Vice President

Paige Rea
Secretary

Guy Bradley
Treasurer

Susan Blake

Morgan Hall

Callie Keller

Amelie Larson

Ray Larson

Matthew Malone

Brenda Mannino

Alicia Miller

Cyndy Harbett Miller

Lee Milward

Jenna Mitchell

Marion Queen

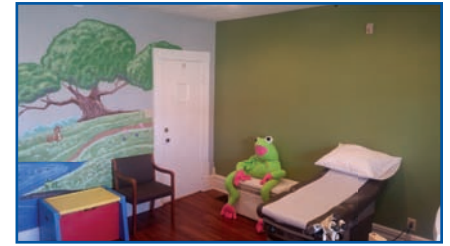
Lou Anna Red Corn

Barbara Saunier

Bruce Simpson

A Record Breaking 2014

After moving into our new facility in March 2013, requests for our services have skyrocketed. Our beautiful, new home ensures we can now serve more children than ever before.



Our Child-Friendly Medical Clinic

In 2014 the Children's Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass:

- Conducted 621 developmentally-sensitive Forensic Interviews
- Provided over 600 crisis counseling, support groups, and case management services
- Conducted over 150 medical examinations to diagnose and treat injury, collect forensic evidence, and provide reassurance to every child and family
- Provided trauma-focused therapy services to promote emotional healing for 85 children

As you know, all services are provided at ***no cost*** to a child's family. We are able to provide these critical services because of the generous support of our many donors. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Did You Know?

CACs Save Money

The CAC model saves court, child protection, and investigative dollars averaging \$1,000 per child abuse case in direct costs alone.

CACs Hold Offenders Accountable

The multidisciplinary team model results in a 94% conviction rate for CAC cases that are moved forward.

CACs Are Effective

97% of parents would tell others to seek help at the CAC.

Knight, Wahle & Chalothorn Orthodontists **- A New Corporate Partner**



In 2014, Knight, Wahle & Chalothorn Orthodontists, a respected provider of orthodontic care in Central Kentucky, agreed to a multiyear Presenting Sponsorship of An Evening for the Children's Advocacy Center. Not only did Drs. Knight, Wahle & Chalothorn make a generous financial contribution in support of our fundraiser, but all guests received a complimentary dental care gift bag and one lucky attendee left with a voucher for free orthodontic care!

An Evening for the Children's Advocacy Center is our center's largest, annual fundraiser. All proceeds go directly to helping the Children's Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass fulfill its mission of providing services to children in a nurturing, friendly, and safe environment. In 2014, because of the generosity of our corporate sponsors and attendees, An Evening for the Children's Advocacy Center raised over \$100,000!

We would like to thank all who attended and especially our corporate sponsors: Knight, Wahle & Chalothorn Orthodontists, Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Nerney Family Foundation, UK Healthcare, Bruce and Cindi Simpson, C&R Asphalt, Carpet One, Central Bank, Creative Kitchen & Bath, Frost Brown Todd LLC, Kentucky Ornamental Iron, Lexington Furniture Co./Hugh and Laura James, McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie & Kirkland, Northwestern Mutual, Republic Bank, Turf Town Properties/Rick Queen, and WKYT-TV 27.

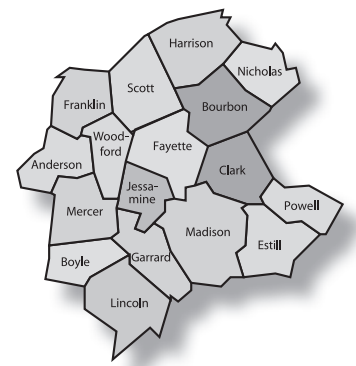
To join this great group of sponsors or to learn more about 2015's *An Evening for the Children's Advocacy Center*, please contact Winn Stephens, Development Director, at 859-514-1566 or winn@kykids.org.



Our Programs and People

The CAC's Regional Presence

In 2015, more than 700 children from 17 Central Kentucky counties will come to the Center to receive forensic interviews, medical examinations, therapy, and advocacy support. The Children's Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass is the largest regional children's advocacy center in the state of Kentucky. Requests for all services have grown nearly 70% since 2010!



Our Core Services

Forensic Interviewing takes place at the request of law enforcement when allegations of abuse surface. Specially trained CAC staff members interview children to collect details of the crime in a developmentally-appropriate way. These interviews take place in one of two, child-friendly and comfortably furnished interview rooms - one for young children and one for adolescents and teens. These interviews follow a legally-defensible, best practice protocol and all interviews are recorded and preserved on DVD. According to Fayette Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Larson, conviction rates for child sexual abuse cases in Fayette County have increased from approximately 5% to over 95% in the 21 years the Children's Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass has been in operation.

Medical Examinations take place in our brightly colored, child-friendly clinic located on site. All exams are conducted by a board-certified child abuse pediatrician, the only one in our area. Exams are conducted to identify and treat injury, collect forensic evidence, and screen for other health conditions. In addition to the sexual abuse medical exam, our physician performs a full well-child examination and a mental health screening is conducted to assess each child's emotional well-being and identify treatment needs. Every child leaves with a handmade blanket and stuffed animal. Above all, we find that medical exams provide reassurance and peace of mind to children and their families.

Family Advocacy encompasses the broad array of support services designed to help families understand the dynamics of abuse and navigate the legal process. This includes crisis counseling, support groups, and case management services. Our family advocates work closely with caregivers to ensure our services meet every family's unique needs. Our family advocates provide more than 700 individual crisis counseling sessions and field over 400 crisis calls annually. Our goal is to ensure that families are linked with vital resources so they can be fully engaged in their child's recovery from the trauma of sexual abuse.

Our **Therapy Program** utilizes trauma-informed counseling to promote emotional healing after abuse. We offer individual, group, and family therapy to child victims, siblings, and caregivers. Therapy serves to increase a child's coping skills, help them process and heal from traumatic thoughts, and improve their capacity for safety. Ultimately, our therapy program's aim is to reduce the recurrence of abuse and allow children to grow into the happy, healthy, productive adults they were meant to be.



Center Staff

*Andrew Oliver, CSW
Executive Director*

*Allison Benjamin
Finance Director*

*Megan Kohler, CSW
Program Director*

*Winn Stephens, MA
Development Director*

*Jonna Sears, LCSW
Child and Family
Therapist*

*Mel Cowan, BASW
Family Advocate*

*Melissa Krueger, RN
Nurse/Medical Clinic
Coordinator*

*Jacqueline Sugarman, MD
Pediatrician*

*Kristin Jenkins, CSW
Forensic Interviewer*

*Lindsey Burns, CSW
Forensic Interviewer*

*Raegan Gyorffy, LCSW
Forensic Interviewer*

*Cierra Kincaid, BASW
Family Advocate*

April Open House Events



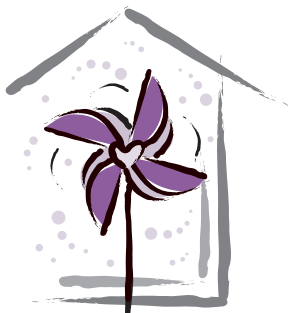
April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Please help us celebrate by joining us for an Open House.

Monday, April 13, 2015
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Monday April 20, 2015
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Monday, April 27, 2015
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Stop by and get to know us! Enjoy complimentary breakfast, lunch, or light hors d'oeuvres, a special presentation, and a personal tour of our Center. Space is limited. To RSVP, please email winn@kykids.org or call 859-514-1566.



Children's
Advocacy
Center
of the Bluegrass

A healing place for
sexually abused children
and their families.



NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #1451
Lexington, KY

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**



NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE®

ACCREDITED
MEMBER

*The Children's Advocacy Center
is a fully accredited member of
the National Children's Alliance.*



Community Partner

Support the Children's Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass

Make a Financial Contribution

Each year, we help hundreds of children put this terrible ordeal behind them. Because all services are provided at NO COST to a child's family, we rely on the generosity of our friends and neighbors in Central Kentucky to help us fulfill our mission.

There is no more direct way to help the Children's Advocacy Center than by making a financial contribution. Your support makes it possible for us to provide hope and healing to the very children who need it most.

Other Ways to Give

There are certain items at the center that are always in high demand. These include:

- Play dough - Play dough is an essential tool for our forensic interviewers. It helps us engage children during the forensic interview process.
- Gas cards/Grocery store cards - These are provided to families with limited resources or those in transition, often traveling great distances to come to the Center.
- Nutritious snacks and drinks - Children often spend 2-3 hours at the Center and may need a light snack or juice while they're here. This adds to the feeling that the Children's Advocacy Center is a safe, welcoming place.
- Sporting events tickets, unused gift cards, and art work - We can resell these items in silent auctions or other fundraisers held throughout the year.

Thank you for caring about the CAC!!

Mission of the Children's Advocacy Center

To reduce the trauma experienced by child victims of sexual abuse by providing services in a nurturing, friendly and safe environment.