



The Child Protection Center

APRIL: CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Three Ross County citizens received awards for their work in child abuse and neglect prevention at a breakfast for child abuse prevention month. One award went to June Cormany, former teacher and elementary principal, who received the Champion of Children Award. Dr. David Ater received the Col. Richard C. Enderlin Award and Richard Enderlin received the Benefactor of Children Award in honor of the Richard Enderlin Welfare House.

Though all three awardees have different backgrounds and positions, they have one important thing in common, that is because of them many children who had violence in their home were not lost in the system.

Dr. David Ater gave a short, but very emotional speech after

receiving the award. "It was a calling for me," he stated. The honor was moving for Dr. Ater as he recounted his decision to enter medicine which led to his becoming a pediatrician and advocate.

The breakfast ended with the powerful film "The Eleventh Commandment." The film gave a sobering view into homes of children who have sexually and/or physically abused.

Bob Gallagher, director of Ross County Job and Family Services stated, "These are disturbing images, but need to be seen if we are to be inspired to help the children in our community that face lives much like that."

In honor of Child Abuse/Neglect prevention Month the Antwone Fisher story was shown for at the Majestic Theater on April 16, 17 and 18th.

Upcoming Events!

Kid's Day will be held on Saturday, June 5th at the Ohio University-Chillicothe. Classes are being offered for kids ages 3 and older with a variety of classes to choose from. We are once again offering classes like; Cheerleading,

Karate, Your Theater Debut, Safety in Babysitting...And a few new classes; H2O, Super Exciting Science, Yoga for Kids and many more! Watch for the flyer which was distributed in schools early May. **The 2nd Annual Golf Outing** will be held August 21st . We are accepting registrations. Call our office at 779-7431 for further details.

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PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

The statistics of sexual abuse in our society cannot go unnoticed and forgotten. Research shows that approximately 1 in 3-4 girls and 1 in 6-7 boys will have been sexually abused before the age of 18. In addition, 1/3 of all sexual assaults reported to law enforcement agencies involve a victim under the age of twelve. We must be proactive in ways to reduce the incidents of sexual abuse.

It is imperative to start early in talking with your children about sexual abuse. This can be uncomfortable but you must establish an open communication policy with them so they know they can talk to you about

anything. How you discuss this subject depends on the age of the child. For preschoolers, they need to understand that every part of their body belongs only to them and make sure to use words that they will understand. Make sure that they know that no one should be touching them and hurting them.

Grade-schoolers have many questions and may not understand why anyone, especially someone they know and love, would want to touch them inappropriately. It's hard for a child to think of someone they know and love as being 'bad.' Teach them to trust their instincts and let them know that they shouldn't listen to an adult who is trying to get them to do something that is unsafe, wrong and uncomfortable.

Teenagers can be difficult to talk with since they feel like they can make their own decisions. At this age, it's important to discuss the negative outcomes of sexual activity, like, sexually transmitted diseases and accidental pregnancy. It's important that both boys and girls understand that no one should be forced into having sexual relations, no matter who the person is.

Always be a good listener as well as a support person. Always reassure the child that he/she is not at fault. If you have any questions or would like additional information, contact our office.



Karen's Corner

As some of you already know, Karen Flint, Child Abuse Specialist, has been out of the office due to illness. Karen is known for her dedication, knowledge and kindness and has touched many of our lives throughout the nine years in which she has been with the Child Protection Center. This agency seems empty and incomplete without her presence. From all of us, she is sadly missed and we wish her a speedy recovery. We hope that you will keep her in your thoughts and prayers.



7 STEPS TO PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

Step 1: Learn the Facts. Understand the risks. Become aware of the significant threat that children face from child sexual abuse. Make decisions for children based on the facts of the child sexual abuse rather than on the level of trust in others.

Step 2: Minimize opportunity. If you eliminate or reduce one-adult/one-child situations, you'll dramatically lower the risk of sexual abuse for your child.

Step 3: Talk About It. Children often keep abuse a secret, but barriers can be broken down by talking openly about it.

Step 4: Stay Alert. Do not expect there to be obvious signs when a child is being sexually abused. Signs of sexual abuse are often present-but the signs are often emotional or behavioral, not physical or verbal. It takes an alert adult to recog-

to recognize these signs.

Step 5: Make A Plan. Learn where to go, who to call and how to react in the best interest of you child even if you have no suspicions that your child is being sexually abused. Formulating plans in advance can be of significant benefit to your child should abuse occur.

Step 6: Act on Suspicions. Being a silent bystander to sexual abuse could contribute to a lifetime of psychological and emotional problems for a child victim.

Step 7: Get Involved. Volunteer and financially support organizations that fight the tragedy of child sexual abuse. Use your voice and vote to make your community a safer place for children.

Article from Darkness to Light, a non-profit org. @ darkness2light.org

New News

The Child Protection Center now has a web site at oncac.org/ross/cpc.html. It is filled with lots of information about our agency and the prevention and support we offer. Look for these on the web site: Access past newsletters, register for parenting classes

and the Golf Outing, learn about any upcoming events the Child Protection Center is participating in or hosting, plus meet the staff. Our e-mail addresses are also available on the site so that you can conveniently contact us.

**Keep a look out for the new schedule of classes starting in June for the Parenting Resource classes with Marie Vukin.



Rhonda's Report

Last summer I took over the position of Prevention Specialist for the Body Safety Program. I was excited to present to the Kids on Body Safety and have enjoyed it greatly. Recently, we expanded the program so that we could offer it to city schools as well as county schools. Mt. Logan, Tiffin and Allen have scheduled Body Safety to be presented in their elementary classrooms. This is wonderful news since it is important for all children in our community to understand how they can protect themselves from unwanted touches. The schools have been very welcoming to us and we appreciate the opportunity to come into their classrooms.

Due to the expansion of the Body Safety Program, I have resigned from my duties as Visitation Coordinator for the Companionship Program so that I can dedicate myself fully to being Prevention Specialist. Sadly, I will miss the children but I know they're in good hands with the new Visitation Coordinator, Heath McDowell. Heath also works at the local Red Cross as Health and Safety Administrator and at the Y.M.C.A. as a swimming instructor for children. We welcome Heath to our agency!

Kid's Day is coming closer and we've been working hard to make this the best Kid's Day yet! We've added new and exciting classes, providing more of a variety to preschool ages, and offering a room for parents to stay in while

is in class. We will be selling donuts before classes start and providing two lunch times. Our entertainment this year during lunch is something different and exciting! We will have Karaoke for the kids with some of the most popular current songs. Parents are welcome to join their children on stage as a group if they choose. If you wish to participate in Karaoke come in early the day of Kid's Day and sign up!

We hope that everyone will come out on June 5th at Ohio-University to support the Child Protection Center and the efforts we make to help the children who utilize our agency.

Rhonda Kinzer-Carver-

Prevention Specialist



From The Director's Desk

I attended the breakfast for Child Abuse and Neglect Recognition Month and was moved by it. This is the first year for the breakfast (hosted by Ross County Job and Family Services) and three very deserving members of our community received awards. The recipients of the awards each chose a path of service for children. It was a thrill to see Dr. Ater, one of our beloved pediatricians, receive the Col. Richard C. Enderlin Award for his life long work with children. In addition to the children he treats in his pediatric practice, he has a special place in his heart for those children who have suffered abuse.

At the breakfast, we took the time to look back at the recipient's lives and to clearly see the significant contributions they made in so many children's lives. These highly respected members of our community accomplished great things by making small efforts on

a daily basis.

I know they have inspired me to work each day to make a difference in a child's life. I want to look back at my life and know that I made a difference. I hope you do, too.

Even though our community has been experiencing tight budgets and a somewhat depressed economy, the Child Protection Center has been the recipient of some amazing gifts. A few months ago, Rachel Huff, Victim Coordinator, from Chillicothe Correctional Institute called me about making a donation to our agency. The inmates were collecting money for a few agencies as a form of retribution and making other donations related to their talents and interests. She wanted to know if we would participate in their ceremony in recognition of Victim Right's Week where they would donate money (over \$1,000 as it turns out), artwork and a fish

tank. It was such a pleasant surprise.

I am thankful for people giving from the heart. If you really want to do something, you'll find a way. If you don't, you'll find an excuse.

Coletta Danneker-
Executive Director



Above: June Cormany, Richard Enderlin and Dr. Ater at the ceremony.



"The healing begins here"

The Child Protection Center
138 Marietta Road, Suite E
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

Phone: 740-779-7431
Fax: 740-779-7432

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insures that the
Child Protection Center
can continue to provide
services to children in need



Victims' Rights Week

In recognition of Victim Rights Week three groups gathered at the Chillicothe Correctional Institute for a ceremony designed to draw attention to programs aimed at helping victim's of crime. The guest speaker was Raymond Pryor, coordinator of the local chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

The Child Protection Center received four original pieces of art done by two inmates at the correctional facility. Along with the paintings, we also received a large fish aquarium from the prison fish club and a check for \$1,026.

Other agencies which received a donation were MADD and the Ross County Coalition Against Domestic Violence; which received cash donations and gifts from the staff and inmates at CCI.

The artwork will be hung in of our facility and the fish tank will be located in the lobby for all the families who utilize our services to enjoy.

This ceremony was like many others carried out during this week noticing all advocacy centers helping victims through the recovery process. *On the right; two paintings received from the inmates.*

