



The Child Protection Center

DONOR'S FOR KIDS DAY 2003!

The Child Protection Center would like to thank all of the volunteers and donors who contributed to our annual fundraiser. It would not have been a success without you!

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Less than \$250.00—Fraternal Order of Police, William & Silvia Kenneweg, AKM Building Systems, Inc., Pepsi-Cola, Ameristop, Litter Quality Propane, Jim & Sheila Powers, PPG, Frisch's Family Rest., Family Dental, Mears Photo., Junior Civic League, & Super Kmart

Donated Items -Adena Health System, Chillicothe Camera, Dominos Pizza, Donatos Pizza, Frito Lay, Pepsi, Glacier Mountain, Coca-Cola, Julio's Pizza, Poppa John's Pizza, Wonder Bakery, & WalMart (Waverly).

KID'S DAY REPORT

On June 7, 2003, the Child Protection Center held our 5th annual Kids' Day fundraiser. Nearly \$20,000 was donated on behalf of this event! 130 kids participated in this fun-filled

day where twenty-seven different classes were offered for children ages 3-15. Many children learned new skills and made crafts to take home. This is the second year we've invited preschool children to

participate and it was a big hit! For lunch the kids were offered pizza, chips and snack cakes while Bobby the Clown kept them amused by performing a magic show. All in all it was a wonderful day!

Golf Anyone?

We will be sponsoring our first Golf Outing at Jaycee's Public Golf Course on September 7th, 2003. The money raised will be used to benefit

the clients served at the Child Protection Center. There will be many highlights of the day, including skill prizes on every hole, raffle prizes, food and beverages available, and a picnic dinner provided at the end of the

of the day. 1st, 2nd, 3rd place team awards will be given. For further information call Terrie at 779-7431. Registrations must be received by August 30, 2003. Join us for an eventful day!

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“We’re All Settled In”

On April 14th we had an open house to introduce our new agency site.

The staff are pleased with the change and the clients have voiced appreciation as well. In the new building we now have bigger offices and exam room, a conference room, an outside play area and farm animals as neighbors. What a big change from where we were!

Speaking of changes, we would like to introduce three new staff members to our team.

Terrie Seibold joined us as Office Manager in September, 2002, replacing Jerri Smeltzer. Terrie has extensive experience in office and business management, as well as customer relations.

Julie Oats, replacing Helen Nemeth as our Child Therapist, joined the team in January 2003. Julie has a Masters in Education in Community Counseling and has been with Scioto Paint Valley Mental Health Center for two years.

Marie Vukin joins us as Parent Educator. Marie has a Master of Education degree in Counseling Education from the University of North Texas. She has been trained in Play Therapy and has worked with children and families for the past 15 years.

Welcome aboard to the new team members!

“Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Karen’s Corner

On June 30th we finished up the second year of the Children’s Trust Fund grant and are pleased to report that we have been awarded the grant for the fiscal years 2004 and 2005. We will continue to provide students in Ross County Schools grades K-3 with the Body Safety Program. Rhonda Kinzer-Carver will be taking on the responsibility of conducting the program, assisted by Cheryl Miller of Scioto Paint Valley Mental Health Center. Rhonda is currently the Supervised Visitation Coordinator for the Child Protection Center. She will be adding the Body Safety Program to her other duties.

With our new award we were able to add parenting education to the services offered by the

Child Protection Center. Marie Vukin joined our staff effective 7/1/03 and will be coordinating the program. As a parent educator, Marie has developed a portfolio of parenting classes. Her experiences as a Child Life Specialist, Counselor, Parenting Consultant, and Bereavement Program Assistant has provided her with a diverse background and understanding of how children and their families respond and cope in today’s environment. Marie will work with parents on different parenting issues, including engaging cooperation, alternatives to punishment, offering children choices, reducing arguments and power struggles, teaching child self-control and self-responsibility, and parenting your child through separation and loss.

Other sessions include interaction in blended families and shared parenting issues. Time will be allowed during each class to address individual concerns. Referrals can be made by calling the Child Protection Center. Marie is married to Greg Vukin. They have a four-year old daughter and are expecting their second child in October. We are excited to be able to add this program and welcome Marie aboard.

-
Karen Flint, Child Abuse Specialist

“Wisdom lies in taking everything with good humor and a grain of salt.”

-George Santayana

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The Supervised Companionship Program received a grant from the Robert E. and Genevieve B. Schaefer Fund. With this money we were able to purchase items to make our facility more comfortable and interactive for the families that visit.

One of the items we purchased was outside play equipment. The Boy Scouts of America Troop #14 volunteered their time to erect the swing set. Four adults and fourteen scouts participated. Thanks to every-

one for their hard work!

A camera was purchased for the supervised visitation room to allow for visits to be monitored outside of the room through closed-circuit T.V. The families have more privacy with a more home-like atmosphere while still being supervised in a safe environment.

The families seem to appreciate the newly added benefits we have in place. With Summer in full bloom now (and if it ever stops raining!) I'm looking forward to the outside play area be-

ing frequently used by the families who visit

I'd like to add that Kid's Day was a blast this year! I taught a preschool craft class and had a fantastic time. The kids were a joy and it was fascinating seeing them have so much fun. Thanks to all who generously helped.

-Rhonda Kinzer-Carver,

Visitation Coor./Prevention Specialist

From The Director's Desk

Each year, hundreds of children write to the President about being abused. They ask to be protected and they ask for people to intervene. In 1996, an eleven year-old victim sent one such letter:

Dear Mr. President,

I would appreciate if you would read this letter at your next meeting. . . I myself have been molested by my step-grandfather for almost two years. Right now I have to talk to a detective about it, I'd rather be put in jail for twenty-years. It hurts. I would like to know why I have to go through so much pain by talking about it over and over again and have to draw pictures and show places on dolls. How come I'm being put through such pain when I did not commit a crime? I just want to know why kids are being hurt over these things. I want to make a big point—Kids are being hurt.

When I read this letter, a couple of thoughts crossed my mind. I first noticed the date that this letter was written—the same year that the Child Protection Center began offering services to victims of sexual and/or physical abuse.

Our community recognized that the criminal justice system was not designed for children and decided to re-engineer the system to be more

child-friendly.

The next thing that I noticed was the very real pain this child had experienced as a result of an uncoordinated system. Since the time when this letter was written, multidisciplinary teams have been developing in hundreds of communities to improve coordination and communication among the personnel involved in these cases.

The third thing that entered my mind is that we have made great strides, but there remains room for improvement. Some way that we are currently trying to improve how our system works in Ross County include:

- The development of a protocol for videotaping of child interviews. Soon, children will be able to come to the Child Protection Center and have one in-depth video recorded interview done in a child-friendly facility. This will greatly reduce the need for the child to tell their story multiple times.

- An improved form used to track the cases that are currently in the system. I believe the quality of our monthly Case Review discussions will improve with this new system.
- The development of a web based case tracking system that will allow the agencies to share appropriate information while at the same time meeting their individual requirements for confidentiality of information. There will be less duplication of effort and improved ability to retrieve needed information both for individual cases as well as for group information needed for reports and grants. This is being developed by an organization called Network Ninja, Inc. and funded by money from the Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers.

I think we have come along way in our efforts with child victims and look forward to the amazing improvements in store for us in the near future!

—Coletta Danneker, Executive Director



"The healing begins here"

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Your tax deductible donation
insures that the
Child Protection Center
can continue to provide
services to children in need



MEET THE STAFF



Top row, left to right: Julie Oats, Marilyn Davis,
Coletta Danneker, Karen Flint
Bottom row: Rhonda Kinzer-Carver, Terrie Sei-
bold, Marie Vukin



David Ater, M.D.



Sathish Jetty, M.D.



Zoran Naumovski, M.D., F.A.A.P.

"Children are blessed with innocence. Unfortunately, there are those in society who try to take that away. As doctors, nurses, child therapists, social workers, business leaders, we can help a child return to his/her innocence through the Child Protection Center and its support staff."