



The Child Protection Center

THE CHILD PROTECTION CENTER WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR FIRST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT!

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WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE AGAIN NEXT YEAR!

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Red Cross Honors Local heroes

DR. David Ater was honored as a health care hero during the first annual heroes' breakfast hosted by the American Red Cross. The event was held on November 18th and more than 100 spectators attended the event. Local heroes were awarded for such things as volunteering, kind actions and heroism. It is intended that the event will be held every year to honor those people who have done good deeds.

The Ohio Secretary State, J. Kenneth Blackwell was the keynote speaker for the event. "A hero is someone who perseveres under less than favorable conditions and acts on courage" Blackwell said. "Heroes have mastered the art of giving."

Those who received awards took home a Red Cross plaque and a new sense of self-worth. Along with Dr. Ater, also awarded was a former fire pilot, teacher, local student, caretaker for abused horses, police officer, including a drug-finding canine.

All of us here at the Child Protection Center would like to congratulate those who received an award. We would like to give a special congratulations to our friend Dr. Ater because we have witnessed first hand his kindness and unselfish acts of giving.

"Strike a balance between confidence and humility—enough confidence to know that you can make a real difference, enough humility to ask for help."

Carly Fiorina

Karen's Corner

ON October 10, agency department heads met at the Child Protection Center to finalize and sign the Forensic Interviewing Protocol. The protocol went into effect October 11, 2003.

The new protocol mandates that whenever possible children who are suspected of being sexually or severely physically abused will be brought to the Child Protection Center and their interviews will be taped. The videos will then be given to law enforcement and kept as evidence.

The goal of the interview process is to provide interviews that are legally sound, non-duplicative, non-leading and neutral. Forensic interviewing consists of gearing the interview to the child's developmental level, as well as looking at the cultural context within which the child lives, and process how

these issues may impact the interview.

Many Children's Advocacy Centers begun taping and are finding it a very powerful tool in documenting a child's interview. Among other benefits, we feel that taping:

- Eliminates the need for note taking
- Records the emotional response and allows the jury to see and hear the effect of the abuse on the child, as well as, demonstrates how vulnerable a child really is
- Is helpful to the other members of the team who can see the child's interview and responses even though they were not present during the interview
- Encourages pleas from the offenders, possibly sparing the

child from testifying.

- Is an effective means of refreshing the child's memory prior to testifying
- Finally, it will be a useful tool for peer review. Peer review is an opportunity for the interviewer to watch the interview with other members of the team who are able to make suggestions for improvement. It is important that the interviewer continuously seeks feedback in order to improve their skills.

We at the Child Protection Center feel that every child should have the right to his her testimony presented in court as accurately as possible. It is our hope that by taping a child's account of abuse, we will be able to meet this goal.

Karen Flint-Child Abuse Specialist

New News

*Congratulations to Marie Vukin on her new baby girl. Emily Christine was born on October 29th and weighed 9 pounds. Marie is our parent educator.

*We would like to remind everyone that Kid's Day 2004 is right around the corner. As always we are looking for volunteers and instructors for the day. Without the help of the community and other service agencies the day would not be successful.

This year we hope to offer a larger variety of classes and make some changes to make the day even more enjoyable for families. For questions or to volunteer, please call Rhonda at 740-779-7431

Rhonda's Report

Some changes have taken place for several of our programs. Last summer I took over the position as Prevention Specialist for the Body Safety program and have greatly enjoyed presenting in the schools and working with the children. Recently, we have expanded the program and now Cheryl (from SPVMHC) and I will be adding Tiffin, Mt. Logan and

Allen to the schools in our community that we will be presenting to. We are excited with the addition of the new schools.

Beginning March 1st I resigned as Visitation Coordinator for the Supervised Companionship Program. This allows me to dedicate myself fully to the Body Safety Program. We have hired a new Visitation Coordinator and his name is Heath McDowell. Heath is from Chilli-

cothe and is also employed at the local Red Cross. We are confident that he will continue providing the best service to the families who utilize the program.

Just a reminder that Kid's Day is June 5th and will be at Ohio University-Chillicothe this year. Watch for the flyers and if you have any questions please call us!

*Rhonda Kinzer-Carver—
Prevention Specialist*

A Holiday Message

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From The Director's Desk

Best wishes for the holidays! As the year draws to an end, we often take a look back over the year in order to remember the highlights. This has been a very busy year starting with our move to the Marietta Road location. It was wonderful to start the year in our new home. It is new, well designed and much more comfortable for the children and their families when they come to the center.

We had been planning this move for quite some time and never tired of visiting the construction site and dreaming of providing services here. Even now that we have been here almost a year, the thrill has not worn off. Thank you, Adena Health System!

Another major accomplishment this year was the completion of the Forensic Interviewing protocol. A lot

of hours of work went into creating a document that the partnering agencies and contracting physicians are all in agreement with. Since that document was signed, all of the interviews done at the Child Protection Center have been video recorded. It is a change from how we are used to conducting the interviews, but we look forward to the benefits the children will reap for those cases that go to court.

A third accomplishment is the addition of a new program that we are able to offer to the community. Marie Vukin is offering the Parent Resource Classes. The classes are free of charge and held right here at CPC. She is an extremely qualified instructor both through her education and experience. Consider attending a class or encourage others to attend.

I am pleased with the many accomplishments of the past year but that does not mean that we don't still

have much more to do. At a time when Michael Jackson is making the headlines again for suspicions of sexual activity with young boys, we are reminded that sexual abuse can happen to any child and it's only through diligence and vigilance that we can make changes that allow children to grow up free of the harmful effects of abuse. The harmful effects are a direct result of an adult abusing their power and the child's natural trust to USE a child for their own gratification. Even with organizations such as CPC, Children's Services, SPVMHC, law enforcement and Prosecutor's office, we are clearly not keeping every child safe. Our team of agencies will not be satisfied until we reach that goal.

Coletta Danneker-Director



"The healing begins here"

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Parenting Classes

How Do Parents Spell Relief ?

As the New Year approaches many of us examine how we might improve our lives. I would like to tell you about a group of parents who have already begun the process of making changes for themselves and their children. In June, CPC began offering free 2-hour parenting classes once a month. A regular group of parents have been getting together to focus on enhancing their parenting skills. Each session has offered one-hour of structured instruction and one-hour of open forum. During the first 5 classes of the series, parents had indicated that they had experienced stress relief due to participating in these classes. Some topics have included; *Helping Children Deal With Their Feelings, Giving Choices,*

and Developing Alternatives to Punishment. Parents acknowledge that on-going, monthly participation has had tremendous impact on their abilities as a parent. Their confidence continues to build with each session they attend. Both the mothers and fathers in the group have been able to identify positive changes in themselves and their children. Parents who attend our Parenting Resource Classes are experiencing relief through the group experience, talking to others about their concerns, and developing new approaches to responding to their children.

Looking ahead now to January, one can expect more parent hot topics and more fascinating and helpful techniques to be presented. The

popular and helpful *Children and Choices* class will return for first timers or as refresher for others. Individuals interested in helping children negotiate the changes that come when families divorce, or those who want to aid children through the death of a loved one, will find two classes that will provide support and guidance. The fun-filled class, *Bubbles, Books and Band-Aids* will provide parents (and healthcare professionals) with the playful tools to help children during medical procedures.

Brochures of the next six classes will be available in December.

Marie Burkhauser-Vukin- Parent Educator