

Innocence

is a precious thing

A Publication of The Child Advocacy Center, Inc.

Fall 2010

For United Way volunteers & agencies Day of Caring is a day of sharing

Volunteers from City of Springfield Public Works and KY3 shared their time and talent with the Child Advocacy Center on a HOT August day. The occasion was United Way's annual Day of Caring. In return, we shared cold drinks, freshly-grilled burgers and hot-dogs and lots of thanks and appreciation.

During this annual event, thousands of volunteers fan out across the community, thanks to area business that allow their employees to participate. In the end, the results are nothing short of amazing.

Our volunteers worked ALL DAY in the heat, putting up 800 feet of fence and scraping, sanding priming and painting the front of our building. Inside, more painting and deep cleaning made everything sparkle.



**'Thank you'
Public Works
and KY3!**



Visit us on Facebook~The Child Advocacy Center, Inc. & online~www.childadvocacycenter.org

Give from the heart. It All Adds Up



Yes, I want to support the CAC's 2010 Annual Campaign.

Giving Level ~ check one box; complete form:

- Circle of Commitment\$1,000 and up
- Circle of Strength\$500
- Circle of Courage\$250
- Circle of Promise\$100
- Circle of Hopeup to \$99

Name _____

Business _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Payment options ~ check one box; provide appropriate information.

- My check for \$ _____ is enclosed (payable to CAC.)
- Invoice me for \$ _____
- Charge my VISA MasterCard
(Circle One)

Charge amount _____

Exp. date _____

3-digit security code _____

Card # _____ - _____ - _____

Signature _____

Barbara Brown-Johnson is Child Advocate of the Year

The Ozarks Health Advocacy Foundation recently selected Barbara Brown-Johnson as one of the group's two 2010 "Child Advocates of the Year." Barbara will be recognized November 19 at the Association of Fundraising Professionals "National Philanthropy Day Luncheon" at Highland Springs Country Club.



Barbara has served as executive director of the Child Advocacy Center for 12 years. When she was hired in 1998, the CAC had four employees, an operating budget of around \$200,000 and a caseload of 250 children. Today, the CAC's operating budget is just under \$900,000; we have 15 full-time employees; and we served a record 1,039 children last year. (For the fifth year in a row, the Springfield CAC served more children than any of Missouri's other 14 CACs.)

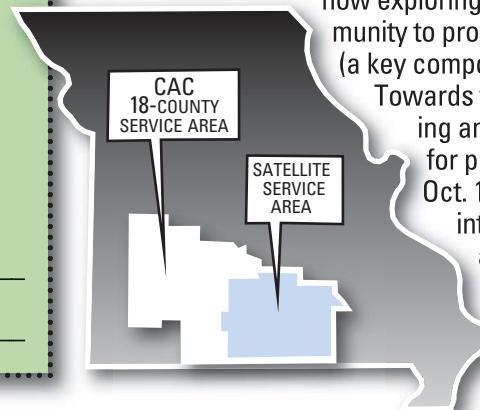
In addition to the growth in staff, Barbara conducted one capital campaign to purchase and remodel a new building and later oversaw a second expansion to that building. Currently, the agency is exploring the creation of a satellite office in West Plains, Mo. No matter the economy, despite all obstacles, Barbara's first concern has always been to ensure that the CAC is working to keep children safe ~ great proof of a child advocate.

Exploring the creation of a satellite CAC in West Plains

Families and child abuse investigators in southcentral Missouri currently drive up to two and a half hours to bring a child to the Child Advocacy Center. This can be a financial burden on families and is not a child-friendly start to their services. Add in the fact that the southcentral region sends a lot of children to the CAC and it becomes clear why we are meeting with stakeholders in West Plains to explore creating a satellite CAC in their community. Such a facility would serve Howell, Ozark, Douglas, Wright, Texas, Oregon and Shannon counties.

There is plenty of enthusiasm for the idea so we are now exploring the ability of the community to provide financial support (a key component to its success).

Towards that end, we are hosting an informational dinner for prospective donors on Oct. 19 in West Plains. Folks interested in attending and/or learning more about this opportunity should call Barbara or Linda, 831-2327.



♥ CAC Friends are the BEST

Friends who awarded the CAC a grant in recent months:

Alpha Gamma Rho/MSU Agriculture Fraternity
 Ozark Organ-izers for L.I.F.E.
 St. John's Physicians & Clinics
 "Force for Good"
 Zen 3 Spa

Friends who provided the CAC in-kind support:

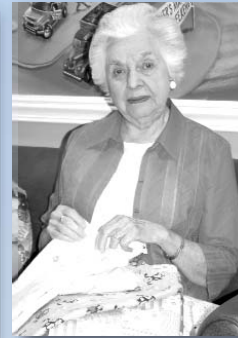
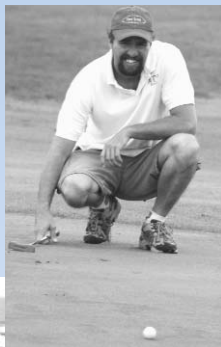
Johnny Barber
 Chris Bender
 Christ Church Unity
 Renee Colson
 Comforts from the Heart
 Cumberland Presbyterian Church
 Children's Group
 Ann Gentry
 Laurie Giovino
 Kathy Griesemer
 Largent Printing
 MSU Crime, Justice & Gender Classes
 MSU National Criminal Justice Student Honor Society
 Panera Bread
 Project Linus



Above, CAC executive committee members and staff join representatives of St. John's and the Force for Good. Far right, Zach Adams, CAC assistant director, and immediate right, Dr. Jeff Johnson, speak at the Force for Good award ceremony.



Oh, what a beautiful morning Alpha Gamma Rho had for the fraternity's first-ever golf tournament



Far left, CAC vice president Kathy Griesemer and left, former CAC board member Ann Gentry, both made handcrafted blankets for children.

Mission

To provide a child-friendly environment that reduces stress on children who may have been victims of abuse.



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Contact us at 417-831-2327 or barbara@childadvocacycenter.org

'Young Advocates Council' is 'under construction'!

Child Advocacy Center friends Winter Skelton and Meagan Mitchell serve on one of our committees because they love our mission. And they believed that the hearts of their friends and peers would be just as touched by the work of the CAC if they had an opportunity to learn more about us. Towards that end, the two recently hosted a "Happy Hour with a Purpose" at the CAC for about 20 young professionals.

Following an informational presentation by CAC staff, guests were given tours of the center and then encouraged to ask more questions. At the end of the evening, Meagan and Winter shared their goal of forming a Young Advocates Council on behalf of the CAC and asked their guests to consider joining the effort. Over the next couple months, the two leaders and interested individuals will be meeting to shape the structure, goals, guidelines and more for this exciting new group.

