

Innocence

is a precious thing

A Publication of The Child Advocacy Center, Inc.

Winter 2010

The CAC in 2011

Our 2011 calendar is filling up ~ and we'll be adding more activities throughout the year. Be sure to check our website and Facebook page often for up-to-date information!

February

- Feb. 17-High Stakes Chili Expo Center
- Feb. 19-Sertoma Chili Cook-off Expo Center

April

- Child Abuse Prevention Month
- April 20-Burgers & Cheers!
6-9 p.m, Ebbett's Field

June

- June 3-Blues on the Hill
CAC Award Dinner
Tuscan Hill

July

- CAC Annual Campaign 2011

August

- TBA-Guns vs. Guards
Springfield Police Officers
vs. Federal Medical Center
Guards Basketball Game

At this time of year, please consider A gift from the heart

Barely more the 12 months ago, we enlarged the Child Advocacy Center, essentially doubling our program space. Then we added to our staff. Now we are exploring the establishment of a satellite CAC in West Plains, the eastern-most section of our service area.

Do we just love chaos and confusion? Actually, *these endeavors were undertaken for one reason and one reason only* ~ so that we can continue to serve every child in our service area who needs the CAC. Sadly, we continue to see more children every year. (At press time, we had already exceeded last year's 1,039 children.)

From the tiniest babies to 17-year-old teens, we continue to witness the disastrous impact meth has on southwest Missouri and on children. All too often we observe generational cycles of abuse. And just as tragic, we've

seen first-hand how a difficult economy really does increase child abuse rates. This ever-increasing demand for services means the CAC faces an ever-growing need for program funds. Even more threatening to our services, funds from the state of Missouri, our most stable funding stream up to this point, are in question for 2011.

With this information in mind, let your heart be your guide as you consider an end-of-the-year gift to the CAC. Your donation to our 2010 annual campaign ~ when added to the donations of other CAC friends who have already given~ will add up to a significant impact on the lives of abused and neglected children throughout southwest Missouri.

And remember, no gift is too small and no gift is insignificant!

Please give from your heart!

We continue to witness the disastrous impact meth has on southwest Missouri and on children.

Donate on-line at www.childadvocacycenter.org or send us a check with the form on page 2!

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

Yes, I want to support the 2010 Annual Campaign



Giving Level ~ check one box;

- 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 _____

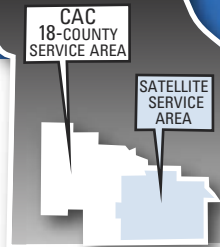
3-digit security code _____

Card # _____ - _____ - _____

Signature _____

Send a check or donate online at www.childadvocacycenter.org.

West Plains Update



As reported in our fall newsletter, the Child Advocacy Center hosted an informational dinner in West Plains, Missouri earlier this fall. At that meeting CAC executive director Barbara Brown-Johnson

discussed establishing a satellite CAC in West Plains (which is situated in the eastern section of our 18-county service area.) It currently takes Howell County families and investigators at least two hours to drive to our Springfield-based CAC. This is not part of our child-friendly mission.



Reactions to the idea of a satellite center have been so positive that we hosted an informational luncheon in December for folks who were unable to attend the dinner. In addition, we have been meeting with individuals and businesses in Springfield who have ties to the West Plains community and want to know more.

We've now talked with judges, medical professionals, bankers, realtors, law enforcement officials and others from who have shared suggestions for volunteers, donors, fundraising events, potential buildings and more. And, we know for a fact that plans are already underway for a 5K run in the spring!

New event to benefit the CAC

Sertoma clubs add 'High Stakes Chili' to Cook-off fun

The Sertoma Chili Cook-off has raised more than \$1.5 million in its 30-year history and distributed those funds to Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield. Beginning last year, Sertoma clubs began adding some fundraising opportunities to this huge event that will benefit other area agencies. We are excited to announce that the Child Advocacy Center will be included this year!

For starters, we will be participating in the Chili Cook-off 50/50 Raffle. Tickets are \$10 each. The CAC gets to

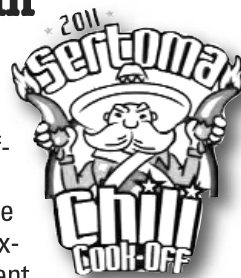
keep \$5 from each ticket sold; the remaining \$5 goes into the "pot" for the person who holds the winning ticket. (We hope to sell the winning ticket to a CAC friend!)

We have also been given a booth at the Cook-off. We are still discussing whether to cook chili or just create a fun and informational booth. Anyone want to share a winning chili recipe?

Completely new this year, "High Stakes Chili" is a Thursday night event that will feature an Iron Chef-type

competition and a casino-night. The CAC is one of about six non-profits serving on the steering committee for this new and exciting, evening event.

All Cook-off activities will be held February 17-19 at the Expo Center. Be watching for more event information on our website and Facebook page, starting in January.



♥ CAC Friends are the BEST

Friends who awarded the CAC a grant in recent months:

Anonymous
 Bank of America Foundation
 Binnie Clements Guild
 Community Foundation of the Ozarks
 Nixa Community Foundation
 O'Reilly Auto Parts
 Ozarks Health Advocacy Foundation
 United Way of the Ozarks

Friends who provided the CAC in-kind support:

Dr. Jim Blaine
 Christ Church Unity
 Comforts from the Heart
 Cumberland Presbyterian Church
 Children's Group & Women's Guild
 Ozark Piecemakers Quilt Guild
 Ashley Fees and SBU friends
 Hankins Surgical Supply
 Project Linus - Diane Richardson
 Sunrise Rotary Club
 Mothers of Preschoolers-Shelley Rogers



Patti Mikulin, mortgage loan officer with Bank of America, presents a check to CAC board president John Ferguson.

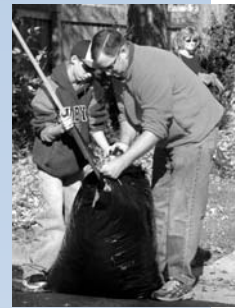
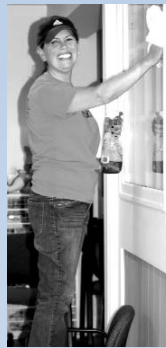


CAC Executive Director, Barbara Brown-Johnson, center, with her "Child Advocate of the Year" award and members of the Ozarks Health Advocacy Foundation board of directors.

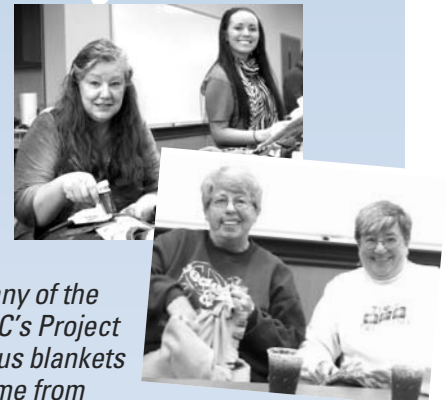


Ashley Fees, bottom left, SBU student and RA, brought her SBU friends and a small mountain of supplies and goodies for the CAC's children.

Sunrise Rotary Work Day



Project Linus 'Make a Blanket Day'



Many of the CAC's Project Linus blankets come from these nimble-fingered volunteers.

Mission

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



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Springfield, MO 65806

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

CAC Statistics through November

Children Seen ~ 1,048

For the fifth year in a row, the Child Advocacy Center will see a record number of children over the previous year. With one month to go, we have already exceeded the 1,036 children we saw in 2009.

Services

Forensic Interviews 999
Sexual Assault Forensic Exams ... 557
Child-at-Risk Exams..... 118

Gender

Female..... 688
Male..... 360

Ethnicity

Caucasian 965
African American 32
Hispanic 7
American Indian/Alaska Native5
Asian/Pacific Islander2
Other 37

Age

6 and under 373
7-12..... 361
13-17.....308
18+6

Offense*

Sexual Abuse 765
Physical Abuse 237
Witness to Crime 267
Neglect..... 46
Drug Endangerment..... 123
Child Exploitation..... 75

Alleged Perpetrator

Parent..... 329
Stepparent..... 95
Other Relative 233
Paramour..... 122
Other Known Person..... 374
Unknown..... 59
Stranger 9

*Note ~ the total number of offenses may exceed the total number of children seen as some children allegedly experienced multiple forms of abuse.

CAC staff dons Santa hats for the holidays



In keeping with the spirit of the season, the Child Advocacy Center staff decided to put on Santa hats and plan a

holiday surprise for some special individuals this year. To complement the work we do with children, we adopted two senior ladies in local nursing care facilities ~ and hope to make their Christmas just a little brighter.

Our, Medical Assistant, Janell, and Office Manager, Brenda, identified our recipients, compiled a list of necessary and special items and dispersed the list to staff. Staff members then divided up the items and plan to make it a very special holiday for our new friends.

We see every day the impact that caring and generous people have on the CAC and on those we serve. It's an honor now for us to give something back to the same community ~ all it took was putting on our Santa hats to get in the spirit!