

The Advocate

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF JACKSON COUNTY

APRIL 2015

Where small voices are heard

Our Medical Department Has a New Look!

By Dr. Natalya Miller

*"Art washes away from the soul
the dust of everyday life."*

-PABLO PICASSO

The Medical Department at the Children's Advocacy Center underwent a dramatic transformation this past year. During the week between Christmas and New Year's, a group of hardworking individuals joined together in a project to paint the medical examination room, hallway and waiting area. The space was in desperate need of updating, and evoking a more child centered, welcoming atmosphere.

Last summer, I approached my dear friend and interior designer, **Carmen Whitlock**, and asked her how we could transform the physical space of the medical department to create an environment that felt safe, warm, and age appropriate for the children who come to the CAC for services. Carmen is a woman with vision and instinct. She immediately recognized that the space needed to both tell a story, and provide a whimsical distraction for the

kids. As serendipity would have it, Carmen's granddaughter **Jaden Whitlock**, a senior at Ashland High School, was hoping to paint a mural for her senior project. Now we had our talent.

Jaden took a tour of the CAC, and learned that children come there because of concerns they have been abused or neglected. She learned that the CAC cares for children of all ages, ranging from infants to teens, and that most of the children who come have experienced something traumatic; they might have been physically or sexually abused, neglected, or witnessed violence or substance use. Inspired by what she learned, she developed a vision for how she wanted kids to feel while at the CAC. She sketched murals of nature and animals with the hope that the kids would feel less anxious surrounded by beautiful art created just for them.

Vision became reality when we approached some local businesses. **Carmen and Jim Whitlock of Elegance Home Décor** in Jacksonville donated count-

less hours of labor, talent and painting supplies. **Mark and Penny Solomon, of Solomon Painting** donated their labor and artistry, as well as tons of paint and tools. **Drake's Paint** provided us with a wonderful selection of brand new paint and brushes.

Countless volunteers came together to make this happen. In total, 450 man hours were spent to complete the project in one week. We recruited our family members and friends. Community partners of the CAC from the **District Attorney's Office, Department of Human Services, and Medford Police Department** who regularly devote countless hours working with child abuse victims, also donated their time and talent to make this project happen. A beautiful aspect of this project was that we had many children, ranging in age from 4-17, working alongside their adult family members.

We would be happy to take you on a tour to show off the beautiful artwork that

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From the Desk of the Director

Continuing the Vision

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Our Vision

Communities where children are safe, families are strong, and our child victims become children again.



Our Mission

To meet the needs of children and families by providing a community-based, child-focused center that facilitates a compassionate, multi-disciplinary approach to the prevention, treatment, identification, investigation, and prosecution of child abuse.

Spring has sprung in the Rogue Valley. Spring always brings images of renewal and hope for me. April is **Child Abuse Awareness Month**. It offers a chance to bring new messages regarding abuse and hope for protection of our most vulnerable citizens through education programs. In that spirit, I am very excited to announce The Children's Advocacy Center of Jackson County was one of 11 sites awarded a grant from **The Ford Family Foundation** that will breathe new life into our **Darkness to Light Stewards of Children** program. The goal of this partnership is to train 5% of Jackson County's adult population in child sexual abuse prevention over the next three years. It is a lofty goal. We are going to try to train **8,216 adults** in preventing child sexual abuse over the next three years. We will continue to offer this class out of the Children's Advocacy Center but we will also bring this class out to you in the community. If you would like facilitators to come to your place of work, your child's school, your church — anywhere — and teach you about recognizing the signs of child abuse and how to respond, **please contact us to schedule a class.**

In January, we began rolling out a new case tracking system called **NCAtrak**. This system will enable the CAC to track outcomes for the cases served through the Center. It will help to more readily identify needs and service gaps for the clients we serve. It will also allow for more efficient and accurate reporting for grants. We have rolled it out in the Intake Center, and have begun to roll it out in the medical and therapy departments. This system was designed by the National Children's Alliance for Child Advocacy Centers and is much more cost effective than our old system. It will be easier to sustain over the long run, but most importantly it will allow our Center to better serve our clients.

One of the first things I noticed when joining the CAC staff about a year and a half ago was the need to expand our medical department. We are currently seeing service needs beyond our capacity. In an attempt to address the needs of the children we serve we are expanding our medical department by **hiring a nurse practitioner**. We have been recruiting and searching for the candidate who is the best fit since the fall. We hope to have someone hired in the very near future. It has been a much harder process that we had ever imagined it would be. This is such an important expansion. I am hoping the next time you hear from me, that it will be to announce the name of our new nurse practitioner!

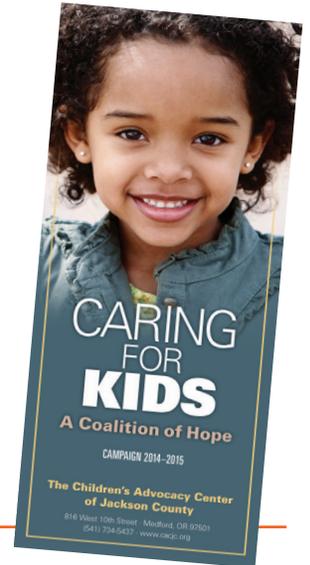
April is going to be very busy for us at the Center. We are going to be participating in **strategic planning** to help guide us through the next three years of program planning and expansion. This will be a process facilitated by the **Western Regional Children's Advocacy Center**. I think it is so important to have an idea of where you want to go so that you can recognize when you get there! This process will define where there is the most potential to strengthen services for the children we serve and their families. There will be more to come on this in the near future.

April also brings two Child Abuse Awareness events in Medford. We look forward to participating in the **April 8th Family Night** at Alba Park sponsored by the **Child Abuse Network**, along with other great child-serving agencies. We will also participate in the **April 9th Stand In event** in Alba Park. This will be an event where we read stories of child abuse from our very own

Support Medical Exams for Kids through the *Caring for Kids* Campaign

Our *Caring for Kids* Campaign is in full swing and you are invited to be part of it! Funding for the Children's Advocacy Center comes from a variety of sources. While we receive some funding from the Department of Justice and other government agencies, we rely on support from the community to allow us to continue our services. Victims and their families are never charged for the critical services they need after

abuse has been disclosed. Support for the *Caring for Kids* Campaign goes directly toward medical exams and services for vulnerable infants, children and teens in Jackson County, allowing for a high level of advocacy, wraparound care, therapeutic intervention, and ongoing follow up that helps keep kids safe and allows them to heal.



A Small Department with a Big Job

Our small medical department is tasked with a large job: providing specialized child abuse medical exams to infants, children and teenagers who have experienced abuse or neglect. Our Medical Director, **Dr. Natalya Miller**, has extensive training in this field, and many agencies depend on her expert care with children and on her medical reports for their service provision to the families who come to us. She is the Designated Medical Provider for all **Karly's Law** cases in Jackson County. This Oregon law mandates that any suspicious injury to a child must be reported and reviewed by her within 48 hours. She provides forensic medical examinations to approximately **250 children a year**. These head-to-toe exams cover all medical needs of the child and our doctor's medical reports are used to ensure appropriate ongoing medical care.



- ❖ professionals trained to **interpret** those images and **diagnose** child abuse and neglect;
- ❖ **advocacy** for the complete medical needs of the child and family to ensure safety and healing;
- ❖ connections to **child abuse experts across the nation** – which means immediate assistance for the youth of our valley in the highest quality diagnosis and treatment available

What Sets Our Medical Department Apart:

- ❖ **trained professionals** who can conduct forensic child abuse exams, provide expert witness testimony in court, and offer consultations to other professionals working with the child and family;
- ❖ **specialized technology** which can capture high quality images and evidence for court proceedings;



Dr. Joe Pastrano, Medford Radiological Group, Honorary Campaign Chair

“The medical staff at the Children's Advocacy Center of Jackson County provides admirably professional and tender care to the most vulnerable children in the valley.”

Levels of Giving

Champion	\$20,000 and up
Guardian	\$5,000 to \$19,999
Protector	\$500 to \$4,999
Friend	\$1 to \$499

You can be a part of this community response to child abuse. **We invite you to make a donation at the highest level possible.** Infants, children and teenagers in our community depend on all of us. Please join us in our work.

Contact **Michelle Wilson**, Development Director, at (541) 282-5474 X111 or mwilson@cacjc.org for more information or to make a secure, tax-deductible donation.

On behalf of those we serve, thank you.

Upcoming Events

We hope you will join us for one or more of these events. You are a part of our community and there are many ways you can make a difference in the lives of children and teens.

Child Abuse Awareness Month Family Event

Wednesday, April 8 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. · Alba Park

We are happy to be a part of this family event, offered by the Child Abuse Network (CAN), which will include games, food, booths, and more! Bring your kids and grandkids — we hope to see you there!



Stand In for Children

Thursday, April 9 – Noon to 1 p.m. Alba Park

This annual event honors the hundreds of children (**707 in 2014**) who are victims of child abuse and neglect in Jackson County. Stories of children and teens in our community will be shared as we come together to honor them and to continue the work of prevention, intervention, and treatment for those affected by abuse.

law enforcement officers, and others. If you work with children or teens who are at-risk of abuse, this training will provide information to help you be a strong advocate for them, including resources available in our community. Contact Christine at cdaoust@cacjc.org or (541) 734-5437 for more information. There is no cost to attend.



Winemaker's Dinner at Pomodori

Wednesday, May 13 – 6 p.m. Pomodori Ristorante and Bistro

\$50 – \$25 of this is donated back to the Children's Advocacy Center

We are grateful to the owners of Pomodori for offering another wonderful winemaker's dinner to support our work with kids! The 5-course menu includes Italian Sausage Mushroom Pesto Mozzarella Flatbread, Wedge Salad, French Onion Soup, Short Ribs or Salmon Cakes, and Chocolate Bread Pudding, all paired with local wines. Thank you to Wooldridge Creek, Cuckoo's Nest, Rosella's, Jaxon, and Red Lily wineries for offering the wines. These events fill up quickly! Contact Jeff at (541) 779-4162 or pomoowners@gmail.com to make a reservation.



Celebrating the Cultures of Our World Art Show

Saturday, May 16 – 1 to 3 p.m. Craterian Theater

This art show will feature work by children and teens in Jackson County. The work will include submissions to our art contest, *Celebrating the Cultures of Our World*, and 15 pieces will be selected to be on display at our center. Stop by the show as you enjoy Art in Bloom downtown that day!

Child Abuse Symposium: The Developmental Impact of Trauma on Children



Thursday and Friday, June 4-5 · Inn at the Commons

No cost for Thursday presentation and reception; \$75 for Friday (\$60 for early registration with some scholarships available)

Our annual symposium offers national speakers with new research and information on child abuse intervention and treatment. This year we are offering a presentation by **David Pittman**, a survivor of abuse and founder of Together We Heal, on Thursday from 4-6 p.m. There is no cost to attend this presentation and we will offer a reception with appetizers and no-host drinks at 6 p.m. The full day training on Friday will include a presentation by **Kelly Decker, Ph.D** from **UCLA** and the presentation of our first annual **Protector of Children Award**. For information or to register, contact Christine at (541) 734-5437 or cdaoust@cacjc.org. The cost for the training on Friday



Responding to Allegations of Child Maltreatment 2-day Training

Wednesday and Thursday, April 29-30 – 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Children's Advocacy Center Board Room

This 2-day training will offer important information on what happens when an allegation of child abuse or neglect has been made, with presentations by CAC staff members, representatives from the District Attorney's Office,

is \$75 and includes lunch and breakfast. Early registration before May 15 is \$60. Some scholarships are available.

2015 Mercedes-Benz Dealer Championships Golf Tournament



Sunday, July 19 – 7 a.m.

Eagle Point Golf Course

\$150 – \$100 of this is donated to the Children's Advocacy Center

This 2-person scramble is one of the premier golf tournaments of the year!

We are grateful to **Mercedes-Benz of Medford** for choosing our center as the recipient of this event again this year. Players will compete for one of two spots on the dealer team that will advance to the Sectional Tournament in the fall. Participants receive great gifts from Nike and the hole-in-one prize is a **2015 Mercedes-Benz GLA 250!** For information or to register, contact **Norma** at normas@mbzmedford.com or (541) 774-1000.

Concert at Valley View Winery with Jeff Pevar and Inger Jorgensen



Saturday, September 19 – 4 to 7 p.m.

Valley View Winery

\$50 for wine, food, and great music!

This benefit concert has been re-scheduled because Jeff will be touring with **Bette Midler** this summer! We look forward to welcoming him back to the Rogue Valley at

this evening of music, food from **Elements**, and wine from **Valley View Winery**. Contact Michelle at (541) 282-5474 X111 or mwilson@cacjc.org for information or to purchase tickets.

Darkness to Light Stewards of Children Child Abuse Prevention Trainings

*Mondays, April 27, May 25, June 29, and July 27
4 to 6 p.m. · Children's Advocacy Center*

\$10 materials fee

This training provides clear information on how to spot the signs of possible child sexual abuse, how to intervene effectively if it is happening, and how to take steps to prevent it from happening in the first place. This is a great training for educators, parents, grandparents, babysitters, and anyone with children in their lives. Contact Leah at (541) 734-5437 for more information or to register. We can also bring this training to groups of 10 or more people.



Protecting Our Children By Educating Adults

The Children's Advocacy Center of Jackson County was one of 11 sites in Oregon and Northern California to receive a 3-year grant award from **The Ford Family Foundation** in Roseburg for the foundation's **Protect Our Children** program. The \$105,000 grant will allow us to greatly expand our *Darkness to Light Stewards of Children* training program, with a goal of training 5% of Jackson County adults over the 3-year period. The *Stewards of Children* training teaches adults how to spot the signs of possible sexual abuse, intervene effectively if it is happening, and take important steps to stop it from happening in the first place. **Leah Howell** has been contracted to coordinate the program. For more information or to schedule a training for your group or agency, contact the center at (541) 734-5437.

Community Support Makes it all Happen!

We are so grateful for all of the **community support** that continues to come in for the center and our work with kids. This agency was built through grass-roots efforts of many people in the Rogue Valley, and it continues to be sustained and strengthened by the generosity of businesses, foundations, and individuals interested in helping kids live safe, healthy lives.

At Christmas, we were able to provide gifts for lots of children and teens. We are grateful to the **Neuman Hotel Group, Lowes, the Motorcycle Superstore, Moss Adams, Medford Montessori, and Macaroni Kid** for wonderful donations of gifts to help make this happen.

Early this year we received large donation of gas cards and backpacks filled with toys, school supplies, art supplies, and stuffed animals from a local **girl scout troop**, and **Cara Wirt of Balanced Massage** brought in a large donation of art supplies and gas cards from a benefit she did for our center with her clients.

Karen Scott, the author of the children's book *Sweet Pea: The Homeless Dog Who Could Not be Caught*, donates a portion of her book sales to our center. We are grateful for this type of dedicated, ongoing support for our services for kids.

We are always in need of **gas cards** in increments of \$10, **new art supplies**, and **gently used books** for kids of all ages (in English and Spanish). If you would like to make a donation, please contact us at (541) 734-5437.

What We are Doing: Department Updates

Intake, Forensic Interviews and Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)

Members of the Jackson County Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) have attended several trainings recently, including the **2015 San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment** and the **2015 National Children's Advocacy Center International Symposium on Child Abuse** in Huntsville, Alabama. In April, 19 child abuse professionals, including law enforcement detectives, DHS Child Welfare case workers, Juvenile Parole and Probations officers, and CAC staff from Jackson, Josephine, and Curry Counties will attend the **2015 Child Abuse and Family Violence Summit** in Portland, Oregon.

Medical Department

Our medical department continues to play a crucial role in the continuum of care for young victims of abuse in Jackson County. On **June 4-5** the department will offer our annual **Child Abuse Symposium**, and this year we are offering a free presentation, open to the whole community. The theme for the symposium is "**The Developmental Impact of Trauma on Children**" and on Thursday from 4-6 we will have a presentation by **Dave Pittman**, a survivor of abuse and founder of Together We Heal. On Friday, **Kelly Decker, Ph.D**, a clinical from **UCLA**, will present new information on the ways that trauma impacts the brain and child development. We hope that many people professionals and community members will take advantage of this unique series of presentations offered by national speakers.

Therapy and Mentoring

Our therapists have been having opportunities to use their individual expertise in treatment with children and families through support from foundation grants. In 2014, our **Building Bridges** project, funded by grants from the **Women Living Leadership (WiLL)** group of **United Way** and the **Touvelle Foundation**, offered 60 children and teens the chance to participate in workshops in theater arts, painting, equine therapy, rock climbing, cooking and farming, dance and movement, and mandala creation. Our therapists helped to lead some of these groups, and we are continuing this year with the addition of a new **Mini Mermaid** running group for girls, offered by **Elycia Bechard, LPC**. A grant from the **Carpenter Family Foundation** has allowed for the purchase of new materials for our therapy department, including new mental health assessment tools that are used to help diagnose the unique needs of each of our young clients. We are grateful to many foundations for their support of our therapy department.

Prevention/ Education

We are very happy to have received a 3-year grant from **The Ford Family Foundation** which is allowing us to greatly increase our **Darkness to Light Stewards of Children** child sexual abuse prevention training program. **Leah Howell** has been contracted to coordinate this program, which began with a kick-off event in Roseburg in early April. Our center is one of 11 sites chosen for this project and we look forward to sharing more information



in coming newsletters. Our team of facilitators for this program is growing, with **Angela Watson**, our Office Manager, and **Elycia Bechard, LPC**, recently completing the training. Contact the center at **(541) 734-5437** if you are interested in taking the training or in having it scheduled for your group or school.

We are offering our 2-day training, **Responding to Allegations of Child Maltreatment**, on **April 29 and 30** at the center. There is no cost to attend this training, which includes presentations from CAC staff members, law enforcement officers, representatives from the Department of Human Services and the District Attorney's Office, and others. For information or to sign up, contact **Christine** at cdaoust@cacjc.org or **(541) 734-5437**.

Regional Services

Tammi Pitzen, our Executive Director, has been asked to serve on the Advisory Board of the CAMI fund of the Department of Justice for the State of Oregon. In this role, she is part of a team of professionals working to create protocols and procedures to help children and families live safer, healthier lives.

Thank you to **Mustard Press** and **Impact Publications** for generous donations to help make this newsletter possible. Printed on **recycled paper**.

Welcome to the Team!



Eleyda Ruiz-Castro
Clinical Services Coordinator

Eleyda grew up in Southern Oregon and graduated from Phoenix High School in 2005. She has skills in patient relations, medical record keeping, and scheduling. She is an active Bilingual Domestic Abuse Advocate and she also works part-time at Jackson County's only domestic abuse shelter. She is very happy to be working at the Children's Advocacy Center as it allows her to help make a positive difference in the lives of children and families.



Aimee Elko
Board Member

Aimee Elko is the Vice President of Member Service at Rogue Credit Union, where she has worked for the past 14 years. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors for the CAC, she volunteers at Howard Elementary School, Harvest Christian Academy, and Kids Unlimited. She has also been a volunteer for ACCESS, Habitat for Humanity, the Boys & Girls Club, Rogue Community College, and various Chambers. She attended the Neighborhood Leadership Academy in 2006, which was run by Rogue Community College and the City of Medford, and later joined the Citizens Planning Advisory Committee and the Historic Commission.



Leah Howell
Stewards of Children Training Coordinator

Leah was recently contracted to coordinate our Darkness to Light Stewards of Children Training Program, which is being expanded through a 3-year grant from The Ford Family Foundation. Leah has a Master of Science degree in Organizational Leadership from Cairn University and a B.A. in Social Work. Her past work experience includes serving as the Development Officer for Addictions Recovery Center and as a Program Assistant for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She also has experience as a volunteer coordinator and a teen mentor.



Kristin Galabrun
Intern

As a social work intern at the Children's Advocacy Center, Kristin provides clinical support services to children, teens and families, including assessment, counseling, and case management. She received her B.A. in Integrative Studies from Warren Wilson College in 2003, a degree that incorporated Peace Studies, Education, and Sociology. She will receive her Master's of Social Work from Portland State University in June of 2015. She is enjoying her time at the CAC, where she is working in the therapy and intake departments.

Continuing the Vision Continued from pg 2

community. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible at these events.

I would be remiss if I did not use this time to thank everyone who was involved in the **25th Annual Winter Gala**—through planning, donations, or attending the event. The night was so much fun and so successful beyond what we imagined possible. It makes me proud to be a part of this community when I see how people come together to address the issue of child abuse in Jackson County. Because of the unwavering support of this community we are able to continue providing high quality, life-changing services to the young abuse

victims we serve.

If you have time to give and if you love children, we sure could use your help as a **volunteer at the CAC**. We are in need of caring adults who can come in and supervise our young clients in the medical/ therapy waiting area. We also could use some help with supervising children of parents who attend the parent's support group on Thursday evenings. We require all volunteers to submit to a background check. If you are interested please email mburroughs@cacjc.org or call **541-734-5437** and ask to speak to **Megan Burroughs, our Volunteer Coordinator**.

Our Medical Department...

Continued from pg 1

is sure to delight and comfort children for years to come. As the doctor who examines the children at the CAC, I am proud to say that all the time and effort it took to do this project was well worth it and has truly made an impact. When children enter the exam room, they gaze in awe at the cloud covered ceiling and forested walls, and the look on their faces makes me believe that entering this enchanted space reminds them of the children they are and deserve to be.

Thank you to everyone, big and small, who made this happen.



Children's Advocacy C E N T E R

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\$50 for wine, food, and great music!

Simple Things You Can Do To Support Kids

Contribute to the *Caring for Kids Campaign* and support critical medical exams for kids who have been abused. **Contact Michelle at (541) 282-5474, X111 or mwilson@cacjc.org** for information or to make a secure, tax-deductible donation.

Go to www.fredmeyer.com and click on the **Community Rewards link at the bottom of the home page**. Follow the directions and link your account to the **Children's Advocacy Center** of Jackson County and every time you shop, the center will receive a donation!

Go to www.smile.amazon.com and link your account to the **Jackson County Child Abuse Task Force**. (*That is how we are listed on their site.*) Every time you shop at their site, a donation will be made to the center!

