

# The Advocate

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF JACKSON COUNTY

November 2014

*Where small voices are heard*

## You Matter!

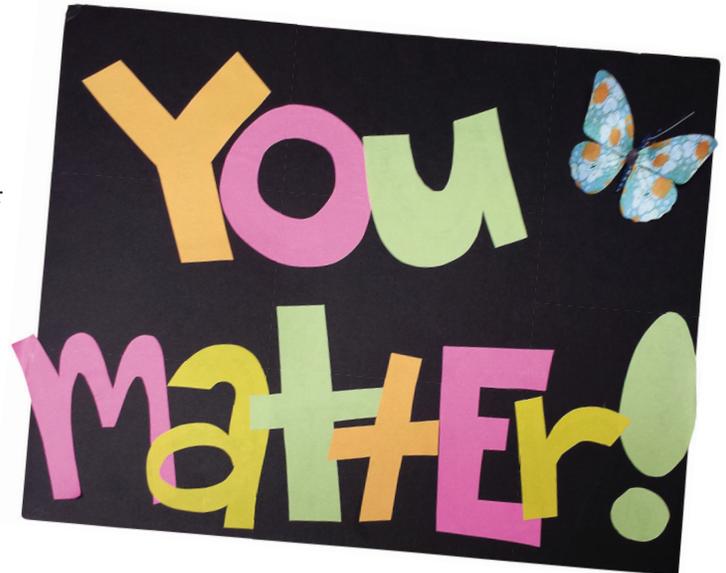
At the 2014 Cherish a Child luncheon, we were happy to premiere a video created by **Lithia Motors** for our **You Matter** campaign. We began this campaign last fall as a way to connect with our supporters through an on-line giving platform. Earlier this year, **Formers Productions** created our first video in this series with the simple message that *everyone matters when it comes to helping children and teens in our community.*

We invite you to view our videos on our website, [www.cacjc.org](http://www.cacjc.org), and to contribute whatever you are able as we work to continue providing services to some of the most vulnerable youth in our region. We are happy to share this blog, written by **Mark Huddleston**, Board member. It was featured last November on the **Giving Tuesday** Facebook page, which reaches 15,000 people. Giving Tuesday is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving and is a national day of giving back to our communities.

**You matter!** In fact, if it weren't for you, and people like you, our Children's Advocacy Center would not exist today. Some people think that our CAC gets the majority of its funding from grants, foundations and government assistance. The reality is that we depend very much on the generosity of people and businesses from our own community.

As the retired District Attorney for

Jackson County, and a long-time board member of the CAC, I'd like to share a little bit about how our Center came to be. The first CAC was started in Huntsville, Alabama in 1986 by then D.A. Bud Cramer. The philosophy behind the CAC model is to change how the system works so that it is designed with child abuse victims in mind. In Jackson County, the process started in 1987 with a group called the **Jackson County Child Abuse Task Force**. With no large grants available at the time, we started on a shoestring. We started with grants from what was then the **Jackson County Junior Service League** and the **Ben B. Cheney Foundation** that totaled just over \$20,000. With that money in hand, we found a small house at 816 West 10th Street that was available for sale for \$43,000. Since we didn't look like a good bet for financing at that time, we needed assistance to secure a mortgage. That help came from the **City of Medford**, and from **Jackson County**, each of which agreed to guarantee the balance on the loan if we were unable to pay it off. The purchase was made in December of 1990. For the next year, we spent every weekend and many weekdays working on the remodel of that old home. It was stripped to the studs and slowly was



turned into a modern children's advocacy center. The work was mostly done by volunteers: from **Kiwanis**, **St. Mark's Church**, the **Moose**, **Elks**, **boy scouts** and many others. Donations of materials and supplies came from **Kogap Lumber**, **Hughes Plywood**, and many other local businesses. We opened our doors for business in April of 1991. We could not have pulled it off without yeoman's work from **Bruce Abeloe**, a Medford architect, who acted as our general contractor, and who spent most of his Saturdays for a year helping to direct activities at the site.

I really think the fact that we didn't have a big grant to simply build ourselves a new center, turned out to be a good thing in the long run - because it meant that we had to come to the community for support. And we have had great support from our community ever since! That's what I mean when I say you matter. **In fact, we all matter!**



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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.



## From the Desk of the Director

# Continuing the Vision

By the time this newsletter hits your mailbox I will have been in Oregon a whole year. It seems that time has flown by in some regards and stood still in others. There has been much done to strengthen and continue to grow our programs and there is much more to be done. I have been so impressed by the team of professionals in Jackson County whose responsibility it is to investigate, treat and prosecute child abuse. They are professional, passionate, highly skilled and most importantly care about the children at the heart of their abuse cases. When keeping our children safe from abuse is a community priority, we know the outcome is stronger families and safer communities.

**This past year has been one of stretching, re-creating, and growing for the Children's Advocacy Center of Jackson County.** I predict the next year will be a continuation of change and transition for our Center as we strive to bring the best child-focused and trauma-informed services to the abused children and their non-offending caregivers we serve.

I come from a strong background in collaborative efforts. Collaboration is the very core of the Children's Advocacy Center model. In the spirit of collaboration, part of our re-creation of programs has been focused on our mentoring program. We have contracted with **The Rose Circle** to provide special mentoring circles for the children we serve. This effort has allowed us to remain faithful to our primary mission without duplicating a service that is already available through an organization whose primary service is mentoring. We are hopeful that we will be able to build and develop more of these collaborations with other community organizations in order to provide more consistent services to the families we serve. We recognize that many times the non-offending caregiver's response to the abuse is dependent on what support services will be available to the family, particularly if the perpetrator of the abuse is the primary financial provider.

We are working to increase our services to children and teens in all areas. We have recently increased our availability to provide therapeutic interventions by expanding our therapy staff to three full-time therapists. This allows for about forty more hours of therapy services a month.

We are working on expanding our medical department. We are in search of the right Nurse Practitioner to compliment our existing expert medical staff.

We are turning our attention and efforts to the world of prevention and education and are working on a plan for our prevention services over the next 12 months. We have just recently added three new people to our pool of facilitators for the Darkness to Light *Stewards of Children* sexual abuse prevention program. We will continue to hold monthly classes here at the center to teach community members how to protect children from sexual abuse, but we are also focused on continuing to bring this training out in the community. **If you are a youth serving agency and would like to train your staff on recognizing and responding to child sexual abuse, please contact the Center.**

The Board and I are currently planning a time for staff and the Board to begin working on a **Strategic Plan for the next three to five years.** This is a very exciting time for our Center. A good, solid Strategic Plan will ensure that we are working on the right goals with a focus on providing the very best

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# Events and Community Support

This year has brought many events to support the Children's Advocacy Center. We have planned and coordinated some and others have been held by local businesses to provide financial contributions to our work.

In April, **Jeff Pevar** and **Inger Jorgensen** offered a concert at **Valley View Winery** to a small group of our supporters. We enjoyed great wine donated by Valley View, and we are also grateful to **Elements, Bella Union, Sunrise Cafe, and Mucho Gusto** for donating appetizers for the evening.

*Randy Jones received the Champion for Children award at the Cherish a Child luncheon in October 2014*



In May, we held our annual **Summer Splash** event, a thank you to our major donors, at the **Rogue Gallery & Art Center**. We were very happy to award **Patsy Smullin** the **Champion for Children** award for her years of donations and support for the center. We were grateful to **Adam's Deli & Catering** for providing wonderful food and to **Wooldridge Creek Winery** and **Mark Conner of Lithia Auto** for donating the wine for the evening.

In June, **Black Bird Shopping Center** held their annual **Fishing Derby** and chose our center as the recipient of a donation from



*Dr. Natalya Miller gives Dr. Kerri Hecox the Karen Doolen Service to Community Award at Cherish a Child 2014*



*Mercedes-Benz presented a check for \$5,200 to our Center after their Dealer Championship Golf Tournament*

the entry fees. They awarded us **\$839** to go toward services for children.

On July 5, the **Medford Rogues** chose our center as the recipient for the evening's baseball game ticket sales. Go Rogues!

In late July, **Mercedes-Benz of Medford** held their annual **Dealers Championship Golf Tournament** and for the 2nd year in a row, our center was the recipient of funds raised. We were awarded a check for **\$5,200**, and we are very grateful for this support which went directly to services for children. We are also grateful to **Bella Union, Umpqua Bank, Gold Beach.org, Hook & Cord, The Human Bean, Jerry's Rogue Jets, Fox 26, State Farm agent Manny Saenz, Medford Mattress, Southern Oregon Pawn, Valley Web Printing, and Valley View Winery** for providing sponsorships for the event.

In September, **Pomodori Bistro and Wine Bar** offered a 5-course winemakers dinner as a benefit for the center. The evening included a silent auction and raised **\$1,125** for our center. Thank you to **Agate Ridge, Cuckoos Nest, Aurora Vines, Cliff Creek Cellars** and **Troon** for donating wines for the evening.

In late August, **Toni Richmond, LMFT**, retired from the Children's Advocacy Center after more than 15 years of dedicated service to thousands of children and teens.



*Patsy Smullin received the Champion for Children award at our Summer Splash donor appreciation event in May.*

We honored her work at a **retirement party** at **Cobblestone Cottages**. Toni joined the Board of Directors in October, so the center will continue to benefit from her skills, expertise, and compassionate service.



*Toni Richmond and Charlie Baggett at Toni's retirement party*

On October 8, we held our annual **Cherish a Child** luncheon at **Inn at the Commons**. Once again, the room was packed! We awarded the **Karen Doolen Service to Community Award** to **Dr. Kerri Hecox**, the former Medical Director of the center, and the **Champion for Children Award** to **Randy Jones**, a member of our Advisory Council and long-time supporter of the center.

## "Not This Kid" Fashion Show

Erica Paulsen, a senior at South Medford High School, designed a line of clothes called "Not This Kid" aimed at abuse prevention for her senior project. She held a fashion show at the Rogue Valley Country Club in March with all proceeds benefitting the Center. **Thank you, Erica!**



*Not This Kid fashion show at the Rogue Valley Country Club*

# The *Building Bridges* Project

In the fall of 2013, we started a great new project called **Building Bridges**. The goals of this project are to remove barriers that families who come to us may have which keep them from getting the services they need, and to help make a "bridge" for children and teens back into the community after experiencing trauma. This project is part of a long-term plan to strengthen and deepen our core services of forensic interviews, medical exams, and therapy services and to expand the services we provide which help children and their families return to their lives healthier, safer, and more connected to the larger community.

## Building Bridges for Families to Receive Services

Two of the biggest barriers families may face when they come to us for services are problems with transportation and language or cultural issues. One way we are helping families with transportation for appointments is through offering gas cards. We give them in increments of \$10 and they often mean the difference between children being able to receive therapy or attend workshops or having to miss them. **Donations of \$10 gas cards are a great way to help children and teens receive therapy and other services!**

We are also ensuring that we have translators available for clients who do not speak English, that all written materials for clients are printed in English and Spanish, and that translation assistance is available for children and families with hearing and other types of disabilities.

## Building Bridges Into the Community

We are excited about our partnership with **The Rose Circle**, a group specializing in mentoring circles for youth. They have been offering mentoring circles for our clients since the spring, with referrals to these groups made by our therapists and medical staff.



Stacy Hubbard, LMFT, is now offering **rock climbing and adventure therapy** to our clients at the **Rogue Valley YMCA**. These individual and group sessions are a great way to build confidence and communication skills while also having a great time. We are grateful to the **Touville Foundation** and the **Carpenter Family Foundation** for grants toward this and other projects.



We also received a **\$5,000 grant** from the **Women Living Leadership (WiLL) Council of United Way** early this year and it has allowed us to create wonderful partnerships with community groups and offer our young clients great new experiences. We partnered with **The Studio**

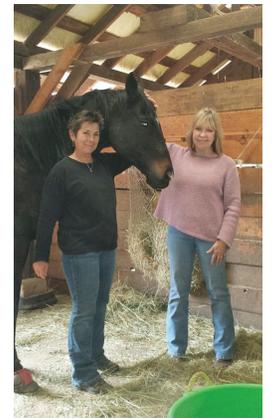
**at Living Opportunities** to offer youth professional painting classes which culminated in an art show at the **Craterian Theater** in July. **Daniel Murphy** of **Integrity of Life Services** offered a mandala workshop to some of our clients, helping youth identify their strengths and create art work to represent it.

In August, our clients were able to take a **dance and movement workshop** offered by **Catherine Zern, LCSW** with assistance from teachers **Becky Hale** and **Jenna Trotter**.



September was a wonderful harvest month and many youth participated in a month-long series of workshops at **Hanley Farm**, through a partnership with the **Rogue Valley Farm to Schools** group. Our clients learned about the history of Hanley Farm, gardening, farm animals, harvesting food and seeds, and cooking. Each week they cooked a meal together and on the last week, they cooked for their families! Each family took home a cookbook of recipes created through the workshop series.

In October, clients participated in specialized **equine therapy groups** with **Toni Richmond, LMFT** and **Tedi Tate** of the **Warhorse Alliance** in Ashland. They were able to interact with horses and learn more about themselves and others in a safe, comfortable setting.



We will round out the **Building Bridges** series with workshops in **theater arts** offered by the **Oregon Conservatory of Performing Arts**. We are very grateful to the funders and community partners making this all possible! *(Special thanks to the **Ashland Food Co-op** for a grant toward food for all of our groups.)*

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

# Meet the New Members of Our Team



**Angela Watson**  
Office Manager

Angela joined our staff in June and brings strong work experience in all areas of office administration. Her prior experience is in the business world,

and she is enjoying sharing her skills in an agency serving children and families. She works with Tammi and handles all areas of keeping the center running smoothly. She was born and raised in Medford and has a husband and two children.



**Elycia Bechard, LPC**  
Therapist

Elycia brings years of experience to her work as a therapist with children and families. She worked at Jackson County Mental Health and is trained in several

therapeutic modalities, including Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), both of which support youth and adults in learning and practicing safe, healthy behaviors. She is married and has two dogs.



**Anabel Reyes**  
Clinical Coordinator

Anabel works at the front desk of our medical and therapy department, scheduling appointments and coordinating clinical services for our clients. She has

worked in the banking industry and at the Department of Human Services in the Self-Sufficiency and Child Welfare departments, where she was a supervisor. She is also the mother of an 8-month-old baby boy.



**Mark Conner**  
Board of Directors

Mark is the Assistant Vice President of Marketing for Lithia Motors. He brings his expert skills at marketing and communications to his role on the Board,

as well as his generosity and business skills. Since joining

the Board, he has already supported the center in many ways, including creating the *You Matter* video we aired at our *Cherish a Child* luncheon.



**Christy Nikola**  
Board of Directors

Christy is the Payroll Manager of Asante and was a long-time volunteer for the center before she joined the Board of Directors. Over the years she has

volunteered in the administrative, development, intake, and medical/ therapy departments. She has worked in the field of finance for many years and brings a strong background of business expertise to her role on the Board.



**Toni Richmond, LMFT**  
Board of Directors

Toni retired from her work as a therapist at the center after 15 years of service to children and families we serve. She and Jack, her therapy dog, still work with

children and families through her private practice, and we are very happy to see them at Board meetings. Toni brings her clinical expertise and decades of experience working with traumatized children and teens to her role on the Board.



**Gina Duquenne**  
Board of Directors

Gina is the Senior Sales and Catering Manager of the Ashland Springs Hotel and the Neuman Hotel Group. She has been a supporter of the center

for years, and she brings a strong passion for helping create healthy communities to her work on our team. She has served on other boards in the Rogue Valley and offers her strong community relations skills and experience to our mission of helping children heal from abuse.

# What We are Doing: Department Updates

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

Megan Burroughs, our Intake and MDT Coordinator, attended the Sexual Assault Symposium in Ashland in October and Cari Dickson, our Forensic Interviewer and Regional Trainer, and Jim Williams, Medford Police Office, attended the Crimes Against Children Conference in Dallas this summer. The intake department is the place where children and teens receive their forensic disclosure interviews and when cases go to the Grand Jury, those sessions are held at our center, to reduce further trauma to our young clients.

## Medical Department

The medical department offered our annual medical symposium in June at the Smullin Health Education Center on Child Sex Trafficking and Exploitation. The speakers were Byron Fassett and Catherine DeLaPaz, both from Dallas Police Department. Dr. Miller gave a training in September on Karly's Law, a law which mandates that all suspicious in-

juries to children be reviewed to determine whether or not they may have been caused by abuse, to members of the MDT. The department is also currently working with the Asante lab department to strengthen interagency collaboration on child abuse cases.

## Therapy and Mentoring

Our licensed therapists continue to expand the types of therapy offered to our young clients. Toni Richmond, LMFT, retired at the end of August and Elycia Bechard, LPC, joined the team. She will add Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) to the modalities offered in the therapy department. Stacy Hubbard, LMFT, is now offering rock climbing and adventure therapy opportunities to boys in both group and individual settings. Catherine Zern, LCSW, is now leading the therapy groups for teen girls who have been sexually assaulted and leads the parent support groups each week.

## Prevention/Education

In October, Tammi Pitzen, our Executive Director, Charlie Baggett,

the Board Chair, and Connie Eaton, a community volunteer from KOB, were trained as facilitators in the Darkness to Light Stewards of Children child sexual abuse prevention training, offered by the Ford Family Foundation. These trainings are offered monthly at the center and are available to anyone in the community. The cost is \$10 for materials. To register for a training, contact Christine at (541) 734-5437.

In May, the staff and members of the MDT offered a two-day training on Responding to Allegations of Child Maltreatment at the center. Trainings on various topics related to child abuse prevention, intervention and treatment can be offered to groups in the community. Call the center at (541) 734-5437 for information.

## Regional Services

Cari Dickson was one of the faculty trainers for the Oregon Certified Interview Training in Eugene in July, which was attended by 30 professionals in the field of child abuse from across the state. This training ensures that those who conduct forensic interviews are trained in the best practices in the field, based on current research and national standards.

## Continuing the Vision Continued from pg 2

interventions possible to those we serve, in the most efficient way possible.

**This past year has been inspiring for me.** I am hopeful. We have made some great strides as a country in talking openly about abuse. It seems that every other week we are reading in the news about some role model, actor, or athlete abusing children and that can be very disheartening. I am overjoyed because WE are talking about it. We are bringing it out into the open and

making sure that those people perpetrating the abuse hear loud and clear that we are no longer going to overlook their abusive behavior. We have made some great strides to help our children.

On a more personal note, my family moved to Southern Oregon a year ago. We didn't really know what to expect but what we found was a community that has welcomed us with open arms. **We found a community that not only cares about the child abuse happening in their neighborhoods but also is willing to**

**support the Center in our efforts to help abused children begin to heal.** We found a community to call home. We have been humbled by your generosity, your can-do spirit, and your acceptance of our family into your community.

Together we can make a difference in the lives of abused children in Jackson County. What you do matters in the life of an abused child. Contact me to talk about how you can take a more active role.

—Tammi Pitzen, Executive Director

# Preventing Child Abuse is Part of Our Mission!

Did you know that the Children's Advocacy Center of Jackson County has educational opportunities for both professionals working in the field of child abuse and community members who are interested in keeping children safe?

With much of our efforts spent in intervening in cases of child abuse, it is hard to find time and resources that can be dedicated to being proactive. However, in a push to do just that, the Children's Advocacy Center is expanding our community outreach program. Through the generosity of **The Ford Family Foundation** we were able to train three new facilitators in the **Darkness to Light Stewards of Children** child sexual abuse prevention program. We will continue to hold monthly *Stewards*

*of Children* trainings open to the public. These classes will teach you to recognize and respond to child sexual abuse.

In an effort to get as many adults trained in protecting children from sexual abuse as possible, we are also outreaching to youth-serving agencies to bring this training to all adults who work with children. We are grateful to the **Oregon Community Foundation Community 101 programs of Phoenix High School, St. Mary's School, McLoughlin Middle School, and Washington Elementary** for grants with help to pay for these trainings. If you are interested, we can bring the training to your agency and train your staff and volunteers. Please contact the Center to get a class scheduled.

In June, our Center hosted a **Child**

**Abuse Symposium** on Child Sex Trafficking. We spent six hours learning about recognizing and responding to child victims of the sex trafficking industry. We are currently in the planning phases for the next Child Abuse Symposium to be held in the **summer of 2015**, so stay tuned to see what exciting opportunity we will be bringing to our region. The symposiums focus on investigating, responding, prosecuting and intervening in child abuse cases.

In addition to the *Stewards of Children* prevention training, the CAC can bring customized trainings on child abuse related topics to your agency. **Contact Tammi Pitzen to get a class scheduled for your staff and volunteers.**

## If you have children in your life or work with children – this training is for you!

The Children's Advocacy Center offers the *Stewards of Children* child sexual abuse prevention training most months and can provide on-site trainings for groups of 7 or more

In a few short hours, learn how to:

- take steps to protect your child and those around you from abuse
- spot the signs of possible abuse
- act effectively and safely if you suspect abuse

For more information, call **Christine Daoust** at (541) 734-5437

There is a \$10 materials fee.



**Upcoming 2014 trainings held at the Children's Advocacy Center:**

**Monday, November 24th • 4–6pm**

**Monday, December 29th • 4–6pm**

*Call today and become a steward of the children in your life!*

**2015 Schedule to Come!**

**Connect  
With Us  
On-line!**

If you would like to receive our monthly *In the Loop* e-newsletter, e-mail Michelle at [mwilson@cacjc.org](mailto:mwilson@cacjc.org) and we will add you to the list.

**Read our blogs!** Go to [www.cacjc.org](http://www.cacjc.org) and click on any of our 3 blogs!

“Like” us on **Facebook** and see our regular posts on the center, our work, and child abuse prevention and education. We are listed as the Children's Advocacy Center of Jackson County.



# Children's Advocacy C E N T E R

OF JACKSON COUNTY

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MICHELLE WILSON  
mwilson@cacjc.org or 541-282-5474 x 111

## Simple Things You Can Do To Support Kids

Contribute to our *You Matter campaign*.  
Go to [www.cacjc.org](http://www.cacjc.org) and donate safely online.

Donate toys and items for teens for our **Christmas gift giveaway** for children and families. E-mail **Christine** at [cdaoust@cacjc.org](mailto:cdaoust@cacjc.org) for more information.

Go to [www.fredmeyer.com](http://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](http://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!