



Winter 2012 Newsletter

VOLUME 3

ISSUE 9

In This Issue:

6th Annual Snowflake Gala	2
Snowflake Sponsors	3
CAC Board of Directors	3
Letter from The Becker's	4
April Pinwheel Gardens	5
Child Abuse Symposium	6
Message from Executive Director Cont.	6
Save the Date	7
Staff Spotlight	8
MDT spotlight	8
Darkness to Light	9
Featured Book	9
Staff	10
CAC Services	10

A message from the Executive Director

Over the past weeks, I've been asked a lot of questions – and heard an outpouring of emotions and opinions – about the crimes allegedly committed by Jerry Sandusky and surrounding fallout at Penn State.

Naturally, people across Adams County are shocked, outraged, upset. But, interestingly, many people seem far more shocked by the inaction of the people who knew about the alleged abuse than they do about the abuse allegations themselves.

They accept that pedophiles exist in our society; they always have, and, sadly, probably always will. But it seems to them impossible to believe there are “good, law-abiding citizens” who could witness first-hand or learn about the brutal rape of a little boy and yet not do *everything in their power* to save that child and remove the perpetrator from society. In their state of disbelief, they ask: “Do those people really walk among us?”

Yes, they do, and, truthfully, their behavior is not that uncommon. You see, this is not really a story about football, celebrity or institutions, but rather a story about a most basic human instinct to close our eyes, run from trouble, and wait for someone else to step in and do what is right, what is required.

If nothing else, I hope outrage around the alleged rape and abuse of these children will finally make all of us accept our moral responsibility as adults to look after and take care of all of our children – and to truly live by the words we teach our own children – “Do the right thing for the right reasons . . . no matter what the consequences.”

Easy to do? No. It takes courage to confront evil, but it must begin with a conscious decision to be watchful, to embrace our individual responsibility as adults to protect all children in our community and to boldly challenge situations that put children at risk. In all of our activities and organizations, I encourage you to assess if older youth or adults have opportunities to be alone with children without being observed or checked on? Eighty percent of molestations occur during one-on-one contact situations. If the Second Mile organization had established appropriate policies that prohibited adults from being alone with children or required activities to be observed by others, could many of the molestations have been prevented? Ask yourself: would you have the courage to withdraw your child from a play date, youth camp or some other activity that both you and your child have wanted to participate in when you learn there is no such policy? Would you have the courage even if it meant potentially offending someone you know?

Child sexual abuse thrives in secrecy and continues when adults see it as someone else's responsibility to report – or they choose to overlook or rationalize away the signs of abuse that are right under their nose. After all, the biggest threat to our children is not the “stranger danger” we learn so much about and drill into their heads. Of the one in four girls and one in six boys who are sexually abused by the age of 18, the sad truth is that 90 percent of these victims know the offenders well. They are relatives, friends, neighbors, and, as we now know, even trusted and revered coaches.

**Multi-Disciplinary Team consists of the District Attorney, 17 police jurisdictions, Children and Youth Services, Victim Services, Medical, Mental Health, and CAC staff.*

Continued on page 6

6th Annual Snowflake Gala

Our 6th Annual Snowflake Gala was once again a wonderful success! We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our Gala Sponsors, Donors and Attendees. Without the support of this amazing community, we could not continue to help the children of Adams County heal and become children again. Thank you for all you do.



**2011 Voice of Courage Award Winner
Richard and Cyndie Winkelmann**



Snowflake Mementos

Snowflake Mementos make the perfect gift:



Even if you were not able to attend the Snowflake Gala on November 19th you can still have a piece of the event and support the Children's Advocacy Center at the same time. Hand-painted holiday ornaments and hand-made topiaries from the Snowflake Gala are now available for purchase. This is a great opportunity to pick up some holiday gifts while supporting a wonderful cause. All proceeds benefit the Adams County Children's Advocacy Center.

To purchase an item below please contact Jackie at 717-337-9888 or jhendricks@kidsagaincac.org



Topiaries \$50.00

Ornament- \$15.00

Snowflake Sponsors



Realty Leasing & Management Company
 1270 Fairfield Road
 Gettysburg, PA 17325
 (717) 334-4674



A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 
 the power of human connections

Ken Adams Mechanical, Inc.
 Heating, Air Conditioning, and Plumbing

- Installation, Sales & Service
- Service All Brands, Makes & Models
- Quality Work The First Time
- Owner Operated
- Free Estimates



Phone: **717-624-9250**
 Fax: **717-624-9482**

www.kenadamsmechanical.com
 kam@kenadamsmechanical.com
 470 Freshman Mill Rd, New Oxford



CLEVELAND L. NULL DDS PC
 717-334-8193



Susquehanna Bank
 Davita[®]

Thank you to all of our volunteers who have given their time and dedication to the CAC.

If you are interested in this terrific group of people, we would love to have you!
 Contact Joddie Walker at 717-337-9888 or jwalker@kidsagaincac.org

CAC Board of Directors

- President:** Andrea Singley, *Attorney, Beauchat and Beauchat*
- Vice President:** Shawn Wagner, *District Attorney*
- Treasurer:** Carli Lehr, *CPA, Rager, Lehman & Houck*
- Secretary:** Kathy Powley, *Susquehanna Bank*

- Tim Guise, *Cumberland Police Department*
- Tracy Hawkins, *Community Member*
- Kathy McConaghay, *Director for Children and Youth Services*
- Dotty Moul, *PNC Bank*
- Missy Hess, *Wellspan*
- Jay Hawkins, *Community Member*
- Cindy Keeney, *Director for Victim Witness*
- Sherry Wisor-Hoover, *Community Member*

6th Annual Snowflake Gala

'The Right Thing to Do'

Margaret Brown

Luke and Carrie Becker Honored for Work as Foster Parents

About five years after becoming certified foster parents in rural Adams County, Pa., Space Department staffer Luke Becker and his wife, Carrie, were honored at a gala for the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) in Gettysburg on Nov. 19. The CAC works to meet the needs of children and families by offering training, counseling and therapeutic services as it strives to prevent, identify, investigate, prosecute, and treat child abuse. The Becker's first came into contact with the organization more than three years ago, when dealing with the initial challenges of parenting two little girls who had been brought into their home. The couple had already fostered several other children, but the sisters, ages 6 and 4 at that time, had unique needs. They had been terribly neglected, Becker says, and the CAC offered special resources — both to the couple and to the children — that helped them adapt and respond to each other.



The Becker's, who have two biological sons, already knew that life would get very busy when the girls arrived — they now had a family of six, with four children, each a year apart. But parenting the girls presented a new challenge. “We tried to do what we knew and parent in a normal way,” Becker says. “It helped that we were very structured, but it was literally like normal parenting didn't work. As foster parents, we wanted to know more.” County officials recommended that they contact the CAC, which could provide counseling and therapy tailored to children who have been through trauma and abuse.

“CAC helped us to deal with these kids in ways they could understand. We learned a lot about how the brain develops in a child, early on. Kids who have dealt with trauma develop differently, so you can't parent the same way,” Becker says. The girls, now 7 and 10, still live with the Becker's. That's somewhat ironic, Becker says, since the couple's original intention when they started fostering was to provide emergency care for infants.

Back then, their boys were ages 3 and 5, “past the baby stage,” Becker says. His wife suggested that they get certified to take in infants for short-term periods, and they were expecting placements of a few days or perhaps weeks. “We had all the stuff, we had the room, we had the availability and we had the means. It seemed like the right thing,” Becker says.

Yet their first foster child, a three-month-old boy removed from his home because of physical abuse, ended up with the Becker's for a year. “It's funny. We got into this for short-term care thinking a few days, and then you basically raise a baby through his first birthday,” Becker says. It was hard to let go after having that much time to grow attached, he adds.

All told, the Becker's have fostered seven children — and he admits that foster parenting definitely isn't for everyone. It requires patience and lot of work to understand the system. The hardest thing, he says, is knowing the terrible situations that some of the children come from — and knowing that the court system might eventually send them back.

But it also has its rewards. “The ultimate goal is to know that you've helped break the cycle and that when they have children some day, that cycle is not going to repeat itself. And that's why we're doing what we're doing,” he says. He also simply loves working with kids. In addition to the foster care, he coaches youth baseball and football and also works closely with the Space Department's Education and Public Outreach Office, which coordinates activities like Space Academy. He also volunteers and speaks annually in several middle schools throughout south central Pennsylvania about APL's work and the missions that he has worked on.

Kids just want to be listened to and nurtured, he says. And foster children especially need to feel wanted. Becker says the two sisters are doing remarkably well. “They've come so far. They are still in weekly counseling and therapy, and now we're tweaking and fine-tuning some of the issues,” he says.

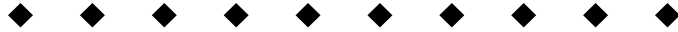
The girls and his sons (now ages 10, 9, 8 and 7) have developed a typical sibling relationship. They play together but they also bicker and fight. “That's normal — and that's a good thing,” he says. “We've made a lot of progress.”

The Becker's strongly believe that foster parenting can make a difference in a child's life — which is why they were happy to accept the invitation to speak at the CAC's Snowflake Gala, the organization's biggest annual fundraising event.

“We just care. It's just the right thing to do,” Becker says. “You hope you've made a difference and someday it'll help.”

For more information on the CAC and its programs, visit the [Children's Advocacy Center website](#).

April Pinwheel Garden



April Children' s Advocacy Center Prevention Events:

Plant a pinwheel garden. Each pinwheel represents a report of suspected child abuse in Adams County.



Watch our website or call 337-9888 for details on how you can sponsor or display a pinwheel garden.



Pinwheels to Prevent Child Abuse Symposium

Our fourth annual symposium entitled “Pinwheels to Prevent Child Abuse Symposium” will be held on Friday April 13, 2012 at the Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Center. Both professionals and community members can take part in a day of informational seminars on the topics of child abuse prevention and intervention topics. Presenters include ACCAC staff, Multi-Disciplinary team members, and experts on child abuse issues.

We invite you to be a part of this very special event – as a sponsor and/or an attendee. This year’s theme is “Be the Voice,” and our goal is to share knowledge and best practices on how to keep children safe, healthy and protected. All members of our community are invited to attend the symposium. Two educational tracks will be provided: 1) training for front-line investigators such as police officers, medical staff and teachers; and 2) topics geared for parents, grandparents, and any adult interested in learning how to safeguard children in our community.

To participate as a sponsor and/or attend our 2012 symposium, please call 717-337-9888 or email jwalker@kidsagaincac.org. Register online also at www.kidsagaincac.org



Please look for our other exciting April Child Abuse Prevention month activities including a proclamation, pinwheel gardens, t-shirt day, and a balloon launch.

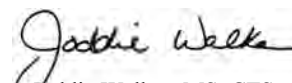


Message from the Executive Director continued

I challenge every citizen to become more conscious, more committed and more courageous to address policies that place children in one-on-one situations with adults or older youth. You may be the only one to notice a high-risk situation. While there are times when one-on-one interactions are necessary, we can do many things to make these opportunities for offenders much less available. We know there are offenders in our community. We know they do not always look scary. In fact, you may unknowingly already be acquainted with someone who is getting close to a child and family right now for this the purpose of grooming a victim, someone who seems nice, interested in the child, and concerned about his or her welfare.

Together, we can make our community a safer place to be a child. Take your rage, shock, pain or disbelief and turn it into local action. If we just take the time to learn about abuse and find the courage to report suspicions, we can save children from a life of pain and humiliation. If we asked the 560 children that walked through our doors, I’m confident they would say “Thank-you for making the abuse stop”. To learn more about how you can help, call us: 717-337-9888 or email: jwalker@kidsagaincac.org

To make a report of suspected child abuse call: 1-800-932-0313.


Joddie Walker, MS, CTS

Save the Date!!

We are pleased to announce the addition of the “Protecting Our Children” training by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. This is a comprehensive full-day training on the dynamics of crimes committed against children, the vulnerability of victims, the tactics used by the offenders, and the latest prevention strategies.

Due to the addition of this course to our agenda, we have a new date!!!

Other topics available include:

Child Abuse...What Else Could It Be?, Preparing Children for Court, Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, When Helping Hurts, Fostering Resiliency in a Traumatic World, and Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children

NEW DATE: Friday, April 13th
TIME: 8:30 a.m. – 4:35 p.m.
LOCATION: Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Center
ATTENDEES: Community Members, Professionals working with children, and Child Abuse Investigators

Registration details to follow

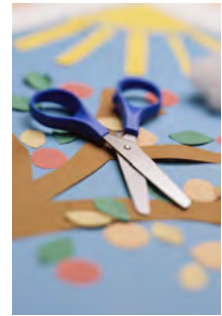


Staff Spotlight



Elizabeth Scarborough is the new Child and Adolescent Counselor at the CAC. She joined the CAC in November 2011. Elizabeth has her Master's degree in Creative Arts in Therapy; and is a Registered Art Therapist and Certified Trauma Specialist. Elizabeth is trained in Child-Centered Play Therapy and Filial therapy.

She is currently working on obtaining her LPC and becoming a Registered Play Therapist. Elizabeth utilizes play-based and expressive therapeutic approaches in therapy sessions to provide trauma focused counseling for children and adolescences between the ages of 3 to 18 years old.



Staff Spotlight



Hello! My name is Shelly L. Duckworth-Sheaffer, LPC, CCT, CTS, and I am a Licensed Professional Counselor in the state of Pennsylvania, Certified Trauma Specialist, and am also Certified in Child Trauma. In 2010, I established Trauma Counseling Services, LLC which enabled me to serve as the contract Child and Adolescent Counselor for the CAC, although I have been a part of the CAC family in various clinical capacities since 2007. I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Science from Messiah College in Grantham, PA and also completed graduate studies in Family Therapy at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA. I earned my Master's of Science degree in Mental Health Counseling and am currently pursuing my doctorate in psychology. Having completed my doctoral coursework I have embarked upon my dissertation exploring the interplay between childhood sexual abuse, PTSD and the brain.

I am a member of several professional organizations including: American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress, American Counseling Association, Association for Play Therapy and National Institute for Trauma and Loss in Children.

I first became interested in working with child victims of abuse as a teen, after participating in a volunteer mentorship program for child victims of sexual abuse. I have remained involved in the field of victim advocacy ever since and become increasingly passionate about my work with each day that passes.

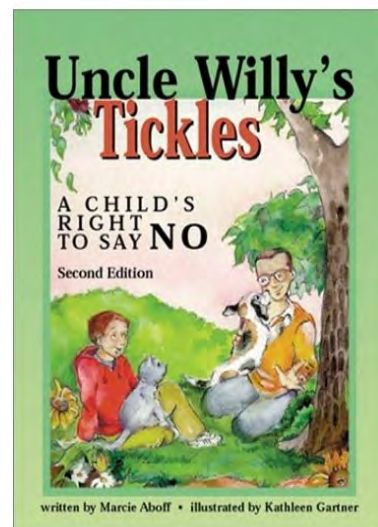
Adams County Children 's Advocacy Center
www.kidsagaincac.org

Featured Book

Child abuse prevention begins at home but most people are unsure of how to begin those conversations with a child. A great resource for parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles to use is books.

Uncle Willy's Tickles: A Child's Right to Say No was written by Marcie Aboff and illustrated by Kathleen Gartner. Uncle Willy tickles Kyle until his insides feel like they're splitting apart. Kyle loves Uncle Willy, but not those tickles. He wants to hide when Uncle Willy visits. He'll put spots all over his face so Uncle Willy will think he has chicken pox and leave him alone. He'll tell his mom he's sick so he can stay in his room. But instead he tells her about Uncle Willy's tickles and then he tell Uncle Willy, too.

Note to Parents: This book discuss touches and the idea that a child's body belongs to them. It is recommended that you read the book prior to reading it with your child and prepare yourself to have a discuss regarding body safety and a child's right to say no with your child.



Stewards of Children Training

Darkness to Light's® Stewards of Children is a revolutionary sexual abuse prevention training program that educates adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. **The program believes and teaches that child safety is an adult's job.** *Stewards of Children* is designed for organizations that serve children and youth.

Preventing child sexual abuse
is a job for adults.

Protect their only childhood.

Go to darkness2light.org and get the information to prevent, recognize and react responsibly through their prevention training **Stewards of Children.**

*It's that easy.
It's that important.*



What is distinctive about *Stewards of Children*?

- ∞ Includes the "7 Steps to Protecting our Children," Darkness to Light's core, evidence-based educational tool for sexual abuse prevention.
- ∞ Integrates the simple principles of **choice, consciousness, and personal power** to promote an understanding of the nature and impact of child sexual abuse, and that uses those principles to provide a context for empowered action. The curriculum is direct about holding each adult accountable, and generous in providing powerful, specific support for personal change.
- ∞ Has a video component of curriculum that shares **personal stories of sexual abuse survivors** and their experiences of trauma and healing.
- ∞ Calls participants into **personal responsibility** for the safety of children, while at the same time appreciates their fears and concerns.

For more information on this training or to schedule a group training session, please contact Joddie Walker at jwalker@kidsagaincac.org or call 717-337-9888 x201.

CAC Services

Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Coordination

Professionals from Children and Youth Services, local and state law enforcement, and our District Attorney's office work as a team to investigate and, in some cases, prosecute cases of maltreatment in Adams County. Victim support and advocacy agencies are also coordinated to provide unduplicated services.

Clinical Case Coordination

The CAC Clinical Case Coordinator serves as a family advocate by guiding and supporting families during and after the investigation process. She assesses the need for follow-up services after the forensic interview and locates providers in the family's community. She may also talk to the non-offending parent about financial and emotional coping strategies that help keep the child and family safe. Very often these services reduce the likelihood that a child will recant his or her story due to the stress a family feels when abuse is disclosed. The Clinical Case Coordinator schedules forensic interviews, medical exams, and makes referrals for mental health services. She also serves as the Prevention Specialist, conducting outreach to the community and promoting the CAC Prevention Programs.

Forensic Interview

Forensic interviews eliminate the need for children to tell their story more than once. The interview is conducted by a specially-trained child interviewer and designed to eliminate suggestibility by using the latest, research-based practices. A single interview reduces trauma to the child and strengthens investigations. The interview is digitally-recorded while MDT members watch from another room through closed-circuit television.

Medical Exam

Medical exams are conducted at the CAC in a child-friendly examination room. Every child is offered a medical exam by a nurse that is specially trained in child sexual abuse. The nurse will collect any forensic evidence and document medical findings. The medical exam assesses the child's well-being, and helps children dispel myths associated with abuse and rebuilds trust that their bodies are healthy.

Therapeutic Mental Health

The CAC's on-site mental health counselors are certified trauma specialists, trained in Cognitive Behavior Therapy and Play Therapy. They provide age and developmentally appropriate therapy to help children begin to heal from their abuse. Siblings and non-offending parents may also participate in individual and group therapy sessions so that the whole family begins to heal. The CAC also offers specialized trauma based services for non-offending caregivers.

Child Abuse Prevention

Key to our mission, the CAC offers a revolutionary training program for adults. *Stewards of Children* shows adults how to prevent child abuse by learning how to identify signs of child abuse, to report child abuse and to responsibly handle disclosures of child abuse with courage and confidence. The program is appropriate for businesses, social and religious groups, parents and other concerned adults.

CAC STAFF

Executive Director:

Joddie Walker, MS, CTS, D.A.A.E.T.S.

Forensic Interview Specialist / Director of Programs

Kimberly Duffy, LSW

Child and Adolescent Counselors:

Shelly Duckworth-Shaeffer, LPC, CTS

Elizabeth Scarborough

Clinical Coordinator / Prevention Specialist:

Becky Voss

Medical Examiner:

Jennifer McNew, RN, SANE-P

Advocate / Latino Community Educator:

Rachel Greene

Office Manager:





Jackie Hendricks

Development & Communications:

Ivy Schneider



Please visit our web site www.kidsagaincac.org for more information on any of the upcoming events. Or you may call our office at 717-337-9888

April 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 	4 	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 	28
29	30					

April 3—CAC Pinwheel Garden Planting 9am & various community locations

April 4—Court House Proclamation—Child Abuse Prevention Month

April 13—”Be the Voice” Child Abuse Prevention Symposium

April 27—Balloon Launch & Community T-shirt Day



450 West Middle Street
Gettysburg, PA 17325

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US Postage
PAID
Gettysburg, PA
Permit No. 75

**Be a hero to our community's children,
make a gift to the CAC!**

Donations are welcomed by Visa/MasterCard/Discover or check made payable to "Adams County Children's Advocacy Center". You can also donate online at: www.kidsagaincac.org
\$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ \$500 ___ Other \$ _____

Name (as it appears on credit card): _____

Address: _____

Credit Card Type: ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Discover

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVV2 Code: _____ 3-4 digit code on reverse side of card

The official registration and financial information of The Adams County Children's Advocacy Center may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.

Registration does not imply endorsement.

Please mail donations to: ACCAC, 450 West Middle Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325

Our Vision: A community where children are safe, families are strong and our child victims become children again.