



# The Advocacy News

## Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County

The mission of the Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County is to reduce secondary trauma to child victims through coordinating a timely, comprehensive, and multidisciplinary response in reported cases of child sexual abuse and severe physical abuse.

December 2009

Volume 1, Issue 4

## Happy Holidays from the CAC

...From the Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County Board of Directors and Staff. We hope you all are having a safe and enjoyable Holiday season.

As we are in the holiday season and enter the new year we'd like to remind our MDT Members that the Child Advocacy Center is available 24 hours a day. We are available for consultation with team members, medical advocacy and emergency VSIs. Child Advocacy Center on call staff can be reached by contacting the McHenry County Crisis Line at 800-892-8900.

Thank you to all of you who have helped the CAC and it's mission to serve children throughout this past year. Here are some end of the year numbers that will show you just how valuable your time and commitment to child abuse cases really is. We, as a team have:

- \* Conducted approximately 150 Victim Sensitive Interviews
- \* Provided legal advocacy for over 50 victims and families
- \* Approximately 60 offenders have been charged
- \* Provided medical advocacy for over 25 victims and families



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## Champions 4 Children: 2010 Walk

**Lace up those walking shoes and mark those calendars, the Champions 4 Children walk is coming to McHenry County!** The Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County will be hosting our own Champions 4 Children Walk on May 15th. All proceeds will benefit the CAC of McHenry County and CACs of Illinois. We are looking for some special MDT members to help us organize a committee to coordinate fundraising activities. There will also be opportunities to help the day of the walk and most importantly come out and show your support. We will be contacting team members regarding opportunities to participate or if you would like to join a committee please contact Jim, Julie or Anna at 815-334-9597.



**Child Advocacy Center  
of McHenry County**

# Mark your calendars



*for the children*

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United Way  
of Greater McHenry County



## Case Reviews

We are trying something new at the Child Advocacy Center. We will continue with the noon Case Reviews on the last Friday of the month, due to the great turnout we have gotten. Lunch is provided for all those who attend.

Tentative future dates are set for:

**January 29**

**February 26**

**March 26**

**April 30**



## Champions of Children Conference:

A Multidisciplinary training on child abuse

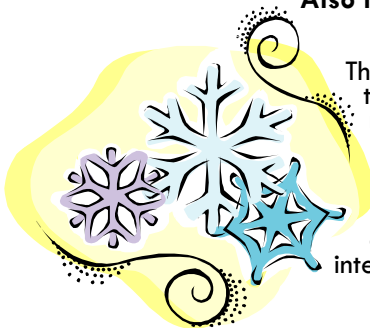
The Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois is hosting a conference regarding NCA accrediting standards that the CAC of McHenry County must adhere to. This year the conference will be held at Pheasant Run in St. Charles, IL. Several topics to be covered include; *Child Sexual exploitation, Interviewing Culturally Diverse Children, Sexting Cases: What to do, Creating Trauma-Informed Courts* and much more. The registration deadline is March 1st and the block of rooms will be released from the price on February 23rd. Please contact the CAC for more information and registration forms or go to: [www.cacionline.org](http://www.cacionline.org).

## From the Director's Desk:

James Wiegand, Director of the Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County

2009 was an important year for the Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County. In April, a 150+ page application for **reaccreditation was submitted to the National Children's Alliance in Washington DC**. In October, the NCA sent two site reviewers to observe operations at the CAC and meet with MDT members. In January 2010, the Board of Directors for NCA will vote on our accreditation status based on the application and report of the site reviewers. **Thank you** to those many **MDT members** who supported the CAC by participating on that very important day. The teams response was **very encouraging to the staff** of the CAC.

### Also in 2009.....



The CAC sponsored training for approximately 100 MDT members. Topics included diversity, investigation and prosecution of child abuse and forensic interviewing.

**A new recording system** was installed at the CAC by iRecord a division of Wordsystems, Inc.

**A new security System** was installed at the CAC.

**All MDT members signed the 3 year Memorandum of Understanding to follow the CAAB protocol for the investigation and prosecution of child abuse in McHenry County.**

**The CAC weathered the "storm" of funding cuts** from the state of IL in June and has established a more diverse funding base to sustain the center and provide more services to clients and training for MDT members.

### Looking forward in 2010.....

**The Champions of Children Conference, March 15 and 16, at the Pheasant Run Spa and Resorts sponsored by Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois:** See more info above.

**The Champions 4 Children walk:** See page one.

\*\*\*\*\*Next Board Meetings\*\*\*\*\*

**CAC Governing Board: January 20**

**Child Advocacy Advisory Board (CAAB): January 14**