

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.

Champions for Children Walk: 2010

Walk 10K for 10K....

The Champions 4 Children walk will be May 15th at 1 p.m. at Emricson Park in Woodstock. Multidisciplinary Team members, their families and friends are encouraged and welcome to join in the fun this year in our own McHenry County!

The registration fee is \$15 and will include a T-shirt. The CAC will be hosting an after party to include refreshments, ice cream, children activities and entertainment.

A link to register for the walk is located at www.mchenrycac.org. Also included in the link is a running tally of what other walkers and the group has raised. McHenry County's goal is \$10,000 and the statewide goal is \$375,000. Please contact the CAC to receive your donation pamphlet and walker information. If you are unable to participate in the walk we ask that you show your support for fellow members and walkers by making a donation.

The Champions 4 Children Walk is a state wide collaboration organized by our state chapter to raise awareness of child abuse in Illinois. On May 15th, 38 CACs across Illinois will be walking to show support against child abuse.



Lace up those shoes, we'll see May 15th!!

March 2010

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Accreditation 2009, the results are...

After 7 months of preparation, 200+ written pages, and a developmental grant; the Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County has successfully passed the National Children's Alliance Re-Accreditation process. The CAC received word via letter that the NCA board approved Accreditation for another 5 years until 2014. October 14th and the day of the site review was the final lap to what seemed like a marathon. The support we received that afternoon from MDT members was overwhelming. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, to you all of you; whether you were behind the scenes organizing schedules or were present to speak in support of the CAC. It was all worth it and it has paid off greatly!

Mark your calendars



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Case Reviews

Due to the great turn out we have been getting, we will continue with the noon Case Reviews on the last Friday of the month. Lunch is provided for all those who attend. Please inform the CAC if you would like a special case staffing scheduled.

Tentative future dates are set for:

April 30

May 28

June 25

July 30



Finding Words May 2010

The next Finding words will be held the week of May 3rd-7th in Springfield, IL. If you are interested in conducting your own forensic interviews at the CAC and would like to attend this very vital training please contact Jim Wiegand at 815-334-9597. The Child Advocacy Center is looking to send another full team, consisting of DCFS, Law Enforcement and State's Attorney's Office, to this year's Finding Words.

Keep your eyes open...

The Child Advocacy Center is collaborating with the Juvenile Officers Association to host a training by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. More details will be released in future newsletters so keep your eyes open if this is an area of interest for you.

From the Director's Desk:

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

- As you have read on the first page, the CAC received the official notice last month that we passed the re-accreditation process. My personal thanks to all the MDT members and board members that helped out when the reviewers visited our center. In order to achieve re-accreditation, the CAC had to first be accredited. **In 2004** the previous Director and staff of a relatively young center achieved accreditation on the initial attempt which was an amazing accomplishment, paving the way for us in 2009.
- The CAC Board of Directors have been developing a new **strategic plan** for the CAC with goals and objectives to be implemented over the next three years. New initiatives in prevention & education, training, and organizational issues are being addressed.
- We are also working with the **Family Violence Coordinating Council** in planning an October Symposium on child abuse. We plan to bring in some excellent speakers on this topic from the National Child Protection Center in Minnesota.
- **WALK, WALK:** We need your help on the **first CAC of IL walk** to be held in **Woodstock on May 15th!!** Please go to our website for details on how to register or pledge toward this endeavor to raise funds and awareness for our work in child abuse at www.mchenrycac.org.