



Outlook Newsletter

Child Advocacy Center Opens at Hope Unlimited

What is a Child Advocacy Center?

The Center (CAC) is a child-friendly interview center where children of all ages come to speak with specially trained interviewers about allegations of child abuse. The CAC process involves a team of professionals from agencies such as a law enforcement, social services, mental health, county attorney's office and victim advocacy.

During an interview, children talk to a forensic interviewer. The interviewer's goal is to make each child as comfortable as possible while gathering the necessary information for an investigation. Questions are asked in a non-threatening and non-leading manner. The interviewer moves at the pace that is comfortable for the child and never forces the child to talk to them.

The atmosphere of the Child Advocacy Center has been designed with children in mind. While the space is still under renovation with the goal of expansion in the future, the interview room is furnished in a calm, non-threatening manner, thanks in part to the generosity of the Sons of the American Legion. Children also receive stuffed animals, games and books upon leaving the Center in addition to follow-up services. The goal of the interview team is to make the experience as calm and comfortable as possible for children. Future plans include space specifically for teen victims and age-appropriate activities. For more information regarding the Child Advocacy Center, contact the Center Coordinator, Jana Taylor, at 620-365-7566.

Donations of new backpacks, school supplies, stuffed animals, and gift cards to Sonic, McDonalds, etc. are always welcome and appreciated by the Center's children.

Director's Corner

2007 was a year of change for Hope Unlimited. We moved the Child Visitation Center and offices to 8 North Washington in Iola to increase our space and enhance security for our visitation clients. We also worked with local partners to open the Child Advocacy Center as a new program of Hope Unlimited. As we begin 2008, we are full of gratitude for the community support that has enabled us to expand and grow over the past year. Continuing to work with local communities will be a top priority again in 2008 as we all strive to assist those in need on a daily basis. With federal grant cuts planned for the year, we know that we will need the support of our local communities now more than ever. We look forward to facing the challenges ahead - together, we can provide hope and inspire change.

Dorothy Sparks, Executive Director

The Outlook newsletter is back for 2008! Due to postage costs and budget cuts, the newsletter has been out of print for a while. In 2008, we will begin adding the newsletter to our website—so be sure to look for us on the web at www.hope-unlimited.org.

Mailing address: PO Box 12, Iola, KS 66749
Physical Address: 8 North Washington in Iola
Telephone: 620-365-7566
Fax: 620-365-6040

List of Hope Unlimited programs:

- *Emergency Shelter Facility*
- *Crisis Intervention Services*
- *Outreach program*
- *OARS program with SRS*
- *Child Visitation Center*
- *Child Advocacy Center*

Outreach Program Expands

The Outreach Program has expanded to include a full-time advocate for Neosho County residents and part-time advocate to assist Anderson County residents.

The 12 month grant to fund the increased services will end in June but plans are underway to locate other funding sources to continue the enhanced Outreach services.

Support groups and court advocacy are among the many services provided through the Outreach Program. For more information, call 365-7566.

Outreach Program Staff

Neosho County Advocate—Lisa Chauncey

Anderson County Advocate—Michelle Meiwes

Outreach Coordinator—Cheryl Welch

Shelter In Need of Upgrade

A portion of the shelter roof was replaced last fall but much more still needs to be done to maintain the shelter. Plans for improvements include:

- Replacement of the remainder of the roof
- Install new carpet throughout the shelter
- Repair or replacement of old, plaster walls
- Renovation of handicap accessible restroom
- Renovate outdoor play area

As shelter services increase and the need for shelter repairs continue to increase, the agency's strategic planning will examine the possibility of relocating to a larger, more modern facility. 2008 will be a year of research and planning for the cure and comfortable housing.

"The ladies at the shelter were so nice and made me feel safe"

- Martha, age 52

Child Visitation Center Update

Since relocating the Child Visitation Center to the new office building at 8 North Washington, the Center has been equipped with new carpet, a separate waiting and counseling area, a Visitation Room and new toys and games. A safari theme has been used for the Visitation Room which can double as a conference room when needed.



OARS Update

The mission of the OARS program is to reduce the employment barrier of domestic violence and sexual assault by enhancing the safety of abused families receiving TAF benefits. It is a collaborative project between SRS and Hope Unlimited as a member program of the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence.

Donita Garner is the OARS Advocate and travels between the SRS offices in Garnett, Iola and Chanute. Approximately 30 women and men are currently enrolled in the OARS program.

For more information, contact Donita at 620-365-7566.

2007 Service Report

Shelter: 49 women and 41 children

Shelter Units: 2,107 (# of residents x # of nights sheltered)

Outreach Clients: 497

Transportation: 164

Hotline Calls: 725

Counseling Hours: 1,762

Child Visitation Center: 225 Visits 111 Exchanges

Child Advocacy Center: 19 children (*Oct. to Dec. 2007)

Special Event Planned for 2008—Western Round Up Auction

A Western Round-Up Auction will be held on June 21st at the American Legion in Iola to raise funds for the children's programs of Hope Unlimited. Signed and numbered prints by western artist, Sandi Dyer, will be up for bid as well as numerous other western and primitive items that were previously used to decorate the Iola Pizza Hut.

Thanks to Pizza Hut for donating the items! Call 620-365-7566 for more information about this exciting event.

Due to federal funding cuts, volunteers are urgently needed to help plan, coordinate and assist with fundraisers throughout the year. Please call Dorothy at 365-7566 if you are interested in helping with special events.

A special thanks to the Friends of Hope for sponsoring the wine tasting & silent auction! Thank you to everyone who attended or donated an item—your support is greatly appreciated!

Membership Reminder

2008 has begun and it is time to re-new membership status with Hope Unlimited. As a member, you will receive the quarterly newsletter, notices of special events, and much more! To renew simply complete the form below and mail it to PO Box 12, Iola, Kansas 66749.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____



What do you think?

Hope Unlimited is searching for a new logo.

Here is a sample of one of the logo designs.

Call 620-365-7566 or email us your thoughts.

HOPE UNLIMITED

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Special Thanks for Community Support

The following represents a partial listing of 2007 donors (as space permits). Hope Unlimited wishes to thank all donors for their generosity and commitment to maintaining local crisis services. Donors will be featured in each newsletter.

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|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Bauman's Furniture | Iola Office Supplies | Maple Grove Church Women | HBD/Thermoid |
| U.S. Cellular | H & R Block | James and Jean Cooper Foundation | Carroll Weber |
| Bryant's Furniture | Bonnie Feuerborn | Brummel Farm Service | D.W. Garrison |
| Sons of the American Legion (Iola) | Carol Immel | Southeast Chapter of Thrivent | Jack Holt |
| SEK Telephone Pioneers | Roxanne Hug | Talk of the Town | B.P. Heigele |
| Mrs. Bland's class (Iola High School) | Larry Powers | Calvary United Methodist Church | Sandra Depoe |
| Kappa Alpha | Marjorie Mentzer | Sew N Sew Quilt Guild | Keith Johnson |
| Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Works | Donna Mader | Chanute Lion's Club | Steve Richards |
| Don and Dodie Copley | Ulreih Furntiure | Lone Elm Flower Fund | Pam Setter |
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| Diane Bertone | Country Mart | Max Sprague | Larry Wittmer |
| Jeanette Claunch | Westco Furniture | First United Methodist Church | Glenda Hill |
| Mary Osborn | Nelda Cuppy | Turkey Creek Church | Phyllis Luedke |
| Grant Community Club | Pizza Hut | Hope Chapel Assembly of God | Mary Ann Arnott |
| | | St. Peter's Lutheran Church | Randy Weast |
| | | St. Timothy's Episcopal Church | Anne Lippert |
| | | Daylong Construction | Susan Diebolt |