



Children's Advocacy Center
University of Missouri - St. Louis
One University Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63121-4400

REGISTER FOR THE WALK ONLINE AT
WWW.STLOUISCAC.ORG



REGISTER BEFORE APRIL 11TH
BY 12:00 P.M.!

- REGISTER AS AN INDIVIDUAL
- REGISTER A TEAM
- JOIN AN EXISTING TEAM
- OR JUST MAKE A DONATION TO THE KIDS



Keeping

KIDS

FIRST

SPRING 2008

CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
SERVICES
OF
ST. LOUIS



CONTACT Us

UM - St. Louis
One University Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63121
(314) 516-6798

Central West End
4443 West Pine Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108
(314) 535-3003

www.stlouiscac.org

2ND ANNUAL CASGSL WALK ON APRIL 12TH

Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis' 2nd Annual Keep Kids Safe and Families Strong Walk will be held in Forest Park on Saturday, April 12 at 10:00 am. This fundraising event is part of Blue Ribbon Month, which recognizes April as Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month.

In the St. Louis area alone last year, 963 substantiated cases of child abuse were confirmed. The Annual Walk is intended to promote awareness about Blue Ribbon Month and to help area children and adolescents who are survivors of child abuse. Consequently, for this year's event we have set a goal of registering 963 participants to walk or run on April 12 -- one for each child impacted by abuse or neglect.

We have also established a fundraising goal of \$50,000 for the Walk and are soliciting sponsorship from several major corporations. Confirmed sponsors include MasterCard Worldwide, Missouri American Water, Gold's Gym, California Pizza Kitchen and the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

This year's event will be packed with activities for the kids to enjoy, including face-painting, games, a coloring contest, a bouncy house, a Coast Guard boat to explore, and much more. Several area organizations that provide services to children and families will be on hand to distribute helpful information. There will also be music to entertain attendees and local high-profile speakers to conduct the opening ceremonies. And just as in 2007, the water in downtown's Kiener Plaza fountain will be turned blue in honor of Blue Ribbon Month.

For the 2008 Walk, we have opened up the trail to runners as well as walkers. Participants will have three options: a one-mile walk, a one-mile run, or a 5K run (for those who wish to stretch their legs a little more). The \$25 registration fee is the same whether you wish to run or walk. This event is a great way to walk for the children of St. Louis while enjoying a stroll in the park on a beautiful April morning. Please make your move to keep kids safe by joining us on April 12.



CHILDREN'S
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of GREATER
ST. LOUIS



LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our year here at Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis (CASGSL) has started out at a running pace. As of St. Patrick's Day, CASGSL's skilled forensic staff has already conducted 102 forensic interviews of children with allegations of child abuse. Our clinical staff has been just as busy; since the beginning of the year they have seen 176 child clients in over 706 individual/family therapy sessions and 53 group sessions.

We know that our work with these children and their families has a significant impact on the quality of each of their lives. We also know that we cannot stop there. We are grateful to have the opportunity to help build community awareness through Blue Ribbon Month activities which recognize April as Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. Blue Ribbon Month started back in 1989 when a grandmother tied a blue ribbon to the antenna of her car in honor of her young grandson who died as a result of child abuse. Blue ribbons are now worn to honor those children who have been victimized and abused.

In 2006 there were 963 cases of substantiated child abuse in St. Louis city and county alone. While we at CASGSL are mindful daily of the trauma and abuse children have experienced, April is when we can highlight child abuse for the severe problem that it is and get the community involved in spreading awareness. More importantly it is a time for those 963 child victims to know that they have people on their side who will do everything they can to protect them. Help us to help these kids to know they do not have to walk alone.

I encourage you to enjoy this Spring 2008 newsletter issue and be sure to register for our 2nd Annual Keep Kids Safe and Families Strong Walk/Fun Run on April 12th in Forest Park. Walk or run, make your move to keep kids safe!

On behalf of the kids- Thank You!

Jerry H Dunn, PH.D

Executive Director



You all don't need [to do] anything better than you already do

- CASGSL Kid



WELCOME OUR NEW ADDITIONS TO CASGSL



Linda McQuary, MSW, LCSW is the Manager of Forensic Operations with the Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis (West Pine office). Linda is responsible for the coordination of the multidisciplinary approach to child abuse/neglect investigations involving law enforcement, child protection workers, prosecutors, medical personnel and mental health professionals. She provides supervision to the forensic staff and conducts forensic interviews. Linda has over twelve years of experience in the Child Welfare field and has presented numerous trainings regarding child abuse / neglect and the utilization of the multidisciplinary approach in child abuse investigations to audiences ranging from community members, prosecuting attorneys, social workers, mental health providers, school personnel, and law enforcement officers. Her previous roles include Deputy Juvenile Officer, CPS Investigator, and the Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Center of East Central Missouri. Linda was born and raised in St. Charles, Missouri, and is now a St. Louis City resident. She received her undergraduate degree from Truman University and obtained her Master degree in Social Work from St. Louis University. Linda was the recent recipient of the 2008 Robert Wilkins Child Advocate of the Year Award.

CHILD TRAUMA COLLOQUIUM SERIES CALENDAR



Parent-Child Interaction Therapy

Kate Drewry, LCSW
 Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis
 Thursday April 17, 2008 8:30 am - 9:30 am

Traumatized Youth and Co-Occurring Substance Abuse

Jean Sokora
 Preferred Family Healthcare
 Thursday May 15th, 2008 8:30 am – 9:30 am

Maltreatment and Children with Developmental Disabilities

Christina Meneses-Coan
 St. Louis YWCA
 Thursday June 19th, 2008 8:30 am – 9:30 am

To Register please call (314) 516-6798

CURRENT STAFF MEMBERS

Executive Director

Jerry H. Dunn, Ph.D.

Administrative

Jackie Madison
 Joyce Rudroff
 Judith Cates, M.A., LPC
 Bennita Higgins, MBA

Clinical Staff

Matthew Kliethermes, Ph.D.,
Manager of Clinical Services
 Megan M. Schacht, Ph.D.,
Manager of Clinical Operations
 Kate Drewry, MSW, LCSW
 Megan Garza, M.A.
 Keisha Ross, M.S.
 Amanda Schmitt, M.S.W.,
 PLCSW
 Natalie H. Wilcox, Ph.D.
 Sandra Turek, Ph.D.
 Karen Westbrook, Ph.D.

Forensic Investigative Staff

Linda McQuary, MSW, LCSW,
Manager of Forensic Operations
 Megan Fitzgerald, LCSW
 Beverly Tucker, M.C.J.A.

Medical Staff

Timothy Kutz, M.D.
 Karen Bly, R.N.

Clinical/Research Students

Annalise Millet
 Dorothy Denny
 Marielle Falki
 Josh Vinocour
 Steve Sowden
 Sarah Patterson
 Jacob Perkins

Intake Staff

Lakebra Glover
 Lindsay Kemper

Outreach Staff

Ashley Stockman, B.A.
 Andrea Williams, B.A.

Reception Staff

Angel Robinson
 Sequita Bean
 Laila Dawn
 Jessica Swift



SPOTLIGHT SERVICE: THE VICTIM ADVOCATE PROGRAM

The Victim Advocate is a member of the forensic staff at CASGSL, a team who assists in criminal investigations, primarily addressing allegations of child sexual abuse. The forensic staff contributes to these investigations in two ways. Most notably are the forensic interviews conducted by the CASGSL's forensic interviewers. These interviews are conducted in a child-friendly manner and provide investigators the best opportunity to obtain the most accurate and reliable statement from the child.

The other component is the Victim Advocacy Services provided by the agency's Victim Advocate. When a family arrives for a forensic interview they are greeted by the interviewer and the Victim Advocate. This allows the family the opportunity to become familiar with both individuals and to learn more about the interview process. While the interviewer meets with the child, the Victim Advocate meets with the child's non-offending parents or guardians. The Victim Advocate conducts a brief interview with the parents and informs them of available resources and services to address the family's needs.

This meeting also serves as the foundation of an on-going relationship between the family and Victim Advocate as it is the Victim Advocate's role to be a source of support and information for families throughout the investigative process. Parents are provided the opportunity to express questions, concerns, and fears about sensitive issues they may not be able to have addressed otherwise. The Victim Advocate is in a position to educate and inform families on topics such as sexual abuse and appropriate responses to their child at home so that parents are able to help their child more effectively cope with the effects of the crime that has been committed. This is of great importance as recent research has shown that parental response is a key component to helping children recover from abuse and improving a child's overall well-being.

The Victim Advocate serves as a critical point of contact for families whose children have been victims of sexual abuse. Intervention by a trained Victim



Advocate helps families to deal with the multitude of systems and complicated processes families are likely to encounter. The Victim Advocate is there to assist families through these difficult times and to be a source of healing for families at vital moments.

“ This was a very reassuring & calming process... I felt that everyone listened well & was very supportive in their role. I'm thankful that they are here.

– A CASGSL parent after the Victim Advocate program

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REGISTER FOR THE WALK ON APRIL 12TH IN FOREST PARK

Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis is hosting its 2nd Annual Keep Kids Safe and Families Strong Walk as a part of Blue Ribbon Month.

When: April 12th, 2008 Sign-in starts at 8:00 am and ends at 9:30 am. The walk and fun run will start around 10 am

Where: Forest Park Starts in the Muny Parking Lot

Registration fees are \$25 a person whether you are walking, running or joining a team.



Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ Age: _____

Email: _____

Participation Status: Individual Walker Individual Runner Team Member

Team Name _____/Captain _____ Team Walking Team Running

T-Shirt Size: Youth Small Small Medium Large X-Large XX-Large

Registration Status: (\$25 Registration Fee Enclosed) (Pay at Walk Registration on April 12th)

Cash Check (Make Payable to Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis)

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: ____/____/____

I hereby waive all claims against Children's Advocacy Services, sponsors, Forest Park, as well any personnel and agencies connected with this event for any injury I might suffer in this event. I grant full permission for organizers to use photographs of me and quotations from me in legitimate accounts and promotions of this event.



Signature _____

Date: ____/____/____

Fill out this page and mail it to: Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis, University of Missouri-St. Louis, One University Boulevard, St. Louis MO 63121-4400, or fax it to (314) 516-6624

**Or you can register online at
www.stlouiscac.org
Sign-up today, pre-registration ends on April 10th.**



POSTER CONTEST

HOW CAN ST. LOUIS HELP KEEP
KIDS SAFE?



Name: _____

Age _____

Phone Number: _____



TEAR OUT AND MAIL IN TO: CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY SERVICES OF GREATER ST. LOUIS, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS, ONE UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD, ST. LOUIS, MO 63121



SPECIAL THANKS FOR THE HOLIDAY GIVING

On behalf of the children, we would like to send out a thank you to all of those who donated money, goodies and toys so that the kids could have an enjoyable holiday this last year. We would like to recognize Emerson Electric, Covair Club, Old Navy and Amy Novy from KWMU Radio for all of the wonderful toys they donated to the children and families that we serve here at CASGSL. A special thank you to MasterCard Worldwide for matching the contributions of their generous employees.

Thank you!

Your staff are Christmas gifts to all of the families that you help throughout the year

- A CASGSL Family

CASGSL STAFF GOES TO A LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

Starting on March 13th, a team of clinicians from Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis (CASGSL) will be participating in an extensive training program for Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). This program is sponsored by The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). TF-CBT is an evidence-based treatment designed to address the emotional and behavioral symptoms following exposure to child abuse or other forms of trauma. The training format, referred to as a learning collaborative, will consist of three intensive two-day training sessions occurring over the course of the next 10 months. These training sessions will be conducted by experts in trauma-focused treatment for children, including two of the original developers of the TF-CBT model. Following an application process, the CASGSL team was selected, along with teams from 8 other agencies across the United States, to participate in the learning collaborative. We are very excited to participate in this collaborative as it will allow

us to further develop our expertise in providing trauma-focused services to children and continue to provide excellent services to children and families in the community.

St. Louis will host the next training held on May 19th-20th.



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