



Big Hearts Helping Little Hands

The Official Newsletter of the Big Sandy Area Child Advocacy Center, Inc.
Fall 2006

Board Members

Jill Hammond

President

Pikeville City Schools

Rick Bartley

Vice-President

Pike County Commonwealth
Attorney

Jeff Hatfield

Treasurer

Collins and Love

Margaret Arnett

Pikeville College

Gail Blackburn

Abode USA Realty

Sheila Boyd

Pikeville Medical Center

Kathryn Burke

Attorney

Mary Campbell

Retired Teacher

Rose Honaker

Citizen

Rev. Deb Massengale

United Methodist Church

Missie McCoy

Signature Events

Judi Patton

Former First Lady of Kentucky

Michelle Sode

Office of the Attorney Gen-
eral

Mike Taylor

Elkhorn City Housing

Willa Webb

Pikeville College

Community Partnerships Make the Difference!

Guest Column by Detective Sergeant Steve F. Spurlock KSP Post 9

In August 2005, I took over the detective squad at Post 9. I knew it would be a challenge with eight full time detectives and an arson investigator, but I also knew that there was a real need for someone full-time in sex abuse investigations. Right away, I got in contact with social services and wound up meeting Laura Kretzer at a Multi Disciplinary meeting in Paintsville where we exchanged phone numbers and ideas. Shortly after that, I toured the Big Sandy Area Child Advocacy Center, Judi's Place for Kids, in Pikeville. I was amazed at the abilities of the faculty and the equipment in the facility.

I have been with the Kentucky State Police for 13 years now, 12 years at the time, and my whole career was spent doing interviews in homes and arranging for medical exams at hospitals with emergency room doctors. Once in while I worked cases in close proximity to Pikeville Medical Center and worked with a SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner), so that was always a plus. But never in my career have I ever worked a case



**Det. Sgt. Steve F. Spurlock
at Judi's Place**

where there was so much expertise in one place at my disposal.

Since August 2005, Post 9 now has a full-time sex abuse investigator, a database which tracks all victims of sexual assault, and Laura and her staff have become very good friends and associates of mine. The work they do at the CAC has proved to be some of the most valuable, most state of the art, and most innovative I have seen in this area of investigation in my career. The number of interviews and medical examinations their staff does for us cannot be replaced by any amount of money or people at a hospital or clinic. These services *need* to be in a single facility where all law enforcement, prosecutors, and social services organizations

have access to it.

Part of the primary mission of the Kentucky State Police is to "Prevent, Reduce, and Deter Crime" and doing this through "Partnerships". In my opinion, the partnership with the CAC and Post 9 has never been better. My hat is off to the staff at the Big Sandy Area Child Advocacy Center. Thank you so much for what you do and the manner that you do it.

Sergeant Steve F. Spurlock
Detective Sergeant, Post 9

**"These services
need to be in a
single
facility where all
law enforcement,
prosecutors, and
social services
organizations have
access to it."**



From the Director's Desk - Laura Kretzer

It is the mission of the Big Sandy Area Child Advocacy Center to lessen the trauma experienced by the child victim of abuse by providing a child-friendly center with a warm, home like, supportive environment where intervention efforts can be offered to reduce the stress to the abused child and parent or adult caregiver. The Center further commits to raise public awareness for the need to stop and prevent physical and sexual abuse against innocent children.



Aggie Fink holds up one of the handmade gowns for our medical clinic.

At Judi's Place for Kids, we rely daily on partnerships. Whether with prosecutors, physicians, mental health providers, community groups, funding sources, or volunteers, the Center would not be able to work toward its mission of serving child victims without these partnerships. While other articles will highlight many of our partnerships, I would like to highlight the partnerships that allow us to serve the child victims of abuse.

Often I am asked how children begin to receive services at the Center. The Center may only provide its services when a child is referred by social services or law enforcement.

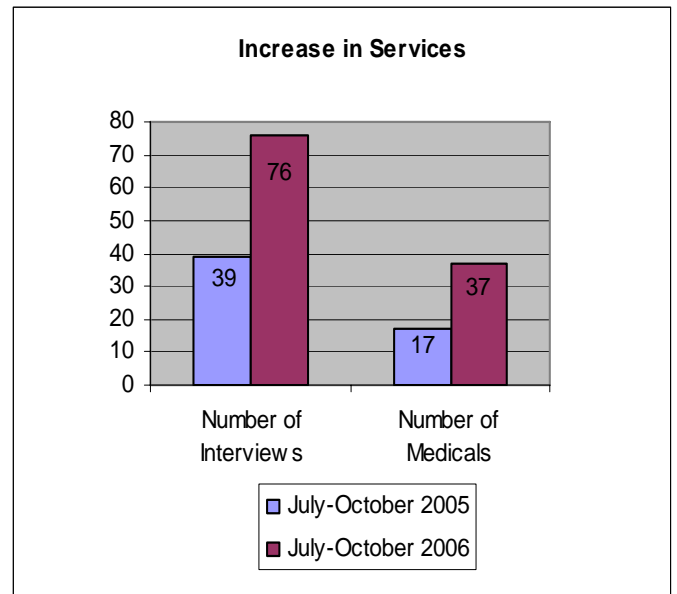
The increase in number of victims served in the past four months compared to the same time period from last year demonstrate the strengthening of our partnership with social services and law en-

forcement. To do this, the Center has increased staffing, which has improved our response time to victims, which has in turn better served the needs of our referral sources. The Center strives to provide high quality services to the victims, their caregivers, AND our community partners.

Ultimately, the children, their non-

offending caregivers, and the community at large benefit from this coordinated response to criminal child abuse.

There are many ways for YOU to be a partner with the work of Judi's Place. Learn about ways to help in this newsletter or contact me anytime. *Laura Kretzer- Executive Director*



Pike County Extension Homemakers— Another partnership in action

Thanks to Aggie Fink, Theresa Hall, Joetta Maynard, Ruth Blackburn, and Rose Little, the Center has recently received 28 more gowns for child victims served through our medical clinic. These ladies from the Pike County Extension Homemakers have personally sewed these gowns in a variety of sizes and child friendly fabrics. Ms. Fink has been making gowns and participating in other projects for the Center for several years.

Chrystal Case, Medical Clinic Coordinator, says that the gowns make a difference in the child's comfort level in having a medical exam. "The children must have a thorough head to toe physical. The soft gown that the child can take home is a real comfort to the child. Not many children regularly use a gown at home, so the child is often proud of having a gown of his or her own." Ms. Case explains to each child that he/she may wear the gown when

You can help, too! Fabric donations are being accepted at the Center or the Pike County Extension Office.

getting out of the bathtub. This information often helps a child who may be struggling with appropriate boundaries due to sexual abuse.

Selfless volunteer efforts such as this one truly make the difference in providing a child-friendly Center where the child can begin to heal!

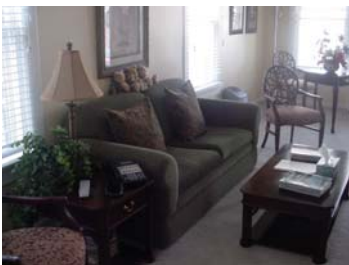
Increase in Center services drives expansion planning

When the founding board of the Big Sandy Area Child Advocacy Center approved the current location for Judi's Place for Kids and opened the building in July 2001, they knew that there was a need for services to child victims of sexual and physical abuse.

Little did they know that the services would demand a larger location in five years' time.

Many of you may have seen information in the News-Express about the Center's seeking to expand.

While the current facility has the



Current Waiting Area

advantage of being a remodeled house, which puts the children and their caregivers at ease, the Center has less than 1400 square feet to provide many services and space for the staff necessary to provide these services:

- Forensic Interviews
- Medical examinations
- Mental Health Screenings
- Individual/ Family Therapy
- Support groups
- Small group training.

A larger facility would allow for more than one service type to be provided at a time. Currently, we have one space dedicated to direct service provision that must be used for therapy, interviews, and mental health screenings. Our current waiting



Location of Judi's Place since 2001

room can become crowded as families often bring multiple supportive family members to their appointments.

The Center is currently seeking both a location and funding for expansion.

In the next several months, we will be seeking YOUR support in this endeavor to continue to make our community safer for its children.

**Call the Center at
437-7447 to get involved
now!**

BSACAC Wish List

New stuffed animals

New child-sized blankets (prefer hand made)

Boys and Girls character socks—toddler through pre-teen sizes

Batteries— all sizes

Paper Towels

Toilet Paper

Bottled Water

Facial Tissue

Napkins

Donations of cash or stock

Call Laura Kretzer
606-437-7447
Executive Director, for details.

Internships provide opportunity for college students and needed services for children

— Partnership with higher education

The services of volunteers make a world of difference to our services at the Big Sandy Area Child Advocacy Center.

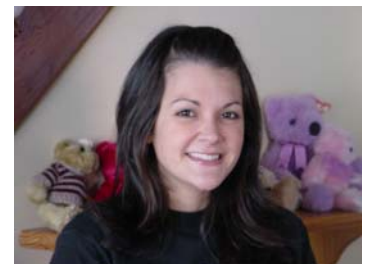
Many of our volunteers are directed to the Center as part of their college education, receiving credit for their services, gaining valuable experience, and providing valuable

services.

This semester, Jessica Compton, a senior sociology and criminal justice major, has provided many hours of service. Many of these hours have directly benefited victims, from making files for new clients to archiving files for storage, to spending direct time with child

victims and their non-offending caregivers in a supportive role. Jessica states, "My internship at Judi's Place has been a worthwhile experience. I am gaining real knowledge and skills that will help me find a great career. I get to play a part in making a difference. It is good to know that we are

taking steps in bettering the lives of children and families."



Jessica Compton, Intern from Pikeville College



The Official Newsletter of the Big Sandy Area Child Advocacy Center, Inc.
Fall 2006

Big Sandy Area Child Advocacy Center, Inc.

106 Williamson Street

Pikeville, KY 41501

Phone: 866-437-7447

Fax: 606-432-0508

E-mail:

judis.placeforkids@ky.gov

We're on the Web!
www.judisplace.org

Tax time is around the corner



The Child Victim's Trust Fund of Kentucky supports a portion of the costs of each comprehensive medical examination performed at the Center. Please consider a donation to the Child Victims' Trust Fund at tax time by utilizing the checkbox on your Kentucky tax return!

Center participates in Safe Schools Day

The Big Sandy Area Child Advocacy Center was pleased to participate in this year's Safe Schools Day at Elkhorn City Elementary. Executive Director Laura Kretzer provided information utilizing the "Your Body is Yours" curriculum to approximately 65 students in the fourth grade classes at Elkhorn

City Elementary. The students participated well and each received a workbook to take home to their family.

Call Laura Kretzer at the Center at 437-7447 to schedule informational programming for your group of children or adults.

CELL PHONE DRIVE

Have an old cell phone? Recycle it and help children.

Just bring the phone by Judi's Place for Kids!