



Big Sandy Area Child Advocacy Center, Inc.

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For Immediate Release

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Judi's Place for Kids Nationally Accredited

Pikeville, KY, November 13, 2009 – Gail Blackburn, Board President, announced today that the Big Sandy Area Child Advocacy Center (BSACAC), Judi's Place for Kids, has been accepted as an accredited member of National Children's Alliance (NCA), joining over 450 other member programs across the United States. Founded in 1999, the BSACAC serves child victims of abuse from Pike, Floyd, Johnson, Martin, and Magoffin Counties. The Center's home is known as Judi's Place for Kids in recognition of the instrumental role of First Lady of Kentucky and Pikeville Native Judi Patton in expanding children's advocacy centers throughout Kentucky.

Organizations can be recommended for membership in National Children's Alliance following an extensive application and site review process to determine compliance with standards set by NCA. Core components include separate, child-friendly facilities for interviewing and providing services to child victims and their non-offending family members; coordinated, multidisciplinary investigations of reports of abuse; and regular interdisciplinary case review.

Attention to the needs and abilities of children is a hallmark of Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) programs and is fundamental to NCA standards. Recent research has validated the long-held belief that when interactions with children are age-appropriate and provided in a supportive manner, children are more likely to provide accurate and truthful information to investigators, clinicians, and other professionals, which is clearly in the best interest of everyone involved in and affected by child abuse.

"Accreditation highlights the teamwork evident in our community of working together to respond to child abuse," states Laura Kretzer, Executive Director of the BSACAC. "Only with the partnerships we have with state and local law enforcement, children's protective services, prosecutors, mental health providers, medical providers and advocates do children receive the best care."

Site reviewers met with members of the Pike County Multidisciplinary Team on Child Sexual Abuse in August 2009. The following agencies were represented: Kentucky State Police Post 9, Pike County Sheriff's Department, Pike County Department for Protection and Permanency, Mountain Comprehensive Care Center Victim Services Program, Pike Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. The BSACAC works with teams covering Floyd, Johnson, Martin, and Magoffin Counties, as well.

To learn more about the Big Sandy Area Child Advocacy Center, Judi's Place for Kids, visit www.judisplace.org or call Executive Director Laura Kretzer at (606) 437-7447.

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