



Kids' Voice

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What is the BRACAC?

Vision: A safe, healthy environment free of child abuse.

Mission: It is the mission of the Barren River Area Child Advocacy Center to reduce trauma to child abuse victims by providing one safe, child-friendly location where teams of professionals work together to pursue justice and provide treatment.



A Wonderful Turnout for the Gala

1st Annual Summer Lights Gala Is A Success

The First Annual Summer Lights Gala to benefit the Barren River Area Child Advocacy Center was held on Friday evening, September 19th at the new Circus Square Park in downtown Bowling Green. As summer came to a close, it was a wonderful opportunity to spend an evening under the stars, listen to the sounds of a steel drum band and enjoy a Caribbean style fare all while helping to raise public awareness and funds to support the continuation of critical service provision to victims of child sexual abuse in the ten counties of the Barren River Area. The event featured a cocktail party and silent auction and then dinner and dancing. The Summer Lights Gala raised more than \$50,000 in sponsorships and contributions to benefit the Center.



WKU Steel Drum Band

For the third year in a row, the Barren River Area Child Advocacy Center provided services to more than 500 children and their non-offending family/caregivers during its fiscal year. In the face of dwindling funding at all levels but increasing demand for specialized services, the Center had to find new ways to raise the funds and resources needed to continue its important mission. The Summer Lights Gala will continue to be a fun way to come out and support those efforts.



A Night to Remember

Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude go out to all our event sponsors, volunteers, members of the Board, and guests. It truly takes a team to keep our children safe and to ensure that sexually abused children and their families receive the services they need when they need them.

SummerLIGHTS Gala

What a Breathtaking Evening



Kids' Voice

From the Director

Dear Friends,

I am not sure how it happened, but this fall marks the tenth anniversary of the Center's development in 1998. And oh how things have changed! The Center has experienced tremendous growth since that time to keep up with the needs of the growing number of children and families who need services as a result of sexual abuse. The BRADD region has much to be proud of and yet we still have so much more to do before children in our community are safe and free of the crime of child sexual abuse. The Center is in motion at all times and in several directions to keep up. In fact, we decided to bring back our newsletter to help keep everyone well informed about our many projects and to give us a chance to recognize the many, many great people and businesses who help support all our efforts.

So where do I begin? Probably the best place is to recognize the Center's growth from service to 133 children in its first year of operation to an average of 500 children over the past three years. And with that comes a huge heartfelt thank you to each and every person who has helped build and maintain the Center's resources to support such an ambitious effort. Board members, staff members, physicians, volunteers – past and present – all helped make the Center what it is today. And the names and number of businesses and volunteers who have helped support and grow the Center's fundraising events and public awareness campaigns are too lengthy to mention here. For example, the Center will host its 10th Annual Great Teddy Bear Run for the CAC on Saturday, April 4, 2009. Thousands of riders from across the region and neighboring states have participated in the GTBR over the years and helped raise more than \$180,000 in sponsorships and contributions in support of the Center's mission and services. Sponsors and riders – Thank You! The Board Break-A-Thon also helped raise more than \$40,000 in sponsorships and contributions and raise awareness to thousands over a four year period. And finally, the Center's newest and premier event, Summer Lights Gala held on

September 19th, helped raise more than \$50,000 in sponsorships and contributions its first year for the Center. Amazing! And that does not include businesses that sponsored training workshops for our MDTs or volunteers from WKU, churches and civic organizations that helped paint, pull weeds and maintain our wonderful facility. Thanks to all of you for the support you have provided the Center these many years. It is amazing to me still...

So what's ahead? Achieving Full Accreditation with the National Children's Alliance is our primary goal right now – and it will require our community to once again invest time and effort into the development of the Center's mission. In partnership with the professionals of the Warren County Multidisciplinary Team, the Center will evaluate every aspect of its program to ensure it meets these highest of standards for CACs and MDTs in the United States. Once again, we will work closely with our prosecutors, law enforcement, DCBS staff and other community partners to take our mission and service provision to the next level. A lot has changed in ten years but fortunately that part has only become stronger. That daily partnership – that effort to work together and do better each time a child comes into the "system" – is what makes the BRACAC and the MDTs a reality in the region.

So thanks to each of you for your commitment to that standard, and I look forward to working with you to reach it today and tomorrow.

Dawn E. Long
Executive Director

The BRACAC Offers Cultural Competency Training for BRADD MDTs

The BRACAC and The Bowling Green International Center partnered recently to host a Cultural Competency Training for the region's MDTs at the Center on August 6, 2008. In collaboration with the International Center, the Center set out to help Center staff and our many team members understand the difference between cultural diversity and cultural competency, become more informed and better prepared to interact with diverse



populations, become knowledgeable about support and resources for foreign born victims of neglect/abuse, and to expand their awareness and sensitivity skills when dealing with foreign born families and children.

One of the most helpful sections of the training was the opportunity for attendees to interact with a panel of three wonderful individuals from Burma, Burundi, and Bosnia. Their inviting personalities made it easy for participants to ask various questions ranging from the way to greet people in their cultures to how their individual cultures address and deal with child abuse/neglect. Participants were able to leave the training with a "tool kit" of information to help them prepare for contact and interaction with children and families from other countries of origin and/or limited English speaking abilities. The Center is grateful to The Bowling Green International Center for their willingness to provide this much needed training and are now scheduling additional training sessions to focus on specific populations living in the region.

The Kentucky License Plate that Works for Kids!

Did you know the proceeds from the "I Care About Kids" license plate go to the Child Victim's Trust Fund for helping Kentucky's most vulnerable children? Yes! \$10.00 from each initial purchase and \$5.00 from each renewal goes to the Child Victim Trust Fund. Proceeds from each purchase assist in funding child sexual abuse prevention programs and child sexual abuse medical examinations in the Commonwealth. CACs around the Commonwealth – including the BRACAC – may apply for and use this funding to help support specialized exams for children. Contact your local County Clerk's office to see how you can have the plate that works for kids!





NCAtrak Arrives at the BRACAC to Improve Tracking of Child Victims

NCAtrak (National Children's Alliance-Technology Reaching All Kids) is a computerized case tracking system developed to help CACs track and manage specific information. The BRACAC began using the NCAtrak tracking system July 1, 2008 and are already impressed with its capabilities. To prepare for the implementation of the new system, Cathy Schutte and Natalie Close traveled to Oak Ridge, TN to receive training for the management and customization of the system. Both have been very instrumental in the set up of the system at the Center and for training each staff member how to best utilize the system.

So how does NCAtrak help the BRACAC in its mission? The BRACAC attended 85 of 88 MDT Case Review Meetings held in the BRADD region during FY08. 369 new cases and 1,729 open cases were discussed during that same time frame. Keeping track of all those meetings and making sure each child victim's case is discussed regularly until closure has really become a challenge over the years. NCAtrak is designed to allow case information to be recorded and stored electronically in a secure database, and

shared only by authorized MDT team members. That means the Center's Crisis Intervention Counselors will now have a system that quickly collects and manages the client information they need to track each child's case start to finish and to prepare case review agendas, reports, and other information needed for each meeting of our region's ten MDTs. NCAtrak is also designed to allow MDT members to sign on and view information about their assigned cases and also add additional information as needed to help with the completion of annual reports and internal reviews.

This new system will greatly help the Center help those teams who have requested the Center take on more responsibility of the staffing and management of the many cases they review every year. If you would like more information about NCAtrak and how your county's MDT can use this system in the future, please contact Crisis Intervention Counselors Natalie Close and Lacy Chapman. They are now using the system to prepare for meetings and would be more than happy to share the details with you!

Facility Update: Upgrades to Reception Station

The Center will benefit from a new reception and monitoring desk in the coming months - and not a day too soon! The Center outgrew its current arrangement several years ago and will soon have a new reception desk that will be custom built to accommodate the needs of the hundreds of children and families who visit the Center every year. The new desk will offer more efficient storage, easier access to incoming calls and visitors, better monitoring of visiting guests and more protected work space for Cathy's many projects and activities. Most importantly, the new reception desk will allow children and families to comfortably interact with Cathy and other staff while visiting the Center for services while protecting confidential client information. We are hopeful to complete the project over the holidays and promise to do our best to minimize interruption to service provision. Thanks in advance for your patience!

BRACAC Welcomes First Development & Education Coordinator

Heather Ames arrived as the Center's first Development & Education Coordinator in May 2008. This position has been in development for a long time, so her arrival was a huge milestone for the BRACAC.



While Heather grew up as a child of an Air Force family and traveled throughout childhood, she and her family consider Bowling Green home. She graduated with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Sociology

from Western Kentucky University in 1998 and returned to earn a Master's Degree in Higher Education in 2002. She has worked with children and families for seven years and is excited about this new opportunity to raise awareness and support for the Center and its mission and services to victims of child sexual abuse in the BRADD community. All of us are thrilled to have Heather on board to lead our many fundraising and training initiatives to support the Center's continued growth and stability. We have much work to do in the next couple of years and know her energy and creative ideas will help us get there. **Welcome Heather!**

Mental Health Services - Welcome Kathy Roepke

In September, Tiffany Zieg, LCSW, ended her provision of mental health services at the Center to expand her private practice in the community. Tiffany provided mental health treatment and support services to many children and families from all over the BRADD region during her three plus year stay with us, so she will be missed. We wish her well in all her new ventures.

As a result, we are excited to introduce Kathy Roepke, LMFT, who joined the Center as our new primary therapist in mid-September. Many of you may already know Kathy, as she has worked in the mental health field for the last twenty-three years in a variety of settings including inpatient psychiatric hospitals for children and teens, community mental health centers, and private practice - and all with a special focus on children and teens. She received her Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Western Kentucky University in 1990, her Doctor of Ministries degree in Counseling from Central Christian University in 1996, and has been a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist since 1995. We feel fortunate that timing allowed such a seasoned clinician the opportunity to work with the Center to help support our mission and services to children and families impacted by child sexual abuse.



Kathy began providing mental health services at the Center right away and remains available to the region's MDTs for consultation and new referrals for

assessment, counseling and mental health treatment services for victims of child sexual abuse and their non-offending family members/caregivers. She welcomes new referrals and is also interested in the coordination of parent support groups and treatment focus groups for children and teens. Referrals may be made by calling Kathy directly at the Center at (270) 783-4357 or by talking with our Crisis Intervention Counselors Lacy Chapman (Hart, Logan, Monroe and Warren Counties) and Natalie Close (Allen & Simpson, Barren & Metcalfe, and Butler & Edmonson Counties). We only have Kathy a limited number of hours each week, so each referral will be quickly staffed to help ensure we are available to children in crisis whenever possible.

Glenda Gabhart, LCSW, and Peggy Smith-Puckett, LMFT, remain on staff as the Center's secondary therapists to help with coverage for acute exams and after hours emergencies.

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Amy Miller - Allen & Warren Counties
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Staff

Dawn E. Long - Executive Director
Lacy Chapman - Crisis Intervention Counselor
Hart, Logan, Monroe, and Warren Counties
Natalie Close - Crisis Intervention Counselor
Allen & Simpson, Barren & Metcalfe and Butler & Edmonson Counties
La'Tonya R. Hocker, CSW - Forensic Interviewer
Cathy G. Schutte - Office Coordinator
Heather Ames - Development & Education Coordinator
Kathy Roepke, LMFT - Primary Therapist

Hail & Farewell:

In October we said farewell to one of the Center's most dedicated board members. Rich Ewald was recruited to represent Logan County in October 2004 and went on to serve as the Board's President-Elect from Oct 05 - Oct 06 and then President from Oct 06 - Oct 07. His leadership helped lay the ground work for many of the projects coming to fruition today, and we are very grateful for the time and effort he gave to move the BRACAC mission forward. Thank you, Rich! You will be missed!

October is also the month the Board of Directors historically held its annual board meeting. This year, the meeting was moved to and held on July 31st to accommodate the Center's Jul - Jun fiscal year. Most recently, the Board welcomed new members Gerald Frost of Logan County, Mary Wooten of Allen County, and Joy Howard, Larissa Kreilein, Sharla Siemens and Rhonda Choate of Warren County. Welcome!! We are grateful for your commitment to the mission and services of the BRACAC!

Holiday Wish List

Postage Stamps • Manilla File Folders (1/3 tab)
Reams or Boxes of multi-purpose copy paper (white)
Ruled Notepads (8.5 X 11) • Paper Towels • Toilet Paper

Upcoming Events

November 12, 2008

Iraqi Population MDT Cultural

Diversity Working Lunch

11:00 am - 1:00 pm at the BRACAC

For more information, contact La'Tonya Hocker at 270-783-4357

December 4, 2008

**MDT Team Building Workshop
for the BRADD Region**

11:30 am - 2:30 pm at the BRACAC

Speakers include: Lyn Lee Bruckner, Assistant Attorney General, Victims Advocacy Division, Office of the Attorney General and Nicole Pang, Assistant Attorney General, Executive Director, Victims Advocacy Division, Office of the Attorney General For more information, contact Dawn Long at 270-783-4357

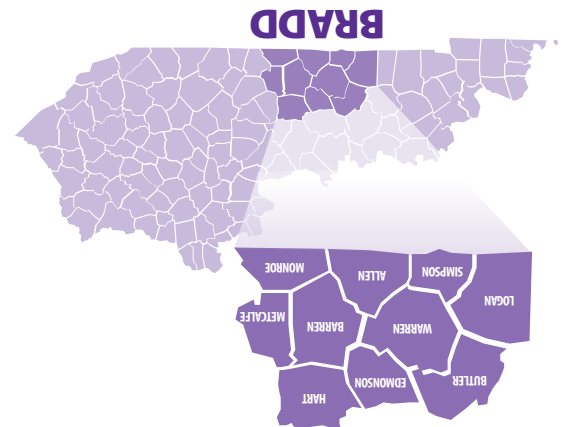
April 2009

Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month

April 4, 2009

10th Annual Great Teddy Bear Run

For more information, contact Heather Ames at 270-783-4357



www.braccac.org

Bowling Green, KY 42101

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Barren River Area Child Advocacy Center

