

# CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

Empowering  
Children  
to Find  
their Voice

CAC QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 2016



**Benton County**  
*Established 2000*

Children's Advocacy Center  
2113 Little Flock Dr.  
Little Flock, AR 72756

## Ways you can get involved: Volunteer. Advocate. Donate.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Donation made in honor or memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to CAC of Benton County and mail to 2113 Little Flock Drive, Little Flock, AR 72756. Donations can also be made online at [cacbentonco.com](http://cacbentonco.com).

\$5,000    \$1,000    \$500  
 \$250    \$100    \$50    \$20  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card:  Visa    MasterCard

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CSC \_\_\_\_\_

Please bill me.  Please mail me a receipt.

One-time gift    Recurring gift  
 (please circle one:  
 monthly quarterly yearly)

I am interested in donating stocks, bonds, cds, etc.

## Congratulations, Erin and Natalie!

Erin Kraner, our Director of Clinical Services, and Natalie Tibbs, our Executive Director, have both been with us for 10 years! We are so thankful for their work and dedication they have put into empowering children to find their voice



Erin Kraner



Natalie Tibbs

## Welcome New Full-Time Staff!

We are excited to have welcomed some new faces to the CAC since the Spring!



Melanie Halbrook,  
Forensic Interviewer



Lindsey Carter,  
CAC Advocate



Kalli Hendren,  
CAC Counselor



Iris Negron,  
CAC Bilingual Counselor

## Community Resource Spotlight – Samaritan Community Center

These statistics speak volumes: “Washington and Benton Counties are ranked second and third in Arkansas as counties with the highest number of persons living in poverty.

One out of every four children in Northwest Arkansas faces hunger or food insecurity on a regular basis.

Arkansas sadly leads the nation with 25% of its elderly facing risk for hunger, in comparison to the national average of 16%.” Source: [samcc.org](http://samcc.org)

The Samaritan Center, located at 1211 W Hudson Rd, Rogers, AR 72756, (479) 636-4198, is a vital resource to the NWA community. Whether it is the snack pack program, the market, dental care or another program, the Samaritan Center is one of my #1 go-to resources. I am thankful that parents and caretakers have a resource just down the street.

– Feature Recommendation by Christy Gutiérrez, CAC Advocate

# Congratulations to our Employees of the Month



July- Mackenzie Rich, Development Assistant

Mackenzie is always willing to brainstorm and find projects for volunteers which in turn helps our direct services flow seamlessly. The new construction is in full swing and during this time, Mackenzie continues to be flexible with shared office space and equipment, continuously working around any inconveniences. She has also covered phones and doors during busy times at the CAC and is always willing to help out another staff member. Mackenzie, we appreciate you, for your kindness shown to others and the work you do in building community awareness. Please know that all of your hard work does not go unnoticed.



August - Kirstie Bailey, Mental Health Assistant

Kirstie always has such a welcoming and calming spirit about her which is perfect for her role in that most who enter the CAC building will come across her presence. She has far exceeded any expectation for her in that she has filled a new role for our Center and has done it with such grace and passion. We are blessed to have her on our team!



August - Kalli Hendren, Counselor

Kalli has such a sweet, genuine spirit about her that makes you feel like you matter. She joined our team in the midst of transition, and within weeks made our team feel even more unified, at peace, and ready to take on the challenges we face here. She is inspiring in the way she approaches each situation, person, or challenge with patience, maturity, and wisdom. Our Mental Health team, as well as the staff as a whole, wouldn't be the same without her.



October - Erica Maples, Counselor

Erica is a dependable rock in the midst of all the changes going on at the CAC. She meets challenges with a steadfastness and courage that emboldens everyone around her. She is not only very talented at counseling young children, but has influenced her immediate team by being a great leader, teacher, and friend. She adds great value to our team with her authenticity, her humor, and her perfectly-timed tea-brewing. Our CAC has been richly blessed to have Erica on our team!



November - Lindsey Carter, Advocate

Lindsey has gone above and beyond in advocating for her clients. She is always trying to stay in communication with staff about needs of the clients. We can see on a daily basis how much she cares about her clients. There was a specific case a few months ago in which she spent hours trying to get a specific mom services that would in turn help the child. Eventually the family didn't follow through in getting the help offered to them but she tried everything in her power to help them. She truly tries to put the child first and advocates for others to do the same.



December - Iris Negrón, Counselor

Iris has only been on our full-time staff for a few weeks but within those weeks, she has shown how much she cares about her clients. She collaborates with other staff to ensure that our families are receiving the services, care and love that they need. Iris has also been available for crisis sessions and translating for families with no hesitation. Her dedication, empathy and professionalism are invaluable. We definitely feel blessed to have Iris as part of our team!



## Cherishing Children 5k Glow Run, 1-Mile Fun Walk, & 400-Yd Dash

Friday, April 21, 2017 | Downtown Rogers | 5:00 p.m.

The 17th Annual Cherishing Children Glow Run features family-friendly nighttime events including a 1-Mile Fun Walk, a 400-Yard Super Hero Dash and a chip-timed 5K Glow Run beginning at the Frisco Stage in Downtown Rogers.



## Cherishing Children Dinner & Awards Presentation

Thursday, September 21, 2017 | John Q. Hammons Center, Rogers | 6:30 p.m.

Each year the CAC staff, community supporters, law enforcement and others who work with victims of child abuse are invited to hear an inspiring message from a guest speaker. This year, Lucille O'Neal will share her personal story to raise awareness about the issue. This is a ticketed fundraising event for the CAC.

## Interested in learning how to become a sponsor?

Contact Jolana, CAC Development Director at [jolana@cacbentonco.com](mailto:jolana@cacbentonco.com)



## Sweetest Day

Saturday, October 14, 2017 | Pinnacle Hills, Rogers | 6:00 p.m.

This event brings like-minded individuals together to socialize, have fun and raise awareness and funds for the Children's Advocacy Center of Benton County. The night is filled with live music, a silent auction, complimentary drinks and food provided by Bonefish Grill.



## Sky Dive for Kids

Saturday, August 5 and Sunday, August 6, 2016 | Sky Ranch, Siloam Springs (Rain dates: August 12 & 13)

Each sky diver commits to raising a minimum of \$1,000 with all proceeds of the event benefiting the Children's Advocacy Center in support of victims of child abuse.



**Partner Spotlight –  
Fast Lane Entertainment**

Fast Lane Entertainment is providing all-inclusive birthday parties to our kids. A birthday party is something they will always remember. Thank you for giving them this incredible gift and memory.

**Volunteer Spotlight –  
Teradata Cares**

We appreciate Teradata Cares for coming out to organize donations in our storage rooms, pull weeds from our flower beds, and put together our new outdoor furniture. We are so grateful for the continuous support from groups, like Teradata, who are eager to help wherever is needed.

Interested in your team volunteering? Contact Jolana, CAC Development Director, at [jolana@cacbentonco.com](mailto:jolana@cacbentonco.com)



**Pottery Sale to help with  
Furnishing Needs**

We hosted a Pottery Fundraiser in July! A big thank you to Parachuting Penguins who welcomed us into their warehouse and helped us set up all the pottery. We are especially thankful to Trendspot Inc. for donating the lovely pottery and because of them, we are so excited to announce that we have raised over \$2,000 from this sale which has gone toward our expansion furnishing needs. We are grateful to everyone who helped!



**Staff Appreciation**

The CAC is comprised of 20 full-time and part-time staff members. We are thankful for companies and individuals for their kind gestures of appreciation this year to our team, offering us treats and opportunities for stress relief.



*Board Members put together a Yum Yo's frozen yogurt party*



*We enjoyed our shopping outing at Cato's where we received a 10% discount*



*Scott Pitts at NWA Hot Yoga, hosted a relaxing time of yoga for our staff*

**CAC Open House**

CAC Board of Directors and Staff welcomed community members while celebrating the completion of our expansion.



**Cherishing Children Annual Dinner – September 22, 2016**

On Sept. 22, the Children’s Advocacy Center of Benton County held its 12th annual Cherishing Children dinner and awards presentation at the John Q. Hammons Center in Rogers, hosted by honorary event chairs Doug and Shelley McMillon and presented by IRI. More than 650 guests gathered to hear Matthew Sandusky share his personal story of abuse as well as support the CAC’s mission of eliminating child abuse and to celebrate individuals and companies for their work with the organization. This year’s award recipients included Hull Dermatology & Aesthetics, Bobby and Margie Martin, Wendy Jones, and the Northwest Arkansas Community College. This year’s dinner brought in over \$200,000 which is a record-breaking amount for the CAC of Benton County to continue their services of empowering victims of child abuse in Northwest Arkansas.



**Sky Dive for Kids – August 2016**

Thank you to Patty and Guary Morgan, who are our biggest Sky Dive for Kids fundraisers this year! This was Patty’s first jump and Guary’s third! With their efforts, they raised over \$10,000 toward empowering kids to have a voice. Overall, Sky dive for Kids 2016 participants raised over \$50,000!

**Sweetest Day – October 15, 2016**

On Oct. 15, more than 125 individuals enjoyed live music, a catered meal by Bonefish Grill, and a silent auction at the 12th annual Sweetest Day fundraising event hosted by John and Karen Scholes benefiting the Children’s Advocacy Center of Benton County. Sweetest Day is a celebration reminding us that a thoughtful word or deed enriches life and gives it meaning. This year, nearly \$50,000 was raised for the CAC to continue providing services free of charge to victims of child abuse in Northwest Arkansas.



Picture courtesy of 3W Magazine



**Trick or Suite – October 29, 2016**

Thank you to Embassy Suites for hosting a free indoor trick or treat event for special needs children in our area this Halloween. 100% of the suite sponsorships benefited our organization bringing in over \$14,000 this year for the children we see every day at our center. We appreciate their continued support of our mission to Empower Children in this way!



**Sexual Assault Nurse Training**

In September, we kicked off a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Training which taught local nurses how to do sexual assault exams on adult, adolescent and pediatric clients. These nurses will help fill an on-call rotation for the three local victim service providers – the Children’s Advocacy Center of Benton County, the Children’s Safety Center and the NWA Center for Sexual Assault. We are so grateful to Mercy for providing funding through the Mercy Caritas grant to meet this need in our community!



**First Lady Susan Hutchinson Visits CAC**

In October, we received a visit from First Lady Susan Hutchinson as she came to see progress on our expansion. We enjoyed getting to visit with her and showing her all of the exciting changes that have occurred here in the past year. Thank you, First Lady Susan Hutchinson, for advocating for CAC’s across the state and for taking the time to come and visit us in Benton County!



**Pinnacle Tennis Tournament – July 2016**

Thank you Pinnacle Country Club Tennis for hosting an incredible weekend of tennis with their event sponsors: Advantage Solutions and Coldwell Banker Harris Mchaney & Faucette! We want to thank everyone who came out to support us this weekend.



**Newly-painted CAC bear**

Check out our newly-painted CAC bear. We are thrilled for how much color it has brought to the front of our center! Thank you so much to the artist, Sarah Treacy, who brought new life to our CAC bear.