



Child Abuse Prevention Month

April 1, 2016 - the weather was cold and windy, but several hundred people gathered at the Colorado State Capitol to officially kick off [National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#). The event featured remarks by Gov. Hickenlooper and Miss Colorado, Kelley Johnson, who is a nurse who spoke about the importance of prevention for our children, who are our future. The ceremony closed with the planting of hundreds of pinwheels in a pinwheel garden.

On April 4, Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock joined Denver Human Services (DHS) Deputy Executive Director Jeff Holliday, DDHS employees, Denver Health, city agency representatives and more than a dozen community partners to kick-off National Child Abuse Prevention Month. They also launched a new Nurse Family Wellness Program designed to help strengthen families in Denver.

Across the city 6,000 [blue pinwheels](#) may be seen at more than 100 locations symbolizing Denver's commitment to protecting the Mile High City's most precious resource: our children. We are planting 300 here at DCAC. The city of Denver will be shining [blue](#) for National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Buildings with blue lighting include: Elitch Gardens, University of Colorado Denver - Anschutz Medical and Downtown campuses, Daniels and Fisher Clock Tower, the Four Seasons Hotel Needle, the Hyatt Regency and the Denver City and County building.

Don't forget the special activity at Red Rocks City Park on Saturday April 16, at noon. Attendees will form a human pinwheel to be photographed by an aerial photographer.



Wish List

Our wish list is ever changing, but assists us to keep our expenses low and focus our funding on the children and families we serve. Cash gifts to purchase these things is always appreciated.



Snacks & Drinks

- 8-ounce bottled water
- Juice boxes (containing some real fruit juice)
- Capri Sun drinks (containing some real fruit juice)
- Animal Crackers (boxes of 6-8 individual bags)
- Fruit Roll-ups (boxes of 8-10 individually-packaged roll-ups)
- Fruit Snacks (boxes of 8-10 individual packets)
- Teddy Grahams (boxes of 8-10 individual bags)

Bathroom Supplies

- Pump hand-soap
- Pump hand-sanitizer
- Air Freshener
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Kleenex Boxes

Other

- Vacuum for the upper level of our Forensic House

DCAC Partner of the Month-Vail Resorts

Denver Children's Advocacy Center is pleased to honor one of our most generous corporate partners, **Vail Resorts**. Over the holiday season between Thanksgiving and the New Year, Vail Resorts Retail employees collected gifts for DCAC at their Colorado Ski & Golf stores. We deeply appreciate these efforts as we know this is a very busy time for all associates. Thanks to generous donors and staff at Vail Resorts Retail we accepted a check for \$9,953.94 in support of our work. DCAC staff joined Aubrey Neis, Sr. Promotions Manager for Vail Resorts Retail to accept this gift.



Upcoming Training Opportunities

Volunteer Training

This two hour training will be an overview of DCAC and the volunteer opportunities that we have available. We must receive an application (submitted via our website - [volunteer application](#)) and conduct an interview with anyone interested in attending. And in accordance with state law, volunteers must submit to a background check via a fingerprint card.

Training Details:

Date: April 18, 2016 (Monday)

Time: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Location: DCAC Boardroom (2149 Federal Blvd./Middle House)



Children that Display Problematic & Abusive Sexual Behaviors

This course, lead by Dr. Gizane Indart, addresses the complexities and challenges that caretakers, mental health professionals, educators, GAL's and caseworkers face when attempting to understand and address many of the problematic and abusive sexual behaviors displayed by traumatized children. The course will focus on children who have experienced traumatic disruptions in their early development and therefore manifest problematic and abusive sexual behaviors when interacting with others. A case study will be presented and discuss at length.

Training Details:

When: April 26, 2016

9:00 - 3:00 (lunch not provided)

Where: Sungate Kids

6090 Greenwood Plaza Blvd,
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Fee(s): \$85

[Register NOW!](#)

Please pass this opportunity along to any contacts that may be interested in attending. Be sure to arrive by 8:30 for registration. Lunch will not be provided, please feel free to bring a sack lunch.



DCAC Chosen for Metro State University Roadrunners Give Back Day

This year Metro State University of Denver is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. With the theme "50 Years of Transforming Lives," the

volunteer program on the campus, which is named for their mascot the Roadrunner, has chosen six organizations to participate in Roadrunners Give Back Day. DCAC will be hosting a group MSU Denver volunteers to do yardwork, cleanup activities, install door locks and perform other needed services. Their theme for these activities is Together, we can make a difference in our community and shine a light on the spirit of service that has characterized MSU Denver for 50 years. We are pleased to be chosen to help MSU Denver celebrate this special anniversary.



Staff Corner

In an effort to help you learn more about Denver Children's Advocacy Center and the work we do we will be featuring a staff position each month.



Meet Jodi Byrnes Forensic Interview Program Director

Jodi is beginning her sixth year with Denver Children's Advocacy Center. She is a licensed professional counselor and is credentialed by the National Association of Certified Child Forensic Interviewers (NACCFI) at the Diplomat level, the highest of the four credentialing tiers.

Q: What is the role of the Forensic Interview Program Director?

A: My role is to oversee the forensic interview team at DCAC. That includes conducting forensic interviews with children, working with the entire Multi-Disciplinary Team, including the Denver Police Department, Denver District Attorney's Office, Denver Health Medical Center and Denver Department of Human Services. I coordinate case review meetings, testify in court, and have various other administrative responsibilities. I also am a member of various professional organizations in the Denver Metro Area.

Q: What attracted you to this role?

A: Prior to my role at DCAC, I was a senior social caseworker and worked many years in the sex abuse intake unit at DDHS. In that role, I worked with the Multi-Disciplinary Team and observed thousands of forensic interviews. I enjoy working with children and although some of the topics I interview children are difficult, I enjoy my daily interactions working with a wide variety of children.

Q: What do you find most rewarding?

A: Most of the families that we work with are dealing with crisis in their lives when they are DCAC. I am grateful to be able to provide a friendly, welcoming environment to children and

families and provide every child the opportunity to talk about what may have happened to them in their own words and at their own pace. Forensic interviews are not intended to be traumatizing or re-traumatizing to children; and many children embrace the opportunity to be able to talk about what has happened to them. I have had children draw pictures for me and write letters to me thanking me for providing them the opportunity to talk about what has happened to them.

Q: What do you find most challenging?

A: We see very difficult cases every day-my role is remain neutral when interviewing children and eliciting information, all the while utilizing non leading questions and considering developmental issues. I love interviewing children, but it can be challenging to watch children work through the process, even though it is hopefully the initial stages of healing for them. It is challenging to work with children when they do not have supportive systems in place.

Q: What are some of the most important things you have learned while serving in this position?

A: I am a strong advocate of the child advocacy model and believe every community needs a CAC where children and families have a place to be served when allegations of abuse or neglect are made. Most families are completely overwhelmed when something bad happens to their child, and I have learned it is so important to offer them one place where all professionals can come to them and offer services to them, everything from the initial investigative stages, victim advocacy, medical exams, and therapy.

Are You a Runner? Your Efforts Can Help Support DCAC!

DCAC, partnering with Kiewit has registered 24 runners for various races during the Colfax Marathon, May 14-15. Don't worry, there is still time to register-just be sure you designate DCAC as your running partner. After the race, join us at the DCAC information tent in the celebration area to say hello and allow us to thank you for running. This race is both a fundraising event and a great party with bands, lots of entertainment and a barbecue after party and beer garden. Come out and run or volunteer to person our tent alongside DCAC staff.

For more information contact Kris Walker 720-974-7229



Denver Children's Advocacy Center | 303.825.3850 | www.DenverCAC.org

See what's happening on our social sites:



