



small VOICES

2015 FALL NEWSLETTER



Hats, Mittens, Scarves & Gloves

It's time for our annual hats, mittens, scarves, & gloves drive for children who would like to stay warm this winter!

Please feel free to drop off your donation Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm at our Lincoln office, 5025 Garland Street.

Sizes needed include those for toddlers through teenage years (3-18), boys and girls. Only new items can be accepted.

Many thanks for your support!



Every Day Differences

Sophie Bravely Discloses Sexual Abuse by Family Friend

Sophie was just six years old when she told her mom about being abused by a family friend. Sophie's mom, Heather, was devastated. She called the CAC begging us to see her daughter that day as she had already taken the day off work and simply couldn't afford to take another day off. We worked closely with Heather and the Lincoln Police Department to file a report and get the process started. Thankfully, we were able to get Sophie in that very afternoon.

It was obvious that it wouldn't take Sophie long to feel comfortable at the CAC. She found many things to be excited about as she and Aubrey, one of our child advocates, toured the facility. She beamed at the fish in the tank, excitedly went about finding the little gnomes hidden in the murals on the walls, and could barely sit still long enough to read a book while she waited to talk with Michelle, one of our forensic interviewers.

While Sophie was touring the facility with the child advocate, her mother was talking with our forensic interviewer and the investigator assigned to the case. Once Michelle had the information she needed to move forward with the forensic interview, she and Sophie went to one of our "talking rooms."

As Sophie and Michelle were talking, Heather was meeting with Aubrey in one of our family rooms. Heather tearfully recounted to Aubrey how Sophie had told her about the abuse. This person was someone she trusted and had told Sophie it was okay to trust as well. Someone she never would have expected to hurt her daughter like this.

The CAC Parent Handbook has a page that explains how abusers gain access to children by earning the trust of both the child and the parents. As Aubrey and Heather

I'm All Ears!

Do you have a question about child abuse and neglect?

If so, please email your questions directly to Christy Prang, Training & Prevention Director, at Christy@smallvoices.org for a personal response.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Training for Community Members

Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children

Thursday, Nov. 19, 2015
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Beatrice, Nebraska
[Please click here to learn more and register.](#)

Child Abuse and Neglect 101: Reporting and Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect

Thursday, Nov. 19, 2015
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Lincoln, Nebraska
[Please click here to learn more and register.](#)

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Beatrice, Nebraska
[Please click here to learn more and register.](#)

Help a Child Thrive, Not Just Survive

Please click on the donate button below to make a monetary gift which will provide critical services to child victims of abuse and neglect. Thank you!

looked through the list, they checked off almost every item. Heather was ashamed that she hadn't known this was happening. She felt responsible and very guilty. Aubrey offered support and understanding. She set up an appointment for Heather to meet with a mental health therapist the next evening.

As is often the case, Sophie shared much more information and detail about the abuse in her forensic interview with Michelle than she had shared with her mom. The Lincoln Police Department investigator and Heather agreed that a medical exam would be a good idea. We were able to get Sophie in to see our pediatric doctor, for an examination immediately.

This was all done under one roof in a matter of a couple of hours. Sophie came to one place where she was able to tell her story one time and receive all the necessary services.

Armed with the information that Sophie has shared in her forensic interview, the police were able to make a swift arrest. Aubrey maintained contact with Heather and Sophie throughout the investigation and criminal proceedings. Whenever Heather had a question about where things were in the case, she depended on Aubrey to get her the answers. Fortunately, the perpetrator pleaded guilty and Sophie didn't have to testify in court. Aubrey was happy to be sitting in the courtroom with Heather the day that the perpetrator was sentenced to 45 years in prison for his crimes.

Heather and Sophie are still working hard at putting their lives back together. Sophie is back in school and is thriving. Heather remains grateful to the CAC for all of the support that we provided to her and Sophie during what she has said is the most difficult time in their lives.

See How You Can Make A Difference Through the Eyes of a Child

Please click on image below to watch video.



