



small VOICES

2015 SUMMER NEWSLETTER



SAVE THE DATE!

Monster Dash Fun Run

Oct. 17, 2015

DASH to make a difference at our annual Monster Dash fun run held at Roca Berry Farms in Roca, Nebraska!

Our 5K run will start at 7:30 a.m. followed by our 1 Mile run/walk at 8:15 a.m.

Awards will be given for Best Child Costumes and Best Adult Costumes. We hope you'll dress scary, fun, or whimsical!

Registration will open Sept. 1, 2015. Be on the look out for more information in regards to registration sent through email on Sept. 1.

Every Day Differences

Emma Endures Sexual Abuse and Testifies in Court

Emma was going down a dark path in her life. She had surrounded herself with bad influences and was experimenting with drugs and alcohol as a way to try and cope with the pain. She didn't want things to continue this way so she decided "It's time to tell". Emma told her parents the secret she had been dealing with on her own. She was sexually abused by a family friend. It first started 3 years ago when she was 14. Then it happened again. And again.

When Emma told her parents about the abuse, they were in shock. They immediately called law enforcement, and they in turn contacted the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) to schedule a forensic interview.

When Emma arrived at the center, her Child Advocate Amanda was waiting at the door to greet her. Amanda showed Emma the room where she would be talking to an interviewer. During Emma's interview, Amanda met with Emma's parents. Amanda explained her role as someone they can talk to, and to explain what is happening with the investigation. Amanda spoke to Emma and her parents about counseling, and soon afterward Emma began attending therapy sessions.

Another child disclosed that she too had been sexually abused by the alleged perpetrator. The alleged perpetrator was arrested on 3 counts of 1st degree sexual assault of a minor. Although Emma had a lot of support from the center and her family and friends, there were many people that did not support her. The other child that had disclosed sexual abuse by the alleged perpetrator recanted her disclosure and began bullying Emma on Facebook. She identified Emma as the person who made the allegations that resulted in the alleged perpetrators arrest. Now everyone knew she was a victim of child sexual abuse and the sense of empowerment she had felt from finally telling



I'm All Ears!

What is the one thing you most want to know about child abuse?

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!

Upcoming Training for Community Members

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

Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Fairbury, Nebraska

[Please click here to learn more and register.](#)



Help Put More Power Behind Small Voices!

about the abuse was shattered. All of this was a major setback in Emma's healing and in her confidence to participate in the court process. She was soon diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Emma continued attending therapy sessions, and found strength to continue with the court process. She never gave up, no matter what. She had to tell what happened to her, to stop him from doing it to anyone else.

Finally, a little over a year after her first visit to the CAC, it came time for the jury trial. Amanda provided Court School which helped explain the court process, terminology used, and the roles of court officials. Emma was on the stand for six hours. She had to talk about the explicit details of the sexual abuse in front of a room full of people. In front of him. Amanda was present in the court room to support Emma. The trial lasted over a week. After hours of deliberation, the jury verdict came back—not guilty on all accounts. This was a huge blow to Emma and her family. Amanda let them know that a not guilty verdict doesn't mean the jury doesn't believe her. It only means the jury didn't feel there was enough evidence beyond a reasonable doubt to convict him. Emma told Amanda, "I could never have gotten through all of this without you."

The next day, Emma's mom wrote a letter to Amanda. "I just wanted to thank you again for being there yesterday. Your support and positive attitude has a huge impact on Emma. I see how you focus on her, and provide encouragement and assurance that is so helpful to her. Emma is watching you and learning from you. I feel blessed she has such a good role model during this tough time. This team of strong women who stand up for what is right is helping Emma build on her own strength, which is now very mighty! I can't thank you and our CAC family enough!"

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

Please click on image below to view.

A young woman who recently found the courage to tell is helping support the Child Advocacy Center by selling bracelets she designed. We are calling them Bailey's bracelets and they say, **"You don't have to be the biggest or the strongest to be the toughest."** She hopes her bracelets will give strength to those still suffering in silence. **Please stop by our center to purchase a bracelet for \$3** and help put more POWER behind small voices! All proceeds from Bailey's bracelets provide critical services to child victims of abuse and neglect.

Thank you for your support!

