



small VOICES



2016 FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER

Stand Up For Kids CARNIVAL

We hope you'll join us!

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and we're gearing up to host our annual Stand Up For Kids Carnival.

This is a free prevention event for the community and all are welcome to attend. The event takes place on Tuesday, April 26 from 4:00 - 7:00 pm at our center, located at 5025 Garland St. in Lincoln, Nebraska.

We'll have a free hot dog dinner, outdoor games for children, and live entertainment. During the event, adults will be able to attend **Darkness to Light: Prevent Now!** sexual abuse prevention training sessions.

Make sure to arrive by 6:00, as you won't want to miss our keynote address speaker, Jenna Quinn, who will give an inspiring message about becoming a voice for the voiceless.

Let's stand up for kids

Every Day Differences

Family of Four Children Endure Sexual Abuse and Extreme Physical Abuse

Right before school ended in May of last year, a call was placed to our center in regards to a family of four children experiencing severe neglect, and extreme forms of physical abuse. The children also witnessed domestic violence and were exposed to illegal drugs by their biological parents.

All four children, ages 4-12 came in for a forensic interview and talked about many forms of abuse. The oldest girl, age 12, endured sexual abuse and extreme physical abuse from the age of 4 through 3rd grade; she was beat repeatedly by a boat oar, metal rods, and belts to the point where she couldn't stand up and walk. She also experienced living without running water and electricity for two months until her family was evicted, which led to homelessness and living out of their parents car. She was not alone. All three of her younger brothers and sisters experienced similar abuse.

In the interview she also talked about how she was introduced to illegal drugs by parents and how they would get high off of drugs to the point where they would pass out and wouldn't be able to take care of them.

After all children were interviewed, local law enforcement and child protective services removed the children from their parents and placed them into care provided by their grandparents.

Last December, the oldest daughter came back for a follow-up interview and provided more details about being homeless before moving in with her grandparents. She shared more about how hungry she was and how she lived day-to-day where she was literally a scavenger, looking for food to help feed her younger brothers and sisters.

together!

Training for Community Members

Talking with Children about Safety from Sexual Abuse

Monday, April 11, 2016

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Lincoln, Nebraska

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

Bystanders Protecting Children from Boundary Violations and Sexual Abuse

Monday, April 11, 2016

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Lincoln, Nebraska

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

Darkness to Light: Steward of Children

Saturday, April 16, 2016

9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Lincoln, Nebraska

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

Thursday, April 21, 2016

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Lincoln, Nebraska

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

CAN 101: Reporting and Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Nebraska City, Nebraska

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

Thursday, April 28, 2016

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Lincoln, Nebraska

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

At the end of her second interview, she was asked if there was anything else she wanted to share, and she responded, **"No! I love where I am. In seven months I've not gone hungry. I feel completely safe. I know I'm going to have electricity and hot water every day. I get to school on time. I don't have to worry about NOT going to school. I also don't have to worry about finding food for my brothers and sisters. My grandparents are doing that—it's not up to me. Thank you for helping me."**

We know that when a child says "thank you", they're actually thanking you, our strong supporters. Thank YOU for giving a voice to so many children in need. We appreciate you!

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!



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

Please click on image below to watch video.

