

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

A HEALING PLACE FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

BOARD/STAFF NEWS

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Snipa Dave has joined our Safe From the Start Program as the Family Enrichment Coordinator. Her most recent work experience at School District 54 as the Parent Involvement Coordinator will be helpful in her new position. She received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Marketing from Northern Illinois University and she is currently seeking a master's degree in Elementary Education. Her hobbies include watching movies, cooking, baking, and reading. The most challenging and unexpected part of her new job is "realizing so many children were being sexually abused, it has opened my eyes."

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

State Representative Fred Crespo recently joined the board of The Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County. He began his first term in the State office on January 10, 2007 after serving as a Hoffman Estates Village Trustee. His experience with local and state governments will be most helpful to the Center as we plan for future growth and funding of our programs.

Upon graduation from Loyola University of Chicago, he took a job with a local utility company and most recently established a career in real estate. He is a member of St. Hubert's Catholic Church in Hoffman Estates where he coached the track and field and cross county teams. He is planning on running in our Half Marathon barring other obligations.

April—Child Abuse Prevention Month Keeping Kids Safe on the Internet

April is designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month and this newsletter is devoted to Internet Safety. As adults we connect to the Internet daily visiting our favorite sites to read the news, up-date our sport team's ranking, be depressed by the latest stock price, and to check the weather anywhere in the world. It is a wonderful invention that we have now taken for granted. There is another side to the Internet and that is the issue of protecting children online.

The Children's Advocacy Center's Program Supervisor, Bonnie Brunette, attended a seminar presented by Laura Gunn, Internet Crimes Task Force in San Diego, CA. She received the following statistics from The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Cox Communications, 2006 that are very enlightening:

"30% of teen girls have been harassed in a chat room or while instant messaging



...of those, only 7% told their parents about it."

- 2/3 of teens go online every day
- 93% of teens use the Internet
- 30% of teen girls have been harassed in a chat room or while instant messaging
- of those, only 7% told their parents about it
- Average age a child first looks at Internet pornography: 11 years old
- 61% of teens ages 13-17 have a personal profile on a social network and half have of these have posted pictures of themselves online
- MySpace requires that users be 14 years old, this is monitored by asking how old they are
- If MySpace were a country, it would be the 8th largest populated country in the world
- 42% of parents do not review the content of what their teenager(s) read and/or type in chat rooms or via Instant Messaging
- 20% of teens report that it is safe to share personal information on a public blog or networking site

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Mission Statement:



Recognizing the right of all children to a safe childhood, The Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County continuously strives to reduce trauma and provide support to child victims of violence and their families. The Center serves as a community resource to facilitate the identification, intervention and prevention of child abuse. The Children's Advocacy Center serves the North and Northwest Suburbs of Cook County.



President's Corner



Dear Neighbor & Supporter –

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and we will be focusing on our work from the Center as it relates to prevention. As you may know, the Children's Advocacy Center's mission is to not only serve children and families who are victims of sexual and physical abuse, but to also provide assistance and education to identify and prevent abuse.

The State of Illinois and more specifically our Attorney General, Lisa Madigan, has been heavily involved in creating laws and finding new ways to prevent abuse. A recent study conducted by their office reported significant interaction between children and use of the internet, and the dangers that children can experience online. The internet has unfortunately become a tool for pedophiles to recruit victims.

I encourage you to visit the Illinois Attorney General's site to access tools in preventing the danger of the internet with children. By going to the website www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov you can view Project Surf Safe: Navigating the Hidden Dangers of the Internet to find ways that you can block websites, monitor online use and stay informed of dangers lurking on the internet.

As the President of the CAC Board, I pledge to you that we will continue to promote programs that not only provide support for victims, but find new ways to help prevent sexual and physical abuse. As we go into April, we hope to have your support in our efforts as well.

You can become our partner in the fight against abuse by joining one of our many committees, volunteering to help out with one of our programs at the Center or by making a donation to our efforts. Whatever you choose to do will make a difference in the lives of the children we serve. Please visit our website for ways to get involved and make an impact in your community. We need YOU!

Sincerely,

Brian Burke
President, Board of Directors

Come join us...Saturday, June 14th

Our 3rd annual half marathon will start at 7:30 a.m. in front of the Sears Centre Arena on Saturday, June 14th, 2008. We are anticipating that 500 runners will join our race to test their endurance on our 13.1 mile run. This USATF Certified Course and CARA Registered Race draws runners from all over the United States as well as one runner from Scotland who ran in last year's race.

Our event will also attract many spectators and over 200 volunteers are needed to marshal streets, set-up water stations, prepare food at the finish line and monitor the runners on bikes and in a lead car.

If you are interested in volunteering or sponsoring the run, contact Susan Reedquist at 847-885-0100.



Presented By

Sears Centre

More race information is available on our website: cachelps.org
Race registration can be completed on Active.com.

Champions 4 Children Walk

Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois, our state membership organization, is planning an exciting event to raise awareness and needed funds for Children's Advocacy Centers around the state, including our Center. We are planning a four-day walk covering approximately 60 miles, beginning on the steps of the Capitol in Springfield on May 16, 2008. Lt. Governor Pat Quinn,

the Grand Marshal for the walk, will hold a ribbon cutting to start us on our way.

The walk itself will be done in four parts, leaving from Springfield on Friday, beginning again in Bloomington on Saturday, picking up in Joliet on Sunday, and finally leaving from La Rabida Children's Hospital in Chicago on Monday and finishing at the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center. Participants may walk one leg of the trip or all of it.

We have several staff members who will be participating, but are looking for more walkers and for people to pledge donations for the walkers. Pledges may be made on a per mile walked basis or a flat amount. **For more information, to sign-up for the walk, or to pledge a donation, contact Mark Parr at (847) 885-0100 or by email at mparrcac@sbcglobal.net. As always, thanks for your support of the Children's Advocacy Center.**

Don't miss our Volunteer Luncheon

You're invited to celebrate our volunteers and talk about child abuse awareness.

April 24th at 11:30 a.m.

at Chandlers at the Schaumburg Golf Club,
401 N. Roselle Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60194

Please join us as we honor our dedicated volunteers.

Our Center receives volunteer support in many ways throughout the year:
Planning our fundraisers • Sponsoring our Fundraisers • Offering childcare
• Nursing skill during medicals • Painting and decorating • Performing yard maintenance • Assisting staff with administrative duties

Speaker:

Lt. Mike Smith,
Patrol Administrator,
Schaumburg Police Dept.

Topic:

Protecting Children Online

Please contact Susan Reedquist for more information or to register:

phone: (847) 885-0100 email: srcac@sbcglobal.net

Illinois Runs is Offering: The CAC Run for a Reason Half Marathon Training Program

- 10 week Group Training Program
- Started: Sun, April 13 – June 7
at 7:00 a.m. You may join at anytime during the Program
- Location: Busse Woods Forest Preserve
In Schaumburg, East of Rte 53
- For more information and to register,
please go to: www.illinoisruns.org
and click on Children's Advocacy Half
Marathon Training Or call Beth Onines
at 847-209-8843
- Education Training Session: April 6,
at 1 pm Running Unlimited, 451 W.
Northwest Hwy., Palatine

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How can you protect your children on the Internet? Get involved with them on the Internet!

1. **Learn about the Internet.** Take a class in computers and the Internet at your local library or community Center. The Schaumburg Township District Library offers a class, Introduction to the Internet, where children and their parents learn about online safety and appropriate website use.
2. **Teach your child why Internet safety is important.** Let them know that not everything online is true, that people use assumed names and lie about who they say they are and that some people may use the Internet to take advantage of children. Some people use it for illegal activities.
3. **Go online together.** Spend time online with your children to learn about his or her interests. Search for information together. Learn how to use e-mail.
4. **Keep the computer in a family area and agree to time limits.** Monitor your child's Internet use.
5. **Decide what material is off-limits.** Prevent your child's access to sites that contain inappropriate material on sex, violence, alcohol and drugs
6. **Find out where your child has Internet access such as at a friend's house, club, etc.** Make sure these locations have online safety measures. Does your child's cell phone have Internet access?
7. **Check your Internet history log regularly.** This information is available on your Internet browser.
8. **Continue to talk with your children about what sites are safe and what online activities are off-limits.** If you suspect online abuse or harassment, report it immediately to your local or state law enforcement agency or the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at 800-843-5678.
9. **If your child receives a sexual solicitation or is harassed online,** explain to your child not to answer it, immediately end any contact with that person, report it to a parent immediately and call the authorities.

THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER
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