



# Our Community, Our Children

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Spring 2014

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## 2014 Board of Directors

Lee Richardson, Board Chairman

Amos Gray	Carol Freeland
Pati Trippel	Valerie Claar
Jonathan Martin	Darren Hill
Kate Schaffer	Ann Prince
Martha Rogers	Bob Woodall
Raymond Wright	Sharon Smith



*Dear Friend of Ouachita Children's Center,*

With Mother's & Father's Day just around the corner, this seems a fitting time to reflect upon all the love and care our parents bestowed upon us as children and continue to show for us as we grow older and become mothers and fathers ourselves. Although we cannot expect everyone to have a "Norman Rockwell" childhood, many children in our community lack even the basics as they move through childhood, adolescence and early adulthood: a safe place to live, capable, and nurturing families or accessible community services.

***Ouachita Children's Center is making a difference for our community's youth.***

OCC's twenty-four hour emergency shelter serves youth in need, ages 6-17, who may be homeless, runaway, abused or neglected, in foster care or in minor trouble with the law. Through our community outreach programs such as Dare 2 Dream mentoring, Families in Action, and Life Skills classes, OCC can and is making a difference for our community's youth. In many ways, OCC serves as a surrogate parent to many youth needing guidance, nurturing and support as they navigate through the challenges in their lives.

How do we say thank-you to parents who have always been there for us? Please consider honoring your mother or father this year by making a donation to the Ouachita Children's Center in his/her name. Make a donation of \$15 or more we will send your mother, grandmother, father, grandfather or any person who has served as a mentor in your life a special card designed by an OCC resident such as the one's shown indicating that you have given a donation in his/her name to the Ouachita Children's Center.



With much gratitude,



Pati Trippel  
Board Member

Jonathan Martin  
Board Member

## Mardi Gras Ball

On Saturday, March 1, the Mystic Krewe of Liberi presented the first annual Ouachita Children's Center fundraising extravaganza. Meeting rooms of the Hot Springs Convention Center were transformed into a Mardi Gras fête as the Krewe announced its 2014 court: *King John Hearnberger and Queen Dorothy Morris*, court members: *Jason and Tanya Spavins, Jonathan and Racquel Martin, David and Ashley Twiggs, Joe and Carla Mouton, and Anthony Taylor and Michelle Strause.*



*King John Hearnberger & Queen Dorothy Morris and the Royal Court*



*Stacy & Brad Hudgens*



*The Twiggs Family*



*Suellen Hales-Tillman & Davis Tillman*



*Michael & Alix Butler  
purchased painting by  
Carole Katchen*



*Marilyn & Steve Trusty*



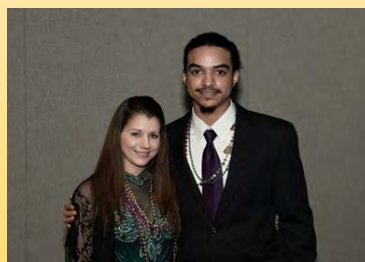
*Myron & Rebecca McCormick*



*Judge Vicki Cook & Angela Rose*



*Lisa Wood & Tracey Kinder*



*Megan Masone & Marcus Milsap*



*Miss Arkansas High 2014 Aaryn  
Johnson & Kristen Johnson*



*Ghost Town Blues Band*

More than 160 ball attendees enjoyed authentic Cajun fare and danced the night away to fantastic music by Ghost Town Blues Band from Memphis. A small live auction, presented by auctioneer Doug Westgate, successfully added to the event and the fundraising total of \$9,000. After a brief presentation by Board Chairman, Lee Richardson and Executive Director, Linda Ragsdale the new informational video was shown and a special recognition given to past OCC residents Megan Masone and Marcus Milsap. ***The founding members of the Mystic Krewe of Liberi are pleased to announce next year's special event on Saturday, January 31, 2015.***

*"Mystic Krewe of Liberi"*



## April National Child Abuse Awareness Month



April 4th local advocates convened at Cooper Anthony Mercy Child Advocacy Center to recognize the need of child abuse awareness and prevention. *A total of 161 blue pinwheels were placed in the ground to represent true Child Abuse Findings in Garland County for 2013.*

### **You can become aware of child abuse by recognizing the signs.** Here are 10 signs that can help.

1. Unexplained injuries.
2. Changes in behavior.
3. Regressing to young behaviors.
4. Fear of going home.
5. Changes in eating.
6. Changes in sleeping.
7. Changes in school performance and/or attendance.
8. Lack of personal care or hygiene.
9. Risk-taking behaviors.
10. Inappropriate sexual behaviors.



### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Children's Bureau's Annual Report on Child Maltreatment 2012:

- Child protective service workers responded to an estimated 3.8 million allegations of child abuse or neglect nationwide.
- An estimated 686,000 children were victims of child maltreatment.
- The most common child maltreatment was neglect.
- 81.5% of victims of maltreatment were abused by one or both parents.
- 13.3% of victims were reported as having a disability.

### **Ten Ways to Help Prevent Child Abuse**

1. **Be a nurturing parent.** Children need to know that they are special, loved and capable of following their dreams.
2. **Help a friend, neighbor or relative.** Being a parent isn't easy. Offer a helping hand take care of the children, so the parent (s) can rest or spend time together.
3. **Help yourself.** When the big and little problems of your everyday life pile up to the point you feel overwhelmed and out of control – take time out. Don't take it out on your kid.
4. **If your baby cries.** It can be frustrating to hear your baby cry. Learn what to do if your baby won't stop crying. Never shake a baby – shaking a child may result in severe injury or death.
5. **Get involved.** Ask your community leaders, clergy, library and schools to develop services to meet the needs of healthy children and families.
6. **Help to develop parenting resources at your local library.** Find out whether your local library has parenting resources, and if it does not, offer to help obtain some.
7. **Promote programs in school.** Teaching children, parents and teachers prevention strategies can help to keep children safe.
8. **Monitor your child's television, video, and internet viewing/usage.** Watching violent films, TV programs, and videos can harm young children.
9. **Volunteer at a local child abuse prevention program.** For information about volunteer opportunities, call 1.800.CHILDREN.
10. **Report suspected abuse or neglect.** If you have reason to believe a child has been or may be harmed, call your local department of children and family services or your local police department.

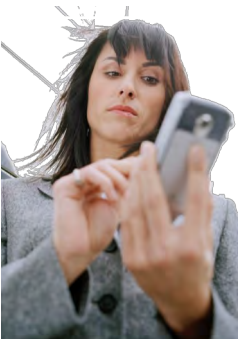


### **Arkansas Child Abuse Hotline 1.800.482.4964**

**Some signs that a child is experiencing violence or abuse are more obvious than others. Trust your instincts. Suspected abuse is enough of a reason to contact the authorities.**

For More Information:

National Children's Alliance - [www.nationalchildrensalliance.org](http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org)  
Prevent Child Abuse America - [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org)



## Mission

The Ouachita Children's Center is a non-profit child advocacy organization providing emergency shelter and quality services for youth and families, empowering them to achieve lifelong success.

## Values



## Garland County Master Gardeners



*Diane Murdock*



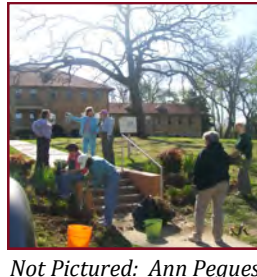
*Jan Hodges*



*Carolyn Harris & Sarah Harris*



*Laura Young*



*Not Pictured: Ann Pegues  
& Becky Pawzack*



*Shirley Williams*

Spring is here and we have the flowers to prove it! We are grateful to Garland County Master Gardeners who returned to OCC and enhanced our flower gardens with beautiful marigolds and snapdragons, just to name a couple. Thanks ladies for volunteering your services and making our home feel more like home!

## Donors January - March 2014

Ashley & David Twiggs	Helping Hearts
Betty J. Alexander	Isabelle Muir
Bill Chuck & Bernard Chuck	K & M Express, Inc.
Brett Pultz	Keith & Jean Brown
Candace M. Burton	Lee & Brenda Richardson
Caren Dodd	Magaret Wetsel Family
Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church - Naomi Circle	Mary Simpson
Chuck Hanna - The Green Herb	Mary Velazquez
Creative Life Church	Oaklawn Rotary Club
Clyde Pound	Peggy Woodall
Cynthia Williams	PEO Sisterhood Chapter DD
Diana Thomas	Phillip Miller - Central City 10 Movie Theater
Donald Brady	Rose Gross
Donald & Bettie Jones	Sally Schmidt
Donald Barnett	Starting Over Ministries, Inc.
Douglas & Allison Miller	Suzanne Wilson
Dr. Kristi Golden - Plaza Carmona Dental Associates	Teachers of Garland County
Drs. Kyler & Kendra Pomeroy - Root's Chiropractic	United Methodist Outreach
Faith Pierce-Smalley - Bellissima Salon	Victor & Valerie Claar
First Christian Church - Christian Women's Fellowship	Westminster Presbyterian Church
Gary & Michelle Troutman	

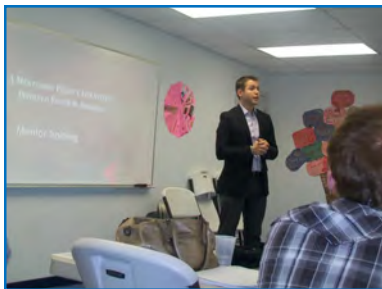
Ouachita Children's Center is grateful to the businesses and individuals who have been so generous to us. You have made a difference with your financial contributions, volunteering your time, tickets to shows, and so many donated items. Thank you for thinking us and showing your kindness. Your donations help no matter how big or small!

## Spring Break Fun at OCC

Finally the snow is gone and the ice has melted. It is time for the sun to shine, flowers to bloom, and the grass to turn green. Thanks to wonderful community support, our children were able to enjoy a fun-filled spring break. They started the week off with a nature walk and picnic at Gulpha Gorge, next on the agenda was a visit to the Heifer Village, Historic Arkansas Museum and ended the night at the well known viewing of "The Witness". Then the fun started all back over with a trip to Little Rock Zoo. The rest of the week was filled with trips to the Old State House Museum, Maxwell Blade Show and the Kelly Miller Circus in Hot Springs Village!



## Dare 2 Dream Mentor Training



No one wakes out of their sleep and shouts they want to be a mentor. But, when life brings situations or opportunities that's when mentoring gets our attention. Even you can be a mentor. Many people underestimate the amount of knowledge that they have about mentoring, the contacts they have, and avenues they can use to help a young person.



**The mentor's responsibility is to emotionally support and encourage the mentee.**

This assistance can guide the mentee to academic and social integration, increased self-esteem, higher grades, and greater self-awareness. To ensure that they are adequately prepared, the mentor undergoes comprehensive training to insure that he/she knows how to respond to the mentee's needs.

OCC will provide the training for you, all you have to do is contact us! Adam Baldwin, Staff Development and Communication Coordinator with Arkansas Division of Youth Services is our mentor trainer and he is informative, energetic and highly qualified. You will leave the training prepared, comfortable and confident mentor. ***Make a difference, become a volunteer mentor!*** For more information please call Megan Masone at (501) 623-5591 ext. 23



Megan Masone, Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator  
& Linda Ragsdale, Executive Director



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CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT



## WISH LIST

### Items in Continual Need

Twin size Sheet Sets & Pillow cases  
Bath Towels, washcloths & hand towels  
Lice Treatments  
Shampoo & Conditioner  
Hair Gel  
Lip Balm  
Deodorant (non-aerosol)  
Soap & Body Wash  
Lotions  
Toothpaste, brushes, mouthwash, & floss  
Electric shavers & hair clippers  
Anti-bacterial hand soap  
Medicated foot spray or powder  
Female sanitary products  
Hair brushes (both boar bristle & plastic)  
Wide tooth combs  
Hair grease, pomade, pink oil, moisturizer & relaxer kits  
Wave caps, shower caps & head scarves  
Small Black rubber bands, barrettes & ponytail holders  
Men's & Boy's briefs & boxers  
Women's & Girl's underwear & bras  
White t-shirts & sleeveless undershirts  
Socks & shoes (Boy's & Girl's)  
Sweatpants & Sweatshirts, all sizes

Gift Cards to Wal-Mart, Old Navy, Shoe Stores & Restaurants etc.  
School Supplies (pens, pencils, notebooks & paper)  
Backpacks  
Books & Magazines with Youth Appeal  
Art Supplies (brushes, canvases, paint, etc.)  
Sofa set or sectional set  
Area Rugs  
Cat Food & Litter for OCC's therapy cat  
Special event tickets or passes  
Winter gloves, hats and jackets  
Summer bathing suits & Towels  
Flip Flops  
Stainless steel forks & spoons

### Special Items We Currently Need

New Pillows  
Window Treatments (curtains & heavy duty blinds)  
Plastic or Fabric Wall Hangings  
Storage Shelves & Racks  
Outdoor plastic stackable chairs  
Outdoor benches or wrought iron chairs  
Indoor potted plants & outdoor bedding plants  
Corelle or Melamine plates & bowls

Magnetic wall boards with magnets for resident rooms  
New matching comforter sets

### Volunteer Opportunities

Adult Mentors for our youth  
Assistance with the OCC Vegetable Garden  
Assistance with OCC Serenity Garden  
Academic tutors  
Maintenance assistance  
Construction of a nature trail around the property  
Volunteer barber or beautician services (Haircuts)  
Yoga or Zumba classes  
Dance or Music classes  
Organized sports or games  
Poetry, Writing & Arts & Crafts  
Piano playing volunteers for sing-a-longs  
Assistance with painting and organization  
CPR and First Aid Trainers  
Health & Hygiene Teachers