



Our Community, Our Children

339 CHARTEROAK ● P.O. BOX 1180 ● HOT SPRINGS, AR 71902 PHONE (501) 623-5591 ● FAX (501) 623-4226 ● www.occnet.org



WHAT'S NEW IN THIS ISSUE...

- 2 Mardi Gras Ball
"Mystic Krewe of Liberi"
- 3 Child Abuse Awareness
- 4 January - March Donors
- 5 Spring Break
- 5 Dare 2 Dream
Mentor Training

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 Twigg, Joe and Carla Mouton, and Anthony Taylor and Michelle Strause.*



King John Hearnberger & Queen Dorothy Morris and the Royal Court



Stacy & Brad Hudgens



The Twigg 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
Prevent Child Abuse America - www.preventchildabuse.org



Garland County Master Gardeners

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



Diane Murdock



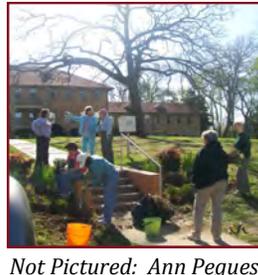
Jan Hodges



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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashley & David Twigg Betty J. Alexander Bill Chuck & Bernard Chuck Brett Pultz Candace M. Burton Caren Dodd Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church - Naomi Circle Chuck Hanna - The Green Herb Creative Life Church Clyde Pound Cynthia Williams Diana Thomas Donald Brady Donald & Bettie Jones Donald Barnett Douglas & Allison Miller Dr. Kristi Golden - Plaza Carmona Dental Associates Drs. Kyler & Kendra Pomeroy - Root's Chiropractic Faith Pierce-Smalley - Bellissima Salon First Christian Church - Christian Women's Fellowship Gary & Michelle Troutman | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping Hearts Isabelle Muir K & M Express, Inc. Keith & Jean Brown Lee & Brenda Richardson Magaret Wetsel Family Mary Simpson Mary Velazquez Oaklawn Rotary Club Peggy Woodall PEO Sisterhood Chapter DD Phillip Miller - Central City 10 Movie Theater Rose Gross Sally Schmidt Starting Over Ministries, Inc. Suzanne Wilson Teachers of Garland County United Methodist Outreach Victor & Valerie Claar Westminster Presbyterian Church |
|--|--|

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



339 CHARTEROAK
P.O. BOX 1180
HOT SPRINGS, AR 71902

Phone: 501-623-5591
Fax: 501-623-4226
E-mail: info@occnet.org



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