

Joyful Connections Newsletter

MEET THE BOARD CHAIR

As a victim's advocate, I guide victims of domestic violence, assault, menacing and stalking through the court system. Clients come to me and I hear their stories. I see the bruises, the black eyes, the casts on limbs from broken bones, and I hear the horror that these women, and even some men, have to endure in their own homes. I sometimes also see the children, clinging to their parent, silent and watching what is going on and wondering what will happen next. Domestic and family violence is ugly and a lot of times the violence continues and tends to get worse once the abused parent has been able to take that courageous step to get out of the situation in an attempt to feel safe and be out of harm's way.

I chose to become an advocate to help these victims know that they don't have to live this way anymore, and that they don't have to subject their children to relationships that are full of violence and threats and intimidation. Children have the right to be children and to experience what a loving relationship can mean to them and in their lives. I also believe that it is our responsibility, as citizens, to do what we can to end this cycle of violence that continues from generation to generation. This is why I believe in Joyful Connections, and this is why I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be involved in this organization since the very beginning.

When Magistrate Bruce Winters came to me in 2007

and told me of a steering committee that was being put together to address this issue of violence, I thought it was a great opportunity for me to be involved in helping to create a resource that would benefit my clients and their children. Too often, I have heard stories where a child has witnessed one parent or family member being hit, slapped, punched, kicked, spit on, screamed at, and/or strangled by the other parent or another family member. Too often I have heard how victims have been devastated by the fact that their children have had to see the horror of this taking place. Innocent children should not have to witness this violence and degradation.

Studies also show that when domestic violence is occurring in the home, children are more (con't on page 3)



Volume 1, Issue 2
November 30, 2010

Joyful Connections Mission Statement

Joyful Connections provides a healthy, safe, and home-like environment where children can interact with family members in a non-judgmental setting.

Board Members:

Corrine Creeden, Chair
Ron Nisch, Vice Chair
Wayne Biggert
Jeff Chio
Steve Fish
Sharon Hess
Stephanie Kowal
Steve Levorchick

Ex-Officio Members:

Judge Bruce Winters
Judge Kathleen Geisler
Commissioner James Sass

Staff

Karen Demangos, Executive Director
Sheila Powell
Amanda Clymer

VOLUNTEERS HONORED

A Dessert Extravaganza was held on Wednesday, November 17th to honor volunteers who generously give their time assisting staff in monitoring visits at Joyful Connections. Those honored were:

Volunteers since 2008

Patti Howell - 198 hrs
Phyllis Howell - 166 hrs

Volunteers since 2009

Karen Johns - 179 hrs
Shelly Grieger - 70 hrs
Dorothy Waterhouse - 61 hrs
Rex Rutledge - 12 hrs

Volunteers since 2010

Stephany Skrbina - 38 hrs
Kim Bright - 24 hrs
Jamie Beier-Grant - 4 hrs

These Volunteers spend time reading to the children or playing games for a few minutes before the visiting party arrives. Volunteers also monitor visits between non-custodial parents and their children and record their observations using non-judgmental language. Volunteers are not asked to intervene with families at anytime, only record observations. At least two people, volunteers/staff members, are present in the facility for all visi-

tations.

If you are willing to share some of your time (even an hour or two a month) with disadvantaged children that need a safe place to visit with their parents, please contact Karen Demangos at Joyful Connections at 567-262-3181 for more information. Joyful Connections is located at 8200 W. State Route 163, Oak Harbor, OH 43449.



Happy Holidays from
the Board and Staff
of Joyful Connections!

∞ ∞ Thank you for your Support! ∞ ∞

A Great Big Thank You to these Generous Donors who have provided support for Joyful Connections in the past quarter!

Our Gold Donors

St. Boniface Catholic Church

Our Silver Donors

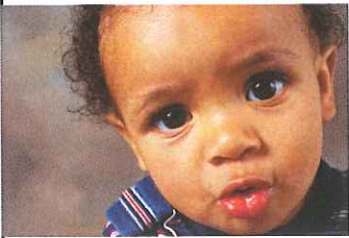
Trish McCartney Insurance Agency, Inc.
 Kroeger & Peters Co LPA
 Karen Johns
 Oak Harbor Ministerial Association

Our Friends

Beth Leggett
 Gayle Rink
 Linda O'Brien
 Sharon Hess
 Eric & Tracey Nycz
 Ottawa County Veteran's Commission
 Lakeside Methodist Church
 Connie Cornett
 Phyllis Howell
 Julie Leist
 Angie Humphrey

Staci Stimmel
 Magistrate Lorraine Croy
 JoAnn Belke
 RVI, Inc.
 Kendra German
 Ottawa Residential Services Inc.
 Patti Howell
 Pat Luebcke
 David and Cheryl Christie

Thank you!



Joyful Connections

Number of Supervised Visits in October - 72

Number of Supervised Exchanges in October - 11

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Number of Supervised Visitation in 2010 - 873

Number of Supervised Exchanges in 2010 - 24

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Number of Supervised Visits since Opening in October 2008 - 1481

Number of Supervised Exchanges since Opening in October 2008 - 33

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Number of Families Served since Opening in October 2008 - 80

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Commitment and Benefit to the Children we serve - PRICELESS!

Ways to Give to Joyful Connections

There are a number of ways supporters of Joyful Connections can give to this work.

1) Make a tax deductible donation.

Mail a check to: Joyful Connections, 8200 W. State Route 163, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

Visit our website at www.joyfulconnections.org and click on the "Donate Now" link. Our service will take your credit card number, maintain



your security, forward your one-time or recurring contribution directly to the Joyful Connections bank account, and provide an immediate receipt.

Call us at 567-262-3181 and we will enter your credit card information into the web-based system for you. We will also happily make arrangements to pick up a check, if you prefer.

2) Make donation of items needed at the center.

Disinfectant wipes, swiffer solution and pads, batteries & paper towels, Toys and games for boys and girls of all ages. Craft items like glue sticks and stickers. Copy

paper, colored paper, poster board, card stock, manila folders, hanging folders, correction tape, envelopes, mailing labels, receipt books, binders and other office supplies.

3) Attend or sponsor a fundraising event.

Our Family Frenzy Event, Take Back the Night March and Rally, Fall "Shower" Event, Purple Light Nights, or sponsor one or more of our Open House events.

4) Give to United Way

(Con't on page 3)

October 2010—A Busy Month for Joyful Connections

Every October, Joyful Connections participates in the national **Purple Light Nights™** campaign to bring attention to the devastating impact that domestic violence has on families and children. Joyful Connections sells purple light bulbs and encourages every citizen of our county to purchase purple light bulbs and display them in their outside lights. When citizens join together and light their purple lights they promote the message that

“Domestic Violence has NO PLACE in our community!”

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the color purple is recognized as the international color symbolic of domestic violence. If you did not take the opportunity to purchase your purple light bulb this year, we encourage you to purchase them in 2011 and help us spread the message.



Joyful Connections sold bulbs at a booth at the two-day Oak Harbor Apple Festival. The event was an opportunity to promote the mission and services of Joyful Connections. We hope you had a chance to stop by!

And lastly, Joyful Connections held its first Annual “Fall Shower” event. Those who attended enjoyed socializing, playing games, and delicious desserts! A great big thank you goes out to all those who purchased games, toys, crafts and items for the children at Joyful Connections!!! The children have had a blast playing with the new toys! We appreciate your thoughtfulness and your generosity.

Ways to Give to Joyful Connections

(Con't from page 2)

Because Joyful Connections is a United Way agency, individuals and businesses who contribute through payroll deduction can designate their support for us by writing “Joyful Connections” in the appropriate blank on the annual contribution form.

5) Kroger Community Rewards.

Regular Kroger shoppers can donate the savings from their rewards cards to Joyful Connections. To register, visit www.kroger.com and create an account linked to your Plus Card. When you set up the account type “joyful connections” in the field for “your organization” then shop normally. You’ll be helping to keep children safe with every Kroger purchase.

6) Planned Giving.

Should you choose to remember Joyful Connections in your will, our board and staff would be available to assist you with the process. Please call our office at 567-262-3181 to make arrangements for a visit.

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

Joyful Connections is looking to expand its Board of Directors. We are looking for individuals with finance, human resources, fundraising or marketing experience to devote a few hours a month to support the mission and vision of Joyful Connections. The children need your help! If you might be interested, please contact Karen Demangos, Executive Director at 567-262-3181 or Corrine Creeden, Board Chair at 419-734-3266 for more details.

MEET THE BOARD CHAIR

(Con't from page 1)

likely to also be physically abused or hurt in the process of trying to intervene in physical confrontations. Literature and studies have shown that children witnessing violence are more likely to become abusers themselves, commit violent crimes and become addicted to drugs and alcohol than children who do not witness violence. Generational abuse is difficult to prevent unless the child is removed from the abusive environment.

Joyful Connections is doing its part by offering a safe and non-judgmental environment where these children can have positive, healthy relationships with one or both parents. These relationships are vital to the emotional well-being of the

children.

Being part of this organization has really brought me closer to people in our community who I feel make a real difference in the lives of others, especially the children. I think being involved since the beginning of this organization has truly taught me that experiences at a young age can really affect the outcome of our adult lives.

I take comfort in the fact that the staff and volunteers at Joyful Connections care about these families and their children, and that they are committed to seeing these families successfully move on with their lives free from violence. These are the reasons why I serve on the board of directors for Joyful Connections and truly believe in our Mission and Vision.

Sincerely, *Corrine Creeden*

“Service
is the rent
we pay
for our space
on earth.”

Stephen Covey

Meet one of our
Wonderful Volunteers

Phyllis Howell

Resides in: Port Clinton

Family Status: Married with 2 children and 2 grandchildren

Employment Status: Retired

Previous Experience: Bureau of Motor Vehicles for 7 years and Retail Clerk for 9 years

Hobbies: Walking, crocheting, volunteering at Joyful Connections, taking care of neighbors and friends

Why do you volunteer at Joyful Connections: A family member was involved in a similar program in another county and I felt that I could give back to the community by lending my time to Joyful Connections.

A big thank you to Phyllis for her dedication to the children at Joyful Connections!

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE TO HONOR DONORS



Please join us
for our Holiday Open House
on Monday, December 13th

from 4:30pm to 6:30pm at Joyful Connections
to honor our generous donors and supporters!

Meet our staff and Board members, tour our visitation rooms and join us for refreshments. Please call us at 567-262-3181 if you plan to attend! We look forward to seeing you!

**Check out our website at
www.joyfulconnections.com**

Mark your calendars and join us for Family Frenzy!

Mark your calendars for Spring 2011! Joyful Connections is hosting its fun and zany Family Frenzy (our form of "Family Feud"). We'll have local teams competing against each other to see who can get the most points and claim the prize!

We've recently updated the website to provide more comprehensive information about Joyful Connections. You'll see the Mission of Joyful Connections and the services we offer. There's info on referring clients and directions to the center and a picture of our staff.

You can check out our Board members and read about the history of Joyful Connections and its beginning. You'll see our opportunities to volunteer and ways you can donate to Joyful Connections to help further its mission.

You'll see info on upcoming events and happenings, so be sure to check back often!

If you have any suggestions or comments about our website, please feel free to contact us via the website with your input!



If you're a Facebook fan, watch for Joyful Connections coming soon to Facebook! We hope you will "be our friend" and stay connected to get updated info on Joyful Connections.