



**Child Protect of
Mercer County, Inc.**
Child Advocacy Center

2017 Quarterly Newsletter

Battling Abuse, Restoring Lives.

LOOKING BACK AT 2016...

Twenty days into 2017 and it's already hard to remember all that happened at our Child Advocacy Center last year! 2016 was a banner year for our organization: we spent the year in our new facility on Shaker Lane in Princeton, we celebrated our 15th anniversary of serving children in families in Mercer County, we got the Mercer County SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) program up and running, we were awarded a three-year \$500,000 grant from the Department of Justice that we will partner with the Mercer County Prosecuting Attorney's Office on and we were able to expand our therapy, medical and advocacy services. Also in 2016, we partnered with HYPE Ministries to host the inaugural Chefs Battle Child Abuse event at the Chuck Mathena Center. The event provided a fun-filled night of entertainment while also bringing awareness to child abuse. 2016 was also filled with many great moments among our staff, board members and our investigative team partners. We are already looking forward to what 2017 will bring!



BASIC NEEDS AND FOOD PANTRY

The Mercer County Starting Points Family Resource Center is a program of Child Protect that provides basic hygiene products,



non-perishable food, and clothing to families in need. Starting Points provides resources to families whether or not a family has received services at Child Protect. We are always in need of basic needs products like soap, tooth brushes, tooth paste, shampoo, cleaning supplies, and non-perishable

food. To make a donation, please contact Tammy Neal, our Starting Points Coordinator, at (304) 425-2710 .

Our Mission:

The mission of Child Protect of Mercer County, Inc. is to administer a child-centered facility for child abuse victims and to coordinate investigative, treatment and educational services to them and their families, while also working with the community to prevent abuse.



Founded in 2001,
Child Protect is a non-profit organization that is funded through donations, fundraisers, and grants.



Your Donation Dollars at Work

July 1st—December 31st, 2016:

- 114** Forensic Interviews Conducted
- 30** Medical Exam Coordinated
- 64** Children Referred for Therapy
- 21** Cases Resulting in Charges
- 28** Children Received Free Counseling at Child Protect
- 259** Children Received Advocacy and Support Services at Child Protect
- 2,132** Students Received Child Abuse Prevention Programming



SAVE THE DATE:

2nd Annual
Chefs Battle Child Abuse

April 7, 2017



[www.facebook.com/
mercerchildprotect](http://www.facebook.com/mercerchildprotect)

INTRODUCING NEW STAFF: TERRI WILLIAMS



Our Child Protect staff size grew again in January with the addition of Terri Williams, our new Forensic Interviewer. Terri, a licensed social worker, served as the Mercer County Adult Drug Court Program Coordinator before joining us at Child Protect. Her resume includes both work as both a juvenile and adult judicial probation officer and serving as a counselor at the Mercer Day Report Center. Terri graduated from Bluefield State College with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice

Administration. In 2003, Terri obtained her Master's Degree in Social Work from West Virginia University.

Prior to joining our staff, Terri often worked alongside of our program. This interaction lead her to desire to work directly with children and families who have experienced abuse or have been victims of crime. In Terri's free time she enjoys going to the lake, reading, and sitting by the campfire. We are very excited to have Terri as part our of team!

STAFF ROSTER

Twyla Hersman,
Therapist

Michael King,
Program Services Specialist

LaDeana Morgan,
Direct Services Manager

Tammy Neal,
Operations Manager

Sherry Phillips,
Family Advocate

Terri Williams,
Forensic Interviewer

Shiloh Woodard,
Executive Director

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: SHERRY PHILLIPS

We recently celebrated our Family Advocate, Sherry Phillips' first anniversary here at Child Protect and we look forward to many, many more. As our full time Family Advocate, Sherry's is the first face children and caregivers see when they visit our center and she always greets them with a warm, welcoming smile. Sherry provides advocacy and support to child abuse survivors and their protective caregivers. She also works closely with mental health providers, our specialized medical providers and our multi-disciplinary investigative team members to ensure case coordination. Sherry provides a vast array of resource and referral information to families to ensure that all of their needs are met, even those issues that may not be affected by the situation that brought them to our center for services.

In 2016, Sherry attended a number of advocacy-specific trainings including the WV State Victim Assistance Academy.

Being a foster parent for over 11 years, Sherry became very aware of the issues facing many children who live in our community. She knew that Child Protect was something she wanted to be a part of to help heal and restore survivor's lives.



JULY-DECEMBER '16: DONORS & CONTRIBUTORS

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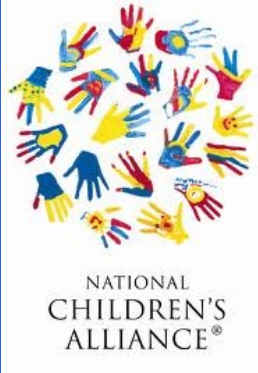
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*99% of caregivers surveyed in 2016 felt that their
child felt safe at our center.*

Child Protect of Mercer County, Inc. is a nationally accredited, non-profit Child Advocacy Center (CAC) that has been helping Mercer County children suspected of being abused, neglected or victims of crime since 2001.



WHAT WE DO...

Child Protect conducts neutral, non-leading, child-friendly forensic interviews with children suspected of being abused, neglected or victims of crime. We also provide free trauma-focused therapy services to children and families in our community.

We provide advocacy and support to children and their non-offending family members in numerous ways including our court preparation program, *Kids in Court*, and through the Starting Points Family Resource Center which provides basic need assistance to children and families. We coordinate forensic medical exams and work closely with the Mercer County Multidisciplinary Investigative Team.

Lastly, we also implement prevention programming, such as *Body Safety*, *Online Safety*, and *Bullying Prevention* in Mercer County schools.

100% of caregivers surveyed in 2016 felt that if they knew someone else who was dealing with a situation like they faced, they would tell that person about Child Protect.

MERCER COUNTY'S MULTIDISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATIVE TEAM

Bluefield Police Department	Mercer County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Bluefield Regional Medical Center	Mercer County Sheriff's Department
Children's Home Society of WV– Princeton Office	Princeton Community Hospital
ChildLaw Services, Inc.	Princeton Police Department
Child Protect of Mercer County, Inc.	WV. Dept. of Health and Human Resources– Mercer County
Mercer County SANE Program	WV State Police– Princeton Detachment & Crimes Against Children Unit
Mercer County Board of Education	SAFE, Inc.
Mercer County Juvenile Probation Office	

Child Protect of Mercer County, Inc.
Mercer County's Child Advocacy Center

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