



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

2018 Quarterly Newsletter

Battling Abuse, Restoring Lives.

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 nationally accredited 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is funded through donations, fundraisers, and grants.

Your Donation Dollars at Work III

January 1st — March 31, 2018:

87 Forensic Interviews Conducted

17 Medical Exams Coordinated

56 Children Referred for Therapy

11 Cases Led in Criminal Charges

38 Children Received Free
Counseling at Child Protect

376 Children Received Advocacy and
Support Services at Child Protect

1,560 Students Received Child Abuse
Prevention Programming



[www.facebook.com
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2018 Annual Child Abuse Awareness Walk



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: KELLI HARSHBARGER

Here in Mercer County we have a fantastic team of professionals who are dedicated to helping children who are in difficult circumstances. One such individual is Assistant Prosecutor Kelli Harshbarger with the Mercer County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Kelli has been practicing law since 1991, and has been with the prosecutor's office since 2002. While she has handled multiple types of cases, Kelli currently



represents the Department of Health and Human Resources in child abuse/neglect cases. When she is not in the courtroom, Kelli spends a lot of time prepping for cases that she says would not be possible without the amazing staff she works with. "The caseload has doubled since 2015," Kelli told us, "So its critical to have great staff who are dedicated to the work and finding the right outcomes for children. It takes balancing the rights of the parents and the child"

Kelli says she chose to be a lawyer to stay local and contribute to the community. Kelli is the President of the Princeton Fire Civil Service Organization, and a member of the Mercer County Humane Society Board and Princeton Rotary. On behalf of the many children whom she's helped through the legal system, Child Protect thanks Kelli for her hard work and dedication.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Joan Pendergast



Child Protect Board of Directors and Executive Director Shiloh Woodard sporting blue ribbons for Child Abuse Awareness month!

(Joan Pendergast not present for photograph)



INTRODUCING OUR NEW FAMILY ADVOCATE: TONYA MILAM

Tonya Milam joined the Child Protect staff this April as our Family Advocate. Tonya was a child protective service worker from 2015 to 2018, and obtained her Masters in Social Work from Concord University in 2016. She is excited to be able to continue serving families in our community. Tonya will be the first face children and caregivers see when visiting our center.

She will be providing advocacy and support to child abuse survivors and their protective caregivers. She will also work closely with mental health providers, specialized medical providers, and our multi-disciplinary investigative team members to ensure case coordination. Tonya says she will strive to communicate effectively with the families we serve and advocate for their best interest. In her free time, she enjoys spending time outdoors, crafting, shopping, and traveling. Please join us in welcoming Tonya Milam to our staff!

3RD ANNUAL CHEFS BATTLE CHILD ABUSE



Child Protect hosted our 3rd Annual Chefs Battle Child Abuse fundraiser with HYPE Ministries on Friday, April 13th at the Chuck Mathena Center. The event featured three meals from area chefs and dessert from Pasquale's Restaurant. The competing chefs this year were Chef Tracy-Ann Mitchell with the Cherry St. Café located at

BRMC, Chef Clint Neel from Your Grate Escape in Tazewell, VA and Chef Brandon White, owner of the soon to be opened Geminelli's Italian Ristorante in Princeton (you also know him from Brandon's BBO in Pipestem). The dishes included coffee and ancho chili braised short ribs on mashed potatoes with maple roasted bacon brussel sprouts from Chef Tracy-Ann, cider-glazed pork lion with sweet potato casserole and roasted asparagus with ramp-compound butter from Chef Clint and roasted pork belly with plum sauce, tangy Lebanese cucumber salad, and smoked almond couscous from Chef Brandon. At the end of the night, Tracy-Ann Mitchell was awarded the Top Chef trophy. We would like to thank all three chefs and all our sponsors, especially our event sponsors, Green Valley Animal Hospital and Princeton Health Care. And congratulations to Crystal Farmer, recipient of this year's Hero for Kids Award!



OUR SERVICES WERE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS:

(JANUARY—APRIL 2018)

Ann Pauley

WVVA

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Draper's Café at the Greenbrier
The Dish Café
Cabo Fish Taco
Cuz's BBQ
Mountain Artworks Studio
Marshall University
River Expeditions Whitewater Rafting
WVU
Adventures on the Gorge
Adventure Damascus
The Pottery Place
Cookie Corps
Willow Gift Gallery
Marquee Cinemas
Bricks & Barrels
Bluefield Regional Medical Center

STAFF ROSTER

Twyla Hersman,
Therapist

Michael King,
Program Services Specialist

Tonya Milam,
Family Advocate

LaDeana Morgan,
Direct Services Manager

Lindsay Mutters,
Forensic Interviewer

Tammy Neal,
Operations Manager

Elizabeth Street,
MSW Intern

Shiloh Woodard,
Executive Director



**Child Protect Staff and
Sgt. Clemons of the
WV State Police at the
2018 Chefs Battle Child
Abuse Event**

3RD ANNUAL CHEFS BATTLE CHILD ABUSE PICTURES CONT.

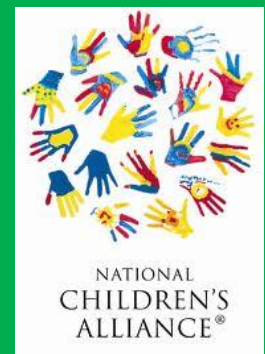


TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: TABITHA COX, PA-C



We are excited to welcome Tabitha Cox, PA-C, as Mercer County's new pediatric Forensic Medical Examiner. Tabitha began conducting non-acute (non-emergency) forensic medical examinations for local children in need of these specialized exams in February 2018, following her completion of specialized

training in this field. Tabitha has been a Mercer County-based OB/GYN Physician's Assistant (PA) since 2009, working initially with Dr. Tucker and, since 2017, Dr. Edwards' office in Bluefield. We are so excited to be partnering with Tabitha to ensure local, specialized medical care is available for child survivors of abuse.



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