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Be Tolerant: October is National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month

Julie Boland
Celebrating 30 Years
**Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteers
The holidays are right around the corner, and with that comes our Adopt A Family Program. If you are interested in Adopting a Family or would like to help us in the organizing or wrapping of all the gifts, please visit our website at www.centerforpreventionofabuse.org.

Medical Advocates
We are looking for Medical Advocates to volunteer on a monthly basis with an on-call rotation. Medical Advocates provide 24-hour crisis intervention, advocacy, and referrals to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault/abuse in area hospitals.

Longterm Care Ombudsman Program
The Ombudsman provide advocacy services to clients who reside in long-term care facilities as part of the state-wide Ombudsman Program. The Volunteer Ombudsmen will assist residents of long-term care facilities to resolve problems and grievances.

If you are interested in or have questions regarding volunteer opportunities at The Center, contact Jamie Dowell at 309-691-0551 or jdowell@centerforpreventionofabuse.org.

**Donation Needs**

Shelter Donations
We currently have a need for the following items in our shelter: toothpaste, full-size shampoo and conditioner, deodorant (men’s and women’s), towels, bags of wrapped candy, bottled water, diapers, wipes, baby monitors, twin sized bed linens, blankets and comforters. We are also in need of perishable foods, such as fruits, vegetables and meats, to help our clients eat a balanced diet while they are here.

If you are interested in donating to The Center or have questions regarding donations, contact Jamie Dowell at 309-691-0551 or jdowell@centerforpreventionofabuse.org.
October is National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. This year, The Center for Prevention of Abuse and their Prevention Education staff members will be focusing on tolerance. The statistics relating to children being bullied due to their looks or disabilities are staggering. Our Prevention Educators are focusing their teachings on being tolerant of others regardless of differing appearances, races, ideas, opinions and more. Below are some of the statistics related to bullying:

Did you know?
- One out of every four students report being bullied during the school year.
- School-based bullying prevention programs decrease bullying by up to 25%.
- 19.6% of high school students in the US report being bullied at school in the past year. 14.8% reported being bullied online.
- Children with disabilities are two to three times more likely to be bullied than their non-disabled peers.
- When reporting bullying, youth in special education were told not to tattle almost twice as often as youth not in special education.
- 81.9% of students who identify as LGBTQ were bullied in the last year because of their sexual orientation.

Every one of our children deserve to be treated with kindness and respect, regardless of their differences. Show your support by wearing orange on October 19th for Unity Day. Unity Day is a time when we can all come together at work, school or wherever you are to show your support and unite in the movement to stop bullying and be accepting, kind and inclusive.

For more information about our Prevention Education services, please visit www.centerforpreventionofabuse.org or contact Marcia Bolden at mbolden@centerforpreventionofabuse.org.

The Staggering Statistics of Domestic Homicide

By: Sara Dillefeld
Sara is the Director of Domestic Violence Family Centered Services at the Center for Prevention of Abuse. She has spent 12 years advocating for victims of domestic violence.

Three women will die today in the United States. These deaths are not the result of a tragic car accident, medical emergency, or losing a hard fought battle with a chronic health condition, rather they are at the hands of a person they once loved. This happens to three women each day, or approximately 1,500 each year. Each death is a tragedy that might have been prevented.

When a person is killed by a current or former intimate partner, authorities call it a domestic homicide. Women are murdered by current or former husbands and boyfriends more often than by any other type of homicide offender. According to the Domestic Violence Homicide Report published by the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, from July 2014 to June 2015, 49 people in Illinois died due to domestic homicide. Of these deaths, three were children (under the age of 8). The adult victims ranged in age from 19 to 84 years old and were predominantly women. Seven perpetrators committed suicide after killing their partner. The year prior, 84 domestic violence-related deaths were reported, including 15 children. Most of these deaths were from shootings.

There is the misconception that if women in abusive relationships would just leave, the abuse would end. In fact, leaving is actually the most dangerous time. Domestic violence is about power and control. Once a victim has announced the end of the relationship, the abuser becomes outraged at losing control. While it would be impossible to predict fatalities with complete certainty, most domestic homicides are foreshadowed by a history of warning signs. In more than 70% of all domestic homicides, there was previous physical abuse. Other risk factors include: extreme jealousy, abuse in public, use of or threat to use a weapon (especially access to a gun), sexual abuse, previous strangulation, and suicidal or homicidal threats.

One of the primary ways to decrease domestic homicide is to identify those most at risk and intervene appropriately. Jacquelyn Campbell (renowned researcher on domestic homicide) has found a significant barrier in the identification of victims. Her study of fatalities revealed that only 4% of the victims ever sought help from a domestic violence program. Concurrently, her research shows that 96% of the victims had contacted law enforcement, the court system, or a hospital. This makes it imperative that personnel in those entities are able to accurately identify and assess for risk factors.

Since 1987, October has been designated as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It is a time to mourn those who have lost their lives, celebrate those who have survived and connect all of us in advocacy to end violence. The Center for Prevention of Abuse is dedicated to improving the lives of those within our community by providing comprehensive domestic violence services to victims in need. These services include safe shelter, case management, legal/medical advocacy, counseling and educational trainings to professionals and community groups to raise awareness of the dynamics of domestic violence.

The Center has a 24 hour a day crisis line for those trying to flee a violent or abusive situation. The number is 1-800-559-SAFE. Every life that is lost from domestic violence is a tragedy. One is simply too many.
A Life of Dedication to The Center for Prevention of Abuse
Recognizing Julie Boland for 30 Years of Service

By: Shaun Newell

As The Center for Prevention of Abuse turns 40 years old in 2016, one of the key people behind the organization becoming known as the place to turn to for issues dealing with violence and abuse is celebrating a milestone as well. Julie Boland, The Center’s Director of Sexual Assault and Advocacy Services, has now been with this organization for 30 years. Julie started at The Center fresh out of college and has worked tirelessly ever since to help the 5,000 victims of violence and abuse we serve annually. I recently sat down with Julie to reflect back on the last three decades of service and where she sees The Center in future years…

Shaun Newell (SN): 30 years is certainly a good amount of time to spend with one organization and you are still going strong as an advocate for The Center. Let’s go back to 1986 and how you ended up taking a job here.

Julie Boland (JB): I had heard about The Center for Prevention of Abuse and I knew the people here did great things and I really wanted to be at a place to make a difference in people’s lives. I had just finished up school at Illinois Central College and this was my first professional job. At the time, The Center was still a really movement made up of volunteers and staff who really did want to make a difference. It was very grass-roots. I came in as a domestic violence caseworker.

SN: I am sure it really was a different organization then it is now. When you reflect back over the last 30 years, what are some of the changes that really stick out to you?

JB: I think the motivation of the women and men who were here then were just so passionate, dedicated and determined. That is not to say it is not that way now, but it is just different. We really wanted to be a part of change, an agent of change if you will, and really help anyone who had been hurt or wronged. That is what I felt like when I first came here and I wanted to see that. Certainly, I have worked with many professionals through the years who have that same passion and dedication, but back then there was a goal to move toward that we strived for each day.

Another change would be the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault have begun to be more talked about in society. There is less stigma for survivors to reach out and seek help. More efforts are being made to hold offenders accountable, recognizing that victims do not “cause their abuse” in any way. Abusers and assailants choose to use violence against the victim. Unfortunately, one area that has not made great strides is for society to continue to blame the victims of sexual violence. The victim is never to blame for being sexually assaulted; instead we need to focus on the assailant’s actions and work to hold them accountable.

Another thing that has changed dramatically over the years is the number of people who volunteer for direct service such as on the hotline for crisis calls and as medical advocates. People are so busy and I really feel it impacts their ability to help. This impacts staff however who have to fill in the role of medical advocates which we rarely used to have to do. I am hoping we see an influx of volunteers in the future who are willing to work directly with clients again.

Julie started at The Center as a second shift domestic violence caseworker, working 4pm-midnight. She then transitioned into the role of legal advocate for domestic violence victims.

JB: That has really changed over the years. I used to be here with the clients during the day and if anybody needed to make a police report or obtain an Order of Protection then we would all load up in the car and go to the courthouse and then bring them back to the shelter. Now there are offices on site at the courthouses in Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford County.

After deciding to move on from the legal advocate role, Julie became a sexual assault counselor, where she spent nine years working with clients. JB: I have to tell you that was probably the most difficult yet rewarding role I’ve had at The Center. The counselors hear stories all day long about someone’s most tragic situation in their lives and how they have been affected by it. I have great respect for the Therapists here who continue to do that on a daily basis. The rewarding part came from helping a survivor during a session where they felt much better when they left than when they came in. Sometimes the physical appearance of a survivor would change just due to the relief they felt. I was learning something new every day. It is also rewarding to work with such great people over the years.

SN: How do you deal with that day in and day out personally?

JB: While I have been pretty good about leaving work at work, it does really change your view of the world. You watch people and how they interact

JB: I began supervising the courthouse offices, the Family Violence Intervention Project and the Step Up program for teens who were abusers in their homes. For the Step Up program we would hold weekly meetings with families who had an abusive teen and try to change the behavior in the household. It was very difficult.

When I was supervising all of these programs, it was a very challenging time personally and professionally. Little by little, the additional programs got placed in someone else’s care and that leads me to now when I continue to direct The Center’s advocacy services. Losing those other responsibilities gave me more time to become educated about the courthouse relationships with judges and law enforcement and in the hospitals as well for the 24-hour medical response. I felt that I was finally able to devote the time needed for each program instead of doing many things but possibly not very well.

SN: How has the Sexual Assault program changed over the years?

JB: It is still primarily made up of therapists, but at one time I supervised everyone. When we decided to have a Clinical Director for the agency, it was a natural transition to have Heidi VanHeuklon take on the supervision of the Master’s level therapists in the program. Now I do the administrative responsibilities for the program including grant writing and reports for funders and Heidi does the clinical piece.

SN: How have the advocacy programs in the courthouses and hospitals grown and changed over the time you took over supervision of them?

JB: I think both of the programs are vitally important to survivors of both domestic abuse and sexual assault. I have seen a lot of change in the medical advocacy component. At one point we were not automatically responding to domestic violence cases and we made the decision to change that and to have the hospitals call us for every victim. Now our advocates always go if someone does not want us there, then that is okay, at least we made the effort to say we were there for them. We now have Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) who specialize in the treatment of sexual assault survivors. This program ensures sensitivity and expertise for these victims.

The courtrooms function as a pretty well oiled machine. We have seen changes in judges and how protective orders work, but we have great support from courthouse personnel. They rely on us to help those folks who need an Order of Protection. Our staff still helps people get Stalking/No Contact orders every day. We offer them support, safety and information and even stand up with them in front of the judge during their hearing. It is our goal to be able to spend more time with each victim seeking a protective order, to inform them of available services and offer a higher degree of support, understanding that for some survivors, the Court Advocates may be the only contact with The Center that they have.

SN: What has led you to stay with one organization for 30 years?

JB: That kernel of helping people and being an agent of change is one thing that has not changed. I see that daily and that has absolutely kept me here. The opportunities to grow personally and professionally are great. This is a well respected agency in the community. There are lots of things to keep me here for sure.

SN: What do you expect to see from The Center over the next three decades?

JB: I would hope and expect that responding to victims remains at the forefront of everything we do and every decision we make. That is why we are here. Knowing that, and having everyone put their best foot forward and giving 110%, that is what is important to me.

SN: Final Thoughts?

JB: I just have to praise the staff and volunteers for all of the work they do to keep helping all of the clients we serve each year. Those in every program deserve a lot of kudos for the hard work they put in each day. I am so proud and grateful to be a part of such an amazing team!
Text 911
Center Executive Director, Carol Merna, participated in a news conference to announce that Text 911 is now available in Peoria County for emergency help. This is another great tool for those victims of violence and abuse trying to flee a dangerous situation.

Text 911 is as simple as texting your location and type of emergency to 911. Local advocates said the new system is critical in saving the lives of abuse victims. More than 30,000 cases of domestic violence have been reported to the Peoria County Family Justice Center in the last 10 years. A remarkable 70% of incidents go unreported because many victims are afraid the abuser will become more violent if they know a call is being made. “Because cell phones are constantly in our hip pockets, being able to text 911 is a very positive move,” said Center for Prevention of Abuse Executive Director, Carol Merna.

Verizon Wireless Grant Awarded
Verizon Wireless has awarded The Center for Prevention of Abuse a $20,000 grant to help supplement our Violence Prevention Education programs. Our prevention educators are in more than 100 schools providing curriculum-based prevention lessons throughout the tri-county area! We thank everyone at Verizon for their continued support of The Center and our programs and services.

Pat Willis Honored
Pat Willis was one of over two dozen women honored at the WEEK-TV 25 Women in Leadership Luncheon. Pat is a Long-Term Care Ombudsman at The Center. This is a well deserved honor for her. Congratulations Pat!

Duck Race - Grand Prize Winner
The $5,000 Grand Prize for the 28th Annual Duck Race was presented to Margot Loy (left) of Peoria! Her duck was the first to cross the finish line on race day. The Center’s Director of Business Operations, Mary Beth Jackson (right) sold the winning duck and had the pleasure of providing Margot with the grand prize check for $5,000.

2016 Great Heart Give Winners
Our new technology arrived after winning the Heart Technologies Great Heart Give! Our IT Manager Seth is ready to start implementing all of this new equipment!

Need a Speaker?
The Center has speakers available to share information about our programs and the issues our programs address.
All speaking engagements are free.
Contact Shaun Newell
691-0551
for more information

Training Institute
The Center provides educational opportunities for professionals, churches, businesses and community members on abuse and its effects on everyday life.
Contact Carol Hennon
698-2874
for more information
A group from Morton United Methodist Church spent a day volunteering at The Center. They worked outside, pulling weeds and trimming trees. Later in the afternoon they helped in the Children’s Room, painting faces and making lunch. They even took turns letting the children paint on them. Good sports and good service! Thanks so much!

The Church of the Living God held their week-long, national conference at the Peoria Civic Center and the hundreds in attendance made a wonderful donation to The Center. Pastor Mareeta Fowler presented the gift to Center’s Interim Associate Executive Director Joyce DeRenzy during a service. We thank everyone for their support!

A group of two dozen Caterpillar Inc. employees spent much of an afternoon spreading the new mulch through the Heart of Illinois United Way volunteer program. As you can see, they did a great job. Thanks to everyone who helped out!

Our children’s playground got a major facelift as new mulch was spread all over the area! A group of Caterpillar Inc. employees visited The Center to give the grounds a much needed make over. The awesome volunteers trimmed bushes, cut dead branches off trees and made the landscaping look much better. We thank them for all their hard work on a hot, humid day!

We would like to thank all of our wonderful sponsors for making it possible for all of the money raised by this year’s Duck Race to go toward The Center’s services and programs.

The Center for Prevention of Abuse staff would also like to thank the City of East Peoria for helping us with another very successful race. Mayor Dave Mingus, Doug McCarty and the entire crew at Eastside Centre, Rick Swan from the East Peoria Chamber of Commerce, the members of the East Peoria Fire Department and so many others helped make the planning and execution of the race seamless and easy. We appreciate their tremendous support! We would also like to express gratitude to Mike Baynard, a champion for The Center in so many ways. Thanks goes as well to a great group of volunteers and staff members who ensured that the 28th Annual Duck Race was a huge success!

Thank you to the Pekin Rotary Club for the grant they awarded The Center. The grant is for therapy kits and items for our children’s room. This grant, along with the continued support of the Pekin Rotary Club, is very much appreciated.
Verizon Wireless awarded a grant to The Center to support Prevention Education Services.

The South-West Kiwanis Club awarded a grant to The Center for clothing and school supplies for children in shelter.

The Kenneth Keim Endowment Fund awarded a grant to The Center for first aid cabinets.

The TJX Foundation awarded The Center a grant for shelter services.

THANK YOU!

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Due to space limitations, we are unable to list contributions of non-monetary gifts. Please know that every donation, whether it's a dollar or an item off our wish list, helps The Center serve and educate thousands.

Due to space limitations, we are combining the donations made specifically to Carol House of Hope into the list of all donations to The Center. Please know that Carol House of Hope donations are tracked separately as are any other donations made to a specific program or event.

Thank you for your understanding.

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