Duck Race

CenterPeace

Est. 1989

the CENTER for PREVENTION of ABUSE
Opening Doors • Changing Lives
It is a sight to behold to see almost 30,000 bright, shiny yellow rubber ducks floating their way down a gigantic slip-n-slide, all decked out with their brightly colored duck bills and slick black sunglasses.

The Center for Prevention of Abuse, along with an amazing group of partnering sponsors, is proud to present the 28th Annual Duck Race to be held on Saturday, August 27 at East Side Center in East Peoria! The Center needs you, and your family and friends in a big way. Please contribute by signing up to adopt ducks! Your contribution will help bring hope to the nearly 5,000 clients cared for by The Center in Central Illinois, and the 30,000+ students we reach through our Prevention Education efforts. And, the public awareness the Duck Race brings is second to none! It is a remarkable opportunity for more people in need to find The Center and receive the help and hope that is essential for peace.

WHAT YOUR DUCK CAN DO...

- Help sexual assault victims overcome their trauma,
- Keep seniors and adults living with disabilities safe from all types of abuse,
- Stop the cycle of domestic violence,
- Teach young people about the results of bullying,
- Build a safe and peaceful community.

The State of Illinois’ budget impasse over the past year has taken a toll on many human service providers, including The Center. We remain operating at almost full capacity, helping those who seek peace live free from violence and abuse. Yet the uncertainty from the State is palpable, even with the recently passed stopgap measure. The unreliability of the contracted funds through the State makes our private partnerships, including those made through the Duck Race, all the more important.

To sponsor some ducks for the race please visit duckracepeoria.com or use the order form in this edition of the CenterPeace. For assistance, please feel welcome to call Celsy Martindale at The Center at 309.691.0551. Thank you for your heartfelt support for The Center and those we care for each and every day.

In Peace,

Carol Merna
Executive Director
Protecting Vulnerable Adults from Abuse
Frequently Asked Questions
By: Joyce DeRenzy, Director of Adult Protective Services, Center for Prevention of Abuse

Who is considered a vulnerable adult?
Adults age 60 and over and adults with disabilities, age 18 and over.

What are the types and signs of adult abuse?
- Physical or sexual abuse involves inflicting physical, pain or injury. It includes behaviors such as slapping, hitting, beating, burning, sexual assault and rough handling. Warning signs are suspicious bruising, untreated injuries and regressive behavior.
- Psychological or emotional abuse diminishes the identity, dignity and self-worth of the vulnerable adult. Some examples are: name calling, insulting, threatening, ignoring, isolating, excluding from meaningful events and deprivation of rights. Warning signs include the person being emotionally upset, withdrawn or unresponsive.
- Neglect is the failure of a caregiver to meet the needs of a vulnerable adult who is unable to meet those needs alone. It can include such behaviors as denial of food, water and medications. Warning signs include dehydration, weight loss, unattended health problems or caregivers refusing visitors.
- Financial exploitation involves the misuse of money or property. Examples include stealing money or possessions, forging a signature, misusing a power of attorney, and tricking an older adult into selling their property. Warning signs include lack of money for food, medicine and utilities.

Who are the abusers?
The great majority of abusers are family members, most often an adult child or spouse. Additional offenders may include other family, old friends/newly developed “friends” who intentionally prey on vulnerable adults, and service providers in positions of trust. Abuse can also occur at a long-term care facility, such as a nursing home or assisted living residence. Employees and temporary staff who have direct contact with residents are the most frequent perpetrators. Unfortunately, abusers are not always easy to spot and victims may not be physically or mentally able to report their abuse, or they may be isolated and too afraid or ashamed to tell someone. If you suspect abuse, report it.

How do I make a report?
Call Adult Protective Services (APS) to make a report. (If the abuser is unknown to the victim it is handled by the police not APS). You do not need to prove that abuse is occurring; it is up to the trained professionals at APS to investigate the suspicions. When making a report, be ready to give the name, address, and contact information of the person you suspect is being abused or neglected, and details about why you are concerned. You may be asked a series of questions to gain more insight into the nature of the situation such as:
- Are there any known medical problems (including confusion or memory loss)?
- What kind of family or social supports are there?
- Have you seen or heard incidents of yelling, hitting, or other abusive behavior?

NOTE: You will be asked for your name, address, telephone number, etc. however, a report will be accepted even if you do not identify yourself. The identity of the reporter is confidential. As long as you are making a report in good faith, you will not be liable for any damages resulting from the report.

After reporting the abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult what will APS do?
APS is mandated to investigate every report of abuse, financial exploitation and neglect. If there is a substantiated allegation of abuse APS staff will provide appropriate information, referrals and protective services. Services, to the extent possible, are those that allow the adult to function independently.

What if the person refuses help from APS?
Competent adults have the right to exercise free choice in deciding whether to accept services. If an adult appears to be capable of understanding the risks and chooses to stay in an abusive or neglectful situation this can be a difficult decision for others to understand. If there are questions about the adult’s mental capacity, then a mental health evaluation should be pursued to ensure the safety of the adult.

WHO DO I CONTACT TO MAKE A REPORT?
For more information or to report abuse of a vulnerable adult call, Adult Protective Services at The Center for Prevention of Abuse, 309-637-3905 or after hours at 1-866-800-1409. If you or someone you know is in immediate danger call 911. For information on other services to help individuals in abusive situations call The Center at 309-691-0551 or visit our website - centerforpreventionofabuse.org.
20 Years of Service at The Center for Prevention of Abuse
The story of how Joyce DeRenzy Reinvented Her Career

By: Shaun Newell

Reinventing yourself is something many people talk about, but few actually accomplish. It takes courage, determination and a lot of hard work to decide to start over with a new career when you reach middle age. Having to put in a ton of effort to reach your goal is often a deterrent and the reason it does not happen. In the case of Joyce DeRenzy though, her desire to rise up outweighed the sacrifice that came with it.

Joyce was a lifelong hair dresser until the age of 40 when she decided it was time to go on a new journey with her life. That journey led Joyce to go back to school and ultimately brought her to The Center for Prevention of Abuse, where she now celebrating 20 years of service in various roles. I recently sat down with Joyce to reflect on the past and to discuss an exciting new chapter as she will serve as the interim Associate Executive Director at The Center while a search is conducted for the long-term replacement for the departing Kevin Nowlan.

Shaun Newell (SN): You reinvented your career after a long period of working in cosmetology. What led to that decision?

Joyce DeRenzy (JD): Two things actually led to the change in careers. I was in cosmetology for 25 years and there was a point where I started working with clients who had cancer and were going through chemotherapy and were losing their hair. I would help them with the transition of losing their hair by fitting them into a wig and shaving their head. I found I really liked talking to them. It worked for them too because many would call me after just to chat and touch base.

I was then talking to a friend saying I wish I went to school. She said she was sick of hearing me say that and told me if I wanted to go, to just do it, so I did. I went to Carl Sandberg College in Galesburg. It was the scariest time of my life. I was 40 years old, which meant I was older than a lot of my instructors. I then finished out my last two years at Knox College. I remember going on campus and thinking they are all going to think I am an imposter. I felt so lucky to be there and it opened up all these new things. I loved it.

Joyce then applied for a domestic violence caseworker position at The Center, but she got a call to interview for an Elder Abuse caseworker position. She then, of course, got the job.

JD: I don’t think anything sets you up to deal with Elder Abuse cases. I was raised in a household where there was no spanking. I did not know children got beat and women got raped or assaulted and I certainly did not know anyone treated a senior like that. I think working in elder abuse was fate, it was just meant to be. My application was meant to go to Elder Abuse.

SN: What is it like as a new caseworker to walk into your first investigation and deal with your first client?

JD: It is one of the scariest things I have done in my life on a lot of levels. You are going in, unannounced and you may not be welcome. What balances the fear out is that feeling I can make a difference here. That person did not know these services were available to them. What I loved about it was getting paid to ask what a person’s story is, because I really love to find out what someone’s story is and to know who they are.

Joyce served as a caseworker for two years, became a supervisor and then took the reins of the long-term care ombudsman program. The director of senior services left about a year later and Joyce became only the second person to lead the department now known as Adult Protective Services.

SN: How did you handle the transition from entry level to leading a department after a few short years?

JD: I felt the responsibility of the entire department, but what has worked for me is never saying I have all the answers or that I know it all. I let my staff know early on they may come to me with a question and I may say I do not know, but I will get an answer for you. You’re not setting yourself up to fail when you rely on other people. I also put myself through constant education by keeping up on the latest information I need to know.

Joyce also supervised the Domestic Violence program for two years while also overseeing APS. She said it also was a great learning experience while she was leading both departments.

SN: How has The Center changed over the last 20 years?

JD: The physical part is everyone used to be scattered in different places. We did not have one campus. Bringing everyone to one location was huge. We have certainly grown. APS has grown from four people to 20 people alone. We have seen change in leadership, but what has not changed is the same commitment to service. The longer we go though, the more we do and add more programs to help people in the community.

Another change on the horizon is Joyce taking over, at least temporarily, as The Center’s Associate Executive Director, while still overseeing APS. She is playing the dual role once again.

SN: How does it feel after 20 years to be moving into another position?

JD: It makes me feel scared and proud. I am very proud to work at an agency that has allowed me to grow from a front-line direct staff to where I am going. I think that says a lot about the Center, that we do cultivate folks. My former bosses and my current boss has always encouraged me to grow. As I move forward to this new position I am excited. I like a challenge and I like something new so I am really looking forward to it.

This is a portion of my interview with Joyce DeRenzy. To listen to the audio of our entire chat visit www.centerforpreventionofabuse.org
Center Executive Director Carol Merna reacts to the passage of a partial state budget by Illinois lawmakers. Here is the complete statement we released after SB 2047 was approved.

"Today’s vote by the Illinois General Assembly to pass a stopgap budget to fund services in the state for the next six months is a sign of progress. SB2047 partially funds services offered by The Center for Prevention of Abuse and will contribute toward our work to help clients live free from violence and abuse. We respect the tough decisions our political leaders must make regarding the state budget deficit, and we thank those who voted to help people in need build a solid foundation and reach their full potential.

Though we will soon go through this difficult exercise once again, we are hopeful today’s budget agreement made among Illinois’ political leaders will be a building block for more good and thoughtful compromise. We trust that today’s work in Springfield represents a new spirit of give and take that will ultimately lead to a full budget for FY17, providing confidence and stability for the people of Illinois.”

The Center’s Adult Protective Services department received the Advocates for Access 2016 Business of the Year award. APS Director Joyce DeRenzy accepted the honor on behalf of all of the hard working employees in the department who help victims of abuse everyday.

Gary Nester Honored
The Center’s retired Volunteer Coordinator Gary Nester was honored with the Peoria Rotary North Community Paul Harris Fellow Award. Gary was recognized not only for his contributions to The Center, where he still volunteers, but also for his dedication to raising money for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

2016 Great Heart Give Winners
Heart Technologies CEO Lance LeIm visited The Center to award Executive Director Carol Merna with the $10,000 technology grant for winning this year’s Great Heart Give. Thank you again to everyone who voted for us during the four week competition. It took every vote to make this happen!

An extra peaceful Monday took place at The Center in June when Center staff took a moment to reflect on peace and respect with the help of our Kid’s Camp attendees and Prevention Educators. They wrapped up the program by signing the Peace and Respect Banner and planting their peaceful pinwheels into a flower box.

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
698-2874
for more information
We would like to thank the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority from Bradley University once again. They dropped by The Center to deliver the items they had collected from their food drive and some handmade blankets and other goodies for our shelter. Thank you so much ladies for your continued support!

(Above) Members of the Northminster Presbyterian Church in Peoria are paying it forward with purses. They dropped off their ‘Purposeful Purses’ to The Center. The purses are filled with all kinds of donations for our clients. Thank you!

(Above) Executive Director Carol Merna spoke to the Illinois Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors Auxiliary about all of the important services offered at The Center for Prevention of Abuse. We thank the group for the awesome donations they gave for our clients!

We would like to thank the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority from Bradley University once again. They dropped by The Center to deliver the items they had collected from their food drive and some handmade blankets and other goodies for our shelter. Thank you so much ladies for your continued support!

(Above/Left) A big thank you to Jodi Lindsay from Bob Lindsay Acura and Chief Servis from the East Peoria Fire Department for being the judges of our duckorating contest at The Center! The Administration Department won the contest with a Star Wars theme.

(Mother’s Day was a little nicer around The Center thanks to everyone over at Two Men and a Truck / Northern Illinois - Peoria. With the Movers for Moms program, they donated several boxes full of items like pajamas, toiletries and sheets. Our staff and clients thank all of the fine folks at Two Men and a Truck for their support.

(Right) Chris Kaergard got his budget beard cut off for charity! Chris decided not to shave the entire time there was a budget stalemate in FY2016...13 long months! People took the opportunity to cut off pieces of the beard and donate money to places like The Center! We are grateful Chris brought awareness to the difficult budget issues in Illinois. Thank you for the support Chris!

(SHERMAN’S is proud to support the CENTER for PREVENTION of ABUSE Opening Doors • Changing Lives
Buy a in July We’ll Donate One!

(Above) The Caterpillar Asian Indian Community Employee Resource group stepped up again for The Center. The group planted flowers, pulled weeds, power washed a wall and spread mulch around the children’s playground. Thank you all for your hard work.

(Below) The Caterpillar Asian Indian Community Employee Resource group stepped up again for The Center. The group planted flowers, pulled weeds, power washed a wall and spread mulch around the children’s playground. Thank you all for your hard work.
28th Annual Duck Race Season Has Commenced!

The Annual Duck Race is the signature fundraising event for The Center for Prevention of Abuse. This year marks our 28th Anniversary, the longest running Duck Race in the country! At just $5 per duck, you will not only make a difference for our community, but you will also have a chance to win $5,000 and many other fantastic prizes! Although some funding comes from state, federal and United Way grants, the agency cannot meet the demand for its many programs without additional support from the community. There are waiting lists for counseling for children and school presentations. Funds from the Duck Race help to fill the gaps that grants and other funding leave behind. Thanks to our very generous sponsors, every dollar raised from the Duck Race goes directly to our programs. We encourage you to race a duck, or lots of ducks, to show your support for The Center and help raise funds for the vital services it provides to our community. Join us on August 27th at Eastside Centre in East Peoria! Many activities begin at 12:00pm and the ducks race at 2:00pm!

Enter today at duckracepeoria.com. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Shaun Newell at 309-691-0551 or snowell@centerforpreventionofabuse.org.
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March 1, 2016 - May 31, 2016

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Max and Bob Jacobs
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Mike Strode
Gayle and Thomas Strong
Summer & Associates Insurance

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.

IN MEMORY OF:
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Doris Kath
Wanda Clark
Connie & Stephen Julien
Debbie Melvin
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