Volunteer Opportunities

Clothing / Food Pantry
We are in need of several individuals to help on a rotating schedule in our clothing / food pantry. Volunteers would help sort donations that come in and organize them in the pantry. The hours are very flexible.

Medical Advocates
We are looking for Medical Advocates to help 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.

Adult Protective Services Ombudsman
The Ombudsman provides advocacy services to clients who reside in long-term care facilities as part of the state-wide Ombudsman Program. The Volunteer Ombudsman will assist residents of long-term care facilities resolve problems and grievances.

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

Donation Needs

Shelter Donations
We currently have needs for the following items in our shelter: toothpaste, full-size shampoo and conditioner, twin sized bed linens and blankets and comforters. We can also use some perishable food, such as fruits, vegetables and meats to help our clients eat a balanced diet while they are here.

If you are interested in donating or have questions regarding donations to The Center, contact Kelly Schoonover at 309-691-0551 or kschoonover@centerforpreventionofabuse.org.

Due to the state budget impasse, we may not be able to continue mailing The CenterPeace. You can always access The CenterPeace online at www.centerforpreventionofabuse.org.
January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month. It is hard to comprehend that these basic human rights issues exist in today’s modern world. But, according to the FBI, sex trafficking is the fastest-growing business under organized crime and the third-largest criminal enterprise in the world, with labor trafficking not far behind. Trafficking in people is a crime under federal and international law; it is also a crime in every state in the United States. In 2014, nearly 22,000 calls were made to the hotline to report substantive cases of human trafficking to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. My goodness, where are our modern day abolitionists? Where is our Sojourner Truth?

Sojourner Truth believed she was called by a higher power to tell the truth, and tell the truth she did. After walking away from slavery and her fifth owner into freedom in 1843, she became a leading voice for the abolition of slavery and for the rights of women. Undeterred by her own enslavement and physical abuse, she traveled the nation bearing witness to the truth, speaking forcefully against what is now known as human trafficking. She was affecting the lives of innumerable Americans during the latter half of the 19th Century.

In a proclamation commemorating the movement in 2015, President Obama had this to say: “Stained from a history of slavery and shaped by ancestors brought to this country in chains, today, America shines as a beacon of hope to people everywhere who cherish liberty and opportunity. Still, our society remains imperfect, and our Nation has more work to do to uphold these values.”

Undoubtedly, the US House of Representatives will be discussing, debating and voting on a series of bills related to human trafficking prevention during this awareness period. Typically, such bills have bipartisan support in the House and Senate. However, action within the halls of Congress will be futile without a commitment from the public sector seeking basic freedoms for those being exploited and those at risk.

The Center for the Prevention of Abuse cultivates an intrinsic belief that those we care for deserve to live free from oppression. Join us during National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month, and further into the calendar year, to accelerate the conversation, encourage cultural change and become part of the outcry of truth. Sojourner Truth appealed to the better angels of those she reached and she urged action. She made a difference. So can we all; so can we all.

If you suspect trafficking, call the Center for the Prevention of Abuse at 1-800-559-SAFE (7233) or the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 888-373-7888.

In Peace,

Carol Merna
Executive Director

Not For Sale
“Truth is powerful and it prevails.” – Sojourner Truth
2015 is coming to a close, and we’re taking a moment to look back on everything that the Prevention Education Department, partnering school districts and community supporters helped accomplish for students in Peoria, Woodford and Tazewell Counties this year — as well as looking ahead at all we hope to achieve in 2016.

Expansion of our Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program by 50% was a major milestone in 2015, as was our work to better serve youth and people living with disabilities. In October, The Center joined with national organizations to launch its Bullying Prevention Awareness Campaign. The impact and results of our prevention efforts are remarkable. Planning and research continues as the Prevention Education Department gears up for its next awareness effort. There is still a significant amount of meaningful work to be done, and we are going full steam ahead!

During February 2016, The Center will launch its annual Teen Dating Violence Awareness Campaign throughout Central Illinois. Within the last six months, more than 3,000 students have participated in The Center’s Teen Dating Violence and Building Healthy Relationships Program. The Center’s Inside the Classroom Program teaches students about dating violence, sexual abuse prevention and healthy relationship development. More specifically, the program helps to educate students about all forms of abuse, their effects, and the tools they need to prevent and/or intervene in the cycle of violence in order to avoid abusive relationships in the future.

All too often, we read or hear reports of the harsh realities of teen dating violence. During the preteen and teen years, youth are learning the skills to form relationships with others. This is an ideal time to promote healthy relationships and prevent patterns of relationship violence that can last into adulthood. The Center’s leadership remains confident that prevention education within the schools and community is a critical part of the solution. By providing education and life skills focused on forming and maintaining healthy, peaceful relationships, teens are given the tools to keep themselves safe and to form positive relationships with appropriate boundaries. The long-term impact of these efforts is the prevention and intervention of pervasive domestic violence in our community. By building and equipping youth with accurate and practical information, students are provided critical tools for future safety and the opportunity to live free from violence and abuse.

The Center’s Prevention Education Department has made great strides toward empowering youth and persons with disabilities — and the credit belongs to you!

Just look at some other important realizations your support has helped us accomplish this past year:
• Enhanced learning experiences for students through the purchase of interactive technology and the use if iClickers
• Ability to sustain programming and provide services in more than 100 site locations
• Received the Central Illinois Valley Illinois Principal Association “Building Bridges” Regional Award
• Reached approximately 28,758 youth in 2015 with violence prevention education programming

Your financial contributions and encouragement helped drive crucial successes in 2015.

In the year ahead we will prioritize our violence prevention education programs and sustain these efforts in more than 106 locations. Many of the challenges that our students and program participants face may very well intensify. With your help, we will be in a strong position in 2016 to continue assisting schools within the Peoria Tri-County Area create and achieve safe, supportive environments for all students and staff.
1 in 5 female students and 1 in 10 male students who date have experienced some form of physical and/or sexual teen dating violence during the past 12 months.

1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men first experienced some form of partner violence between 11 and 17 years of age.

Teen girls who experienced recent dating violence were 60% more likely to report at least one suicide attempt in the past year than those who did not experience recent dating violence.

LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered) teen couples are just as likely as heterosexual couples to be involved in dating violence.

57% of teens say they know of a peer who has been physically, sexually, or verbally abusive to their dating partner.

About 1 in 11 teens report being a victim of physical dating violence each year.

Approximately 8% of boys and 9% of girls have been to an emergency room for an injury received from a dating partner.

12% of youth reported being intentionally, physically injured by a dating partner within the past year.

There wasn’t a significant difference in rates of teen dating violence reported by girls and boys with 13.7% of girls and 10.5% of boys reporting such experiences within the past year.

11% of youth reported having been forced to have sexual intercourse against their will at some point in their lifetime.

Girls were the victims of sexual violence at significantly higher rates than were boys with 17% of girls and 5% of boys reporting an experience of sexual violence.

50% of disabled women have experienced domestic abuse compared with 25% of non-disabled women.

Both men and women with a limiting illness or disabilities are more likely to experience intimate partner violence.

Disabled women are likely to have to endure it for longer because appropriate support is not available.

A study of women who access mental health services identified between 50% and 60% had experienced domestic violence, and up to 20% were currently being abused.
Did you know Human Trafficking is considered modern day slavery and is now the third largest growing criminal industry in the world (behind illegal drugs and arms)? It reportedly generates a profit of $32 billion every year. Trafficking can include a wide range of operations including: individuals, small families, criminal networks or international syndicates. Trafficking has occurred in all 50 states. Since 2007, almost 3,000 calls have been made to the National Human Trafficking Hotline for reports in Illinois alone.

Victims can be men, women or children from rural or urban communities. Victims have a diverse socio-economic background with varied levels of education. It is not necessary to cross international borders in order to be trafficked. Victims can be trafficked from state to state or within their own town. Many victims have experienced some kind of trauma (abuse, assault, homelessness or a natural disaster) or may be runaways, but traffickers lure or ensnare victims by manipulating and exploiting their vulnerabilities.

The key components of trafficking are recruiting, harboring, moving or obtaining a person by force, fraud or coercion. Anyone under the age of 18 involved in the sex trade is also considered trafficked. Trafficking does not require physical force or restraint. Smuggling is not the same as trafficking because smuggling involves crossing a border illegally. Smuggling can become trafficking if the person who was smuggled is then not allowed to freely go about their business.

Trafficking occurs in the sex trade industry, labor, agriculture, domestic servitude, traveling sales crews, restaurants and health and beauty services.

Trafficking exists because there is very little risk or deterrence to affect their criminal operations and there are high profits with minimal costs. Many traffickers have legitimate businesses and use trafficking to increase their profits.

How do you recognize if someone you know is being trafficked in the community?

The following is a list of potential red flags and indicators of possible trafficking:

- The victim is accompanied by a controlling person
- The victim is transported to and from work
- The victim is isolated either physically or culturally
- The victim may be doing odd tasks at an odd hour
- The victim has no identification
- The victim has little control over his or her life
- The stories told may be inconsistent
- The victim lacks knowledge of the community or exactly where they are
- High security measures exist where the victim works or lives
- The victim avoids eye contact

What can you do?

If you suspect that you have come in contact with a victim of human trafficking:

- If the victim is in immediate danger, call 911.
- If the victim meets the criteria for trafficking but is not in immediate danger, provide the victim with the national hotline or call yourself. 1-888-373-7888.

Of the 11,000 calls received in 2014 by the National Human Trafficking Hotline, a third of them came from community members. Help spread the word about human trafficking with people you meet. We won’t be able to recognize victims until we know the signs of trafficking. Participate in anti-trafficking coalitions, sign-up for alerts from anti-trafficking organizations or participate in trainings. Help support organizations that are dedicated to protecting the rights of victims. Be a responsible consumer. When purchasing products, consider the practices of the corporation that make and sell the product you are purchasing.

What does The Center do?

We have partnered with the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program and will be reimbursed for any services that we provide to foreign born victims of violence. For victims that are US citizens, they will receive the same types of services any other victim of violence receives: shelter, food, clothing, and help with a service plan and safety plan.

January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month
Ducks in January?

Ducks? We are talking about ducks in January? Yes! Even though the Duck Race is in August, The Center thinks about its largest fundraiser all year long.....ducks, ducks, ducks!

We are lining up our **specquackular** sponsors for the 28th Annual Duck Race and would love to add your business to our generous sponsors in saying NO to violence and abuse in our community and helping us **stop bullying!**

Contact Shaun at 309-691-0551 or snewell@centerforpreventionofabuse.org to learn more! Call today and get involved in this **ducksational** event!

We had great success with our amazing sales teams! Please discuss forming a sales team with your family, friends, or colleagues and help us race ducks! Contact Shaun for more information......it's not too early to form your team!
The Center’s annual Adopt Our Families program was a huge success this year! We are humbled by the generosity of so many people who donated items to give our clients gifts for the holidays. This year, we were able to provide holiday gifts to over 70 families, more families than ever before! The Central Illinois community is amazing! Happy Holidays!

Thank you to all of our volunteers (pictured left) who helped wrap all of the gifts this year!

(Right) Half of the gifts wrapped and ready to go to the families! It is so humbling to see what we can do when we all come together.

(Left) Representatives from Verizon stores in Peoria, East Peoria, Pekin and Bloomington visited The Center to drop off donations for our Adopt Our Families program. Thank you Verizon for your continued support of The Center!
The Annual Client Holiday Party was very successful this year at The Center. Mike and Lisa Baynard (pictured bottom left) provided all of the awesome food, including some delicious smoked ham. The Sader family (pictured bottom right) helped serve the meal and the Richwoods High School Interact Club played games with the children. It was a wonderful and heart-warming event that ended with everyone receiving a gift for Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who made this event possible for our clients!
The great staff from Wildlife Prairie Park brought a few animals to The Center for an educational session with the children we have on site. The kids got to meet Rocky the Turtle, Roberto the Snake, Tink the Skunk and Jessie the Barn Owl. The presentation was Wildlife Prairie Park’s way to participate in Giving Tuesday. It was a fun and educational event. We welcome the animals and their handlers back anytime!

A night of cultural fun, Experience India, went to benefit The Center for Prevention of Abuse. The event was hosted by the Caterpillar Asian Indian Community Employee Resource Group. The night featured a traditional Indian dinner and an Indian cultural program. The Mythili Dance Company showcased dances from throughout the country. Experience India also included an opportunity to get a photo taken while wearing traditional Indian clothing, a silent auction and a raffle. The event was a wonderful success and the proceeds donated to The Center were greatly appreciated!

The “Be the Bridge” fundraiser, to help bridge the gap in funds during our state budget impasse, was a huge success. Thank you for helping keep essential programs and services operating and allowing us to continue helping all people live free from violence and abuse.
(Right) Members of the Pekin Police Department participated in “No Shave November,” with proceeds designated to the Carol House of Hope in Pekin. The Carol House gives people fleeing an abusive situation a safe place to stay. Police Chief John Dossey and Detective Mike Eeten presented a check for $1,470 to Executive Director Carol Merna. We appreciate all of the officers who went the entire month without shaving. Those beards had to itch!

(Left) Amy Behm from MultiAd dropped by The Center to give Executive Director Carol Merna and Associate Executive Director Kevin Nowlan a monetary donation and boxes of supplies and toys for those we serve. Thank you to everyone at MultiAd for the support!

(Left) Members of the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, Peoria Chapter brought a huge donation to The Center. This is the fourth year the Diwali Food Drive has benefited The Center. Diwali is a major Hindu festival celebrated during October and November, which signifies the victory of good over evil. Sewa or Service is a very significant part of the celebration. Over 500 pounds of food and other items were collected. We thank the Peoria Chapter of Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh so much for this wonderful donation.

(Right) Peoria County employees designated the food donations from their annual food drive to go to The Center for Prevention of Abuse. We thank all of them for the boxes of food dropped off this week. It will be put to good use.
In FY 2015, The Center provided the following services:

- 8,176 shelter nights for families so they can be safe
- 2,262 Orders of Protection to keep abusers away from their victims
- 20,342 hours of service to 723 seniors and adults with disabilities who were abused, neglected or financially exploited
- 1,535 staff and volunteer visits to nursing homes to check on the well-being of residents
- 416 children and adults healing from the trauma of sexual abuse through therapy services
- 293 men and women attended the 26 week Family Violence Intervention Program to learn about violence free relationships
- Continuation of the “A Million Ways to Prevent Abuse” campaign has helped provide 5,151 teaching sessions in local schools, resulting in 79,074 contacts with students and teachers. Programs focused on body safety, bullying prevention and healthy relationship skills

The Center partners with school districts, the courts, probation offices, city and county officials and other community organizations to maximize our outcomes to keep people safe.

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Thank you for your support

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### REVENUE

- **Grants**: $3,390,636.00
- **Public**: $740,978.00
- **Investment**: $28,953.00
- **Fees and Other Income**: $282,066.00

### EXPENSES

- **Domestic Violence**: $1,649,112.00
- **Sexual Assault**: $580,786.00
- **Elder Abuse**: $1,081,505.00
- **Prevention**: $459,417.00
- **Family Violence Intervention**: $227,228.00
- **Management and General**: $352,315.00
- **Development**: $287,053.00

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**Domestic Violence**: 36%

**Sexual Assault**: 12%

**Elder Abuse**: 23%

**Prevention**: 10%

**Family Violence Intervention**: 5%

**Management and General**: 7%

**Development**: 5%

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The Community Foundation Women's Fund awarded a grant to The Center to support our HARTS program (Helping All Relationships To Be Safe).

The Community Foundation awarded a grant to The Center for children’s therapy, made possible by the Whitney Grotts Endowment Fund and the Thomas and Ellen Foster Fund.

The Energy Assistance Foundation awarded The Center a utility credit through the Ameren Non-Residential Hardship Program.

The Caterpillar Foundation awarded The Center a grant for Shelter Services.

The Rotary Club of Peoria awarded The Center a grant for iClickers to be used in classrooms by our Prevention Services Department.

The Lawrence Foundation awarded The Center a grant for our Family Violence Intervention Program.

THANK YOU!

Sonja Ahrens
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All Saints Episcopal Church
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Jan Allison
District 6 Altrusa International
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September 1, 2015 - November 30, 2015

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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.

We are grateful for the support of our contributors. Please accept our sincere apologies if your name is misspelled or was omitted. Contact Kelly at 691-0551 so that we may correct our records.

Thank you!