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Executive Director Carol Merna’s Letter to the Governor
DONATION NEEDS

Shelter Donations
We currently have a need for the following items: bathroom rugs, size 4 and 5 diapers, wipes, baby monitors, twin sized bed linens, blankets and comforters, lined journals and notebooks, adult coloring books, markers and gel pens. 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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

The Center for Prevention of Abuse is amazed by the outpouring of support we receive from our friends. Due to overwhelming generosity from our community and the limited space we have available at our shelter, we are able to accept a maximum of four bags of new or gently used clothing per donor, per month. Please know we are sincerely grateful for your kindness and appreciate your understanding!

We are not able to accept the following items as donations:

- Large items including: furniture, mattresses, home décor, appliances, large toys, bicycles, or exercise equipment without an appointment or prior notice
- Any broken items or items damaged by smoke, water, mold, stains, or odor
- Glass or breakable décor including figurines, ornaments, vases, and mirrors
- Car or booster seats
- Electronics: TVs, computers, gaming consoles, printers
- Medication of any kind, including vitamins, supplements, over-the-counter and/or topical medicines
- Paint, bleach, or opened cleaning products/chemicals
- Opened or unsealed food products

We appreciate your kindness and support. Thank you very much!

Questions? Please contact Jamie at 691-0551 ext. 242 or jdowell@centerforpreventionofabuse.org

Déjà Vu

Definition: Déjà vu, from French, literally “already seen”, is the phenomenon of having the strong sensation that an event or experience currently being experienced has already been experienced in the past. Déjà vu is a feeling of familiarity.

At midnight on December 31, 2016, the State of Illinois’ temporary budget, the “stopgap” measure, expired. Once again, Illinois is without a plan for their spending. A secure economic future for our state is but a daydream at this point.

A full year and a half ago we were virtually in this same scenario. It is time; it is past time, to elevate out of this “no budget” rut.

Many human service organizations that partner with the state for their services are treading water, making it difficult to deliver vital services to people in need.

The Center for Prevention of Abuse has a long history of top notch governance and fiscal responsibility and has been able to withstand the budget impasse thus far. We are responding to a set of circumstances that requires new ways of thinking and new ways of working. We have chosen to collaborate, we seek compromise, and we try hard to cooperate. We avoid being in a position where we are waiting for the other shoe to drop.

We ask nothing more from our government leaders than we do of ourselves.

The Center has authored a third in a series of letters to our legislative leaders in Springfield and the Illinois representatives and senators that stand for our six county service area. A copy of our latest letter is included in this edition of the CenterPeace. We encourage you to consider playing an active role, inspiring those in the 100th General Assembly to find the greater good and come to some agreement in regard to the state budget for the second half of FY2017 and also FY2018. You can find the names and contact information for those who represent you at the following website: www.elections.illinois.gov.

Thank you for your continued friendship and support for The Center. Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and peaceful 2017.
Dear Governor Rauner:

It is time.

Partisan politics in the State of Illinois must be set aside for the greater good of its citizens. We are 18 months without a true state budget, and even the strongest and most well-run organizations, like The Center for Prevention of Abuse, cannot continue to provide the best services possible to our clients if this stalemate and uncertainty persist.

So, why should the State of Illinois continue funding The Center for Prevention of Abuse? The answer is clear. It has been successful for over 40 years. That success has been achieved through building a top-notch leadership team that works together to put the best interests of our clients, and our organization, at top priorities.

When our team does not have consensus on how to resolve an issue, the motivation to move forward in a productive manner outweighs individual demands to have all wants fulfilled. We struggle to debate thoughtfully and move in tandem for our common purpose; together, we work for the greatest good for the people we serve. We still have hope that Illinois legislators will come together to do the same.

Many of Illinois’ human service organizations are being held captive by partisan issues that are beyond the control of anyone who is not an elected leader or legislator. We were recently alarmed to learn, despite assurances to the contrary, state dollars for our domestic violence emergency shelters were left out of the stopgap budget measure. No one at the state level seems to be able to completely discern the impact of this oversight. Be assured that it is more than worrisome that the state would deny funding for shelter, a basic human need. We fully expect an investigation and reinstatement of these omitted funds.

It is important to acknowledge that we realize there are serious financial realities facing our elected leaders in Illinois; realities that have been pushed aside for a later day. Every good leader understands the need to be more fiscally responsible and sustainable. Likewise, every good leader understands that we must be extremely careful of our values and priorities, which every good budget contains. The Center for Prevention of Abuse is willing to have a hand in a solid, bi-partisan effort to end the budget stalemate. We will come to your table, or you are welcome at ours. As always, you and your staff have a standing invitation to visit The Center to experience our professional and highly productive team at work and discover the real value provided in our partnership with the State of Illinois.

Today, we continue to provide quality services with no state budget in place. We are anxious to see who will emerge as the true leader who brings Illinois lawmakers together for the ultimate good of the State. It is time.

In Peace,

Carol Merna
Executive Director
cmerna@centerforpreventionofabuse.org

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Human Trafficking
Modern Day Slavery

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery in which traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to control victims for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or labor services against their will. While most will think of human trafficking as something that only affects people outside of our country, the truth is human trafficking affects individuals all across the world, including here in the United States and even here in Illinois. In fact, Illinois is one of the top ten states for human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a market driven criminal industry that is based on the principals of supply and demand, like drugs or arms trafficking. There are many reasons why human trafficking exists today, including the vulnerability of children and adults to exploitation. However, human trafficking is mainly fueled by a demand for cheap labor, services, or commercial sex. Every year, human traffickers are generating billions of dollars in profit by victimizing millions of people all around the world.

As of September 30, 2016, according to the national human trafficking hotline, 5,748 cases of human trafficking have been reported in the United States this year. Of those, 4,177 were sex trafficking, 824 were labor trafficking, and the remaining were either not specified or a combination of both labor and sex trafficking. Additionally, 4,803 were female, 741 were male, and 58 were gender minorities; 3,698 were adults, 1,828 were minors; 1,608 were US Citizens, while 1,085 were foreign nationals.

Human trafficking knows no boundaries. It can affect persons of any color, gender, nationality, race, or age living anywhere in the world.

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 20,424 calls received in 2016 by the National Human Trafficking Hotline, a quarter 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.

How do you recognize if someone 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 isolated either physically or culturally;
• The victim lacks knowledge of the community or exactly where they are;
• High security measures exist where the victim works or lives; and
• The victim avoids eye contact.

Call for help!, Erin yelled at her younger sister sitting in the passenger seat next to her. What had her terrified was her ex-boyfriend Sam. He was trying to get her to pull over, but coming so close to her car that they thought they were going to have a wreck.

Though they had a rocky dating relationship for about a year, Erin had not returned any of Sam’s calls or texts for about two weeks. She was trying to break away and he was after her. Following her car and honking lasted for what seemed like a lifetime until the police were able to catch up to them. The well-meaning officers chalked this behavior up to hijinks and sent Sam on his way. However, the brief law enforcement presence only gave Erin a short break from Sam. An hour later, he was back to calling or texting her every 20 minutes.

This kind of abusive dating relationship is not rare. Statistics show nearly one-third of teens who date suffer from some form of violence in their relationships. That added up to 1.5-million high school students in the United States alone last year. Resources continue to expand to help children avoid becoming the victim of dating violence during their teenage years, but parental support is crucial.

Teen dating violence can come in many forms including physical and emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and through stalking. The highest rate of intimate partner violence is reported by girls or young women between the ages of 16 and 24. Sadly, only one-third of teens found to be in an abusive relationship told anybody about the abuse. There is, however, ways parents and other adults can try to prevent abuse in their teens lives.9

We also offer Prevention Education classes in schools throughout Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties. Our Teen dating violence awareness programming teaches teens how to define healthy and unhealthy relationships, gives warning signs for dating abuse and teaches them how to develop a safety plan. Furthermore, our Prevention Educators let teens know how to help a friend who may have been involved in an abusive relationship.

Watching for Warning Signs of Teen Dating Violence Can Keep Your Child Safe
February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month
By: Shaun Newell

Cowabunga! 3 out of 4 students in a recent survey say they would participate in extracurricular activities if their parents demanded that they do so. The group lists several warning signs that teens might be the victims of abuse, including:
• Unexplained marks or bruises;
• Your children partner is extremely jealous or possessive;
• Your child’s partner e-mails or texts excessively;
• Your child is depressed or anxious; or
• Your child stops spending time with friends and family or participating in extracurricular activities.

If any of these signs are apparent, then parents are urged to talk to their children about their concerns and to discuss what a healthy relationship looks like and why these traits are not normal. The most important thing is to be supportive and understanding and let your teen know you are on their side and that no one deserves to be abused. It is ultimately up to the teen to decide to end the relationship, but setting them up with necessary tools like hearing them, validating their feelings, and creating a safety plan is critical for them to bring an end to the violence and abuse in their lives. The Center for Prevention of Abuse is here to help all residents of Central Illinois who are victims of violence and abuse. We have emergency domestic violence shelters in both Peoria and Pekin to offer a safe haven for someone trying to escape an abusive situation. Our counselors help clients with safety planning and setting goals for a brighter future.

To schedule a Teen Dating Violence Program, call The Center for Prevention of Abuse at (309) 691-0551. If you are a victim of abuse and need our help, call our emergency hotline at 1-800-559-SAFE(7233).
Grant Awarded to Carol House of Hope
Thank you to the Finishing Contractors Association of Illinois - FCAI for the wonderful grant for the Carol House of Hope in Pekin. Associate Executive Director Joyce DeRenzy accepted the check on behalf of The Center at an amazing dinner at Jim’s Steakhouse.

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 SUPER sponsors for the 29th Annual Duck Race with this year’s Super Hero theme! Super Quacky 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 heroic event!

Strong Women Reception
Peoria Magazines hosted a “Strong Women” reception at their offices in November that benefitted The Center. A number of friends attended and donated items helpful to our clients. While there they were able to learn more about The Center’s Next Step Transitional Housing program. Thank you Jan Wright and Peoria Magazines for your friendship and strong support! “Strong Women; May we know them; May we be them; May we raise them.”

Experience India
This year’s Experience India fundraiser to benefit The Center was another amazing success! Thank you to the Caterpillar Asian Indian Community for all their hard work to put on a very fun and successful evening. Members of the group presented the check to Center Associate Executive Director Joyce DeRenzy. We thank them for all of their hard work!

Annual Fish Fry to Benefit The Carol House of Hope
A big THANK YOU to everyone who joined us at the Moose Lodge in Pekin for The Carol House of Hope Fish Fry! It was a very successful event. We couldn’t have done it without your support.

Shaun Newell Honored
Congratulations to our very own Shaun Newell, Director of Marketing and Communications, for being chosen as one of Peoria Magazine’s 40 Leaders Under Forty. We appreciate all he does for us here at The Center and within the community.

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 of volunteers from Verizon came by to help us at The Center. They scrubbed the kitchen and dining room in the shelter and organized one of the shelter’s storage closets. The shelter staff is amazed by how hard they worked and how much they cleaned. Thanks so much Maria, Ron, Mark, Kathya, and Erich!

TMI Hospitality of Peoria spent an afternoon at The Center. Not only did the group clean our shelter rooms, hang curtains, and put up Christmas decorations, but they also made a wonderful donation to The Center. Thank you for your hard-work and support!

Employees with Dan Pfeifer - State Farm Agent in Pekin also had The Center in mind for the holidays. With their donation we were able to buy some wonderful presents for our clients. THANK YOU!

Thank you to this wonderful group of volunteers from Advanced Technology Services who spent one morning in November prepping our landscape for winter. They worked fast and did a great job!

Thanks to Faith Church in Washington and Heyl Royster for their generous donations to The Center. We’re so thankful for your dedication to our cause and we appreciate your friendship!

We had a lot to be thankful for this holiday season, including the Peoria Hindu Temple of Central Illinois and the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh – Peoria Chapter. These groups brought us boxes and boxes of donations as part of their 7th Annual Diwali Food Drive. We are so thankful for your continued support, friendship, and kindness!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make our Adopt Our Families campaign another huge success this year. We had so many donations, families adopted, and groups who helped us wrap gifts. It was a truly humbling experience and the turn out was outstanding. We could not have done it without great friends like you!

Congratulations to The Center’s long time Executive Director, Martha Herm, on receiving the 2016 Human Rights Award from Church Women United in Peoria. Martha served as Executive Director for 25 years until she retired in 2015.

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Congratulations to The Center’s long time Executive Director, Martha Herm, on receiving the 2016 Human Rights Award from Church Women United in Peoria. Martha served as Executive Director for 25 years until she retired in 2015.
In FY 2016, The Center provided the following services:

- 5,466 shelter nights for families so they can be safe
- 2,097 Orders of Protection to keep abusers away from their victims
- 24,216 hours of service to 830 seniors and adults with disabilities who were abused, neglected or financially exploited
- 1,396 staff and volunteer visits to nursing homes to check on the well-being of residents
- 414 children and adults healing from the trauma of sexual abuse through therapy services
- 183 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 4,850 teaching sessions in local schools, resulting in 86,602 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.

Thank you for your support!
CONTRIBUTORS (cont')
the CENTER for PREVENTION of ABUSE
September 1, 2016 - November 30, 2016

J.T. Enterprises  
Jay Iansen Law Center  
Megan and Robert Jennetten  
Celia and Don Johnson  
Jane & Barry Jones  
Donna Jones  
Diane & Bob Jorgensen  
Bonnie and Mitchell Junk  
Richard Kangas  
Kaskaskia Engineering  
Barb and Seth Katz  
Rebecca Kiefer  
Judith and George King  
Jo Ann & Edward Kreieder  
Kwikee  
Dewayne Lawson  
Becky & Alan Lee  
Charles Leonard  
Kathy and Jack Leson  
Lut. on Fire Used Books  
Mr. Julius and Dr. Charphenra  
Lockhart  
Patricia and Lincoln Look  
Dr. and Mrs. Richard and Terry  
Potanin  
Dr. and Mrs. Richard and Terry  
Amy & Jeff Stone  
Sandy and George Andrews  
State Farm  
Companies Foundation  
Sandy Stermer  
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Leah and Philip Supple  
Holly and Keith Sutherland  
Jack Talcott  
Ellen and Edward Tallon  
The Church of the Living  
God National Women's Work  
Ministry  
The Forcik Charitable Trust  
Kimberly Thompson  
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Pat Troglio  
Bonnie & Russ Trowbridge  
Dawn and Lon Tucker  
United Presbyterian Church  
United Way of Pekin  
Tara Veloso  
Kay Yetter  
Angela Voss  
Jill and Don Wade  
Giana and Charles Walker  
Janelle Walker  
Worldly Ex-facing Company  
Pauline and Larry Wallden  

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.

CONTRIBUTORS
the CENTER for PREVENTION of ABUSE
September 1, 2016 - November 30, 2016

IN MEMORY OF:
Devon Hoerr  
Bonnie Schofield  
Don Courson  
Nancy and Earl Alger  
Anonymous  
Megan and Robert Jennetten  
Sandy and George Andrews  
Kimberly Thompson  
Glen Barton  
Evanna and Lee Andersen  
Norma Kottemann  
Deborah Hess-Brown  

IN HONOR OF:
Bill and Gail Welk Wedding  
Kathy McVey  
Judith and George King  
Krzizte and James Gunther  
Gail and Bill Welk  
Sandra and David Holt  
Julie Boland  
Beverly Hopkins  
Maureen Langhelf  
Jim Carlberg  
Norma Rossi and Walter Mead Wedding  
Paula Prutsman  
Martha and Bill Diebold  
Liz Cram  

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.

2016-2017 Board of Directors

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Denise Johnson, Caterpillar, Inc.  
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The Reverend Anna Saxon, UnityPoint Health Methodist/Proctor  
Bonnie Schofield, Community Volunteer; Glenn Walker, CFCU