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35th Annual Duck Race

Staff Spotlight: Josh Cox
Have you heard me say “We’re going to need a bigger truck!” in the last few weeks, or maybe you noticed it in our social media? There’s a reason; actually, a couple of reasons. 1) We borrowed a line from the blockbuster movie “Jaws” when Roy Schneider’s character sees the enormous shark and says, “We’re going to need a bigger boat!” And 2) quite literally, we ARE going to need a bigger truck this year.

On June 1, the Center for Prevention of Abuse kicked off the 35th Annual Duck Race, the agency’s signature fundraiser, that not only raises important funds to help people live free from violence and abuse, it also is a symbol of hope and healing that everyone can be a part of.

CFPA’s Duck Race began in the late 1980’s with a big goal of selling a few thousand ducks. It was one of the first Duck Races in the entire country. We haven’t skipped a beat in the past 35 years, periodically offering more and more ducks, giving people the opportunity to grow their support for the good of our cause, and giving those who adopt the little yellow rubber ducks a chance to win very big prizes.

During our 30th through 34th years of CFPA’s Annual Duck Race, we successfully sold 30,000 ducks. This year, appropriately, we have increased our goal to 35,000 ducks to be adopted and literally raced down a giant water slide on August 26 at EastSide Centre in East Peoria. The first 15 ducks across the finish line win amazing prizes for their owner. The first place duck wins $10,000, second place wins $5,000, third place is $2,500 and other prizes include jewelry from Bremer Jewelers and much more.

Endeavoring to sell and race an additional 5,000 ducks is a praiseworthy goal. With YOUR help this effort will increase CFPA’s profit from the race. Every single dollar raised from duck adoptions goes directly to care for the agency’s clients. It’s a fantastic investment, $5 at a time! So, needing a bigger truck is worth the work.

Please visit duckracepeoria.com, scan the QR Code on this page, see us at a few in-person sales sites or return the form in this CenterPeace to get your ducks in the race. We may need a bigger truck, but we need YOU more.

Thank you and good luck!

In Peace,

Carol Merna
Chief Executive Officer

Duck Tagging | August 23
Join us on Wednesday, August 23 at EastSide Centre to get all 35,000 ducks ready for Race Day! From 5:30–8:00 p.m., volunteers and CFPA staff will remove the current stickers on the bottom of the rubber ducks and replace with this year’s race numbers. Dinner will be provided. Email kward@centerforpreventionofabuse.org to reserve your spot.

35th Annual Duck Race | August 26
The Duck Race is turning 35! The Duck Race has been an important part of the agency’s budget for 35 years and is CFPA’s signature fundraiser. To celebrate this milestone year, we are upping the amount of ducks from 30,000 to 35,000! Ducks are on sale now. Celebrate with us by getting your ducks in the race and help us build a more safe and peaceful community. On August 26, all 35,000 rubber ducks race down a giant water slide at EastSide Centre in East Peoria. The first 15 ducks to cross the finish line win fantastic prizes for their owner. If you or your company are interested in being a Race Day sponsor, please reach out to Josh Cox, Director of Development, at 309-691-0551.

Annual Fish Fry to Benefit the Carol House of Hope | Fall 2023
Join CFPA at the Moose Lodge at 2605 Broadway St, Pekin, IL 61554 for the annual Fish Fry to benefit the Carol House of Hope, CFPA’s emergency safe shelter in Pekin. Meats include fried fish, fries and cole slaw prepared by the Moose Lodge. A kids meal of a hot dog with fries is available. Stay tuned for more information.
**A World for All Ages: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

**By: Holly Kozinski, Director of Adult Protective Services**

Every year June 15 is recognized as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This year’s theme was “A World for All Ages.”

Every day the team at the Center for Prevention of Abuse (CFPA) works extremely hard to help create a better world for all ages by bringing awareness, help and healing to those who fall victim to any type of interpersonal violence. Abuse does not discriminate, and neither does CFPA. All kinds of abuse can affect people of every race, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and it happens to the incredibly young, to the very old, and all ages in between. CFPA’s team members see clients from every age group. Everyone, no matter their age, has the right to live in dignity and peace, free from abuse.

Elder abuse, one of CFPA’s core responsibilities, can take many forms, including financial corruption, emotional and/or physical abuse, and sexual harm, including intimate partner violence in later life. It often comes in the form of neglect, abandonment, or exploitation. CFPA’s Adult Protective Services (APS) program assists seniors 60 years and older and individuals with disabilities 18–59 who are victims of abuse, neglect and/or financial exploitation.

It may be hard to comprehend the large volume of elder abuse cases that come to CFPA through APS. It is estimated that one of every six seniors who are sixty and older has experienced abuse. Between July 2020 and June 2021, the Illinois Department of Aging received a staggering 20,000+ reports of elder abuse from across our state.

“In Illinois every single person, no matter their age or gender, their citizenship, their sex, their ability, their race, their religion, deserves to feel safe and secure. One case of elder abuse would be too many, but 20,000 cases annually is unacceptable.” Governor JB Pritzker

Elder abuse is most often perpetrated by someone that the senior victim knows, loves, and trusts, which is emotionally devastating for those seniors who are impacted.

“I call upon Governments and all concerned actors to design and carry out more effective prevention strategies and stronger laws and policies to address all aspects of elder abuse. Let us work together to optimize living conditions for older persons and enable them to make the greatest possible contribution to our world.”

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

The APS program at CFPA works hard every day to protect the rights of elders and adults living with disabilities. Caseworkers from CFPA’s APS program respond to reports of abuse in six counties, Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford, Fulton, Marshall and Stark. The APS staff help educate clients, family members and caregivers about the resources that can aid those in need. Caseworkers also work diligently to inform our communities about making changes in how we interact with the aging population, such as changing the speed in which we speak or allowing more time to interact with your older relatives, neighbors and friends.

CFPA is so proud of Cyndi Jewell-Miller and Detective Christina Chavez, who were nominated and won the annual Moxie Award from the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA). Chavez recently worked to break several sexual assault cases in the Peoria area and Miller has been a multiple-decade volunteer advocate. Thank you both for your dedication and support of CFPA’s missions and empowering survivors of sexual assault in Illinois.

### Warning Signs of Elder Abuse

**Physical Abuse** – Unexplained bruises, injuries at various stages of healing, certain types of burns or blisters

**Neglect** – Pressure sores, lack of medical care, malnutrition, dehydration, filth, inadequate supervision

**Emotional Abuse** – Withdrawal from normal activities, other unusual behavioral changes

**Sexual Abuse** – Bruises around the breasts or genital area and unexplained sexually transmitted infections

**Financial Abuse** – Sudden change in finances and accounts, unpaid bills when the person has adequate income, changes in wills and trusts, loss of property and checks written as “loans” or “gifts”
SATURDAY, AUGUST 26
EASTSIDE CENTRE, EAST PEORIA
FUN STARTS AT 11:00am • RACE STARTS AT 1:00pm
FOOD TRUCKS • LIVE MUSIC • FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

$10,000 GRAND PRIZE

SCAN THE QR CODE TO GET YOUR DUCKS

NOW SELLING
35,000 DUCKS!

2. $5,000 CASH PRIZE
3. $2,500 CASH PRIZE
4. BREMER JEWELRY BUNDLE
14K YELLOW GOLD 18-INCH PAPERCLIP NECKLACE & SHINOLA WATCH
SPONSORED BY

5. iPAD PRO 5
6. HEALTHY WORKSPACE KIT
UNDER THE DESK ELLIPTICAL & TREADMILL AND STANDING DESK CONVERTER

GET YOUR RACE SHIRT!
Scan the QR code to order your 35th Annual Duck Race t-shirt!
(available online through August 13, 2023)
Following the fresh paint on the interior walls at our main campus last Spring, it was time to re-decorate with some beautiful new artwork provided by some wonderful local artists. We are thankful for Suzette Boulais and Paige Dean for donating many eye-catching works of art. Here are some of the many pieces that were donated! Their art will greatly help in providing a peaceful atmosphere for our clients during their healing journeys. We thank Suzette and Paige for being wonderful partners in peace.

What’s in a Duck Donation?

1 duck = $5 = could provide a hot meal for a survivor of abuse
2 ducks = $10 = could provide a new pair of shoes for a child staying in one of our emergency shelters
4 ducks = $20 = could provide a week’s worth of bus passes for a recent survivor of sexual assault
5 ducks = $25 = could provide fresh produce for a week’s worth of healthy meals for a family in our emergency shelter
10 ducks = $50 = could provide a gas card to help outreach clients get to and from appointments with our counselors or to their place of employment
20 ducks = $100 = could provide services for a survivor of abuse living with a disability
100 ducks = $500 = could provide funding for an Adult Protective Services caseworker to investigate possible abuse in the home of an elderly individual

Honorariums and Memorials
Honorariums may be made to celebrate a special occasion and memorials may be given to acknowledge a lost friend or loved one.

Stock, Real Estate, and Insurance Policies
Donations can be made in the form of capital assets.

Donations that Leave a Legacy
Remembering CFPA in your estate plans can save and change lives for many years to come. A bequest can be designated to a certain program of CFPA or used at CFPA’s discretion. However, if a donor wishes, a bequest can be designated to one of two endowment funds. The Slane Endowment Fund supports the general operations of CFPA and the McPheeters Endowment Fund supports the Prevention Education program.

For more information about monetary donations, honorariums, memorials, capital assets, and legacy donations, please call 309-691-0551.
You may have seen some new CFPA billboards on display around the Greater Peoria Area, including this one, which highlights an alarming update to a statistic. We are here for you. We believe you. Call 1-800-559-SAFE for 100% free and confidential services because we don’t put a price on healing.

**shelter & pantry needs.**

At your next grocery run, please consider picking up a few extra items for our pantry.

- Fresh meat, eggs, milk and fresh produce
- Canned tuna and chicken
- Coffee, cream and sugar
- Oatmeal
- Microwavable rice, pasta and other sides
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Bottled water and juice boxes
- Cereals, granola bars, Pop-Tarts
- Healthy snack items for children
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Canned soups, stews and pastas
- Cleaning supplies: Anti-bacterial wipes, bleach-free cleaner, sponges
- Pajamas for a variety of ages and genders
- Packaged socks and underwear (new)
- Deodorant
- Shaving cream – women's and men's
- Full-sized toiletries
- Disposable razors
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss
- Diapers and baby wipes
- Baby formula
- Laundry detergent and dryer sheets
- Paper towels and toilet paper
- Dish and hand soap
- Assorted sizes of Ziploc bags
- Full-size hand sanitizer
- Cling wrap, wax paper and aluminum foil
- Cotton swabs
- Large garbage bags
- New or gently used umbrellas

**gift cards or monetary donations to provide any of these items are also accepted**

Following the death of music industry legend, Tina Turner, CFPA posted on social media a tribute to the icon to bring attention to the realities of domestic violence. Nearly ten million people viewed the post on Facebook, which illustrated the story about Tina leaving a 16-year abusive relationship.

“She was a very passionate survivor. She was a rock icon and entertainment legend. She had a storied history that obviously resonated with many people as a survivor of domestic violence,” said Carol Merna to WMBD.

Since the post went viral, CFPA’s Facebook page has received more than 3,000 new followers and more importantly — new people seeking services. “It affects celebrities, it affects people on the street. It’s your neighbors, it’s your friends, it’s your colleagues. So when we encourage a conversation through a social media post, with millions of people, something’s right about that,” Carol added.

If you are a survivor of interpersonal violence, we’re here for you and we believe you. Tina Turner’s story is one of extreme violence; found the ability to escape that abuse. Everyone has choices. CFPA is here to help.

Some CFPA staff members have welcomed new members to their families!

Adult Protective Services Supervisor, Destini Dean, and husband, Noah, welcomed a baby girl, Saylor Dean, to the world on May 17, 2023.

Director of Marketing & Communications, Celsy Young, and husband, Andrew, welcomed a baby boy, Franklin Nels Young, to the world on Mother’s Day, May 14, 2023.

Congratulations to the Dean and Young families and we are so happy to welcome these two babies to our big CFPA family.
Clayton Frankel (CF): How long have you worked at CFPA, and what led you to working here?
Josh Cox (JC): I have been at CFPA for ten months now. I came here through an experience that I had while finishing my Master’s degree at Bradley. I created a small fundraising project for CFPA as part of my final class and then had the opportunity to come back full-time and pick up where I left off in an official capacity.

CF: What are your favorite things about working at CFPA?
JC: The people at CFPA are incredibly talented and good at what they do. The knowledge that everyone possesses about their specific areas is one of the first things I noticed during my first few weeks here and that hasn’t changed. Everyone continues to amaze me at how talented and knowledgeable they are.

CF: Any milestones you are particularly proud of, for yourself or the agency?
JC: I don’t think I’ve been here long enough to have any major personal milestones just yet but I am proud of the work that the Development and Marketing teams have done with the Pekin Fish Fry, the I Run with Survivors 5K and 35th Annual Duck Race. Those events are big undertakings and the teamwork is something that I am proud of.

CF: What do you wish people knew about the work environment at CFPA?
JC: There’s a lot of comradery amongst the staff here. The issues that we work with every day are not easy and can take their toll mentally. Everyone looks out for each other, supports each other and isn’t afraid to jump in when someone needs help.

CF: Outside of work, what do you like to do when you have some free time?
JC: Being a dad keeps me pretty busy outside of work with sports, events and family life, which is a lot of fun but also takes up most of my spare time. When I do find some down time, I enjoy working on my Camaro, playing ice hockey and some online gaming with my wife and best friends as part of a charity that we do.

If your organization, business, club or group is interested in doing a food or donation drive to benefit CFPA, please call Kelly Ward at 309-691-0551 to find out about our immediate or mass donation needs.
center for prevention of abuse.

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