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Duck Tagging | 8/25
Join us on Wednesday, 8/25 at EastSide Centre to get all 30,000 ducks ready for Race Day! From 5:30–8:30 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. Reserve your spot at centerforpreventionofabuse.org/how-to-help/volunteer-opportunities.

33rd Annual Duck Race | 8/28
The Duck Race is CFPA’s signature fundraiser and the success of the race is essential in raising funds to help all people live free from violence and abuse. CFPA’s Duck Race is the longest-running Duck Race in history and this year, we celebrate the 33rd anniversary. On August 28, we will once again have 30,000 rubber ducks race down a giant water slide at EastSide Centre in East Peoria, and the first fifteen ducks to cross the finish line win a prize for its owner. Prizes range from a cash prize, to gift packages, technology, and more. Ducks are now available for purchase. Visit duckracepeoria.com for more information!

Annual Fish Fry to Benefit the Carol House of Hope | October 2021 TBA
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 shelter in Pekin. The event features a 50/50 raffle, silent auction items, and a delicious meal of fried fish, fries, and cole slaw, prepared by the Moose Lodge. Kids meal of a hot dog with fries is available. Purchase tickets at the door by cash or check, $10 for adults, $5 for kids. Dine-in and carry-out options available.

In Peace,

[Signature]

When I help someone adopt a duck for the Annual Center for Prevention of Abuse Duck Race, I often say with enthusiasm, “I hope you win!” I really do mean it. However, what is silently implied is that I greatly appreciate the inspiration behind their adoption.

One of my favorite leadership authors has said, “Inspiration is the input, winning is the outcome.” How true. Similarly, when those whom we serve at CFPA choose to make considerable effort seeking a changed life, looking for the pathway to recovery, they are inspired to invest their time. And the outcome is often a game changing win for them – finding freedom, revival, peace.

This year’s 33rd Annual Duck Race is a special one. After fifteen unique months serving with full hearts, without ceasing, throughout the pandemic, we are so very ready to return to what is joyous and familiar. We are planning for the Duck Race to be in person, August 28, 2021, at EastSide Centre in East Peoria! We are hoping to adopt out 30,000 bright yellow rubber ducks who will race with all their might down a nearly 1,000-foot water slide; floating and bumping against each other, moving randomly, racing to the finish line so that the first fifteen can handsomely reward their adopters. The race itself is an awesome spectacle to behold and the culmination is high-spirited and festive. The first duck across the finish line wins $10,000 for its adopter, the second duck gets $5,000, and more!

CFPA’s team puts in many hours over many months planning the event and exercises a great deal of energy and exertion into promoting duck sales and the race itself. We are inspired! What we know is that the work we do 24/7/365 at CFPA is worth every request for someone to adopt a duck or two (or more) to reach that lofty goal of 30,000. We realize that 100% of the funds raised from duck adoptions support clients and the crucial client-centered, free, and confidential care they receive at CFPA. We know that the funds raised can be lifesaving. We have seen it first-hand. A successful Duck Race is our inspiration. Being able to help survivors of violence and abuse find peace and healing is everyone’s win.

We have plenty of ducks left to adopt before we sell out at 30,000. I am excited to see those numbers climb as you and CFPA’s other supporters are inspired to lend a hand again this year. Better hurry to get yours before they are gone. I hope you win!
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day: Engage to Change

By: Holly Kozinski, Director of Adult Protective Services

June 15th was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This day provides an opportunity for communities around the world to bring awareness to what elder abuse is. In Illinois, you may have heard the tagline Engage to Change... This is the new marketing campaign sponsored by the Illinois Department on Aging but why this tagline?

Statistics show that only 1 in 24 elder abuse cases are reported to Adult Protective Services agencies.

Engaging with our senior population puts all of us in a better position to recognize the signs of possible abuse and the ability to report it to the proper authorities. Reporting abuse gives seniors in our communities the best chance to empower themselves to make changes in the abusive situation they may be experiencing. Elder abuse can come in many forms including emotional, physical and sexual abuse, but it can also take the form of neglect, deprivation, and financial exploitation. Often, abuse of our elderly population is perpetrated by someone that the elder knows, loves and trusts. This can make the abuse that much more devastating for our clients.

Francine* was one of these clients. Francine lives for her grandchildren. When they were younger, she went to their concerts, sporting, and school events. When her grandson Cole* asked to move into her home temporarily, she didn’t blink an eye and was happy to help in his time of need. She didn’t ask Cole to pay rent and she didn’t ask him to contribute to bills. Once Cole moved in, he began to steal items from Francine such as antiques and jewelry and sold them to pawn shops, he used her credit cards to make on-line purchases Francine didn’t know about, and he used her personal information to open accounts in her name. She was overwhelmed and depressed. Due to the pandemic, Francine had become more isolated from her friends and family and was embarrassed about her situation. It wasn’t until Francine became vaccinated and family started to engage with her again that they noticed that Francine was unhappy, behind on some bills, and that items were missing from the home. A report was made to our Adult Protective Services program and with the help of our caseworker, Francine began to share more about the financial exploitation that was occurring. Our caseworker worked with Francine and provided her with all of her options from involving the legal system to advocating with creditors about the exploitation, to speaking with a counselor about her depression. Our caseworker worked with Francine and assisted her in making changes in her situation and Francine now lives a life free from the abuse and financial exploitation.

Francine’s situation is an example to how important it is to engage with our elderly friends and families. It was through contact with others that the abuse was discovered and reported and change occurred in Francine’s situation.

If you believe an elder in your life is being abused, neglected or financially exploited you can contact the Adult Protective Services Department of the Center for Prevention of Abuse at (309) 637-3905 or call the Illinois Department on Aging’s Senior Helpline at 1-866-800-1409.

Your engagement can change the life of a vulnerable senior.

*indicates name is changed due to confidentiality

The Women’s Fund of Central Illinois

Congratulations to our CEO Carol Merna for winning the Business/Professions Award and to our Director of Prevention Education Laura Kowalske for winning the Education Award with The Women’s Fund of Central Illinois at the 2021 Virtual Leader to Leader Luncheon Awards! Many tremendous women in our community were nominated and we are so thankful Carol and Laura lend their talents, gifts, and vision to building a safe and peaceful community. Congratulations to all of this year’s winners and nominees!
**Sis & Me: Down by the Sea**

Sis & Me: Down by the Sea is CFPA’s premier age-appropriate children’s story that teaches young children about body safety. As Sister and Brother enjoy a day at the beach, they encounter a variety of friends who help them learn about safe and unsafe touches, consent, and developing emotion management skills. Download the toolkit at centerforpreventionofabuse.org under the Prevention Education tab.

**AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ONLINE:**

- **Lulu**
- **Amazon**
- **Barnes & Noble**

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**33rd Annual Duck Race**

The Duck Race is CFPA’s longest-running and signature fundraiser. Now through August 28, for $5 each, 30,000 ducks are up for adoption. Every duck you purchase enters you for a chance to win one of this year’s 15 prizes - including the grand prize of $10,000 cash!

Last year, we raised more than $211,000 for survivors of abuse in our community and sold out of all 30,000 ducks!

All funds raised for the Duck Race stay local and help us build a safe and peaceful community. CFPA provides free and confidential services to victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual abuse, sexual assault, elder abuse, and offers violence prevention education to students helping to prevent abuse before it begins in the Tri-County Area, typically reaching more than 35,000 young people each year.

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**2020 Small Business of the Year**

CFPA was recognized as the 2020 “Small Business of the Year” by the East Peoria Chamber of Commerce at the Christmas in July annual dinner! We are thankful to the East Peoria Chamber and the City of East Peoria for their years of friendship and support of our agency and mission. We’re proud to call them both partners in peace as we work toward a safe and more peaceful community for all. Congratulations to all the 2020 winners!
What’s in a Duck Donation?

At the Center for Prevention of Abuse, we are so thankful for the community support received through donations. We want you to know exactly where your money goes and how it impacts the lives of all who come to us seeking peace. Since 1989, CFPA has held its annual signature fundraiser, the Duck Race. Since then, there have been more than 400,000 ducks sponsored generating more than $2,000,000 that stayed right here and helped us build a more peaceful community. 100% of duck sales go directly to client services.

What’s in a Duck Donation?

1 duck = $5 = could provide personal hygiene products for one person staying in our emergency shelter
2 ducks = $10 = could provide fresh produce for a week’s worth of healthy meals for a family in our emergency shelter
4 ducks = $20 = could provide a taxi to transport a survivor from a violent or abusive situation to one of our 24/7 emergency shelters
5 ducks = $25 = could provide a gas card to help outreach clients get to and from appointments with our counselors
10 ducks = $50 = could help survivors afford their monthly medications
20 ducks = $100 = could cover the cost of one hour-long classroom presentation on violence prevention education
50 ducks = $250 = could cover the cost of two hours of therapy for a child survivor of sexual abuse
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.

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For more information about monetary donations, honorariums, memorials, capital assets, and legacy donations, please call 309-691-0551.
IMPACTFUL!
We are humbled to be one of two winners of the Impact Central Illinois 2021 grant that will help fund renovations to our emergency shelter kitchen and bathrooms to make them more accessible!

More than one-fifth of our clients report having a physical disability or impairment, but that doesn’t include those who come to us with a physical limitation or injury due to violence, abuse, or assault.

CFPA prioritizes removing barriers to services for survivors with differing physical abilities. They must be able to obtain care as fully, equally, and independently as a person without a disability. Everyone deserves to be safe, free, respected, and have a comfortable and dignified place to stay.

People with disabilities experience violent crime at twice the rate, and are three times as likely to be sexually assaulted as their peers without disabilities.

We are the only agency in the tri-county area designated to provide emergency shelter and specialized services for this population, so accessible bathrooms and kitchen would better accommodate survivors and make a pathway to peace more readily available.

We are committed to achieving a client-centered approach to supporting survivors, ensuring accessibility, equity, and an inclusive healing environment.

We are eager to begin our project and honored to call Impact CI a partner in peace as we work together toward a safe and more peaceful community – for all.

**Donations Needed**

- Canned meats, eggs, and milk
- Fresh produce
- Canned tuna and chicken
- Coffee, cream, and sugar
- Pasta
- Canned soups
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Cereals, granola bars, Pop-Tarts
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Bottled water and juices
- Shampoo, toothpaste, floss
- Baby wipes
- Laundry detergent and dryer sheets
- Full size hand sanitizer
- Paper towels and toilet paper
- Dish and hand soap
- Cotton swabs
- Baby formula
- Aluminum foil
- Large garbage bags
- **Gift cards or monetary donations to provide any of these items are also accepted.**

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Medical Advocates**

When someone presents as a victim of domestic violence or sexual abuse/assault in local emergency departments, the hospital calls CFPA for a medical advocate. Our medical advocates go to the hospital to assist with the individual’s immediate needs and provide information about their rights as a victim. CFPA is currently in need of second and third shift volunteers. CFPA provides training for all interested medical advocates prior to volunteering on calls. For more information, please email Kelly Ward at kward@centerforpreventionofabuse.org.

**33rd Annual Duck Race**

For more information about how to volunteer for this year’s Duck Race, please visit centerforpreventionofabuse.org/how-to-help/volunteer-opportunities.

**Volunteer Spotlight**

JaQuay Young is a volunteer medical advocate, determined to show survivors that there are people in our community that care for their well-being and are in their corner. While being a newer volunteer for CFPA, JaQuay has already been able to tell that showing up to the hospital as a medical advocate means so much to survivors.

Taking on new responsibilities as a volunteer medical advocate has further strengthened the empathy she has for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Young mentions, “Working for law enforcement as long as I have, often times you lose compassion and empathy for people because you become numb to all of the violence around you.” She has also been observing Partner Abuse Intervention Program (PAIP) classes at CFPA’s Family Violence Intervention Project, which has provided some new insight that she can use with the children she works with at the Peoria County Juvenile Detention Center.

Thank you JaQuay for your service and commitment to helping us build a safe and peaceful community!

**Donation Spotlight**

above: Thank you to Two Men and a Truck for their annual “Movers for Mom” program donation, including a check donation from First Baptist Church of Peoria!

right: We are thankful for Taylor Montgomery of Dunlap High School for her donation of toiletry items for CFPA clients!

left: Thank you to Pure Bliss Salon for donating haircuts/styles each month, makeup, and hair products for shelter residents!

above: JaQuay Young

above: Thank you to Barbara Sehring, Gerojan Lipovsky, and friends for their generous monetary donation and supply of toiletries!

below: We are so grateful for a donation from Bath & Bodyworks Willow Knolls as part of their “Giving Tree” program!

above: Thank you to Can Hill from Pure Bliss Salon for donating haircuts/styles each month, makeup, and hair products for shelter residents!

*photo credit: CFPA
Meet Seth Killey, the tech wizard of CFPA. Design and Communications Coordinator, Clayton Frankel, sat down with Seth to get a glimpse into his work at CFPA.

Clayton Frankel (CF): How long have you been employed at CFPA, and what lead you to working here?

Seth Killey (SK): I joined CFPA in 2009 after a friend mentioned they were hiring for the IT Manager position. I had the notion that nonprofits were chaotic places to work, but during the interview it was quickly obvious to me that this organization was different and very well run.

CF: What are your favorite things about working at CFPA?

SK: The “corporate culture” is just different than anywhere else I’d worked before. Coworkers are very generous and empathetic, which makes sense given the line of work staff have chosen as a career. It’s big enough that there are others to lean on, but not so big that you can’t participate in meaningful decisions and leave your mark.

CF: Any milestones you are particularly proud of, for yourself or the agency?

SK: As an organization, I’d say I’ve always admired the eagerness to try new things and take on new areas of need to help the community. For instance, growing our Human Trafficking Services department, bringing in the Carol House of Hope in Pekin, or our Prevention Education department publishing a children’s book. Personally, I’d say the last year has been fulfilling in helping our staff become more mobile for a hybrid workplace as we navigated the pandemic with the rest of the world. COVID-19 pulled forward a lot of technological initiatives that would have otherwise been rolled out on a much slower timeline.

CF: What do you wish people knew about the work environment at CFPA?

SK: I’d say that it’s a really HOPEFUL place to work. When I say we help victims of violence, I think people have the impression that it must be a lot of dark days dealing with really heavy issues, but overwhelmingly I see more “wins” on a daily basis working here (credit to our caseworkers doing the real work).

CF: Outside of work, what do you like to do when you have some free time?

SK: I like staying really active to offset the 8+ hours I spend each day staring at a screen. For me, that’s a lot of trail running, hiking, and tennis. I also enjoy all of my son’s activities, serving as fill-in baseball coach and Uber driver to his various activities. Otherwise, in quiet times, I maintain an aggressive podcast schedule and have finally developed a consistent book reading habit after 40 years of scuffling.

Victims of the Crime Fix Act Passes United States Senate Unanimously, Secures Funding for the Center for Prevention of Abuse

The Center for Prevention of Abuse applauds the passage of the Victims of Crime (VOCA) Fix Act. The VOCA Fix Act passed on the floor of the United States Senate with a vote of 100-0. VOCA funds a variety of crucial services at CFPA including therapy, counseling, crisis management, emergency shelter, and more, and accounts for nearly 20% of the agency’s annual budget.

“Victims of the dreadful crime of gender-based violence should not have to fund their own recovery, which is why our services are free and confidential and are covered in large part thanks to the funding received through the Victims of Crime Act,” said Carol Merna, Chief Executive Officer at the Center for Prevention of Abuse. “We are grateful to Senator Dick Durbin for taking on the role of champion for the VOCA Fix in the Senate in an effort to sustain the Crime Victims Fund, and we offer our thanks and admiration to so many other members of the U.S. House and Senate for their demonstration of good bipartisan, bicameral leadership, and principled compromise in support of victims of crime, violence, and abuse.”

VOCA and the Crime Victims Fund are not funded with taxpayer dollars and instead are funded through federal criminal monetary penalties. For CFPA, VOCA funds therapy services, Orders of Protection (OP) and the care provided by the Domestic Violence team, the 24/7 crisis hotline and the two emergency safe shelters.

2021 Local Legend: Martha Herm

Former Executive Director of CFPA, Martha Herm, was recently recognized as a Local Legend by Peoria Magazines. Martha served CFPA for 26 years, overseeing a capital campaign to expand the shelter, grew the elder abuse program, quadrupled staff numbers, and still remains a champion for peace and nonviolence.

Martha was instrumental in turning CFPA into the agency we are today and we are thankful for her vision, her leadership, and her work in support of victims of interpersonal violence.

Congratulations to Martha and her husband, Tom McIntyre, for this recognition, and to the other 2021 Local Legends!
Thank you to all of our donors and supporters who contribute to the Center for Prevention of Abuse through the United Way. We are very thankful for your support of our mission to help all people live free from violence and abuse and to build a safe and peaceful community!
center for prevention of abuse.

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