

Hello Volunteers ~

Hope all is well and everyone is enjoying our beautiful spring weather.

I want to update you in on several big things going on now and through April.

First, **Coreen Schmidt**, our new Executive Director will be starting April 11th. She is moving from Boulder, Colorado where she has been working as an ED of a non-profit. She has worked in various positions including working as a case worker, volunteer coordinator, and victim advocate. She brings not only hands-on experience of working with families in crisis but she brings extensive background in grant writing and financial management. She spent her college years in Texas; bachelors from Texas Lutheran University and masters from UT Austin. She has family in New Braunfels including a new grandchild.

I appreciate everyone being patient with me and CAC during the past several months. It was been unusually busy not having an executive director for several months and the response to the newspaper article about volunteering for CAC was incredible ~ which added to my “busyness” but in a good way.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. I have attached a copy of the story of the Blue Ribbon to this email. Many of you have been involved with helping our Blue Ribbon campaign over the past weeks and I think when April arrives ~ Bastrop, Fayette and Lee Counties will see **BLUE**. All school districts have received a packet on Child Abuse Prevention Month and it is filled with ideas that their students can easily do or participate in. Businesses will be getting the information through their Chambers of Commerce, newspapers and radio plus of course, good ol’ word of mouth.

Churches are being asked to observe ***Blue Sunday, May 1***. This special Sunday is usually the last Sunday of April however; it conflicts with Easter this year, so May 1st has been designated nationally as Blue Sunday.

I have copies of the letters being sent to schools, businesses and churches if anyone should want a copy to read or distribute - just email me.

Volunteers are busy making blue lapel ribbons and big blue bows for distribution to schools, churches and the community. Again, if you would like some ribbons or bows, please do not hesitate to email me; there is no charge.

We have never had a Blue Ribbon campaign on this large of scale before and hopefully it will grow in the coming years as our communities became aware of child abuse and work toward prevention.

THANK YOU FOR EVERY RIBBON, BOW AND LETTER – GLUED, TIED, DISTRIBUTED, WORN AND DISPLAYED!

April 4th is the ***Bastrop*** kick-off. This year the event is “***We Sing for the Children***” and it will be on the lawn of the Bastrop County Courthouse. We start at 5:30 pm but come early to help set-up and visit. There will be hot dogs and such to feed the attendees.

Fayette County has designated April 12th as “***Wear Blue Day***” and we will have a fun filled event on that day starting at 5:30 pm on the lawn of the Courthouse. There will have activities for kids including a clown making balloon hats, face painting, banner painting and yes, more hot dogs!

If you would like to help with either event – please let me know and of course, please attend and enjoy either or both events. Both will run till about 6:30 to 7:00 pm.

I am working with a volunteer on our ***volunteer training program***, so once again please be patient with me. This volunteer is helping take a very complex subject matter and get it into a simpler and concise form. There will be training opportunities that can easily fit into everyone schedule.

Please remember ***timesheets*** and fill them out for any time and travel you spend on CAC behalf. Your timesheets do get reviewed by our auditors and each and every hour you volunteer does matter and count.

We have blue ribbons and bows plus ***hand-crafted blue bracelets*** made by area youth. A free-will donation of \$1.00 for a bracelet is asked; any money collected will be put back into our prevention/awareness fund. The bracelets are pretty cool and great for kids and adults alike.

Last but by no means least ~ we are having our 7th annual ***Cowboys and Caviar*** event on April 9th at the new Bastrop Convention and Exhibit Center located on Chestnut Street. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and our services depend on it. Tickets are \$75 per person and \$50 for those who volunteer at or for the event. We will need extra hands that day (April 9th) setting up and working shifts at the silent auction area. I could use a few volunteers that are extra creative and talented to help with a display for the event. Call or email if interested otherwise I will be calling you!

Please spread the word ~ this is “the best lil’ fundraiser in town” (flyer attached)

I am looking forward to all these special events but I am also looking forward to a slower pace and having the time to spend with each of you. Thank you for your time, efforts and patience.

Take care,
Julie