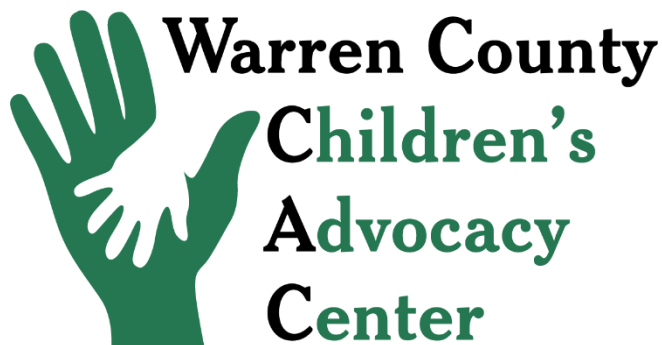


Volume 1, Issue 1,
Spring 2020

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From the Director's Desk . . .

It seems hard to believe that it has only been a little over six months since I joined the Warren County Children's Advocacy Center. These past few months have been a whirlwind of activity and learning, with a healthy dose of meetings, and even navigating a worldwide pandemic!

As a Warren County native, I can say without a doubt that our community has a heart for children, and that heart continues to shine through each day.

It is with the generous support of the community, and the tireless work of our Multi-Disciplinary Team, that we are able to continue to improve our response to child abuse investigations in Warren County both now and in the future.

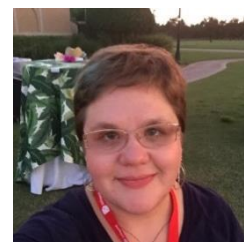
In March we saw the onset of Covid-19, which brought with it its own

challenges to the safety and protection of children. Across the Commonwealth of PA, reports of child abuse and neglect are down almost 50%, with reports from mandated reporters down close to 80-85%. The sad reality is that we know there are children experiencing abuse and neglect, we just don't know their stories yet.

At the Warren County Children's Advocacy Center, we remain dedicated to doing all that we can to providing a trauma-informed, child-centered safe space for children and their families. I extend to all an invitation to join us in providing **HOPE, HEALING,** and **JUSTICE** for children here, and everywhere.

Cordially,

*Melissa
McLean*



HEALING. HOPE. JUSTICE.

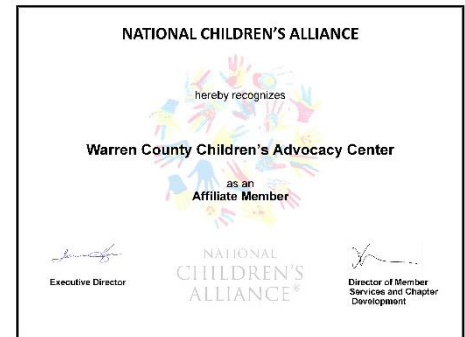
In March, the Warren County Children's Advocacy Center was awarded Affiliate membership by the National Children's Alliance following an extensive application process.

As the accrediting agency for Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) across the country, NCA awards various levels of accreditation and membership to centers responding to allegations of child abuse in ways that are effective and efficient, and put the needs of child victims of abuse first. Affiliation is the first of three levels of membership with National Children's Alliance.

After many years of foundational groundwork, the Warren County Children's Advocacy Center officially opened its doors in July of 2018. Since its opening, the Warren County CAC has provided over 100+ Forensic Interviews for children under the age of 18 and helped to connect families to valuable services.

NCA awards membership based on a CAC's compliance with 10 national standards of accreditation to ensure effective, efficient and consistent delivery of services to child abuse victims.

As an Affiliate Member of



National Children's Alliance, the Warren County Children's Advocacy Center provides comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate services to victims of child abuse.



REPORT CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT: 1-800-932-0313

From the CAC photo archives . . .



Above: The 2nd Annual CAC Golf was a “hole in one” for children and golf players alike! Save the date for our 2020 tournament – July 26 at Blueberry Golf Course.

Below: Paint night (Nov. 2019), with D&D from Outland Studios, was a “stroke” of genius and tons of fun!



Right:
Our CAC Director presents trophies to our 1st Annual Charity Bowling Tournament winners!



Above: The March 2020 launch of White Cane Coffee’s “CAC Special Reserve Blend” was a success!



Above: The Warren Police Department participated in No-Shave November and raised over \$800! Winners received medals and bragging rights. . . at least until Nov. 2020.

“The time has come to make the protection of children – all our children – a common cause that can unite us across the boundaries of our political orientation, religious affiliation and cultural traditions. We must reclaim our lost taboos and make the abuse and brutalization of children simply unacceptable.”

Olara Otunnu



HOOKTOWN HOLIDAYS / CAC FACILITY DOG PROJECT

FOR THE WARREN COUNTY CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER



This is a joint project of the Warren County CAC and Hooktown Holiday's. Formally launched in February 2020, the goal is to raise \$11,000 to establish a Facility Dog program at the Warren County CAC.

What is a Facility Dog?

- A professionally trained assistance dog who works alongside a professional in a service capacity to assist other people.
- Should be graduated from a dog school accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI) and is partnered with a working professional handler who receives extensive training with the dog chosen for them by the canine school.
- A facility dog is *not* a therapy dog. Therapy dogs are trained primarily to provide emotional support for short periods of time, in specific instances (i.e. a hospital or nursing home settings). A facility dog is trained to specifically support a variety of individuals over longer durations of time, and in more intense settings.

"A facility dog is not a service dog, as it does not assist a person with a disability, nor does it have public access, but it is a dog with a special purpose. At a child advocacy center, a facility dog supports the process of interviewing a child victim and documenting any evidence of child abuse. The presence of a quiet, gentle, specially trained dog offers a source of comfort to a child while she or he is sharing a very traumatic experience with a perfect stranger. During this stressful, emotional interview a facility dog enables the child to focus on something other than the details of their abuse" (Maryland Children's Alliance Inc.).



Donations to the "Hooktown Holidays / CAC Project" can be made at any Northwest Bank location, or through Hooktown Holidays, Inc. at P.O. Box 1751, Warren, PA 16365. Checks should be made payable to "Hooktown Holidays / CAC Project" and all donations should reference the same. Or donate online at www.hooktownholidays.org and www.facebook.com/HooktownHolidays.



"A growing body of scientific literature on the psychological and physiologic consequences of children witnessing and experiencing violence, as well as appearing in court, has supported modifications of courtroom procedures. To decrease the stress experienced by children appearing in courts, various accommodations were developed, ranging from allowing children to hold comforting objects to being accompanied by a support person while testifying. Recently, specially trained facility dogs have been allowed to offer comfort for witnesses."

Pantell, Robert H. American Pediatrics Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health. (2017). *The Child Witness in the Courtroom*. Pediatrics February 2017, e20164008; Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2016-4008>.

SAVE THESE DATES FOR 2020!



This year Warren Gives will be accepting checks *prior* to the May 20th event. If you're interested in donating this way, please email director@warrencac.org for the form and all of the details.

Liberty Rocks 2020 is a joint venture spearheaded by WCCBI and the WC-CAC, with the generous support of community members and donors. There will be food, fun, music, and lots of great family friendly activities for all ages! Find our event on Facebook to learn more and stay in the know.

Support Your Local Community!

Liberty Rocks
July 3, 2020
Liberty Street, Warren, PA

Amazing Food!

Great Bands!

Liberty Rocks Food Truck Festival presented by:

warren WCCBI WARREN REAL ESTATE, LLC 814.339.1800 jwarrenrealestate.com WARREN GENERAL HIGHMARK. An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

In conjunction with:

Warren County 4th of July

3rd Annual CAC Golf Scramble

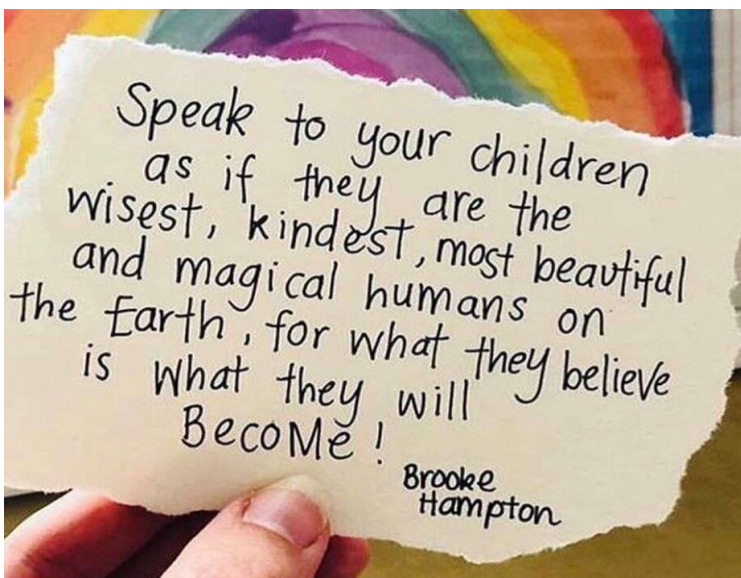
July 26, 2020
8:00 a.m.



Blueberry Hill
Golf Course

The 3rd Annual CAC Golf Scramble is going to start with a "bang" (8:00 a.m. shotgun start) and continue to deliver 18 holes of fun! Grab your foursome now and stay tuned for details on registration. For more information or to learn about sponsorship opportunities, email director@warrencac.org.

To keep up with all our great events find us on all your favorite social media channels!



In Federal fiscal year 2018, an estimated **1,770** children died due to abuse and neglect.

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE WC-CAC

Designed and printed locally by **IcyyInk**, these "It Takes a Village shirts" lets everyone know that you support child abuse prevention in Warren County!

Order directly from IcyyInk -
<https://bit.ly/2KJM8Yo>.

\$10 from each shirt sold is donated to the WC-CAC.



Who doesn't love a cup of great coffee?!? **White Cane coffee** is locally owned and operated and features environmentally friendly products and ethically sourced coffee beans.

Order your coffee today directly from White Cane Coffee: <https://bit.ly/2ShGXDI>.

A portion of the proceeds benefits the WC-CAC.
"Because every cup makes a difference."

Visit **Follett Run Bay Wash** and enter our special code number – 1004. Select the \$10 wash, insert your payment, and enjoy your clean vehicle!

\$2 from each wash goes directly to the WC-CAC!



amazon smile

When you shop at AmazonSmile, and select us for your charity, Amazon will donate to the WC-CAC:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-2553314>



amazon wishlist

While you're shopping, check out our Wish List:
<https://amzn.to/2SiZtev>

The mission of the Warren County Children's Advocacy Center is to provide a safe and supportive environment that is dedicated to serving children and their families.

Professionals from multiple disciplines within the community coordinate investigations, interventions, prosecutions, and provide specialized treatment while reducing trauma and promoting healing.

Warren County CAC is an operationally and financially independent 501(c)(3) organization.