

# Grandma's House Children's Advocacy Center

Summer 2019



A SAFE PLACE FOR HOPE & HEALING



## GRANDMA'S HOUSE IS EXPANDING TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITIES:

On May 13th, 2019, the Executive Director of Grandma's House Children's Advocacy Center, Michelle Steiner, met Prosecuting Attorney David Ethredge at the doors of their new satellite location, on Main Street, in Mountain Home for the first time. Ms. Steiner greeted Mr. Ethredge stating, "Mr. Ethredge, welcome to Grandma's House!" Steiner said, "It was very important to me to have Mr. Ethredge step through the doors with me the first time, in our new location in Baxter County."

There were many years of work and relationship building which were represented on that day. Opening this resource to child abuse victims in this community simply could not have happened without the leadership and support of Mr. Ethredge." Steiner continued, "Grandma's House has worked together with his team in multiple counties for many years. This Prosecutors team works tirelessly to help protect and find justice for our communities smallest and most important citizens, its children."

We are needing furnishing and funding for the equipment necessary so we can start seeing children and families as soon as possible. We have been humbled and energized by the excitement and support shown to us since starting the development of our Baxter county location.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Lacie Stowe

Lacie is a Forensic Interviewer and Child and Family Advocate. A Capella University graduate with a Masters degree in Psychology. Lacie enjoys spending time outside, exploring, and traveling to new places with her husband and two children.



# WE ARE GROWING IN LOCATIONS AND SERVICES!

We will celebrate our official open house at our Carroll County Satellite Center located in Berryville on September 12, 2019 between the hours of 4:30PM -6:00PM. In Carroll County, The Merlin Foundation and Grandma's House Children's Advocacy Center share the location. Some wonderful improvements have been made by our board members, donors and volunteers! The home has been renovated to serve the children and families in our communities. Renovations include beautiful furnishings for our common areas, much needed equipment for our exam room, interview room, and investigation area at the center. Jessa Giles and her mother, Ginger Oaks volunteered and donated their time and talents to paint a mural in the youth area! We were really blessed by TEAMeffort, a non-profit, inter-denominational Christian youth mission organization have transformed the shed behind the Carroll County Center into Santa's House! 3 different group of teens over the last 3 weeks have worked on the project. In addition to supplying all the material and labor for Santa's house, they have repaired and painted our front porch, repaired our fence, and made an outside play area for children of all ages.



Our Harrison location serves as our main office and will be celebrate 10 years of providing services to our communities in 2020! The growth in awareness of child abuse, the education in prevention of child abuse, and the ability to provide services to children and families will be celebrated. We have made great advances in our community but there is still more to do. Grandma's House Children's Advocacy Center serves 7 counties (Baxter, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Newton, and Searcy. With the addition, of our Carroll and Baxter County locations, families in need will be able to get to our centers without having to travel a great distance.

## Grandma's House 3rd Annual Color Run!

**Over \$6,000 was raised!!**

Change Page



**THANK YOU TO  
ALL OUR  
VOLUNTEERS  
AND  
PARTICIPANTS!**



**THANK YOU TO  
ALL OF OUR  
SPONSORS!**



On June 1st, Grandma's House hosted the 3rd Annual Color Run! Color was everywhere and it was a blast. Over 120 people participated all ranging from ages 0-70. This event raised over \$6,000 to help Grandma's House continue to provide services to alleged child abuse victims.



# VISITORS

We have had some wonderful visitors here at Grandma's House! Chapter 7 Abate hosted an awareness ride on June 1<sup>st</sup> and invited all local motorcycle enthusiasts. The Light Brigade Chapter of the Christian Motorcycle Association joined Chapter 7 Abate for the Awareness ride. Executive Director, Michelle Steiner met with them at our Harrison and Berryville locations of Grandma's House Children's Advocacy Centers and shared the mission of Grandma's House and presented education on awareness and prevention of child abuse during the tours. The bikers presented Wal-Mart gas cards to our director to aid families with transportation costs.



On June 19th Teri Garrett, (Field Representative for Congressman Womack & Grandma's House Board President), Judge Robert Hathaway (Grandma's House Board Member), and Chris Hoover, field representative for Senator Tom Cotton dropped in to tour our Harrison facility. It was a great opportunity for us to share education regarding child abuse issues and the missions of Children's Advocacy Centers.

## JUST WHAT EXACTLY IS A CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER & WHY DO WE NEED THEM?

Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) are how our communities mount a coordinated response to allegations of child abuse. To understand what a Children's Advocacy Center is, you must understand what children face without one. Without a CAC, the child may end up having to tell the worst story of his or her life over and over again, to doctors, police, lawyers, therapists, investigators, judges, and others. They may not get the help they need to heal once the investigation is over, either.

When police or child protective services believe a child is being abused, the child is brought to Grandma's House—a safe, child-focused environment—by a caregiver or other “safe” adult. At Grandma's House, the child tells their story once to a trained interviewer who knows the right questions to ask. Then, based on the interview, a multidisciplinary team (MDT) that includes medical professionals, law enforcement, mental health providers, prosecution, child protective services, victim advocates, and other professionals make decisions together about how to help the child. Finally, they offer a wide range of services like therapy, medical exams, courtroom preparation, victim advocacy, case management, and more. Child abuse is a dark and unfortunate reality. It exists everywhere;



in our small towns and communities and in big cities. Last year Grandma's House provided services to 428 children. We will continue to fight as long as there are children who need us. Grandma's House is an independent 501 © 3 nonprofit. Child abuse isn't an easy problem to fix, but together, it can be done, and together we will get there one child at a time.” To find out more about Grandma's House and what you could do to help go to [www.grandmashousecac.com](http://www.grandmashousecac.com).



*Myth: Abused children hate their parents and want to get away from them.*

**FACT: *Most children who have been abused by their parents still have a strong attachment or love for their parents and want to remain living with them. What they really want is for the abuse to stop.***

# EVENT CALENDER

## Berryville Open House

Join us for our Open House @ our Berryville, AR location on September 12 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm!

## Parenting Classes

Coming soon: GHCAC will now be providing parenting classes with instructional material courtesy of a grant funded by Berryville Community of Christ Church! Stay tuned for more details!

# CONTACT US

## QUESTIONS.COMMENTS.IDEAS

### Grandma's House Children's Advocacy Center

501 W. Stephenson Ave.

Harrison, AR 72601

### The Merlin Foundation

206 S. Main St.

Berryville, AR 72616

914 S. Main Street

Mountain Home, AR 72653



Email us: [pr@grandmashousecac.com](mailto:pr@grandmashousecac.com)

Website: [grandmashousecac.com](http://grandmashousecac.com)



Don't forget to like us on Facebook: Grandma's House Children's Advocacy Center

## Education Station

**Top three points that every person who works with children should know:**

- 1. 90% of all childhood sexual abuse occurs by someone with whom the child knows and has a trusted, established relationship, not by a stranger.**
- 2. Childhood sexual abuse occurs among ALL socioeconomic, educational, racial, and cultural groups in the United States and in the world.**
- 3. Sex offenders do not usually look "weird". There is no outward physical appearance to indicate an abuser, and they are experts at hiding their true selves. Sex offenders look "normal". It's part of the "con".**



## Isadora's Explor-a's



Isadora recently attended the Canine Companion Graduate Workshop in Nashville, Tennessee. She got to learn new and advanced skills, take a Back to Basic handling practice class, and even enjoy interactive games! She enjoyed many historical sites with our Director, Michelle Steiner and Forensic Interviewer, Lacie Stowe. Isadora passed all of her tests and said "Paw ya next year, Nashville!"

## GET INVOLVED

Want to help make a difference in a child's life and help out the community at the same time? Become a Grandma's House and Merlin Foundation event volunteer or volunteer to help on our grounds! OR you can help our our centers by donating. Whether you give a dollar or a minute of your time, you're making a difference.