



In the Loop with SCARF

A Safe Place at the CAC

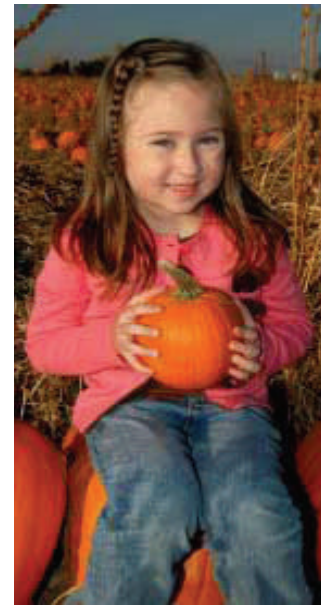
Imagine you are 9 years old, and the police want to talk to you about what's been happening with your father (or your neighbor, sister, or uncle — probably someone in your family or someone your family is close to). It's scary to talk about, and from the way everyone is acting, you think you might be in trouble. (There's also a good chance your abuser has told you not to tell anyone.) You have no idea what is going to happen, and you're not sure you want to tell anyone about it.

Your visit to the Child Advocacy Center turns out to be okay, after all. The rooms are bright, the furniture is just your size, and the people are kind—nothing like what you had expected from seeing police talk about bad guys in the movies. Talking about what happened wasn't as hard as you expected — it turns out that the

CAC has a safe room where lots of kids have talked about sad things. When you get hungry, they even give you a snack.

Having to go to court is also scary, but the people at the CAC help you with that, too. They have books about other kids who went to court, and they show you the courtroom ahead of time. When you tell the CAC workers that you are scared, they tell you what to expect and what all the words mean.

What you just imagined is a reality for many children in the 13th Judicial District. We at SCARF and the CAC are sad that there is such a need for this work, but we are glad to meet that need for these children, their non-offending caregivers, and the professionals who work for their safety and justice.



SCARF
Sunlight Children's Advocacy
and Rights Foundation

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Fall 2009

Executive Director:
Suzi Thien

Sunlight Child
Advocacy Center
Staff:

- Aurora Myers, Coordinator
- Mickey Yaghjian, Family Advocate
- Tammy McKibban, Administrative Assistant

CAC Hires New Coordinator

In June, we welcomed Aurora Myers as the new Coordinator at the CAC. Aurora was born and raised in Butler County, and currently lives in Wichita with her husband, Jon. Aurora received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Kansas State, and a master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Wheaton College in Illinois. Aurora has a social services background, including work as a therapist and a

coordinator of a mentoring program for at-risk youth in the Chicago suburbs.

Aurora is happy to be back in her hometown. She says she loves working with representatives from all the different disciplines. She thinks the most rewarding part of working at the CAC is giving children and teenagers a safe place to talk about their lives.

How To Report Abuse or Neglect

Remember, you don't have to be a witness to child abuse to report it. If you have *reason to suspect* a child has been harmed, then call the number listed here and make a report to SRS. Be prepared with information on the child's location, condition,

address, and age — and any other information you think might be important.

The SRS reporting number:

1-800-922-5330

Sunshine Children's Home Update

The Center for Community Support and Research at Wichita State University will soon finish a needs assessment for the community. They are researching risk factors and need indicators like socio-economic status, truancy rates, and homelessness in the 13th Judicial District.

The results of this study will help guide us as we plan the future of Sunshine Children's Home. Don't miss the next newsletter, where we will have more specific information to share with you!



SCARF Receives Diverse Funding



SCARF has received grants from the following agencies:

- National Children's Alliance
- State Attorney General's Office
- Governor's Office
- Juvenile Corrections Advisory Board
- Kansas Chapter of Child Advocacy Centers
- Kansas Health Foundation
- United Way of the Plains
- United Way of El Dorado

We also receive funds from:

- Private Donors
- Butler County Commission
- City of Andover
- City of Augusta
- City of Benton
- City of Douglass
- City of El Dorado
- City of Rose Hill
- City of Towanda

Great Times at the 3rd Annual Buckaroo Ball

The 3rd Annual Buckaroo Ball to support SCARF was held on April 25, 2009, and it was another successful event! Not only did everyone have a great time, but we also raised over \$30,000 because of generous donors like you.

This money will support two of SCARF's goals: to add to the building fund for Sunshine Children's Home, and to sustain Sunlight Child Advocacy Center.

Sponsors of this year's event were:

- The Barton Family Foundation
- Jenny Sundgren Baker Memorial Fund
- The Devlin Family Foundation
- Dustrol, Inc.
- Emprise Bank
- Frontier Refinery
- CDH, Inc.
- Tom and Mindy Page
- Butler County Board of Realtors
- Steve and Susan Worrell

Thank you to all of our sponsors and all those who attended!

Mark your calendar for the 4th Annual Buckaroo Ball on April 24th, 2010!



Since 2007, Sunlight Child Advocacy Center has conducted more than 340 interviews to investigate child abuse.

Compassionate People Make a Community



I would love to give you a tour of our facility and answer any questions you might have.

As the Executive Director of SCARF, I am fortunate to be able to visit many other agencies, companies, and diverse groups. I have spoken with a wide variety of people and find that we have at least one thing in common — a concern for each other's well-being.

Before I gave a presentation to a group from a large company recently, one of the employees was excited to tell me all they have done to raise money for United Way. She also shared with me how they are like a big family and quick to help each other out when in need.

I must say that the whole experience helped to remind me that there are many caring and compassionate people in our community, even in this difficult financial period. This is the time when non-profit services are in even greater demand and when we need to rededicate our efforts to keeping our programs available to those who need them.

I would love to give you a tour of our facility and answer any questions you might have. Thanks for your continued support of SCARF.

*—Suzi Thien,
Executive Director*

Our children are our future. Help us help them.

Your tax-deductible contribution to our non-profit foundation can help make our vision a reality. Children are emotionally fragile when they enter the legal system. By donating, you are showing them a kindness they need and deserve.

- Yes, I want to help SCARF build a safe place for the children of the 13th Judicial District.
Enclosed is my check for: ___\$20 ___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$250 ___\$500 ___Other amount
- I have sent money to the Community Foundation of Greater Butler County in SCARF's endowment fund in the amount of \$_____.
- I have put SCARF in my will or set up a trust in SCARF's name.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone _____ email _____

Please detach and return to P.O. Box 967, El Dorado, KS 67042 or call (316) 313-4107 for more information.

SCARF
Sunlight Children's Advocacy and
Rights Foundation

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Sunlight Child Advocacy and Rights Foundation (SCARF) is a not-for-profit agency that was established in 2004 to better address the needs of children in the 13th Judicial District regarding child abuse and neglect. SCARF has three goals: to establish and maintain the Sunlight Child Advocacy Center, the Sunshine Children's Home and the Sunrise Visitation and Exchange Center.

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed. Talk to us about how you can come make a difference in a child's life.

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If you are interested in becoming a Board Member, or joining a Board Committee, contact Suzi Thien at (316) 313-4107.