



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month!



On April 4th, the Colorado Department of Human Services hosted a kick-off event for National Child Abuse Prevention Month! DCAC and various other organizations and agencies who combat and prevent child abuse and neglect in Colorado were invited to gather at the Colorado State Capitol for a rally event that would kick off Child Abuse Prevention Month. The event included several speakers, including Donna Lynne, Lieutenant Governor, and Reggie Bicha, executive director of the Colorado Department of Human Services. We had a wonderful time learning about what Colorado is doing to prevent child abuse and neglect and it was so inspiring to see how many great organizations are taking a stand against child abuse and neglect to make a change in our community.

Thank you to our Child Abuse Prevention Month sponsor,
[SM Energy!](#)

Invest in Children During National Child Abuse Prevention Month!



At DCAC, we are investing in early childhood education. DCAC's community outreach mental health initiative is reaching vulnerable families before abuse can damage children's developing brains. Early intervention helps children succeed and society realizes savings through reduced spending for remedial K-12 education, unemployment, criminal justice, welfare and teen pregnancy. All of us are impacted if children's potential isn't unlocked.

During Child Abuse Prevention Month, you can double the impact of your investment in early childhood intervention through a generous challenge grant from [the Piton Foundation](#). Every donation, up to a total of \$35,000, will be matched by the Piton Foundation, which shares our mission to improve the lives of Colorado's low-income children and families.

We hope you will consider investing in children today!

[DONATE NOW](#)

The Denver Children's Advocacy Center's

Breakfast Open House

Thursday, June 8th • 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.



At DCAC, we partner and work closely with many agencies, organizations, and individuals throughout the Denver metro. To show our appreciation and gratitude for all the hard work of these partners, we are hosting our annual breakfast open house. Stop by and enjoy a morning of delicious food, conversation, and tours of DCAC's child-friendly campus.

Please invite your family, friends or colleagues to attend with you!
This event is free of charge.

When? Thursday, June 8th from 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. (come and go as you please)

Where? DCAC courtyard - 2149 Federal Blvd. Denver, Colorado 80211

How Do I RSVP? Click the register now button below.

Questions? Contact Dulce at Dulce@DenverCAC.org

We look forward to seeing you there!

RSVP NOW

**DCAC partners with Denver Early Childhood Council &
LAUNCH Together for Southwest Denver Training**



On April 5th, DCAC partnered with the Denver Early Childhood Council (DECC) & LAUNCH Together as part of a southwest Denver initiative to conduct a community training & conversation at the Denver Indian Center on the impact of trauma on a young child's development. We enjoyed meeting all of the attendees and coming together to help others learn about how the child's brain development is profoundly influenced by their life experiences. The one-day event was very well-received and we are looking forward to working with the DECC and LAUNCH Together in the future!

Thank you, Mark & Phylcia!



In March, Amber and Meghan, DCAC staff members, attended a birthday party for one of the DCAC's newest supporters, Mark! Mark's wife Phylcia planned a 50th birthday party for him with a special meaning. In lieu of gifts, they collected donations for DCAC. At the party, Amber and Meghan staffed the admission sale, sold raffle tickets, spoke about what we do, and met some amazing, new DCAC supporters. We are so grateful for Mark & Phylcia and all of the generous guests that attended the party! After a fun night of celebrating, DCAC received a donation of \$3,355.

If you are interested in hosting a party similar to Mark's or pledging your birthday to

Thank you again, Mark & Phylcia & cheers to 50, Mark!

DCAC Hosts Appreciation Breakfast for Longtime Volunteer & Supporter, Mark Hellerstein!



At DCAC, we have many individuals who volunteer their time to work for the many different programs in our organization. One of those individuals is Mark, a former board member and long-time volunteer of our prevention program, Denver Safe from the Start. Mark puts his amazing ventriloquist and puppeteer talents to work with Denver Safe from the Start, coordinating puppet shows for the children at each school we serve in the program. We are so grateful for all of Mark's service to DCAC over the years and we recently hosted a thank you breakfast to let him know. Everyone gathered for a morning of conversation, delicious food, and fun visiting with Mark.

Thank you again, Mark! You are such a special part of our organization!

Art from the Heart Auction Sneak Peek



Art from the Heart 2017 is set for September 14th, but we have already started receiving donations for the event! Thanks to Cate, one of wonderful DCAC's supporters, we have a stunning piece of artwork that we will be included in our Art from the Heart auction. We are so excited about the piece, which is an original by local artist, Brian Wall. We will begin to post more Art from the Heart sneak peeks, so stay tuned for more updates!

Thank you again for your kindness and generosity, Cate!



Toxic Love: When Offenders Enter the Family System & Other DCAC Trainings

Your child just disclosed to being abused...now what do you do? For most mothers the need to respond and protect their children is immediate, but what happens when the mother is under the influence of the offender? This toxic dynamic between the mother and offender can often cause a scattered response of confusion and blame towards the child. This training will highlight the red flags for each type of "toxic responses", how to support these children during the investigation, and how to engage these mothers in treatment.

When? April 26th, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Where? Mile High United Way

Toxic Love is presented by Cathy Hay, LMFT & Courtney Palm, LMFT

For more information about this training or to register, please [click here](#).

In addition to *Toxic Love*, DCAC has various upcoming trainings for professionals, community members, and individuals who work with children. To view a complete list of all of DCAC's upcoming trainings, please [click here](#).

DCAC's Problematic Sexual Behavior Program



We are continuing to work with the University of Oklahoma to establish a treatment program for children with problematic sexual abuse behaviors and their families. This program is designed to eliminate problematic sexual behaviors and improve pro-social behaviors and adjustments in children. It is also designed to reduce stress and enhance skills in parents and other caregivers.

For more information about treatment for problematic sexual behavior in youth, please contact:

Gizane Indart, PsyD. at Gizane@DenverCAC.org or (303) 996-8580.

Staff Corner

Meet DCAC's Child & Family Therapist Intern, Ciara!

Ciara started at DCAC in January 2017 for my internship through the University of Northern Colorado. Prior to this, she has worked in the mental health field for about five years. Ciara worked in a youth residential treatment center, at Children's Hospital Colorado in the psychiatric unit conducting research, doing in home individual and family therapy, working as a case manager for adults who have persistent and significant mental illness. Additionally, she worked with adults with intellectual and cognitive disorders. Ciara's end goal is to work with kids and adolescents who have experienced past trauma. She grew up in Pocatello, Idaho, where she lived on top of a mountain with five dogs. Ciara moved to Colorado in 2010 when she began her undergraduate degree and the

University of Colorado Denver.

Q: What is your role at DCAC?

A: I am a Child and Family Therapist Intern here at DCAC, meaning that I have the privilege of providing individual therapy to children, adolescents, and their families who have experienced past trauma.

Q: What do you find most rewarding?

A: I think that being able to build strong connections and relationships with these kiddos is by far the most rewarding part of this experience. Often times, these kids live in chaotic and unfair worlds, yet we are able to provide them safety and comfort at DCAC. It is amazing to see how resilient these children and adolescents are, despite experiencing adverse events in their lives.

Q: What do you find most challenging?

A: For me, the most challenging part of doing this work is hearing the stories of kids being taken advantage of and being abused. These kiddos are innocent and it's difficult at times to accept the fact that kids are abused, despite having no control over their situations.

Q: If you had a superpower, what would it be and why?

A: I would teleport if I could have a superpower. I then wouldn't have to sit in traffic and could travel the world in an instant. My family lives all over the United States, so then I would be able to see them more often as well.

Q: What do you love to do when you are not working?

A: When I am not working, I LOVE to be in the mountains. I love to hike, fish, camp, snowshoe, and just enjoy the great outdoors!



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