



Mt. Emily Safe Center

Child Abuse Intervention Center
'Where Small Voices are Heard'

Summer 2007 newsletter

Girls' Circle

Last school year, the Safe Center in partnership with the Juvenile Department, offered Girls' Circle at the middle school. We held a fall session and a spring session, and are currently hosting our summer ses-



sion at Birnie Park on Thursdays. Girls' Circle is a model of structured support groups for girls designed to foster self-esteem, help girls maintain healthy relationships with peers and adult women in their community, counter trends toward self-doubt, and allow for self-expression

through verbal sharing and creative activity. It's an opportunity for girls to make new friends, strengthen existing friendships, explore values and choices in a structured learning and sharing environment. Fun and food are never in short supply! For more information contact Sandra Leavitt, 963-0602.

"Children are not things to be molded, but are people to be unfolded."

Jess Lair

2107 3rd Street
La Grande, OR 97850



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Projects Needed!



Is your Scout Troop or group looking for projects?

Here are some ways to help the Safe Center:

Playhouse for back yard

New storage shed to replace unsafe one

Paper products drive

Toy and book drive

Soda Can drive to purchase merchant gift cards



Wish List

Playhouse for back yard

Paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, garbage bags, computer paper, legal pads, blank books, journals, etc.)

Laundry soap

Lap-top computer

Children's books (used in good condition OK)

Art Supplies (crayons, markers, construction paper, stickers, etc.)

Back packs, duffel bags, sports bags

Board games (for young children and teens)

VHS movies (young child appropriate)

Nintendo 64 games (young child appropriate)

MDT News

The Union County Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) is chaired by the District Attorney, Tim Thompson, and is attended by community partners and professionals working together on child abuse investigations, interventions, assessments, and services. Members include representatives from state, county and city law enforcement, DHS Child Protective Services, school counselors, victims' advocates, Juvenile Department, child and adult mental health agencies, child abuse center, domestic violence center, Child Care Resource & Referral, fire department and others.

Multidisciplinary teams make a significant impact on the successful investigation of crimes against children. MDT's have been around now for a

number of years and their functioning has made a difference for children whose lives are disrupted by violence and abuse.

The MDT welcomes back a familiar face, retired Oregon State Police detective Pat Montgomery. Pat is utilizing his years of experience and expertise on child abuse working with the Union County Sheriff's Office.

The MDT also welcomes the La Grande Police Department's new detective, Kris Rasmussen, known to many as Kris Peterson. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge on sexual assault and child abuse issues.

Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers to help with all kinds of projects. If you have time and interest we have something for you to do! Contact the Safe Center for more information.

Some projects needing volunteers:

Large copying jobs

Painting and minor maintenance projects

Assembling kids' bags

Parent packets



Sandy Mosely-teddy bears

A Safe Center family-toys, puzzles and stuffed animals

Ken Knott-sprinkler system maintenance

Dr. Gerald & Mary Hopkins-cash donation

Director's Corner

At any given moment, one can access via the internet or news sites up to date information on the number of troop casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan. I'm not insensitive to that fact. I have a nephew preparing for his second tour in Iraq, this time scheduled for 15 months.

What concerns me, is that while most Americans, no matter our political affiliation or feelings about the war, know how many of our men and women are being killed or injured overseas. But we don't know that right here at home, **twice as many** of our children are killed every year from harm suffered through abuse and neglect, and many, many more are injured from the same sources.

When will we have a flag for our missing children? When will we have rallies across the country demanding safety,

for our children? When will congress demand and vote for the resources, laws and services to ensure the safety of our children? When will we as ordinary citizens become bothered enough about the abuses of our children to spend some time every day talking about it with our friends and neighbors like we do the weather, our health and the war?

I am thankful every day for the people in our community, whether it is through their work or their community involvement that do step forward and take some action when they learn of or see a child being mistreated. To borrow a slogan, we can all be "An Army of One" in our efforts to make children safe.

Sincerely, Sandra

Children's Clinic Tour

In May, the Mt. Emily Safe Center staff and board of directors were pleased to host the GRH Children's Clinic staff for a luncheon and tour of the Safe Center. Topics of discussion included what services the Safe Center provides and how we can work together on cases of child abuse to assure child victims and their non-offending family members receive comprehensive medical assessment, treatment and support. We look forward to an increased association in meeting the care needs of children in unsafe situations.

Grant Awards

The Safe Center has been notified that we are a recipient of grant funds from United Way of Union County for the 2007-2008 grant year. These funds will make a significant impact on the services we provide to children at risk in our community! Thank you United Way for your Support!



The Center has been awarded a grant from the Children's Trust Fund of Oregon (CTFO) for our Prevention Program. With these funds we will be offering the curriculum "Make

Parenting a Pleasure" to communities in Union County. "Make Parenting a Pleasure" is a positive parenting program designed to strengthen families, enhance parent skills and reduce stressors. Stay tuned for more details. Thank you so much to CTFO for their generous support.

Website



Check out our website!

www.mtemilysafecenter.com

Internet Safety Tips

- ✓ Never post your personal information, such as a cell phone number, address, or the name of your school.
- ✓ Be aware that information you give out through instant messages, e-mails, social networking sites and blogs could put you at risk of victimization.
- ✓ Never meet in person with anyone you first "met" online. Some people may not be who they say they are.
- ✓ Remember that posting information about your friends could put them at risk.
- ✓ Never respond to harassing or rude e-mails. Delete any unwanted messages or friends who continuously leave inappropriate comments.
- ✓ Never give out your password to anyone other than your parents or guardians.
- ✓ Only add people as friends to your site if you know them in real life.
- ✓ Think before posting your photos. Personal photos should not have revealing information, such as school names or location.
- ✓ Check the privacy settings of the social networking sites that you use.
- ✓ An interactive educational safety resource is available for children ages 5 to 17 at



www.netsmartz.org

Board News



Newly elected officers of the board:

Howard Butts-Chair

Sue Procsal-Vice-Chair

Jared Rogers & Heather Tibbetts-Co-secretaries/historians

Board Members:

Howard Butts, Chair

Sue Procsal, Vice-Chair

Jared Rogers, Secretary/Historian

Heather Tibbetts, Secretary/Historian

Joy Bristow

Amy George

Stephanie Miller

Liz Hill

Mary Lu Pierce

Steve Oliver

Thank You, Lien and Steve

Lien Dretke and Steve Oliver have submitted their resignations from the Mt. Emily Board. Lien has been with the Safe Center for many years as a medical provider, director and board member. She always brought enthusiasm, knowledge and expertise and she will be greatly missed. We wish her great success with her future endeavors!

Steve Oliver has been with the Safe Center from its beginning, serving the children and families in our community. He has given direction and support as the safe Center developed and has been an advocate in the community, sharing our mission and vision for providing a safe, child friendly place for children who have been abused, to receive services. We will miss his leadership!



New Baby!

Board Member Stephanie Miller and her husband Earl welcomed their second child, daughter Makenna, in May.



Welcome Laura!

The Mt. Emily Safe Center welcomes Laura Tucker as our new Program Assistant. Laura is a familiar face at the school district and will be bringing her expertise in financial management to the Safe Center. Jamie Akers has resigned to work with her husband in their new business, Aaron Akers Plumbing. We wish them great success!

Save The Date!

October 5, 2007

Travel back in time to visit the glamour of Old Hollywood. The Mt. Emily Safe Center will be hosting a fundraiser in Vintage Hollywood Style. An event sure to bring out the star in all of us!

Dust off those diamonds and pearls! Vintage Hollywood semi-formal/formal attire is encouraged. More details to follow!

