

## Supporting the ACCAC Team

By: Cathy Harner, President of ACCAC Board of Directors

At the Adams County Children’s Advocacy Center, we have a small, dedicated team working to help child victims of abuse and their families.

Any given day will find our team members welcoming a child victim of abuse and their family into the Center; working to calm their fears and anxiety about what has happened and helping them understand what happens next.

Our CAC team supports children as young as 3, special needs children who do not have the words to communicate exactly what has happened to them, young children who do not know that what was done to them is wrong, teenagers who may believe that abuse is love and teenagers who have turned to self-harm in an attempt to quiet the unresolved trauma of painful abuse.

They do this with adept and compassionate professionalism. It takes a very special kind of person to sit with these children and their caregivers day after day, to hear what they have to share, to sit with them in the pain they are experiencing, and to walk beside them in their journey towards hope and healing.

In the words of one caregiver, ***“Thank You for Allowing My Family to be Heard.”***

The ACCAC team is equally dedicated to preventing future child abuse. Team members conduct school and community-based prevention education, host special events, hand out resources at public events, collaborate with other community service agencies, and yes, even dress up as crayons in the Halloween Parade! All to promote ACCAC’s vision: a community in which children are safe and families are strong, and that all children deserve the chance for a brighter tomorrow.

This is why when community organizations reach out to support the work of the Adams County Children’s Advocacy Center, it means so much to the ACCAC team. This support validates the critical, essential work our team does daily to ease the journey of child victims and provide prevention education to help keep our kids safe.

This February, we offer our love and appreciation to the Adams County community and the many organizations and individuals who have, already in 2024, reached out to offer their support for the Adams County Children’s Advocacy Center and for Adams County kids:

Battlefield Harley Davidson	Gettysburg Times
Celebrate Gettysburg Magazine	Gettysburg VFW Post 15
Community Media of Southeastern PA	Graphcom
Gettysburg Day Spa	Mansion House 1757 Boutique Inn, Restaurant & Tavern
Gettysburg Eagles Aerie #1362	Reid’s Orchard & Winery
Gettysburg Eddie’s	RISE Yoga of Gettysburg
Gettysburg Freemasons: Good Samaritan Lodge #336 F. & A.M.	Trinity United Church of Christ
Gettysburg Hotel	The Upper Crust Restaurant & Bar
Gettysburg Mooselodge 1526 & Chapter 182	Women’s Club of Gettysburg

Thank you for recognizing that child abuse is a community problem and that takes each of us to end it. Working together, we can build brighter tomorrows for Adams County kids.