

Non-Profit of the Year Award Means We Can Do More Together

By: Elida Murray, MA – Executive Director

This month I gratefully accepted the Non-Profit of the Year Award from the Gettysburg & Adams County Chamber. We were proud to be honored with this “Business Excellence Award”, alongside Environmental Stewardship honoree, the Gettysburg Foundation, Educator of the Year, Tiffany Stultz and Small Business Person of the Year, Jessica Dean of Celebrate Gettysburg. Congratulations to all and thank you so much to the Chamber for all they do in support of our community.

I accepted this award on behalf of our Adams County Children’s Advocacy team; amazing people, working on the front lines each day, and our dedicated board of directors, who provide exemplary leadership, wise advice and endless encouragement. Our team and board agree it is an honor and a privilege to work for and on behalf of Adams County kids each day.

This award means that our community members recognize how vitally important it is to keep kids safe from abuse. It is recognition that our work is making substantial impact on the lives of Adams County children and that our fiscal responsibility reflects that we “put our money where our mouth is” by keeping administrative expenses low while investing in programs that directly impact the lives of children who need us.

The painful truth is that child abuse happens every day right here in our community. More than 200 child victims visit our Center each year and we cannot say it enough, that is 200 Adams County kids too many.

We will continue to support child victims and provide prevention education to 5,000+ kids each year, *but we need and want to do more-* more prevention education, mental health services, support groups and outreach, so that our Adams County children can grow up trauma-free. There is still a lot of work to be done.

Child abuse is a community problem, and we can’t do this alone. We need you to back us up and many of you did just that during April’s Go Blue for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Thank you for taking action to help prevent abuse. Unfortunately, child abuse doesn’t stop, not for awards, or holidays, not for summer vacation or even during a child’s illness. As you read in the paper every week, there is always another child predator who has insinuated themselves where our Adams County children live, play and go to school.

This is why our child abuse PREVENTION work is so critical. We ask that you, our community, please help us to keep child abuse prevention at the forefront of our work throughout the year. Help us turn the tide to teach adults and children how to recognize, react and respond to child abuse. In this way we empower everyone to know what to look for and what to do. What to do if they suspect abuse and what to do if kids are concerned about something that is happening or someone that worries them. We have limited funds, let’s put them towards PREVENTING abuse, because a child who experiences the trauma of abuse can heal, but they will never forget.

Please visit our website for the many opportunities to help keep our prevention work going, such as sponsoring prevention education in classrooms across the county. *Together, we can build brighter tomorrows for our children.* Thank you.