



The Importance of CPCAN Membership

The Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (CPCAN) provides a means by which members of our community can come together and use our passion, energies and skills to end the mistreatment of children. The Council was formed by a small group of caring community members to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect. CPCAN has many supporters – you for example because you’re reading our newsletter! Are you a member of CPCAN? *If not we want you to become one!*

CPCAN is similar to a tree bearing fruit. Fruit trees depend on the nourishment drawn through their roots from the earth to create a bountiful harvest. So too does CPCAN depend on the financial contributions of our supporters to help sustain the infrastructure necessary to provide the education and advocacy to end child maltreatment. A wise and thoughtful woman, American cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, “I must admit that I personally measure success in terms of the contributions an individual makes to her or his fellow human beings.” In these difficult financial times many of us are cutting back on our donations to worthy causes but CPCAN needs your financial help more than ever to continue and expand our work. Please join us and be our partner in prevention. As Ms. Mead also stated, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” We can make a difference and we must. Please become a CPCAN member today!

CPCAN’s Annual Dinner/Theater Event

CPCAN’s Fundraising Committee has been hard at work putting together another exciting mystery theatre event which will take place on Friday October 14, 2011. This year’s “who-done-it?” is entitled, “Dead Men Don’t Get Dessert” and will involve an unsavory cast of 1920’s gangsters and molls (think “dolls,” mob style!) bent on creating an impenetrable crime ring in order to

bring Jackson... (we mean Chicago)... to its knees! Center Stage Jackson is partnering with us this year and we promise you an evening of fun entertainment! Our event will again be held at the Cascade’s Manor House surrounded by the autumn beauty of the park and will feature a dessert display to die for! Don’t forget your password, included on your invitation/ticket, or you may not get past the security thug at the door. Dinner for two is included in the \$85 ticket price (cash bar) and all are encouraged to dress the part. Photographer Sommer Engelter, of Engelter Photography will be available to capture you in your 1920’s finery for a keepsake if you wish! Sponsorships are always important to the success of our event. If you have or know of a business that may be interested in sponsorship please contact Wendy or one of our Board members. Order your ticket soon — we look forward to seeing you there!

**Dead Men
Don’t Get Dessert**





CPCAN is Providing Trainings at JCC

Board member Erika Bigelow, DHS Child Protective Services supervisor, and Michele Bowersox, CPCAN volunteer and Crisis Counselor for AWARE, Inc. are providing Mandated Reporter Trainings for four classes of nursing students at Jackson Community College (JCC) this fall and winter. Registered nurses are by profession mandated reporters and required by law to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment when they are presented with reasonable cause to suspect abuse or maltreatment. Thank you Erika and Michele for providing this important service.

Meet the Board

Marsha Hamman has worked as a Juvenile Probation Officer for Jackson County Family Court since 2005. Prior to her work at the Family Court, she worked at the Jackson County Youth Center for six years. She has been a CPCAN Board member for six years and is also active on CPCAN's Fundraising Committee. She lives in Jackson County with her husband and daughter.



What drew you to become active with CPCAN?

I believe it's important to support community education. In my line of work I've seen so many children who have been abused or are in abusive relationships – education can help break the cycle of abuse.

What do you enjoy about working on CPCAN's Fundraising Committee? *I enjoy spreading the word about our agency and getting community support for CPCAN. It's not always easy asking people for money but I like getting businesses involved by donating their services or items they sell for our fundraising efforts. I also really enjoy event and party planning.*

You've managed to purposely not read the mystery script while helping to organize our Dinner Theater event, why's that? *The last two murder mystery dinners have been so much fun! I really like trying to solve the murder mystery with my family and friends.*

A Message from the Director

CPCAN recently finished up a series of Parenting Counts parent education classes made possible from a \$5000 grant received from Great Parents, Great Starts. Our classes started on February 7, 2011 and ended on August 22, 2011. During that time we provided 25 classes once a week that served 115 adults and 206 children, helping many from our own neighborhood. That \$5,000 went a long way and helped a lot of people! Judy Szink, CPCAN Parent Educator shared, "The Parenting Counts classes provided both an opportunity for parents to learn how to positively impact their children's development in their early years and was a support group of sorts. The parents reported speaking in softer, calmer tones, seeking to understand their children's feelings and behaviors and feeling more confident about using positive discipline techniques with them. It was a pleasure to observe the parents support one another. They listened to and encouraged one another, then eagerly shared parenting tips that had worked for them and informed each other about helpful community resources." Judy recounted one success story, "A mother and father who were working to regain custody of their four children, aged four and under, described chaotic visitations at the DHS visitation room. At each class, the parents asked how to better handle a situation that had occurred at visitation that was relevant to our topic. At the last class, the parents were pleased to report that their DHS worker was impressed with how they had improved in how they now handled their children at visitation." Primary prevention stops problems before they begin and parenting classes are one of the best ways in which to protect children from abuse and neglect. Educating parents increases parenting skills strengthening families and our community. Consider funding a class or honoring a loved ones memory by donating monies to fund a class. Parenting classes are an investment in prevention that can last a lifetime and beyond.



A final note: Our sincere thanks to Amanda Patterson, former CPCAN Board Secretary, for all the support and work she did on behalf of the Council. Amanda had to resign her position at CPCAN and JCC due to a house fire, which resulted in the devastating loss of their family home in August. We miss Amanda and wish her and her family all the best.
