



Columbia County Child Abuse
Assessment Center

...Striving to minimize trauma to child abuse victims through professional medical diagnosis and treatment in a secure and child-friendly environment with the goal of preventing child abuse in all forms.



spring 2015



April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

Greetings Friends,

The Amani Center has been buzzing with activity over the last year with staffing changes, added programs, the search for stable funding sources, legislative efforts and developing and improving our fundraising events. Most visible might be our new logo & website!

Following our last Luau fundraiser, many supporters and participants provided the Amani Center staff with great feedback on the event. We have been working on fresh ideas for 2015 and the most noticeable change is the date of the Luau this year, scheduled for Saturday, August 22nd with doors opening at 5:30 pm. Many supporters were concerned with scheduling conflicts, especially fall sports related...You spoke, we listened! We continue to look for ways to make the Luau the best event in the county so please keep your ideas coming!

Recognizing the importance of prevention of child sexual abuse, the Amani Center prioritized Darkness to Light's *Stewards of Children* facilitator training for our lead Forensic Interviewer, Lesley White. The Amani Center will now provide this nationally recognized sex abuse prevention curriculum to teach adults the steps to protecting children from sexual abuse. More information about this program can be found in this newsletter as well as our website.

In February, I joined Child Abuse Intervention Center Directors from across the state to advocate for HB 2234 and CAMI funding during a Day at the Capital event. I had the honor of meeting with Representative Brad Witt to discuss the importance of stable

funding for the Amani Center and other centers throughout Oregon. Representative Witt not only expressed support for our centers, he signed on to be a co-sponsor of the bill! Thank you Representative Witt!

The month of April was declared by Presidential Proclamation in 1985 to be National Child Abuse Awareness Month. This month, the Amani Center is focusing on getting our community involved in the movement! During the month of April, look for the Blue Ribbon Campaign, a nationally recognized symbol of child abuse prevention and an opportunity for you to make a donation & make a visual impact! And, let's not forget the Race Against Child Abuse! This charity race started out small & has grown into one of the most anticipated family-friendly events, giving participants race options ranging from a one mile walk to a half-marathon run!

Please join the Amani Center & our community to help raise awareness about a topic many are afraid to talk about. Let's give these children a voice!

~ Warm regards,
Cassy M. Miller



38% of children served by the Amani Center in 2014 were seen for sexual abuse.

You Gave Me a Voice!



When asked what they appreciated most about the Amani Center, a caregiver replied:

"The warm safe environment. I think the kids felt safe."



Thank you to our many volunteers & donors who make a difference every day!

PGE, Knights of Columbus, Thrivent, Fred Meyer, Sherpa Aircraft, Scappoose Chiropractic Clinic, Cindy Welch, Virginia Wagenblast, Dessa Nickla, Scappoose Education Association, First Lutheran Church, Kathy Smith, Paul Carr, Judith Ow, Perfect Product Inc, Anna Luttrell, Brenden Welter, Shawna Winter, Microsoft, Jude & Mike Dennis, Nikki Wilburn, Monte Gustafson, Terry King, Michael Funderburg, Linda Gaskill, Linda McCoy, Kessi Construction, Carol Girt, Earl Fisher, Marilyn Naish, Jaime Williams, OCF Joseph E Weston Public Foundation, Nancy Hudson, Kristie Skovgaard, Marjorie Kundiger, Ardis Sussell, DR Garrison, Judi Weigandt, Audrey Webster, Lori Wills, Windermere Foundation, Northwest Structural Moving, Heather Hoge, Columbia River PUD, Kaicee Giroski, Josh Campbell, Dr. Kendall Liday, Valorie O'Farrell, Connie Mendenhall, Jimi Martinez, Tyler Lessard, Madison McDonald, Sarah Pentecost, Savanna Ganiere, Mackenzie Ela, Cyndy Mimnaugh, Alec Thomas, United Way, SH Best Western.

The Blue Ribbon Campaign

During the past several years, the **Blue Ribbon Campaign** has been widely recognized as a national symbol of child abuse prevention.

The movement began in the spring of 1989 as a way for Bonnie Finney of Norfolk, VA to pay tribute to her grandson, who died of abuse at the hands of his own mother. Bonnie tied a symbolic **blue ribbon** to her van to symbolize her grandson's **bruises** and her personal commitment to involve everyone in the battle to stop child abuse.

The **Amani Center** has brought the campaign to Columbia County to raise awareness of the epidemic of child abuse in our community. During the month of April, look for our **blue ribbons** in many local businesses, including Ace Hardware, America's Best Value Inn, Figaro's Pizza, Fultano's Pizza, Houlton Bakery, Ichabod's, Kozy Korner, Sunshine Pizza, the Amani Center & more. Your \$1 donation gets you a **blue ribbon** to proudly display with your name on it. All donations go directly to benefit child victims of abuse and neglect in Columbia County.

Please join together with the Amani Center & our community partners to help us

END CHILD ABUSE!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Blue Ribbon Campaign ~ April 2015
- Fibers & Stitches ~ Now thru 6/7/15
- Race Against Child Abuse ~ 4/25/15
- Bake Sale ~ (at the Race) 4/25/15
- Luau & Auction Fundraiser ~ 8/22/15
- Comedy Nite featuring Willie Halliburton, the Comic Cop ~ (Rescheduled) Coming Soon (date TBD)

Fibers & Stitches Fundraiser

Fibers & Stitches in St Helens will be accepting quilting quality fabric donation's (sorry no Walmart or Joann's fabric) for the Recycled Fabric Fundraiser now through June 5th.

They will have a 1 day sale on Sunday June 7th from 11am to 2pm. All donated fabric will be sold at \$2 a yard to "recycle" the fabric to another home. All proceeds from the donated fabrics sold that day will be donated to the Amani Center.

Here's a recap of how it works... For every yard of quilter's quality fabric or 4 fat quarters that you donate, you'll receive a coupon good for \$1 off any one yard of regularly priced fabric off the bolt. So let's say you have 3 yards of fabric you'd like to donate, Fibers & Stitches will give you three (\$1 off) coupons that can then be used on 3 yards of Fibers & Stitches fabric. (Only one coupon can be used per yard of fabric purchased- multiple coupons cannot be used on a single yard of fabric.)

FIBERS & STITCHES is located at
58093 Columbia River Hwy, St Helens OR
(503) 397-5536



Amani Center

A 501 (c)(3)

nonprofit agency

Office: 1621 Columbia Blvd.
St. Helens, OR 97501

Mailing: P.O. Box 1001
St. Helens, OR 97051

Office: (503) 366-4005

Fax: (503) 366-0314

Email:

amanicenter@comcast.net

www.amanicenter.org

Employees

Cassy Miller

Executive Director

Darcy Thomas

Development Director

Lesley White

Child Forensic Interviewer

Ron Willis

Child Forensic Interviewer

Clairissa Williams

Family Support Services Specialist

Linda Eddy

Medical Examiner

Heather Sutton

Medical Billing Specialist

Board Of Directors

Tami McDonald - Chair

Stacia Tyacke - Vice Chair

Andrew Bliss - Treasurer

Stan Mendenhall -
Board Member

Race Against Child Abuse

Lace up your sneakers! It's time for the 7th Annual Amani Center Race Against Child Abuse! This community event has something for every age and skill level, featuring a half marathon, 10 kilometer run, 5 kilometer run/walk & and One Mile Family Walk.

Boasting beautiful views of the mountains & river, the start and finish line is located at Columbia View Park in historic downtown Saint Helens, Oregon.

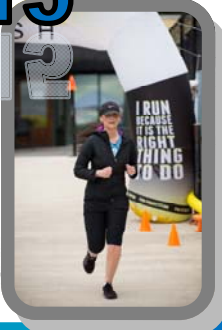
REGISTER ONLINE NOW at

www.AmaniCenter.org

Register by March 31st to be guaranteed an event shirt. Registration fees increase on Race Day.

4/25/15

AMANI CENTER
RACE
AGAINST
CHILD ABUSE



SAVE THE DATE

Luuu &
Auction

8/22/15



Fred Meyer
community
rewards
Where shopping & giving unite

Help raise
money for the
Amani Center
every time you
shop! Find the
link on our
website!

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives

Darkness to Light's 5 Steps to Protecting our Children from Child Sexual Abuse

(full version available at D2L.org)

Step 1: Learn the Facts

1 in 10 Children are sexually abused before their 18th birthday. People who sexually abuse children often go out of their way to appear trustworthy.

Step 2: Eliminate or reduce isolated, 1-on-1 situations to decrease risk for abuse.

More than 80% of sexual abuse incidents happen in isolated, 1-on-1 situations.

Step 3: Talk about it.

Have open conversations with children about our bodies, sex and boundaries.

Understand why children are afraid to tell.

Know how children communicate. Children may ask general questions about bodies, interactions or sex rather than talk directly about something they have experienced.

Step 4: Recognize the Signs.

Physical signs are not common, but the following signs should be examined by a professional: 1. Bruising, bleeding, redness, rashes, bumps or scabs, especially in the genital areas.

2. Urinary tract infections 3. Sexually transmitted diseases or abnormal discharge 4. Chronic stomach pain, headaches or other ailments that can't be explained medically.

Emotional and behavioral signs are more common: 1. Withdrawal, depression, anger, rebellion, defiance, agitation or inability to concentrate 2. Fear of situations or people 3. Drug or alcohol use, especially at a young age. 4. Falling grades or other changes in behavior.

Step 5: React Responsibly

Understand how to respond to risky behaviors and suspicions or reports of abuse. If a child discloses or child abuse has been discovered:

Report immediately to local law enforcement and/or to child protective services in the county in which the child lives.

Seek the help of a professional who is trained to talk with the child about child abuse. You can follow up with the **Amani Center** for support, advice or assessment services at **503-366-4005**

The 2-2 ½ hour training is a child sexual abuse prevention training for adults. Trainings will be held for groups of at least 5 participants at a cost of \$15 per participant. This fee includes the interactive workbook and covers administrative costs.

Stewards of Children is a nationally recognized 2-2 ½ hour child sexual abuse prevention training for adults. Trainings will be held for groups of at least 5 participants at a cost of \$15 per participant. This fee includes the interactive workbook and covers administrative costs.

Stewards of Children teaches adults to:

Prevent sexual abuse before it can happen, Recognize signs of sexual abuse in children, Recognize unsafe behaviors by adults, React responsibly when a child discloses, or when an adult discovers or suspects child abuse.

Contact the Amani Center now to schedule a training.



Amani Center

PO Box 1001

St. Helens, OR 97051

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Giving child victims in Columbia County a voice and helping them to heal...