

Keeping our Children Safe.

Protectors.
Our staff are dedicated to breaking the cycle of abuse for at-risk **children** in our communities.

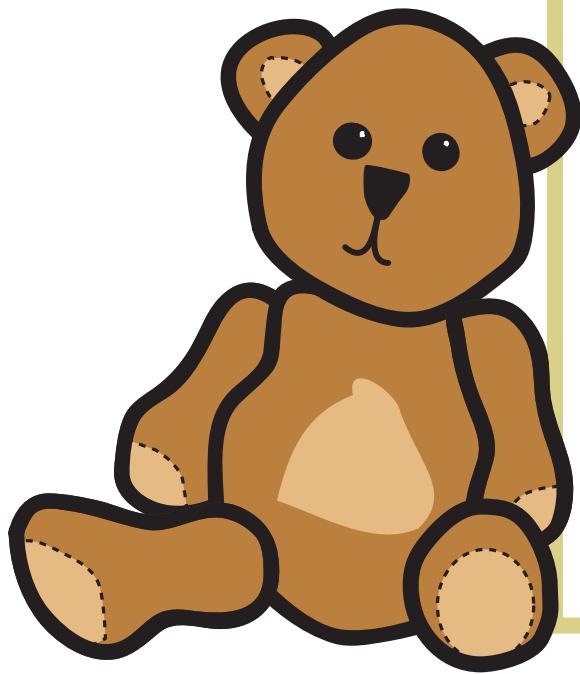
Advocates.
We provide **support** that enables children and families to stay together in a safe environment.

Champions.
When children don't know who they can trust, we make sure they can come to a **safe place**.

Educators.
We educate families, teachers, and medical professionals to raise **awareness** of abuse and neglect.

The Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse is a private, not-for-profit agency that has been dedicated to the reduction of child maltreatment since 1973. Each year we serve more than 12,000 abused and at-risk children, and provide support and education services to more than 3,600 parents, teachers and caregivers. Our support services help abused children and educate adults to prevent future abuse.

The Center welcomes tax deductible donations so we can serve more children.



the Center

for the prevention
of child abuse

249 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

tel (845) 454-0595

fax (845) 454-0129

www.PreventChildabuseDutchess.org

Our mission is to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect through education, prevention and intervention services in Dutchess County.
The Center is a 501c3 tax exempt incorporated charitable organization. Donations made directly to this private, independent agency are tax deductible.



The Center's Programs & Services

2,451 reports of abuse and neglect against Dutchess County children were made to the state hotline in 2004.

Child victims are most likely to be abused and neglected by **adults they trust**.

Categories of abuse and neglect include: burns & scalding; excessive corporal punishment; inadequate food, clothing shelter, lack of medical care; sexual abuse, physical and emotional abuse.

Annually, **The Center** serves more than 300 child sexual abuse victims, as reported to the state hotline. Of the sexually abused children served this past year, 54% were **9 years of age** or younger. Of these children, 60% were girls and 40% were boys.

Additionally we provide prevention services to over **12,000 children** and to over 3,600 adults including parents, teachers, medical professionals and other Dutchess County residents.

Without services, child victims are more likely to be arrested, have school difficulties and develop negative or antisocial behavioral patterns. In the most recent study nationwide, the United States spent \$258 million a day as a direct or indirect result of child abuse and neglect. Child victims are much more likely to continue the **cycle of family violence**.

Please help break the cycle of violence by supporting **The Center**. Contributions are most welcome. Donations, **volunteering** and participating in any of our educational programs also supports the prevention of child abuse, neglect and maltreatment in Dutchess County.

Child Advocacy Center (CAC)

The CAC brings child protective service workers, law enforcement officers and other service providers together to meet the needs of child victims and their families while undergoing sexual abuse investigations. The CAC operates with the guidance of a multidisciplinary team with representation from each Dutchess County public & private agency involved in dealing with child sexual abuse.

Teen Life Connections

Our Teen Life teaching team uses asset building tools in a 10-week group session to educate over 300 at-risk teens in Dutchess County. The training enhances pro-social values and beliefs, and reduces negative behaviors that place teens at risk for abuse, neglect and maltreatment. *Free service.*

Personal Safety & Internet Safety

Our educators provide sexual abuse prevention education to over 7,500 children in elementary and preschools directly, and to their parents and teachers throughout Dutchess County. Teaching staff provide further education to over 500 middle and high school students on how to avoid risky behaviors and situations. We show students how to keep themselves safe from internet predators and we help parents recognize risky online behavior. *Free service.*

Community Education & Mandated Reporter Training

Educators give lectures to community groups on how to identify and report child physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect and maltreatment. Specialized materials are provided for medical personnel to differentiate disease from abuse. Our educators are certified by New York State to teach the state-certified certificate class to people whose jobs are classified as *mandated reporters* of abuse (teachers, health care providers and emergency responders).

Parent Empowerment Program

Parent educators work with various groups of parents to build skills, enhance knowledge of child development and age appropriate expectations for children and provide support through group interactions. Classes are offered to parents in substance abuse recovery, involved with CPS or the court system. Workshop series are also offered to parent groups through PTA's, daycare centers and other community organizations.

PARENTS Plus

Provides parenting classes for parents enrolled in Dutchess County drug treatment programs through family and criminal courts. Program staff work closely with the entire treatment team.

Special Needs Parenting

Case Managers provide parent education classes and weekly home visiting support for parents with mental retardation and developmental disabilities living in our community and who are pregnant or parenting young children. In addition to learning parenting skills, parents gain socialization and support from peers and receive assistance in meeting the needs of their young children. Case managers work closely with other service providers involved with our families.

For more information on our programs and services or to make a donation, please call (845) 454-0595.

**To report child abuse in New York State,
please call (800) 342-3720**



**United Way of
Dutchess County**