

### Year In Review

February 2016

A service of Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center

As we begin 2016, we want to thank you for your support for the protection of children.

On behalf of the entire Child Advocacy Center staff and the children and families we serve, it is our privilege to partner with so many that give so much of their time, talent and resources!

This holiday season, the community helped bring cheer to children who really needed it. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the staff and many departments at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, the Greater Niagara Federal Credit Union and to Pet smart of Lockport for the wonderful stuffed animal donation!

# **Child Advocacy Center of Niagara Earns National Reaccreditation**

The Child Advocacy Center of Niagara was awarded a five-year reaccreditation by the National Children's Alliance, the national association and accrediting body for children's advocacy centers (CACs) across the country.

The Child Advocacy Center is a child-friendly facility in which law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical and victim advocacy professionals work together to investigate abuse, help children heal from abuse, and hold offenders accountable.

CACs that have met national accreditation standards are recognized as having achieved a level of multidisciplinary collaboration and coordinated service delivery that significantly improves the experience and well-being of children who are subject to child abuse intervention.

"This accreditation reflects the commitment, dedication and professionalism of the Child Advocacy Center of Niagara's staff, and our partners in criminal justice, social services and victim advocacy", said Executive Director Ann Marie Tucker.

The Child Advocacy Center of Niagara was established in 1995 and has served 4,500 children and their family members. Its family services component has served an additional 1,200 children and adults.

# **20 Years Working Hand in Hand for Children Celebrated by Child Advocacy Center Anniversary**



The event was held in partnership with the Child Abuse Intervention Project, Niagara County's multidisciplinary team of professionals who mobilize with the CAC in cases of child abuse. Proceeds support furnishings for the therapy and children's waiting room at the new center.

Pictured are Mike Violante, Niagara County D.A., Dr. Jack Coyne, CAC Medical Director, Judi Nolan-Powell, VP of the Foundation and Community Relations, Dr. Laura DeBacco, Women's Center Coordinator

Thank You to our 20th Anniversary Champions for Children

Greater Niagara Federal Credit Union, Wheatfield Pediatrics, Jack Coyne, MD, FAAP and Diane LaVallee, Esq. and the Niagara Gazette

Would you, your organization or group like to learn how you can make a difference in protecting children from abuse by hosting one of our FREE community education sessions?

If interested, please contact the Child Advocacy Center, Education and Outreach Coordinator Jackie Pritchard at cacofniagara@nfmmc.org

SEE OUR NEW WEBSITE! www.cacofniagara.org

#### Child Advocacy Center of Niagara

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#### Niagara County Safe Harbour Program

The Child Advocacy
Center of Niagara
recently launched a
multimedia awareness
campaign on human
trafficking with
billboards, digital
advertising and
televised public
service
announcements.

In conjunction with the Niagara County Department of Social Services, the CAC established the Niagara County Safe Harbour Project on child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.



### 17<sup>th</sup> Safe at Home Conference

Child Advocacy Center of Niagara in conjunction with the Niagara County Family Violence Intervention Project thanks our sponsors for making it possible to feature a national faculty of experts on domestic violence, child trafficking, trauma- informed care and medical- legal investigation at the annual conference. Patty Wetterling, the keynote, chairs the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and is a child welfare advocate whose 11-year-old son was abducted on 1989 by a masked gunman.

Buffalo Bills, Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, Niagara County Department of Social Services, Niagara County Department of Mental Health, and Catholic Charities of Buffalo, Inc.-Niagara County Services

Child Advocacy Center of Niagara New Home! The Child Advocacy Center began preparation for the Spring 2016 relocation to the Golisano Center for Community Health.



DID YOU KNOW? The CAC presented 80 community education sessions to over 3000 students and adults, including professional trainings in prevention, recognizing and responding to child abuse, maltreatment, neglect and child sexual abuse; mandated reporter, domestic violence, healthy relationships, child trafficking, crisis intervention, infant sleep safety, and water safety.