Serving: Wetzel and Tyler Counties



## The LIGHTHOUSE Ledger

quarterly newsletter

### What's Inside:

- The Lighthouse CAC Updates
- Community Involvement
- Training Opportunities
- Mental Health Moment
- Our Team and Board of Directors
- Contact Us

### Our Work By the #s

Since January 2025, The Lighthouse Child Advocacy Center has seen a total of **14 new children** following suspected abuse or neglect. Our services included:

- 16 developmentally appropriate, child-friendly, fact-finding forensic interviews
- 71 trauma-focused therapy sessions
- 19 referrals for mental health services
- 68 instances of advocacy services provided to children and families
- 515 children provided body safety education

## A Message from the Executive Director:

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the very first edition of the Lighthouse Child Advocacy Center newsletter! It is truly amazing to reflect on how far we've comefrom a small team with big dreams to a thriving center providing hope and healing to children and families in our community.

As we step into this new chapter, we are especially excited about our recent mental health expansion, which allows us to offer traumafocused therapy services to the children and families we serve. This growth is a testament to the dedication of our staff, the support of our Board of Directors, and the generosity of our community. Thank you for standing with us in this mission. Together, we are making a difference—one child at a time. With gratitude, Susan Scharf Executive Director, Lighthouse Child

**Advocacy Center** 



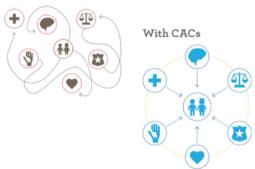
Updates from the CAC



The Lighthouse Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is a child-friendly, safe facility where child protection, criminal justice, and treatment professionals work together to investigate abuse, hold offenders accountable, and help children heal.

Without a CAC, child victims of abuse can be taken from agency to agency and endure multiple interviews, which creates additional trauma and wastes valuable resources.





### Data Report FY 2024

This past year, The Lighthouse Child Advocacy Center saw a total of **124 new children** following suspected abuse or neglect. Our services included:

- 124 developmentally appropriate, child-friendly, fact-finding forensic interviews
- 26 of the children seen at our center last year were referred to therapy
- 36 of the cases we participated in resulted in charges filed against the alleged offender
- 4335 children received body safety education



New to the CAC in FY 2024 **Mental Health Services Trauma-Focused Therapy** 

Meet our Mental Health staff!
Pictured above from left to
right: Brittany Loub,
Administrative Assistant,
Jacqueline Watkins MSW,
LGSW, Supervisory Therapist
and Lindsey Lewis MSW, LGSW,
Therapist. Mental health
services started in October
2024 and have already proven
beneficial for the children we
serve.



Community Involvement



### Wetzel County MDIT Training offered Feb 27,2025

The Lighthouse CAC hosted a vital training session for our Wetzel County MDIT members, focused on mandated reporting and best practices for conducting child abuse and neglect investigations.

This training is crucial as it equips our team with the necessary knowledge and resources to handle these sensitive cases with the utmost care and professionalism.

Thank you to WVNCC for allowing the use of their facility.

Thank you to our Outreach Advocate Rebecca Bailey for providing the Making a Difference training and Justin Craft and Carolyn Flannery from the Wetzel County Prosecutors Office for their presentations and answering questions!

Thank you to the 42 participants for your commitment to protecting vulnerable children and ensuring justice is served. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who need it the most.

## **Training Opportunities**

National Children's Advocacy Center Virtual Training Center <a href="https://ncacvtc.org">https://ncacvtc.org</a>

Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center

https://www.srcac.org/training

Midwest Regional Children's Advocacy Center

https://www.mrcac.org/edunet-webinars

Making a Difference: Mandate to Report

Rebecca Bailey, Outreach Advocate is trained facilitator, contact CAC to schedule

# THE LIGHTHOUSE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER Community Involvement

### **Mental Health Moment**



### **Fundraising Opportunity**

# GIVE A HIGH 5... DONATE \$5

**Encourage Brave WV Kids!** 



The Lighthouse Child Advocacy Center is participating in the High Five Drive for the Month of April. If you would like to donate, visit one of the following sites:

- Union Bank Sistersville & Middlebourne
- Bayer Heritage Federal Credit
   Union New Martinsville locations
- Minna's Main Street Salon
- Online: <a href="https://give.wvcan.org/">https://give.wvcan.org/</a> lighthouse

### April is Child Abuse Awareness Month





The Lighthouse Child Advocacy Center is celebrating Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention month through participation in Wear Blue Day, our #High5Drive, and pinwheel plant at multiple locations in Wetzel and Tyler Counties. Please follow us on Facebook @thelighthousecac to stay up to date on the Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Activities happening in our community!





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### **Board of Directors**

Danielle Ice- Davis, Board President Linda Leasure, Board Vice-President Marilyn Stout, Board Secretary Tammy Waggoner, Board Treasurer Katrina Byers, Board Member Joel Davis, Board Member

### Contact Us

By mail: 261 Monroe Ave. New Martinsville, WV 26155

By email: wetzel\_tylercac@yahoo.com

By phone: CAC: 304-398-2311 MH: 304-398-2313

Vist Our Website: <a href="mailto:thelighthousecac.org">thelighthousecac.org</a>

Follow us on Facebook: <a href="mailto:other.org"><u>@thelighthousecac</u></a>

#### **Our Team**

**Susan Scharf**Executive Director

**Kelsey Loy**CAC Program Director

**Rebecca Bailey**Outreach Advocate

**Breauna Knight**Family Advocate

Jacqueline Watkins MSW, LGSW Supervisory Therapist

**Lindsey Lewis MSW, LGSW**Therapist

**Brittany Loub**Administrative Assistant

To Report Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect in WV:

Call Centralized Intake: 1-800-352-6513
If an emergency: 911

