

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

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 come—from 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 trauma-focused 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

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Updates from the CAC



What is a 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.

Without CACs



With CACs



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.

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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

<https://ncacvtc.org>

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

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Community Involvement

Mental Health Moment

7 Things Mindful People Do Differently

- 1** Approach everyday things with curiosity —and savor them
- 2** Forgive their mistakes—big or small
- 3** Show gratitude for good moments—and grace for bad ones
- 4** Practice compassion and nurture connections
- 5** Make peace with imperfection—inside and out
- 6** Embrace vulnerability by trusting others—and themselves
- 7** Accept—and appreciate—that things come and go

List created by Elisha Goldstein, Ph.D., psychologist, author of *The Now Effect*

Fundraising Opportunity

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

Encourage Brave WV Kids!

#HIGH5DRIVE

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: <https://give.wvcac.org/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

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Our Team

Susan Scharf

Executive Director

Kelsey Loy

CAC Program Director

Rebecca Bailey

Outreach Advocate

Breuna 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**

