

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 **102 new children** following suspected abuse or neglect.

Our services included:

- 109 developmentally appropriate, child-friendly, fact-finding forensic interviews
- 378 trauma-focused therapy sessions
- 59 referrals for mental health services
- 238 instances of advocacy services provided to children and families
- 2,762 children provided body safety education

A Message from the Executive Director:

As we wrap up the final months of 2025 and welcome a new year, I'm deeply grateful for the continued support shown to the Lighthouse CAC. This quarter brought meaningful progress for our team, our partners, and—most importantly—the children and families we serve.

The holiday season often brings unique challenges for survivors, and I am incredibly proud of how our staff met each one with compassion, professionalism, and unwavering dedication. Because of your support, we are entering 2026 continuing to strengthen and enhance our services and further our mission of providing hope, healing, and a path forward for child abuse survivors.

Thank you for standing with us. I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

With appreciation,
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.

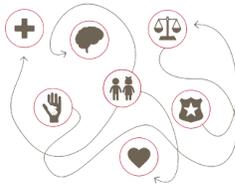
Without a CAC, child victims of abuse can be taken from agency to agency and endure multiple interviews, which creates additional trauma and wastes valuable resources.

Blessing Boxes Food Drive

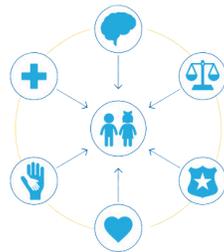
From November 17th until December 15th, the Wetzel County Courthouse hosted a holiday door decorating contest. The CAC partnered with the Wetzel County Commission to collect and distribute nonperishable food items to fill blessing boxes throughout Wetzel County. These are boxes that are set up around the community where people in need can obtain nonperishable food items at no cost.

The CAC staff and Board of Directors donated food items in addition to the items collected at the courthouse. The CAC was able to fill boxes in New Martinsville several times and filled two boxes in Middlebourne as well. The commission focused on keeping them full in Hundred and then in the Shortline area. It was a blessing to help provide food for those in our community during the holiday season.

Without CACs



With CACs



Breana and Becky celebrated work anniversaries in November and December. We look forward to many more years of them on our team!

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Updates from the CAC

CAC Mental Health Expansion Celebrated One Year of Serving Clients

October marked one year of providing mental health services at the CAC. In the first year, we have provided Trauma-Focused therapy services to 28 clients and families with over 310 sessions, which included both individual and family involvement. TF-CBT provides specialized therapy which promotes hope and healing while recovering from a traumatic event.

"When we were referred to the Lighthouse we didn't even know that resources like this existed! It's amazing that once referred as a patient the resources are little to no cost. Our son is doing trauma therapy and to get that type of counseling private would cost us hundreds of dollars! But most importantly from the moment we walked in, we knew our son was in trusted and caring hands that allow him a safe space to open up. We are very thankful for our family coordinator and therapist. They always go above and beyond in giving us resources, advice, and skills to deal with what our son and family are going through."

We are proud of all of the clients we are privileged to serve and have already had 4 clients complete their therapy journey with a reduction in symptoms and improved overall psychosocial well-being. We are excited for future clients, therapy completions, growth and successes!

Staff Day & Board of Directors Breakfast

The CAC staff and Board of Directors enjoyed a delicious breakfast and time together. The CAC staff also had their staff day following the breakfast, which included a secret Santa gift exchange and paint and sip with hot coco and holiday mocktails.

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



The Lighthouse Participated in Community Halloween Events



CAC staff participated in two Halloween events in October. Breana and Becky handed out candy during Boo at Bruce. There were approximately 540 kids and 1800 people in total in attendance! Kelsey and Becky also provided face painting to approximately 50 children at Fall Fest in Sistersville Park hosted by The Local Farmers Market. We look forward to the Halloween events each year and always have a great time!

CAC staff attends several trainings in October



Jacqueline Watkins, our Supervisory Therapist, successfully completed the Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) Therapist Certification Program!

Becky Bailey, our Outreach Advocate attended the two day North Star Fall Child Crimes Conference in Parkersburg.

Kelsey, our CAC Program Coordinator completed the online training hosted by NCAC "Interviewing Children Who Witness Violence".

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Community Involvement

No Shave for the Brave

Starting November 1st, the CAC hosted the 7th Annual “No Shave for the Brave” fundraiser to support child survivors of abuse in Wetzel and Tyler Counties. We had four participants from the Wetzel County Sheriff’s Office sign up to put their razors down and grow a beard for a great cause. The community can donate money in honor of their participant of choice. The participant with the most donations given in their name wins a trophy for “Best Challenger”. Our Facebook community then gets to vote for who they believe has the “Best Beard” and “Best Baby Face”, which is a new award for 2025. The participant with the most votes for each category also wins a trophy.

This year, Corporal Michael Owens was named “Best Challenger” and was also voted the “Best Beard” winner. Chief Deputy “Borde” Bordenkircher was voted to be the FIRST EVER winner of the “Best Baby Face” award.



A special thank you to Wetzel County Sheriff, Eric Daugherty, Chief Deputy Donald Bordenkircher, Detective Gary Glasscock, and Corporal Michael Owens for participating in this year’s No Shave for the Brave and for always being supporters of the CAC and especially of the children and families we serve.

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☀️ Will You Help a Child Take Their First Step Toward Healing? ☀️

At the Lighthouse Child Advocacy Center, every donation brings light, hope, and healing to a child in crisis.

When a child walks through our doors, their journey toward healing begins – and your generosity helps lead the way. At the Lighthouse CAC, your gift becomes more than just financial support – you offer a lifeline. You provide a voice for the voiceless, safety for the vulnerable, and hope for those who need it most.

Where Your Donation Goes:

Forensic Interviews

Support developmentally appropriate, non-leading interviews that allow children to safely share their stories – helping ensure justice and protection.

Compassionate Advocacy

Our advocates walk alongside children and their caregivers, offering guidance, emotional support, and access to resources throughout their healing journey.

Trauma-Informed Therapy & Counseling

Your donation provides professional, trauma-focused therapy sessions that help children and families process abuse, build resilience, and reclaim their futures.

Essential Resources for Families

You help meet urgent needs by funding items like food, clothing, diapers, hygiene products, birthday gifts, and transportation assistance – because healing starts with stability.

Community Education & Professional Training

Your gift helps prevent abuse before it happens by supporting education for schools, churches, and civic groups. It also trains professionals – law enforcement, teachers, medical staff – in best practices for recognizing and responding to abuse.

Advocacy & Prevention

Your generosity empowers us to partner with agencies, lawmakers, and leaders to protect children, promote prevention, and strengthen systems of care.

♥️ Your donation makes a real, lasting difference.

Because of you, a child is heard.

Because of you, a family is supported.

Because of you, healing begins.

Thank you for being part of the change.

To donate, visit <https://thelighthousecac.org/donate/>

The Lighthouse Child Advocacy Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All gifts are tax-deductible.

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Happy New Year

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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Vist Our Website:

thelighthousecac.org

Follow us on Facebook:

[@thelighthousecac](https://www.facebook.com/thelighthousecac)

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

Brittany Loub

Administrative Assistant

**To Report Suspected Child
Abuse or Neglect in WV:**

Call Centralized Intake: 1-800-352-6513

If an emergency: 911

