

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Serving: Wetzel and Tyler Counties



The LIGHTHOUSE Ledger

quarterly newsletter

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Our Work By the #s

Since January 2026, The Lighthouse Child Advocacy Center has seen a total of **56 new children** following suspected abuse or neglect. Our services included:

- 56 developmentally appropriate, child-friendly, fact-finding forensic interviews
- 277 trauma-focused therapy sessions
- 20 referrals for mental health services
- 176 instances of advocacy services provided to children and families
- 1,680 children provided body safety education

A Message from the Executive Director : Susie Scharf

As we enter the final quarter of 2026, I find myself reflecting with gratitude on all that has taken place at Lighthouse Child Advocacy Center this year. Every day, our team continues to show up with compassion, dedication, and a commitment to making a difference in the lives of children and families in our communities. This quarter has been another busy and meaningful one for Lighthouse. Our CAC team has continued providing forensic interviews, advocacy, case management, and support to children and families navigating some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable. At the same time, our Mental Health Program continues to grow as we provide trauma-focused services designed to help children and families heal beyond their initial involvement with the CAC.

One of the greatest strengths of Lighthouse is our team. I am continually grateful for the knowledge, compassion, and professionalism each staff member brings to our work. While the services we provide are important, it is the people behind those services who make the difference. Their willingness to listen, advocate, encourage, and walk alongside families is what makes Lighthouse a place of hope and support.

We are also incredibly thankful for the community that continues to stand behind our mission. From our local partners and multidisciplinary team members to our donors, volunteers, businesses, community organizations, and supporters, your investment in Lighthouse allows us to continue providing these critical services at no cost to the families we serve.

As we move into the final months of the year, we remain focused on our mission and on continuing to strengthen the services we provide. There is still much work to be done, but we are encouraged by what we have accomplished together and excited about what lies ahead.

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



CAC Staff Day

Our CAC staff spent some time together on September 16th playing a team building game and making mindfulness jars and stress-relief balloons as fun, simple tools to help manage stress and practice self-care.

Mindfulness jars are filled with glitter and liquid. When shaken, the glitter swirls around and slowly settles, providing a calming visual to focus on while taking a moment to pause, breathe, and reset.

We focused on self-care, stress relief and mindfulness for this staff day. Days like this help us reconnect as a team, stay grounded in the reason we do this work, and acknowledge that our work is very meaningful while also difficult.



Kelsey celebrated 4 years with the CAC in August and Brittany had her 2 year work-anniversary in September! We appreciate both of these ladies and look forward to many more years.



Susie and Jacqueline both celebrated birthdays and work-anniversaries! Jacqueline had her 2 year work-anniversary and birthday in July. Susie celebrated 12 years with the CAC and her birthday in August. We are so grateful for both Susie and Jacqueline and the work they do here at the CAC!

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Updates from the CAC

Mandated Reporter Training

Our Outreach Advocate, Becky, provided Making a Difference: Mandate to Report training to staff members at Wetzel County Hospital in August. This important training helps professionals understand their responsibilities as mandated reporters and recognize the signs of child abuse and neglect. We appreciate Wetzel County Hospital staff for their commitment to protecting children and keeping our community safe!

Stewards of Children by Darkness to Light

The Lighthouse CAC team completed the Stewards of Children by Darkness to Light training, a prevention program focused on empowering adults to recognize, prevent, and respond to child sexual abuse. The training utilizes a series of videos, a workbook and group discussion.

A special thank you to our Outreach Advocate, Becky, for facilitating this important training and helping our team strengthen our knowledge and skills in child abuse prevention!

If you would be interested in Stewards of Children or Mandate to Report trainings for yourself, your staff or your organization, please contact the CAC!



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

Stewards of Children by Darkness to Light

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

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Community Involvement

Summer Fun Day in Sistersville



The CAC participated in the Summer Fun Day in Sistersville on July 24, 2026. Kids enjoyed crafts, the Bubble Wagon, games, swimming, and stopping by community partners tables to learn about local area resources available. Tyler County Schools provided free lunches for this event and throughout the summer as part of the summer feeding program. This was a great day for the children and their families who attended and we are so glad to be part of this community.

Helping Students get Back-to-School Ready in Tyler and Wetzel Counties

CAC staff handed out school supplies during the Tyler County Back to School Fair sponsored by Tyler County Schools and EQT on August 4, 2026. The Back-to-School Fair has become so much more than just an event, it was a wonderful celebration to kick off the school year, bringing families, students, and our community together in the best way possible. Students receive so much more than school supplies when attending. There are dental screenings, vision screenings, free haircuts, hygiene items, school essentials, resources and helpful information shared throughout the event.



The Lighthouse CAC was part of the Back to School Splash Bash at the Lewis Wetzel Family Center & Pool in New Martinsville sponsored by [EQT Corporation](#); the Holy Name Society of St. Vincent DePaul Church in New Martinsville; and Deez Neez. Students received new backpacks, school supplies, hygiene items, resources and information. Students and families also received a free lunch and were able to enjoy a free swim day at the pool!

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Updates from the CAC

Mental Health Moment



Donor Spotlight

Thank You to Our Recent Supporters

- ★ **Champions for Children (\$1,000+)**
 - Antero Resources
 - Tyler County Commission
- ★ **Advocates (\$500-\$999)**
- ★ **Friends of the Lighthouse (\$1-\$499)**
 - Wick United Methodist Church

Intern to Full Time Therapist

We are excited to announce that Emma Richmond has officially transitioned from her role as therapist intern to full time therapist with our Mental Health Team. Emma brings energy and knowledge with her new position. She graduated with her MSW from Concord University on July 31, 2026. She also recently passed her WV Social Work LGSW licensing exam.

Emma completed Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) training while in her field placement at TLCAC and is completing this certification to bring continued support to the clients that she serves. A fun fact about Emma is that she has 4 cats, 3 dogs, and a horse. We are pleased to welcome Emma to our team.



THE LIGHTHOUSE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Community Involvement

Fuel the Burn: 8th Annual Dodgeball Tournament

The Lighthouse Child Advocacy Center is incredibly honored to have been selected as a \$25,000 recipient of the Antero Foundation's 8th Annual Oil & Gas Dodgeball Tournament Fundraiser!

We had the privilege of attending the Antero Foundation's award ceremony on September 1, 2026 and celebrating alongside the other amazing organizations chosen to benefit from this incredible event. We are deeply grateful to the Antero Foundation, Antero Resources, the tournament participants, sponsors, volunteers, and everyone who helped make this fundraiser such a tremendous success.

This generous gift will help The Lighthouse CAC continue our mission of providing hope, healing, and justice to children and families impacted by abuse in Wetzel and Tyler Counties. Being selected as a recipient is more than a financial award, it is a meaningful recognition of the work being done every day to protect children, support families, and make our communities stronger.

Thank you, Antero, for believing in our mission and investing in the children and families we serve. We are truly honored to be part of the Fuel the Burn family! And a special thank you to our community for continuing to stand behind The Lighthouse CAC. We couldn't do what we do without you!



THE LIGHTHOUSE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

☀️ 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.

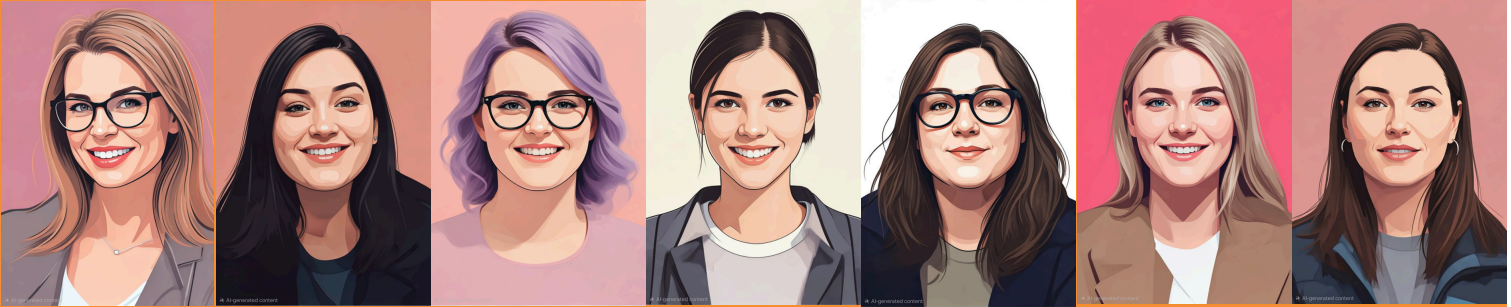
Thank you for being part of the change.

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

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

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

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Board of Directors

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Linda Leasure, Board Vice-President

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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: 304-398-2312

Visit 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

Emma Richmond

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

