



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Once again, on behalf of the New Hampshire Network of Child Advocacy Centers Board of Directors I want to express my sincere appreciation for your support and dedication to your local Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) and the children they serve.

April is *National Child Abuse Awareness Month*. It's a great opportunity for us to look at what are we doing right and acknowledge our challenges. In this stressful economy it is important to recognize that the national increase in child maltreatment paired with budget cuts across the board are a dangerous combination for our children. Our most vulnerable population stands at greater risk than ever.

The good news is this; we are one of the few states that have Child Advocacy Centers in every single county. All children in New Hampshire have access to the comprehensive and supportive services of a CAC. And these CACs have the ability to run on lean budgets and still make significant impacts on the lives of those innocent victims who are brought there. This brings me to our challenge. CACs are not state funded in New Hampshire. Most of them are relying on you, their community, to help support their work.

They can't do this without you.

As April arrives and we begin to enjoy the signs of spring, please take a moment to think about the child victims in our beautiful state that need your support. Donate your time, your funds or ideas to your local Child Advocacy Center and I guarantee you will notice the impact. I also strongly encourage you to visit your local Center, talk to the staff about the work they are doing and look at the painted handprints that are left by the children they serve. It will be an experience you will not soon forget.

Sincerely Yours,

*Kristie Palestino, MS*

Director