



Family & Children's Place

Building brighter futures.

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Agency wins Inc.credible Nonprofit Impact Award!

We are absolutely thrilled to receive the Nonprofit Impact Award in the 2015 Inc.credible Awards, a celebration of small business sponsored by Greater Louisville Inc. (GLI) and presented by Glenview Trust. Congratulations to all the great finalist organizations.

We couldn't do it without our amazing staff, donors, volunteers, board and supporters!

Thank you!



Family & Children's Place

We CAN because you ARE!

You are making FC&P thrive!

Do you ever wonder how Family & Children's Place has been able to grow and thrive in this community for more than 130 years? Because of YOU – the donor, the supporter, the volunteer.

You are what allows us to cover unexpected expenses. You are the person who shares our mission with the community. You are the one who gives your time to volunteer and cover gaps in staffing.

In short, the good work we do is only possible because we are standing on the shoulders of giants — people like you.

In gratitude, we want to share with you a few of the stories you have made possible and how you are helping fight and overcome child abuse and family violence in Louisville and Southern Indiana.

Please keep this dialogue going by joining our cam-

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aigns on Facebook and Twitter, by commenting on our blog, or by coming in to visit! We offer lunch and learn tours the first Friday of every month, and invite you to join us by calling 502-855-6158. And, as always, THANK YOU!



Trainings help shine light on reality of child abuse, provide reporting tools

Family & Children's Place, thanks to our donors, continues to lead efforts in Louisville, Ky., to inform and educate people about the prevalence of child violence, abuse and neglect, using specialized Darkness to Light trainings that teach participants

how to recognize signs and signals of sexual abuse and how and where to report it.

In the last few months, agency staff trained Jefferson County Public School elementary, middle and high school counselors, along with

workers from the system's Youth Center and Family Resource Center. Another training is scheduled soon with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Kentuckiana.

(Cont. on next page)

Trainings help shine light on reality of child abuse

These trainings are extremely important to the effort to end child abuse, especially now in the state of Kentucky where the General Assembly mandated training in recognizing and reporting abuse for all state educators and school staff," said Enrica Thomas, LMFT, CSW, and director of the agency's Kentucky-based Child & Family Services program.

Darkness to Light, a national, not-for-profit organization, certified Family & Children's Place to provide the child sexual abuse prevention training, which occurs in a workshop format.

Staff gives children peace, hope through recovery

Making children feel safe is the number one priority of staff, therapists and financial contributors of Family & Children's Place. It's a key part of treating child victims of violence, abuse, neglect and helping them recover, but that moment a child accepts, even welcomes the help and support still inspires us all.

A case occurred recently at our Shively-based supervised visitation center where a mother is working with Family & Children's Place to regain custody of her daughter, Sharon. The child is four and has been going through visits at the center with her

During the two- to three-hour program, participants learn that:

- Adults can minimize a child's risk by eliminating or reducing the chance for a one-adult/one-child situation.
- Open communication can help decrease a child's vulnerability to sexual abuse and increase the likelihood that the child will tell someone when abuse has occurred.
- The key signs of potential abuse often include sexual behavior and language that are not seen as age appropriate.

mother, under the watchful eyes of an agency therapist. Now, though, Sharon is ready to transition to visits in her mother's home, which will be supervised by another F&CP staffer.

Recognizing the need to establish a relationship and to nurture and build trust for the upcoming visits, the home-based worker, Caroline, met with Sharon to introduce herself and talk with her about how the visits would work – helping her get comfortable with the transition and in-home visits.

Another agency staffer, Shan-

Trainees also learn where to go, whom to call and how to react responsibly to suspicions or reports of abuse.

"Every day, our therapists, forensic interviewers and case-workers help children and families work through and recover from trauma caused by violence and abuse," said Thomas.

"These trainings add important eyes and ears to the effort to prevent and stop child abuse, and to ensure that we're all looking out for the safety of children."



non, witnessed the meeting and said of Caroline, "she was amazing with the child. Her level of compassion was truly strong and it was great to see that little girl lose her nervousness just by talking with her."

Caroline met the mother, too.

"I had a wonderful time monitoring this family and thought everyone should know about a family's positive story from visitation and home base workers," said Shannon.

Silence contributes to children's abuse, suffering

Silence isn't just an act of complicity, it's a cruel and conscienceless action when it contributes to the abuse and injury of a child or children, as alleged in a recent case here in Jefferson County.

According to published media reports, a wife and husband each face 20 facilitation counts of rape, incest, sodomy, unlawful transaction with a minor and use of a minor in a sexual performance. Prosecutors say the couple knew the wife's father, a previously convicted sex offender, repeatedly abused minor family members, but took no action to report or stop the abuse, which occurred in both Kentucky and Indiana.

Young father overcoming trauma to be with son

Jason is a loving father, but the trauma he suffered as a soldier during two tours in Afghanistan left him ill prepared, even two years after returning to Indiana, to care properly for his four-month-old son.

Because of "what he had to do and see in active service," Jason shows severe trauma symptoms. He also self-medicated and abused drugs to cope with the trauma-induced memories and hardships. He's proud of his ser-

Prosecutors charged the wife's father in May with multiple counts of rape, incest and sodomy against relatives who are minors.

He allegedly used "threats, physical violence and coercion" to rape one young family member, prosecutors say, and forced the minor family member while he watched.

We already know and understand that too much abuse is hidden or goes unreported due to "protecting family," guilt or shame. For too many, even talking about child abuse is as bad as the abuse itself. So they become complicit in the shaming,

vice and the chance to do his duty, but now he wants to be the father his son needs, so he's getting help from therapists at Family & Children's Place and working with Indiana's Child Protective Services to regain custody of his son.

Working with his therapist to process his trauma and to begin to navigate and conquer trauma-caused symptoms, Jason is making slow but encouraging progress.

silencing and blaming of children who've been abused.



We cannot, must not let this behavior continue to stand. Children are the most vulnerable among us. As adults we have a responsibility, and obligation to do everything – to risk everything – to protect them. We must break, even shatter the silence that too often surrounds child abuse. Children cannot stop child abuse. Adults can – we must!

He is sober and participates in Narcotics Anonymous meetings every day.

Whether or not Jason regains custody of his son remains to be seen, but he now gets to see and spend time with the boy every week and is working hard to earn the chance to have even more regular visits with him.

Jason sees recovery as his duty now and takes it every bit as seriously as he did his service.