

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 **36 new children** following suspected abuse or neglect. Our services included:

- 36 developmentally appropriate, child-friendly, fact-finding forensic interviews
- 208 trauma-focused therapy sessions
- 12 referrals for mental health services
- 127 instances of advocacy services provided to children and families
- 787 children provided body safety education

A Message from the Executive Director : Susie Scharf

The second quarter of 2026 was filled with opportunities to educate, advocate, and strengthen our community partnerships. In April, we joined Child Abuse Prevention Month activities, including our annual #High5Drive campaign, which encouraged community members to share messages of hope and support for children and families. We were also honored to speak at local churches and community organizations about the importance of recognizing and responding to child abuse.

In May, The CAC hosted our annual Multidisciplinary Investigative Team (MDIT) Training, bringing together professionals from across our region to enhance collaboration and strengthen our response to child abuse cases. We are grateful to everyone who participated and helped make the training a success.

June brought exciting news as The CAC was selected as a beneficiary of the Antero Foundation's 8th Annual Oil & Gas Dodgeball Tournament Fundraiser. This incredible opportunity not only provided valuable community exposure but also highlighted the importance of investing in services that support child victims and their families.

Throughout the quarter, our team remained focused on providing high-quality forensic interviews, advocacy services, case coordination, outreach, and trauma-focused mental health treatment while continuing preparations for National Children's Alliance re-accreditation.

As we enter the summer months, we are thankful for the dedicated professionals, community partners, donors, and supporters who help make our mission possible. Together, we continue to bring hope, healing, and justice to the children and families we serve.

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



Breana celebrated a birthday in the month of June! We wish her a year of happiness.



CAC Staff Day

The CAC staff took a staff day on June 17, 2026. We had our family staff day at our office with 17 staff and family members in attendance.

We painted flower pots and made tie-dye shirts. The kids enjoyed bounce houses and water balloons. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch and a day of relaxing and fun!

The staff day was made possible through special funding provided by The Sunshine Fund through WVCAN.

Family staff days are especially enjoyable because we get to spend time with coworkers and their families and experience one another outside of our job roles.

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

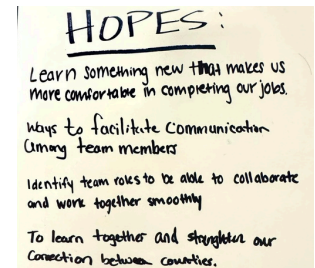
Updates from the CAC

MDIT Training

The Lighthouse Child Advocacy Center was honored to host a Multidisciplinary Investigative Team (MDIT) Training for Wetzel and Tyler Counties on Wednesday, May 20th with WVCAN Executive Director Shiloh Woodard presenting.

The training provided an opportunity for multidisciplinary team members to revisit their individual roles, strengthen collaboration, and focus on building an even stronger team moving forward in service to children and families in our communities.

We appreciate everyone who attended and contributed to the meaningful discussions throughout the day. Together, we continue working toward a more coordinated and effective response for the children we serve.



CAC staff attended the Handle With Care Conference

The Lighthouse CAC staff participated in this year's WV Handle with Care Conference—both in person and virtually!

Some of the powerful sessions attended included "Rediscovering the Beauty Within" presented by Sasha Neulinger, "Intergenerational Trauma in Appalachia" with Dr. Marianna Footo Linz, "Trauma, Resilience, and Hope: Handle with Care!" by J.H. Competing, II, and "The Science of Hope: Creating Pathways to Healing after Trauma" with Hannah Mould—along with many other great sessions!

Our team remains committed to strengthening our approach and continuing to serve our community with compassion and care.

We're grateful for the opportunity to connect, learn, and grow alongside so many others who share this important mission.



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

The CAC Spread Awareness during Child Abuse Prevention Month and hosted 4th annual High 5 Drive Fundraiser

The Lighthouse CAC was very busy in April! Highlights of the month include: participating in Wear Blue Day, posting child abuse prevention education on our social media, Wetzel and Tyler County Commissioners signed Proclamations for Child Abuse Prevention Month, displayed many pinwheel gardens throughout Wetzel and Tyler Counties, businesses had stickers, and placemats and crayons to spread awareness and our staff gave presentations to community groups and churches.

We also had our 4th Annual High 5 Drive Fundraiser with our official campaign site partners: First Community Bank in Sistersville (formerly Union Bank, Joyces' Floral Bow-K in Middlebourne, Bayer HFCU Bayer Heritage Federal Credit Union – both New Martinsville locations, Tonya's Hairitage Salon in New Martinsville. We are so incredibly grateful for the support from our community and all those who donate and spread awareness for our mission!



THE LIGHTHOUSE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Updates from the CAC

Mental Health Moment

60-Second Mental Health Techniques: At-a-Glance Comparison

Technique	Primary Benefit	Best Used When	Evidence Strength	Equipment Needed
Box Breathing	Lowest heart rate, reduces cortisol	Before a stressful meeting, after conflict	Strong	None
5-4-3-2-1 Grounding	Interrupts rumination, grounds attention	Anxiety spike, overwhelm	Moderate	None
Gratitude Prompt	Shifts emotional tone, boosts mood	Mid-afternoon slump, before sleep	Strong	Pen optional
Progressive Muscle Relaxation	Releases physical tension	After long desk work, tension headaches	Moderate	None
Mindful Observation	Induces present-moment focus	Distraction, decision fatigue	Moderate	None
One-Minute Walk	Boosts energy, breaks sedentary patterns	Mid-morning or afternoon fatigue	Strong	Comfortable shoes
Positive Affirmation	Builds self-efficacy, reframes thinking	Low confidence, before performance	Moderate	Mirror optional
Aromatherapy Inhale	Quick sensory reset	Brain fog, low energy	Limited	Essential oil

Stewards of Children by Darkness to Light



Our Outreach Advocate, Becky is now an Authorized Facilitator for Stewards of Children through Darkness to Light!

Grounded in the lived experiences of survivors, Stewards of Children® is a 2.5-hour training that features poignant storytelling and expert testimony to teach adults practical actions they can take to reduce instances of child sexual abuse in their organizations, families, and communities.

The training is one of the only evidence-informed, adult-focused, child sexual abuse prevention programs in the United States that is proven to teach adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to abuse. We are excited to begin to offer this training for community and partner agencies!

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Community Involvement

Fuel the Burn: 8th Annual Dodgeball Tournament

The Lighthouse CAC is honored to have been selected as a beneficiary of the Antero Foundation's 8th Annual Oil & Gas Dodgeball Tournament Fundraiser! Antero supports many causes and non-profits throughout the year, but the Dodgeball Tournament is focused on supporting employee-selected groups.

This incredible event was held, Friday, June 12th at Hite Field in Clarksburg, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and had just shy of 90 dodgeball teams and approximately 1000 attendees from across the region!

Not only was this a fun-filled day of competition and community spirit, but it was also an opportunity to support organizations making a difference in the lives of local families and children.

Our team was there sharing information about our mission, the services we provide, and how we work every day to bring hope, healing, and justice to children affected by abuse in Wetzel and Tyler Counties.

Thank you to the Antero Foundation for recognizing the work of The Lighthouse CAC and investing in our community. Opportunities like this are possible because of the support we receive from all of you!

Donor Spotlight

Thank You to Our Recent Supporters

★ Champions for Children (\$1,000+)

- Middlebourne United Methodist Church
- Wetzel County Commission
- Tyler County Commission

★ Advocates (\$500-\$999)

- Archer's Chapel
- Citizens Bank of New Martinsville

★ Friends of the Lighthouse (\$1-\$499)

- WVCAN
- Church of Nazarene in Paden City
- City of New Martinsville



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/>

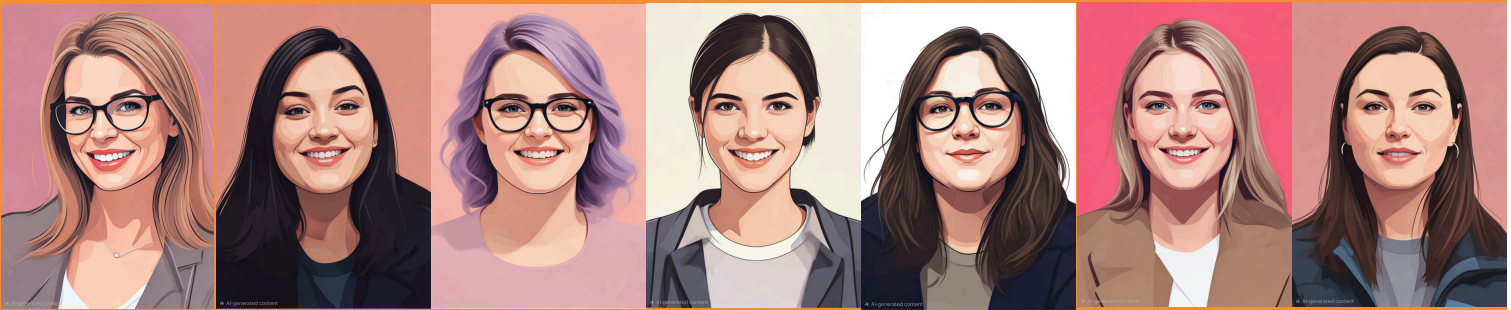
The Lighthouse Child Advocacy Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All gifts are tax-deductible.

APRIL - JUNE 2026

www.thelighthousecac.org

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Serving: Wetzel and Tyler Counties



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

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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

