

FOR KIDS' SAKE - PREVENTION MATTERS

THE PROBLEM

Much is being done to PREVENT child abuse and neglect, yet we must do more. As long as a single child is abused or neglected, this struggle cannot end.

No study can gauge the human toll that abuse and neglect inflicts on our children. Most physical injuries heal with time, but the emotional injuries can last a lifetime, leaving survivors to ask time and again: "Why was I hurt so badly by those who were supposed to love and protect me?"

There is no good answer.

The St. Clair County Child Abuse/Neglect Council, and others like it all across Michigan, are working for the day when no child has to ask that question.

Every step we take toward eliminating child abuse will improve the quality of life for children, families, and communities, and will provide a better future for all of us.

THE FACTS

- ▲ Each year in our nation, three million children are reported abused and neglected; in our state, nearly 124,000; and in St. Clair County, over 3,000 children are reported victims.
- ▲ One out of every five children will be abused or neglected by the time he/she turns 18.
- ▲ Every day, three children in America die as a result of abuse and neglect.
- ▲ Two-thirds of all reported victims are under six years old.
- ▲ Ninety percent of abusive and neglectful parents were themselves abused and neglected as children.
- ▲ PREVENTION is the key to ELIMINATION of CHILD VICTIMIZATION.

FOR KIDS' SAKE

Summer 2009

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COMMUNITY ROOF-SIT 2009

September 13-18, 2009

A newsletter published by
The St. Clair County
Child Abuse/Neglect
Council, Inc.

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It's Roof-Sit time again - this year number fifteen and we're ready to go - are you? This awesome event, sponsored by our Council, WSAQ Radio and the Birchwood Mall, has become a fall tradition in St. Clair County and we're hoping that once again the generosity of school kids, motorcycle clubs, businesses, service clubs and community child advocates will pave the way for a super successful event! In spite of tough economic times, our prevention work continues non-stop, as well as our efforts to help kids by providing a quality interviewing experience in a child friendly facility. Our services are highly valued by our professional community as a viable way to collaborate about these tragic situations and move quickly toward solutions. Without Roof-Sit, our wonderful services and state of the art facility would not be possible, as over

sixty percent of our budget each year is fundraised. The Roof-Sitter himself, Chuck Santoni, will pack his bags and ride skyward atop a Fort Gratiot fire truck aerial ladder on September 13, 2009. As always, he will be cheered upward by participants in the Walk For Kids' Sake who have accompanied him from Lakeside Park to the Mall for his five day stay. From that moment on, Chuck will become the consummate child advocate - pleading every day all day for kids' safety, well being, and right to a violence-free childhood. We invite your advocacy, too - donate, advocate, or simply cheer on a great guy working hard to support a great cause on behalf of our belief that ...

"It Shouldn't Hurt to be a Child."

Chuck and the Angels



Angel Investors are a big part of Roof-Sit each year, and Chuck Santoni is here surrounded by three "Angels" from Sam's Club, Amber Beatty, Sara Matthews, and Stacy Dawson. Sam's Club has been a generous supporter of Roof-Sit for the past three years as an Angel Investor and as such, employees have enjoyed dining with Chuck roof top and chatting during the lunch hour about

their fabulous place of employment. Once the Angels climb the foreboding stairs, make their way to Chuck's campgrounds, and overcome their broadcast jitters - they have great fun and are already looking forward to next year. Kudos to Sam's Clubs all across the state, whose employees make possible the generous support of this event - and to their gracious host - Chuck Santoni!!



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OUR STORY - 25 Years - A VISION REALIZED



In 2009, the St. Clair County Child Abuse/Neglect Council observes its 25th year of providing child abuse prevention services to St. Clair County children and families. As with all small non-profits, the journey has been long and hard fought, with thousands of volunteers donating their time, money and good will to advance their belief that...

"It Shouldn't Hurt to be a Child."

The generous support of WSAQ Radio and the Birchwood Mall has been critical in our success story, which culminated in 2007 with the opening of our new facility which houses the Blue Water Child Advocacy Center. Currently, we provide interviewing services to three to four alleged child sexual abuse victims a week in an attempt to assist area professionals in collaborative planning, while at the same time providing a family-friendly environment for the child and family. Our no cost services are offered with the intent of providing caring, professional guidance in the face of potential trauma for all concerned. Without the support of

"Alone we can do so little - together we can do so much." - Helen Keller

WSAQ, Birchwood Mall and all of you, this would not be possible.

Roof-Sit 2009 is another opportunity for you to support our work with kids and utilize the Blue Water Area Child Advocacy Center to its best advantage by continuing our services full speed ahead. The steady stream of children and families who visit our facility and the thousands who are kept safe by learning prevention strategies in St. Clair County schools thank you for your generosity.

Whether you choose to be an Angel Investor, a Star For Kids' Sake, support our Five by Five event, make a large donation or a small one, or simply listen to WSAQ 107.1 all week long - we thank you too - For Kids' Sake.

Those interested in volunteering to help with or donate to Roof-Sit 2009 can reply by mail or call (810) 966-9911.

E-mail: info@sccstopchildabuse.org

▲ Donations: St. Clair County CAN Council
P.O. Box 61-1031
Port Huron, MI 48061-1031

The St. Clair County Child Abuse/Neglect Council is located at 1107 Military St. in downtown Port Huron. Office hours are 9:00 - 4:00, M-F.

Visit our website at www.sccstopchildabuse.org
e-mail: info@sccstopchildabuse.org

COMMUNITY ROOF-SIT 2009

How you can participate in Roof Sit 2009:

- ▲ Help Chuck kick off the event by collecting pledges or making a donation and walking in the Walk for Kids' Sake, September 13, 2009
- ▲ Become an Angel Investor - \$1000, \$3000, and \$5000 sponsorships available. Details: (810) 966-9911
- ▲ Hold a special event yourself (garage sale, casual day, penny collection)
- ▲ Volunteer, buy a t-shirt, tell a friend, take up a collection - you decide, every penny helps!
- ▲ Be A Star for Kids Sake: Personalized Stars \$150 - \$250
- ▲ Support Prosecutor Mike Wendling and Sheriff Tim Donnellon in the "5 by 5 Event"

The St. Clair County Child Abuse/Neglect Council staff and volunteers will be there, as always, in the Birchwood Mall food court - hoping to see you, talk with you, and welcome your participation in the excitement Roof-Sit always generates. We are always humbled by the hundreds of men, women and children who visit Chuck and participate in friendly chatter between ground and roof.

The St. Clair County Child Abuse/Neglect Council, WSAQ Radio, and the Birchwood Mall are truly grateful for the heart-warming support local residents give this event year after year.

Let's join Chuck Santoni and give it our all - making Roof-Sit Fifteen the best ever in support of our belief that . . .

"It Shouldn't Hurt to be a Child."

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LOOKING FOR ANGELS!



Council offers a great way for area businesses and service clubs to become involved in Roof-Sit: our ANGEL INVESTORS event. We offer three levels of commitment-\$1,000, \$3,000 and \$5,000.

Each level offers unique promotional benefits during Roof-Sit week, including t-shirt advertisements, on-air promos, prominent signage at the mall, and breakfast with Chuck on the roof for the \$5,000 donors. It is a very popular and fun project for businesses and community members.

If your business or service club would like to contribute to a great cause AND receive great promotional benefits, become an ANGEL INVESTOR! Call 810.966.9911 for details. Complete information packets are available.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ▲ **September 13, 2009:** Walk for Kids' Sake - 2:00 p.m., Lakeside Park to Birchwood Mall
- ▲ **September 13-18, 2009:** Chuck Lives Roof-Top
- ▲ **September 15, 2009:** Five by Five Event
- ▲ Week long Roof-Sit Special Events:
 - ▲ Canisters - Local Retail Establishments
 - ▲ T-shirt Sales
 - ▲ Be a Star Sales
 - ▲ PREVENTION Education Display - Birchwood Mall
- ▲ **September 18, 2009:** 6:00 p.m. - Chuck Leaves Roof!

WALK FOR KIDS' SAKE

The Walk for Kids' Sake from Lakeside Park to the Birchwood Mall kicks off Chuck's roof ascent on Sunday, September 13, 2009. Pledges and donations for the walk will be accepted (but are optional) and are a great way to help Chuck before he even hits the roof! Enclosed in this newsletter is a pledge/donation envelope. The largest group registering at the park will receive two large pizzas for lunch when they reach the mall.

Chuck will tent out on the roof, rain or shine (no, he never comes down) until 6:00 pm on September 18, 2009, when he will descend and head home, weary, but once again grateful for the support of a giving community. The 2008 event raised nearly \$100,000 for the cause - let's do it again!!

Roof-Sitting can be a lonely pastime-so Chuck loves visitors - he'll chat most anytime via the land mike as he frequently hoists his bucket skyward to peek at the contents - contributions, food, and other surprises!

"Walk for Kids' Sake"



Five By Five Event



This year our Council will hold St. Clair County's top law enforcement officials hostage for a day rooftop - they will escape at 5:00 p.m. only if they have raised

\$5,000 - hence Five By Five!! Prosecutor Mike Wendling and Sheriff Tim Donnellon have agreed to sacrifice a day of crime fighting to help kids by advocating for prevention and the services provided by the Blue Water Area Child Advocacy Center. Hooray for the good guys, who will bring their lawn chairs, sun screen, down parkas and umbrellas for a day of child advocacy and fund raising! As of this writing, Five By Five is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2009.

BE A STAR FOR KIDS' SAKE

As Roof-Sit is such an important part of all we do, we wish to provide an opportunity available each year only at Roof-Sit, for donors to become a permanent part of our center. We believe that the theme "Be a Star for Kids' Sake" fits the bill perfectly. The silver personalized stars are part of a permanent display in the family waiting area of our facility, and are sold only during Roof-Sit (September and October) each year. A four-inch star will sell for \$150.00 and the six-inch star for \$250.00. This is a terrific way to celebrate or memorialize your group or loved one, and at the same time, support the belief that...

"It Shouldn't Hurt to be a Child."

Note: Plans are underway to host a dedication for both 2008 and 2009 star purchasers in the near future.



Roof-Sit 2009 is sponsored by:

