

Putting Children First

Fall 2017

Champions for Children 2017

Focus on Mental Health

**Keynote & Plenary Speakers
Announced for 10th Annual Summit**

Board Welcomes Two New Members

FREE D2L Training on November 8th

**From Victim Advocacy to
Family Advocacy**

**Community Spotlight:
Larry & MaryLouise Steinwachs**

**CHEERS for Children! returns on
October 26th**

Rising to New Challenges

Message from One Mount Hope

"I feel like my family is falling apart," said a 10 year-old girl to one of our mental health therapists. The pain and fear she expressed were not about the sexual abuse she had experienced, but rather about how deeply affected her entire family was by the abuse coming to light. No child should ever fear that their family is falling apart, and it's not hard to imagine how crushing it would be for a child to believe that something they did, said, or felt could somehow make that happen.

The impacts of child abuse are complex- not just for the child who has been abused, but for the entire family system and, in some cases, community that surrounds both the child and the offender. When abuse happens within families, the reverberations are felt for years and even generations. We cannot expect children and families to navigate this difficult terrain alone. They need, and deserve, help. As a child advocacy center, our goal is to restore trust, support healing, and deliver justice. The members of our Multidisciplinary Team are each uniquely qualified to contribute to that goal.



Deb Rosen
Executive Director

In our fall issue of "Putting Children First," you will hear a bit about our Family Advocates (formerly known as Victim Advocates) and our mental health programming. These two components of the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) work hand-in-hand to move children and families towards trust and healing. Very often families are unfamiliar or uncomfortable with mental health services. Our Family Advocates help to assess which children are in greatest need of mental health services, and then guide their caregivers towards greater understanding and acceptance of getting this help. Family Advocates and mental health therapists are then able to partner with one another to deliver truly effective services to a child at a time of great need.

Take some time to celebrate Bivona's success and the strength of the MDT – come to Cheers for Children! on October 26, 2017 at ArtisanWorks. This fantastic wine, beer, and spirits tasting event is the perfect way to unwind, visit with friends, and support the important work done by our MDT. I hope to see you there!

Thank you for partnering with us to support children's healing and restore their trust. We couldn't do it without you.

All my best,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Putting Children First, Fall 2017

Champions for Children

Jill Knittel and Lindsey Macaluso receive 2017 Champions for Children awards

Each year in September, Bivona presents two annual awards, the Diane Larter Champion for Children Award and the Team Champion for Children Award, to deserving individuals. The 2017 Diane Larter Champion for Children Award recipient is Jill Knittel and the 2017 Team Champion for Children Award recipient is Lindsey Macaluso, LMSW!

The Diane Larter Champion for Children Award is given to a community member in honor of his/her selfless dedication through community support and volunteerism. Through her involvement on Bivona's Board of Directors, including positions as Board Chair, Capital Campaign Chair, and Immediate Past Chair, as well as her work as an advocate for the rights of survivors, Jill has proven to be a true hero for children in our community. We are grateful for Jill's leadership, dedication, and commitment, and we are proud to call her a champion for children.

The Team Champion for Children Award is given to a member of Bivona's multidisciplinary team (MDT) who goes above and beyond for children each and every day. Working in two capacities on the MDT, Lindsey Macaluso guides the program team each day as Bivona's Program Manager and works with children on their path to healing as a therapist with Linden Oaks Specialized Assessment & Treatment Services (LOSATS), one of Bivona's 22 partner agencies. Her leadership on our multidisciplinary team (MDT) and compassion for the children seen at Bivona are just two of the many reasons that Lindsey is a true champion for children.

Please join us in congratulating Jill and Lindsey, Bivona's 2017 Champions for Children!



Jill Knittel

2017 Diane Larter Champion for Children



Lindsey Macaluso, LMSW

2017 Team Champion for Children

Keynote & Plenary Speakers Announced for 10th Annual Summit

Jon Dorenbos is our 2018 Keynote Speaker! As an entertainer for over 20 years, Jon is known as the NFL's "Magic Man" and recently competed on NBC's hit television show America's Got Talent. When Jon is on stage, through his unbelievable magic, he emphasizes the importance of choice and openly shares his childhood tragedy.

Françoise Mathieu, M.Ed., RP., CCC. is our 2018 Morning Plenary Speaker! Françoise is a registered psychotherapist and compassion fatigue specialist.

Dr. Joe Sullivan is our 2018 Afternoon Plenary Speaker! Joe is a registered forensic psychologist and Director of Mentor Forensic Services. Dr. Sullivan provides insights into the motivations, thoughts, and behaviors of child sex offenders.

Summit registration is now open. Don't wait! Early bird registration ends on March 26th.

Visit the event website at www.BivonaCAC.org/bivona-summit to learn more about this year's event!

Putting Children First, Fall 2017

Focus on Mental Health

Building strength from within

As the number of children seen at Bivona Child Advocacy Center continues to grow, our multidisciplinary team (MDT), comprised of experts in the field, continue to put a focus on mental health.

Bivona partners with three organizations to provide mental health services for children including Catholic Family Center (CFC), Linden Oaks Specialized Assessment and Treatment Services (LOSATS), and Villa of Hope. Together, our partner organizations work to assess and treat the children seen at Bivona, helping them on their path to healing.

Our partners also provide valuable support and guidance to parents and caregivers, allowing them to better support their child's healing. "As a child psychotherapist, I know that the seeds planted early in our lives can have a lifelong impact on our mental health," says Joe Petracca, LCSW-R, LOSATS. "Parents and the caregivers of children play the most vital role in the healthy development of their children's mental, emotional, social, and physical development."

In the next year, members of our MDT will incorporate even more tools to better help children, including trauma symptom screenings for all children who come to Bivona.

"Trauma symptom screenings for all children will assist our MDT in understanding which children are at highest risk and will allow service providers a greater opportunity to meet the needs of each child we see," says Lindsey Macaluso, Program Manager at Bivona Child Advocacy Center and Therapist at LOSATS.

Bivona is committed to enhancing mental health services and capabilities at the child advocacy center to ensure that we are able to meet the growing needs of children in our community. Visit our website at www.BivonaCAC.org/our-team/ to learn more about Bivona and our partner agencies.



Free D2L Training on November 8th!

Learn the signs to help prevent child abuse



Darkness to Light's (D2L) Stewards of Children is the only national child abuse prevention program proven to increase knowledge, improve attitudes, and change child protective behaviors. In November, the D2L Collaborative will host two free class offerings in an effort to increase prevention and awareness of child abuse in the greater Rochester community. Classes will be held at 2:30-5:30 p.m. and at 6:00-8:00 p.m. Space is limited and registration is required to attend.

Visit www.BivonaCAC.org/darkness-2-light/ to register today. Special thanks to MVP Health Care for supporting this free program!

Child care will be offered for the 6:00-8:30 p.m. session on November 8th. Visit the D2L webpage to learn more today!

Putting Children First, Fall 2017

Forever Changed

Community Spotlight:

Larry & MaryLouise Steinwachs



Larry & MaryLouise Steinwachs are volunteers and supporters of Bivona Child Advocacy Center. Together, they have been involved with the organization for over nine years - putting children first through their commitment to Bivona's mission and vision.

Thank you, Larry & MaryLouise for all that you do to help kids in our community!

How did you first get involved with Bivona?

We learned about Bivona through Jill Knittel who was hosting a local fundraising event at a salon on a Saturday about 5 years ago. Bivona was an unknown entity to us prior to that day. **We were forever changed** and deeply impacted by the necessity of the existence of Bivona. As parents, we could not remain ignorant and uninvolved knowing that so many innocent children and their families suffered and were forever changed in our own community.

Is there any particular thing that you find to be the most rewarding about your involvement with Bivona?

The opportunity to be part of Bivona has filled our hearts with hope. We are able to share knowledge, love and energy so that our kids and families have a "go-to" place to begin their healing journey without repeating their trauma. It is a genuinely warm and welcoming place for all.

As an active volunteer, do you have any advice for other people who are interested in volunteering with us?

Immerse yourself! Your time and talent is needed and so appreciated. We all have gifts to bring to the table. Share yours and realize how much love and energy is permeating throughout Bivona. Help our children and their families with healing. Bivona is not only an organization; it is a family that is forever intertwined.

What are three words you think of when you think about Bivona?

Healing, Caring, Love

Bivona's Board welcomes two new members!

Bivona Child Advocacy Center is pleased to announce the addition of Dave Halladay and Anne Wilder to its Board of Directors.

Dave Halladay is the Chief Lending Officer at Genesee Regional Bank and he has more than 20 years in banking and financial services.

Anne Wilder is the President and CEO of Coordinated Care Services Inc. (CCSI), a not-for-profit management services organization specializing in the behavioral health and human services field.

Please join us in welcoming Dave and Anne to Bivona!



Dave Halladay



Anne Wilder

Interested in volunteering? Contact volunteer@BivonaCAC.org to learn more today!

From Victim Advocacy to Family Advocacy

Bivona shifts language to reflect comprehensive service model

Article Written By: Anna Potter, Associate Executive Director

Since opening our doors in 2004, our multidisciplinary team (MDT) has made significant changes to better help children heal. While all areas of service are immensely important in the healing process, child advocacy is an especially important component to the multidisciplinary Team. Advocates represent the only discipline that stays with children and their non-offending family members throughout their experience with evaluation, prosecution, and treatment, in some cases for years. The process from disclosure to conviction can often be overwhelming and frustrating for children and families and it is the job of our advocates to explain the process to them, keep them on the path to healing, and be there for them every step of the way.

Over the last few months, Bivona has made significant changes to our advocacy services. Keeping in line with national standards from leaders like the National Children's Alliance, as well as emphasizing our commitment to providing comprehensive services to all children seen at Bivona, we have changed the title from Victim Advocate to Family Advocate. The title "Family Advocate" more clearly describes the role of the individuals who are doing this comprehensive work. When child abuse happens, it does not happen in a vacuum; it impacts the entire family, with complex effects for years to come.

"We know that the trauma of abuse has an effect on all members of the family," says Sara White-Smith, Family Advocacy Coordinator at Bivona. "The change in title speaks more to what we actually do as we try to encompass the family as a whole in our work to help ensure that children and their families have what they need throughout their path to healing."

Along with the change in title, we doubled the number of Family Advocates in our organization - a change that meets the need as caseloads and service offerings have increased. The Family Advocate role is of vital importance to the recovery of children and their families, and we expect that a more robust staffing structure will better meet the increased need. In addition, our MDT continuously evolves in order to meet new and vital standards put forth by our accrediting body, the National Children's Alliance.

We are excited for this change and look forward to furthering our mission within the community.



Anna Potter
Associate Executive Director

Together, through small acts ...

At this year's Annual Dinner, Board Chair Mark Siewert posed a simple ask to our friends; "Remember how you came to learn about Bivona, whether it was on a tour, at an event, or through a friend/co-worker. Now think of a friend who you know would be a great fit for Bivona and invite them to join you for a tour, or at an event, or just bring it up during a casual conversation. **Together, through small acts**, we can help bring the severity of this issue into the light."

Please join us and pledge to tell one person about Bivona Child Advocacy Center. We appreciate your support!
If you would like to schedule a tour, please contact Cynthia Pacia, Director of Development, at 585-935-7838.

Putting Children First, Fall 2017

CHEERS for Children!

Our favorite Fall event returns on October 26th.
Visit www.BivonaCAC.org/cheers to purchase your ticket today - we can't wait to see you!

Bivona Child Advocacy Center's 15th Annual
CHEERS FOR CHILDREN!

- we'll see you on -

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017

ARTISANWORKS • 565 BLOSSOM RD

purchase tickets online at www.bivonacac.org/cheers

Rising to New Challenges

With your support, we can help children today and prepare for new challenges ahead

For almost 15 years, Bivona Child Advocacy Center has tirelessly fought for the safety of children in our community. Today, we continue to rise to new challenges.

To make a donation, visit www.BivonaCAC.org/rise today.

Visit our website at
www.BivonaCAC.org
to make a gift today.



SAVE OUR DATES!

CHEERS FOR CHILDREN!

October 26, 2017

Register online at
www.BivonaCAC.org/cheers

ROC THE DAY

November 28, 2017

OPEN THAT BOTTLE NIGHT

February 24, 2018

10TH ANNUAL BIVONA CHILD ABUSE SUMMIT

April 26-27, 2018

J.A.F. Rochester Riverside
Convention Center

Register online at
www.BivonaCAC.org/bivona-summit

BIVONA GOLF TOURNAMENT

June 25, 2018

Bivona Child Advocacy Center

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trust. healing. justice.™

Our vision is a community where **all children are safe** and **free from abuse.**

