Life’s challenges take on many forms. What challenges have you faced recently, either at home or at work?

At the Pediatric Resource Center (PRC), one of the challenges we take on is that of talking to children about unwanted sexual acts, hurtful physical acts, and the absence of nurturing and caring acts that provide basic health and safety.

One such challenge presented itself to the Pediatric Resource Center staff at 4:00 on a Tuesday afternoon, when a detective referred a 5-year-old girl for a physical examination. She had allegedly been sexually-assaulted a few hours earlier by a teenage boy. When a referral is made within 72 hours of the occurrence, prompt evidence collection is crucial, so the PRC’s response to this referral was to tell the detective to send the child over right away. The child’s mother was visibly shaken when she arrived with her daughter. Dr. Channing Petrak and case coordinator Amanda Thomison answered the questions asked by the mom and the child before, during and after the exam. Children in this situation often ask the hardest questions one could ever hear. Questions such as, “Why did this happen to me?”, “Did I get a sexually-transmitted disease from this?”, “At a future time, when I have sex, will a partner be able to tell that this happened to me?” It is a great challenge to find answers to these and other questions that these children pose. One needs to know and give the facts while soothing hurt feelings and negative emotions.

The Pediatric Resource Center’s tagline reads “meeting the needs of abused and neglected children.” Both Dr. Petrak and Amanda Thomison were proud to help meet the needs of this little girl by providing an exam, providing emotional support during the exam, and answering questions. This is an example of one of the many challenges that present to PRC staff each and every week. This challenge was accepted and met.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

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Kay L. Saving, MD

Executive Director
Linda K. Simkins, LCSW

Case Coordinators
Stephanie Johnson
Kristin Lenover, LCSW
Amanda Thomison

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Access the Pediatric Resource Center online: prc.peoria.uic.edu
Thank you for making a difference

The staff of the Pediatric Resource Center (PRC) would like to thank all of those who contributed to our 2009 fund-raising event, *It’s A Small World After All*.

A special thank you goes to Fund-raiser Chair Theresa McCabe for her tireless efforts on behalf of our program. Theresa, along with the fund-raiser committee and volunteers, ensured that this year’s event would once again be a success. The event was held on October 2nd at the Country Club of Peoria and honored Dr. Kay Saving, medical director of the PRC. Entertainment was provided by Edith Barnard, Wes Sedrel and Bill Turner, and harpist Sydney Campen. Due to the generosity of our corporate sponsors and individual donors, more than $55,000 was raised to help abused and neglected children in Central Illinois.

My name is Shari Mulvey, MD, and I am the current Chair of the Board Membership Committee. I have had the privilege of being involved with the PRC for over three years. I am continually amazed at the wonderful work the staff of the PRC provides for our children of Central Illinois. Their dedication and commitment to every child that walks through their doors is inspiring. And meaningful.

Unfortunately, child abuse continues and our work is not complete. You can help. We are looking for motivated individuals who can help serve on our Advisory Board. A desire to help advocate for children is the only requirement. If you think you can help, please contact Carole at csiefken@uic.edu or 309.624.9594. A rewarding volunteer experience is waiting ahead.

SAVE THESE DATES

**UPCOMING 2010 EVENTS**

- August 7th - PRC Night at the Peoria Chiefs
- October 15th - PRC Annual Fundraiser
- November 28th - Holiday Concert

**YOU CAN BE INVOLVED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD ABUSE**

The Pediatric Resource Center is pleased to announce that Dr. Kay Saving has been certified in Child Abuse Pediatrics by the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP). In November 2009, approximately 200 physicians who are considered experts in child abuse treatment sat for the child abuse pediatrics certification exam, which was the first of its kind. Child Abuse Pediatrics was established as a formal subspecialty in 2006, after providers of child abuse services and pediatricians petitioned the ABP.

Dr. Saving has been the medical director of the PRC since its inception in 1993. She has seen more than 1,200 children for exams, and has spent countless hours writing reports and advocating for abused and neglected children.

A Special Note of Thanks

A special thank you goes to local musician Dan Sutton, who organized and produced the Pediatric Resource Center’s 2nd Annual All-Star Holiday Concert. The concert was held on November 29th at Bradley University’s Dingeldine Center, and featured Paul Adams, The Flying D’Rito Brothers, Flynn’s Irish Dancers, Patrick Martin, Roundstone Buskers, Riley, Sutton, Locke & Hackney, the St. Martin Chamber Players, and Mike Yocum. All of these artists gave generously of their time and talents, and all funds raised help support programs for abused and neglected children in Central Illinois. Thank you to all of those who performed at the event and to those who attended. Without the support of the people in our community, we would not be able to provide the special services our patients need.
Pediatric Resource Center Donors...... Thank you for your support

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It is our desire to have a complete list of donors. If we have inadvertently omitted you, please accept our apologies. Thanks for your assistance and understanding.
There is no doubt that the past year was challenging for organizations on all levels. The global recession led to budget tightening in both the private and public sectors. This directly impacted the agencies that those sectors and their employees fund. The Pediatric Resource Center (PRC) was not immune to these challenges as corporate donations were down from previous years, and the State continues to have financial pressures and constraints that adversely impact the service providers they fund. Additionally, the PRC experienced a nearly 25% increase in the number of children that received exams and consults, which means the PRC does more with less resources.

However, despite the challenges of the past year, I am pleased to report that the PRC entered and ended 2009 on solid footing thanks to all of you who continue to support the PRC, the Community Advisory Board, and the tireless efforts of the committed staff. Indeed, the staff at all levels performed extra duties and extended their hours when necessary in order to make a positive impact on and accommodate the needs of the children and families they serve. In particular, I would like to extend congratulations to Dr. Kay Saving. She has served as the medical director of the PRC since its 1993 inception, and she recently passed her board exam to become certified in Child Abuse Pediatrics, the first time that certification has been offered. The combined work of the entire staff has made the PRC a true resource to not only the 40-county community it serves, but also to other similar agencies throughout the state. The commitment of the staff to the well-being of those they serve provides inspiration to the Community Advisory Board as we work with all of you to support the PRC.

With your continued support, we can work to make sure the PRC remains on a sound foundation. Despite the challenges that still exist with the budget tightening in the private and public sectors, we can help make 2010 another successful year for the PRC. I hope that you will join us in observing Blue Ribbon Month in April by perhaps participating in Corporate Casual Day or helping spread awareness of child abuse prevention. Additionally, you can mark your calendars for the August 7th Chiefs game and our annual fundraiser on October 15th. You can also talk to your state legislators about the importance of the PRC and the stewardship it shows to the State funding it receives. Finally, you can make a direct financial contribution to this remarkable organization.

Kip McCoy, President, Pediatric Resource Center Community Advisory Board

From the Community Advisory Board