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Hope for Kids Gauga

CHANGING HURT TO HOPE!

ISSUE ONE



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Hope for Kids Geauga is celebrating it's first year in it's expanded role in the community. It was originally established as Friends of CASA for KIDS in 2001 to support the needs of abused / neglected children involved in Geauga County Juvenile Court.

The Friends of CASA board became aware of many other children experiencing trauma due to family issues, who were not involved with the court. Therefore, the decision was made in January 2017 to change our name to Hope for Kids Geauga (H4K) and expand the mission of the organization.

Over the past year, H4K has donated over \$31,000 to help provide kids with normal childhood activities which has enhanced their lives. These experiences have helped to promote the social, emotional, physical and cognitive development of kids who have been identified as abused, neglected or at risk. Without these experiences these kids lack the soft skills that are so important

in their everyday lives.

Without the support from H4K, many kids would not have the opportunity to have normal childhood experiences that so many take for granted. This helps these kids break the cycle of dysfunction. H4K has paid for such things as: camps, tutoring, pay to play sports, hair cuts, art classes, prom, school trips and much more.

Hope for Kids currently has formal agreements with Geauga County Job and Family Services-Child Protective Services and Special Services, and the Geauga Family First Council to fund the needs of abused / neglected children or children identified as at-risk and served by Geauga County agencies.

**WITH MORE FUNDS WE CAN
EXPAND OUR REACH!!**

GEAUGA COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Child Protective Services philosophy is that children belong in families. They believe that a child should remain at home while services are provided to stabilize the family. If a child cannot live safely at home, arrangements are made for an appropriate relative to care for the child for as long as necessary. If an appropriate relative is not available, the child will go into foster care or other placement. In every case, the safety of the child is the main concern and responsibility. They also believe in permanence for children. Children need stability and they need and deserve permanence. If the family crisis in a birth family cannot be resolved, it is the responsibility of Child Protective Services to seek an alternative, permanent family for those children in a timely manner. Geauga County Child Protective Services investigated 505 abuse and neglect referrals in 2017.

APRIL

National Child Abuse
Prevention Month



**Be part of a strong,
nurturing community
that is supportive of
families and plays a
role in preventing child
abuse and neglect and
promoting child and
family well-being.**

H4K funding helps provide a Sensory Room for a child dealing with rage

BreeAnna is seven years old and in first grade. She is currently placed in the care of her great-aunt. Bree has been involved with Child Protective Services for nearly two years. The agency became involved with Bree after her mother became homeless and could no longer care for her. Her mother had dropped her off at her father's home with no clothing, birth certificate or insurance card. She and her father had no relationship prior to this. Other allegations were that her father was using marijuana daily. Bree was in need of medical care upon removal from her father's home. Prior to Bree's placement with her aunt she had lived in two separate foster homes but her behavior was difficult to manage and these placements disrupted. Bree suffers from *RAD (Reactive Attachment Disorder) she has severe tantrums and rages that are out of her control. She is learning about boundaries and emotional regulation in therapy. The **calm room helps her when she is feeling out of control because there are so many sensory things for her to gain tactile, visual, and auditory stimulation from. This helps to redirect her and calm her down faster. Her caregiver is then able to communicate with her about her feelings in the moment. Bree's aunt also happens to be the director of a mental health agency. She is familiar with mental health interventions. She and Bree's occupational therapist came up with the

idea of having a space just for Bree that she could go to filled with sensory items. The aunt did all the research and asked the caseworker to help find funding. The caseworker reached out to Hope for Kids knowing that she was asking for a lot, but she strongly felt this was important to Bree's well-being and to the stability of her placement. The calm room has been a blessing and Bree utilizes this space frequently.

**RAD is a rare but serious disorder in which an infant or child does not establish healthy attachments with parents or caregivers. RAD may develop if the child's basic needs for comfort, affection and nurturing are not met.*

***A calm room or Sensory Room, is a specially designed room which combines a range of stimuli to help individuals develop and engage their senses. These can include lights, colors, sounds, sensory soft play objects, aromas all within a **safe** environment that allows the person using it to explore and interact without risk .*



Save the Date



Monday, August 6, 2018

18-Hole Scramble benefiting



Hope for Kids
Gauga

Chagrin Valley Country Club in Moreland Hills, Ohio

1 pm Shotgun Start

A day of golf, dinner and fun to raise funds to benefit abused, neglected and at-risk children of Geauga County.

An invitation and sponsorship information will be emailed soon.

Like and follow us on facebook at **Hope for Kids Geauga**

Visit our Website at : www.HopeForKidsGauga.org

Email us at: HopeForKidsGauga@gmail.com

Mail to: **Hope for Kids Geauga P.O. Box 21, Novelty OH 44072**