

Project Harmony a model for all Child Advocacy Centers

Omaha, Neb. – Project Harmony is leading the way for all Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) across the country with strong multidisciplinary teams. The coordination and success of these teams is a model other states are actively seeking out. Gene Klein, Project Harmony Executive Director, has been invited to speak to the New York State Child Death Review Team on Monday, September 21, after New York State representatives heard him speak in Dallas a few weeks prior on the level of engagement and collaboration established among the multidisciplinary teams at Project Harmony.

Project Harmony is home to 13 multidisciplinary child abuse/neglect investigative and treatment review teams consisting of law enforcement, prosecution (state, city, and county) social services, medical and referral professionals. Nebraska Statute requires CAC coordination for all children involved in:

- Serious Bodily Injury
- Child Death
- Sexual Abuse
- Witness to Violent Crime
- Sex Trafficking
- Life Threatening Neglect

“This collaborative approach strives to ensure children are not further victimized by the systems intended to protect them,” said Klein. “Last year Project Harmony provided services to 2,500 children and by the end of this year we are predicting 3,500 children will need our services. It is our mission to protect and support children and in doing so we need to talk to each other, work together and share information in order to respond efficiently and effectively to child abuse.”

Founded in 1996, Project Harmony was the first Child Advocacy Center in the state of Nebraska and one of 32 in the country. Today, there are seven Child Advocacy Centers in the state and 850 centers throughout the country serving 350,000 children collectively each year.

Project Harmony is one of the largest Child Advocacy Centers in the nation. This is not due to an overwhelming volume of child abuse, but due to the level of collaboration that comes together to address the issue – collectively.

ABOUT PROJECT HARMONY

Project Harmony is a nonprofit, community-based organization that has served more than 25,000 children during the past 19 years by providing a child friendly environment in which specially-trained professionals work together to assess, investigate, and resolve child abuse cases. In one centralized location, Project Harmony co-houses with Omaha Police Department Child Victim/Sexual Assault Unit, Nebraska Health & Human Services/Child Protection Service Initial Assessment and Child Abuse Hotline, Lutheran Family Services and Child Saving Institute. Project Harmony exists to protect and support children, collaborate with professionals and engage the community to end child abuse and neglect.

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