



March News 2023

*A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Nicole McNeely*



The last 5 months have been some of the most eye-opening times in my life as I learn more about the horrifying and harsh treatment that our community's children face every day. I cannot help but feel that there is more to be done to help these children. I continually ask, "How can we prevent child abuse from happening here?" "How can we give children the power to speak up?" "How can we help those that have been through so much?" Sadly, there is no quick or easy answer. I've found that the solutions to these problems are extensive and will require time and effort. Not all is lost, however.

Creating a program that helps guide and teach new parents on how to care for a new baby and what to do when they feel overwhelmed, is a good place to start. From there, give the younger children in our schools the tools and vocabulary they need to talk about things that are happening to them that are not acceptable. And for those who slip through the cracks, send them a caring adult, and let them know that they have someone in their life that loves them and will be there for them through it all. This is how we face the problems of child abuse in Nevada County and that is the mission of Child Advocates. Healthy Babies, Child Safety Puppeteers, and Court Appointed Special Advocates, as important as one of these programs is on its own, all three are what is needed for the health and safety of our children.

Wondering about the puppeteers? Child Advocates is happy to extend a warm welcome to our NEW Puppeteer Program Assistant, Julia Morton.



Julia is a Nevada County local who attended Nevada Union and Sierra College. Studying Social & Behavioral Sciences. In her spare time Julia enjoys Mountain biking, hiking, and traveling with her husband and two young children. Julia is passionate about helping the children in her community who need it the most. Over the next few months, Julia will be reinvigorating the program with a focus on in-person events. She will be working with area schools and administrators and bringing the puppets back into the classrooms. We are excited to welcome her to the Child Advocates team!

Healthy Babies

Our Home Visitor Program
has had a very busy quarter!



HEALTHY BABIES RECEIVED ACCREDITATION FROM HEALTHY FAMILIES AMERICA THIS JANUARY

The [Healthy Babies](#) accreditation process occurs every five years; however, planning and preparation are initiated approximately 18 months to two years prior. During the accreditation preparation phase, all policies and procedures are verified and revised and files are reviewed for required paperwork details completed on newly revised forms (in English and Spanish).

This past accreditation involved revising our policies and procedures to meet the new standards released by HFA first in July 2021 then revised again in January 2022 and February 2022. In addition to the revision of the HFA standards, HFA provided spreadsheets and new forms and processes for some of the required elements of the program. This required learning the forms, creating new processes, and working with spreadsheets to migrate data from all of the sources into the HFA documents. The team quickly stepped into action to learn the new screening processes utilizing the new assessment form, learned the scoring, and stepped into the new flow for transitioning families from intake to home visiting services. There were many changes to the program and the team did a fantastic job of pivoting and shifting to learn and integrate the new processes and standards.

The actual review was spread over three days, beginning on a Sunday during the last week in January. All of the data was reviewed prior to Sunday. Files of our processes and policies and procedures were reviewed with scrutiny. The evaluation continued on Monday with interviews

with the staff, the program Community Advisory Board (CAB), and a review of other program details. Tuesday completed the review process with interviews with our families and an exit interview. After the family interviews, the families had time to play with their children, eat salads and pizza, and mingle with their home visitors.

The final site visit day also included an exit interview and a wrap-up meeting by the review team providing their initial impressions and explaining next steps. They stated we passed the accreditation process with no need to redo anything or face the review panel. We are very pleased with the team's hard work and to have accomplished a great deal in a short amount of time.

Fundraising and Donating

Child Advocates Sees Candy Spring Online Store is now OPEN thru March 24, 2023.

[Click Here to Purchase](#)





Order your Easter Candy in March for an Easter delivery April 9th! Hop on over and don't delay...

[Click HERE to Donate!](#)

Is candy not your thing but you would still like to help? Donate here today and help support a child in Nevada County. Thank you for caring about the children.

Events and Upcoming Engagements

Child Advocates

OPEN HOUSE

***WE HAVE RESCHEDULED TO WEDNESDAY MARCH 29 FROM
3:30 PM – 6:00 PM.***

Please stop in to meet our staff and tour our offices.
Refreshments will be available.



**March 29th
9am-1pm**

Briar Patch Food Coop Patio



**April 8th
12pm-2pm**



**April 22nd-23rd
10am-4pm**
The Union's

Come talk to one of our
program managers or learn
more about Child Abuse
Prevention Month!

*Child Abuse Prevention
Council Community
Appreciation BBQ*

Here is your chance to see the
magic of the Child
Safety Puppeteers in action!
Show starts at 1pm.

Home and Garden Show

Our booth will be handing out
pinwheels for prevention and
raising awareness.
Admission is FREE!