



Building  Promise

*“Although the world
is full of suffering, it is full
also of overcoming it.”*

- Helen Keller

Building Promise

*Each day at CARE House brings
a new story of a child’s fear and
suffering. Whether the report comes
from a police agency, child protective
services, or an emergency room,
each report is different and each
represents the face and voice of
a child in need.”*

Libby Nicholson, Director, CARE House

***Kids deserve
a childhood free
from the pain
of abuse.***

Each day, 13 children are reported abused or neglected in Montgomery County — 13 children who have to relive their nightmare as they tell their painful story to those who will and need to listen. It’s for the worst of these cases that CARE House exists and it’s for these children that we need to provide a place safe from harm—a place where the smallest voices can be heard and abused and neglected children can begin to heal.

CARE House is such a place. It is where physically and sexually abused kids only have to tell their painful story once. A multi-disciplinary team of specially trained social workers, doctors, child protection workers, therapists, attorneys, victim advocates and detectives from all law enforcement agencies in Montgomery County work together to ensure these abused kids don’t fall through the cracks. It’s the promise of CARE House, a children’s advocacy center.



*CARE House is a
community
collaborative –
we all play a part
in ending the
cycle of abuse*



Mathias H. Heck, Jr.

As your Prosecuting Attorney, I have handled countless cases of child abuse over the years, each one tragic for the child involved. CARE House, our local Children's Advocacy Center, was opened in 1999 to provide hope and healing for these victims in Montgomery County through a coordinated and effective team response. Professionals from the Dayton Police Department, as well as other police departments in our county, Dayton Children's, Children's Services, the Prosecutor's and Sheriff's offices work together at CARE House to hold offenders accountable while ensuring that child victims receive the medical and mental health care they need.

CARE House has served over 6,000 child abuse victims from all walks of life and throughout the county.

CARE House is funded by public and private supporters. With an increasing number of children needing help, CARE House has outgrown its building and is in need of a new facility to be located on Dayton Children's campus, that will better serve these child victims. This facility will cost \$2 million. We need your help to reach our goal.

Daily, I see firsthand the many benefits of CARE House, our nationally accredited Children's Advocacy Center, through better investigations, more prosecutions, and reduced trauma to victims. National studies have shown that centers, such as CARE House, are very cost effective, saving their communities on average 36% of the cost of traditional investigations.

I invite you to join me in this important opportunity to better serve those children in our community who need it the most by contributing to this campaign to build a new home for CARE House.

Very truly yours,

Mathias H. Heck, Jr.
*Prosecuting Attorney
Campaign Chair*

**Children's
advocacy centers
save communities
an average 36%**



Building Promise

What is a children's advocacy center?

Within a children's advocacy center, representatives from many disciplines—law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical and victim advocacy – work together to reduce the trauma young victims experience with a confusing system. The benefits of a children's advocacy center are:

- ▶ Consistent and fast follow-up to abuse reports
- ▶ Medical and mental health referrals that more effectively help the child
- ▶ A reduction in the number of interviews a child must undergo
- ▶ Increased successful prosecutions
- ▶ Community education and outreach to help stop the cycle of abuse
- ▶ Consistent and compassionate support for the child and family

Since opening its doors in 1999, CARE House has provided services for more than 6,000 abused kids.

History of CARE House

Established in 1999, CARE House came about as a result of a review of the child protection system by a community task force led by Brother Raymond Fitz, S.M. The conclusion of the task force was that children were receiving fragmented services and were being further traumatized by the very system designed to protect them. Modeled after the original children's advocacy center established in 1985 in Huntsville, Alabama, CARE House is a child-focused, facility-based program that provides a centralized, coordinated response to outcries of abuse.

The CARE House mission is to provide a team response to child abuse through prevention, intervention and advocacy. Founding partners of the advocacy center include Dayton Children's, Dayton Police Department, Montgomery County Department of Jobs and Family Services-Division of Children Services, Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office, and Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. First signed in 1997, an interagency agreement includes as signatories the chiefs of all 33 law enforcement jurisdictions in Montgomery County.

Today, more than 700 children's advocacy centers have been admitted as full or associate members of the National Children's Alliance, the children's advocacy center accrediting agency. CARE House has been an accredited member of the National Children's Alliance since 2000.



The Need

The current CARE House facility is more than 100 years old, located across the street from Dayton Children's. Although the facility has a very charming character, it simply can no longer efficiently accommodate the number of children and families that come through its door each day.

Unfortunately, the number of children seen at CARE House keeps growing every year. The 4,797 cases of abuse reported in Montgomery County in 2010 represented a 16.2 percent increase from the previous year.

Our Vision

We are embarking on a \$2 million campaign to build a new children's advocacy center for Montgomery County. The new CARE House will be located on Valley Street on Dayton Children's campus. The new center will double its current size and will include:

- ▶ A charming covered front porch to welcome families
- ▶ A warm and cozy reception area where kids feel safe
- ▶ Two sound-proof, child-friendly interview and observation rooms for forensic interviews
- ▶ State-of-the-art recording equipment to capture a child's story
- ▶ An inviting kitchen filled with snacks and juice boxes for every child
- ▶ Dedicated mental health treatment rooms to ensure kids start the healing process
- ▶ A multipurpose room for group therapy and support groups
- ▶ A playroom geared for kids of all ages
- ▶ A case review room for partner agencies to discuss every case and ensure that no child falls through the cracks
- ▶ Space for community education and outreach
- ▶ Office space for each of the partner agencies so they may continue this important work

Ways to Give

Your tax-deductible gift will keep the promise to our kids that there will be place where they can be safely heard. Pledges can be paid over a three-year period and may be paid in cash, securities or other personal property.

Because Dayton Children's is the fiscal agent for CARE House, please make checks payable to "Dayton Children's" and write "CARE House Campaign" in the memo section. Gifts of \$1,000 or more will be recognized on our donor wall. Naming opportunities are also available.

We hope you will consider helping us build this new center – a promise to all children in our community that we will provide the collaborative care they need.

C A R E

Collaboration

Working together to help ensure children are kept from further harm

Advocacy

Voicing the need for change to stop the cycle of abuse

Response

Providing an immediate comprehensive response to child abuse victims

Education

Educating the community to better recognize, respond to and prevent child maltreatment



Building **A** Promise

By the numbers — 2010

Ethnicity

Caucasian — 379 (62%)
African American — 190 (31%)
Other — 30 (5%)
Hispanic — 7 (1%)
Asian — 2 (1%)

Gender

Females — 394 (65%)
Males — 214 (35%)

Total number of children served

608

Age of Child

0-6yr — 281 (46%)
7-12yr — 216 (36%)
13-18+ yr — 111 (18%)

Type of Abuse

Sexual — 516 (84%)
Physical — 58 (10%)
Neglect — 9 (1%)
Witness — 26 (4%)
Other — 3 (1%)

Child sexual abuse prevention

61 trainings
935 participants

Forensic interviews conducted at CARE House

512

Shaken baby syndrome prevention

18 trainings
325 participants



**Please tell us how you would
like to build a promise to
our kids by contacting
Dayton Children's
development staff at
937-641-3405.**



CARE House is conveniently located across from Dayton Children's.

741 Valley Street • Dayton, Ohio 45404

937-512-1670

937-512-1675 Fax



www.thecarehouse.org