



ABC House

The Child Abuse Intervention Center Serving Benton & Linn Counties

June 2020 Newsletter



At ABC House, we are so grateful to have big-hearted friends like **you!**

Read on to learn more about the impact **your** giving makes!

YOU make it possible for youth like Miranda to receive emergency care day or night!

Child abuse doesn't stop during times of crisis; right now at-risk children are more vulnerable than ever. With school closed due to the coronavirus and her mom still reporting to work, 13-year-old **Miranda was living in a nightmare.** For months her stepfather had been touching her body and threatening her if she told. **Now trapped at home** with him, the sexual abuse drastically increased in both frequency and severity.

Frightened about becoming pregnant after the last assault, Miranda found the courage to tell her mom what had been happening.

Miranda's mom was stunned that her teenage daughter was being sexually abused in her own home by someone she loved and trusted. After reassuring Miranda that everything was going to be okay, she called the police. The police contacted their local hospital requesting a forensic medical exam but there was no Children's Advocacy Center serving their area. Knowing the clock was ticking to collect forensic evidence, the **hospital staff reached out to ABC House for help.**

Miranda and her mom drove several hours to Albany for an emergency exam by an ABC House physician. Dr. Chervenak met them in the middle of the night at our local sexual assault center, Sarah's Place, to do the exam. **Miranda received immediate care with a complete forensic medical exam and full health check-up** including testing for pregnancy and STDs.

Two weeks later **Miranda returned, this time to ABC House for follow-up medical care.** Dr. C. went over Miranda's lab tests with her, reassuring her that her results were normal

and that she was going to be alright. **An ABC House Family Support Advocate is working to help Miranda find trauma counseling in her area so she can continue to heal.** Thanks in part to the evidence collected, Miranda's abuser was arrested.

At ABC House, stories like Miranda's are not uncommon. For many children, home is not a safe place. **Isolated, without our community's normal safety nets, children are facing their abusers alone.**

Right now, your support is more important than ever. With your help, children impacted by abuse will get the help they need. Your donation will help a child who is facing the scariest time of their life.

Thank you for making 24/7 emergency services available for children in immediate danger. You make it possible for youth like Miranda to receive emergency care when it's needed most. Thank you again for making a difference!



Jenny Gilmore-Robinson
Executive Director

At ABC House, we respect everyone who comes to us for help. So while their stories are true, client names and images have been changed to protect their privacy. Thank you for understanding.

Meet Our Newest Team Members!

Terea Johnson, Intake Specialist (left)

After 35 years in law enforcement, I recently moved to Oregon to be with my aging parents and my daughter who never left after attending OSU. Go Beavs! I feel so blessed to be part of such a wonderful team and to be working for such a meaningful organization.

Trish Mehl, Billing & Coding Specialist (middle left)

I love the outdoors, gardening, hiking, camping, and cooking and eating! I graduated from OSU, and I have been involved in insurance billing for over 15 years. I also have served on a nonprofit board in Southern Oregon and volunteered with equine therapy. I believe in supporting and giving back to our communities.



Hung Le, Family Support Advocate (middle right)

I recently graduated from OSU. Before that, I was an ABC House Family Support Intern. I love cooking, working with children and watching movies/series. I'm excited to be able to work with such wonderful people!

Rebecca Simmons, Community Prevention Coordinator (right)

I love working at ABC House because not only is everyone incredibly supportive and a hoot to work with, but they're really committed to our mission of supporting children and families. In my free time I enjoy camping, cooking, reading, walking dogs as a volunteer at Heartland Humane Society, and hanging out with my sassy, short-legged munchkin cat Pickle!



YOU can take action to end child abuse by attending a FREE virtual training!
Details at www.abchouse.org/resources

Celebrate Hope

Celebrate Hope 2020 presented by Town & Country Realty was cancelled due to COVID-19. Thank you to our generous community members and sponsors for your support during this difficult time! With your help, we were able to raise over \$120,000 in lieu of the event! Please visit our website to see a list of our wonderful donors.

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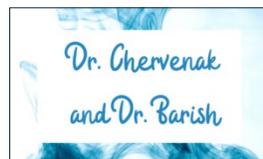


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