



Dear Neighbor,

In this edition of The Allentown Advocate, we look at some of the excellent programs in our community that benefit children and families. In particular, we will feature a coalition dedicated to improving the safety of children.

I am pleased to report that the Governor recently signed into law a measure that will provide in-home help for at-risk parents.

Under House Bill 200 (Act 23 of 2006), also known as the "Ounce of Prevention Act," new parents could receive counseling and guidance on a voluntary basis. I proudly served as the author of and Republican prime sponsor of Senate Bill 732, which mirrored the language of HB 200. I was very pleased to see this important legislation move quickly through the legislative process.

Research shows that comprehensive early home visitation programs prevent child abuse, develop positive parent-child interactions, help the brain development of the child, provide long-term savings in both public and private health care costs and avoid future social problems.

In addition to addressing child abuse, such programs help to ensure families' social and medical needs are met and that children are ready for success in school. We have all heard the old adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The same could be true for child abuse and neglect.

Programs currently providing home visitation services include, but are not limited to, these organizations: Nurse Family Partnership, Health Families, Family Centers, Early Head Start & Parents and Teachers. These programs would be eligible for grant funding under this legislation.

As always, if you have questions about any state issue, call my Allentown District Office at (610) 821-8468 or visit my website at www.senatorbrowne.com.

Sincerely,

Pat Browne

A Report From Senator Pat Browne

Allentown Advocate

June 2006

CACLC Cares for Young Victims

"Children are the conscience of a community." These words are part of a quote used in the brochure for the Child Advocacy Center of Lehigh County (CACLC), an organization that serves victims of child abuse. Having stated that, let me now emphasize the word serve and get into more detail about what they really do.

Through the use of an approach created by U.S. Congressman Bud Cramer in 1985, CACLC provides a safe and comfortable environment where children receive collaborative and time-coordinated services from law enforcement bureaus and other agencies mandated by law to investigate and intervene in reports of child abuse.

The importance and success of this approach lies in the coordination of qualified professionals, responding to the needs of abused children and their families in an environment created to reduce the trauma caused by the investigative process and provide them with the on-going support necessary to encourage a healing process.

The CACLC was the vision of a task force that first convened in 1997 and, after years of research and the development of by-laws, inter-agency agreements and protocols, opened its doors in January 2001. Barbara Stauffer, Executive Director of CACLC and a founding member of the task force, believes the centralization of the various services fosters an environment of safety and significantly reduces the suffering many children experienced when having to tell their stories over and over.

This style promotes a process and a place that puts the needs and well-being of children first. It also allows for a comprehensive approach, including follow-up services, thus ensuring that CACLC can and does put the needs of their clients first.



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Books and toys are key to helping young victims cope.

For more information, call the Child Advocacy Center of Lehigh County, 740 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18101; 610-770-9644; www.caclc.org

"Children are the conscience of a community. The care and attention given to an individual child becomes the most elegant measure of a community's regard for itself."

David Westbrook

Within the City Lines By Lee dePaula

Many years ago, while working for an agency that provided services to families affected by Domestic Violence, I came across a children's booklet entitled "Good Touch / Bad Touch." The booklet contained age appropriate information and, just as important, it provided me with the basic skills to overcome my own discomfort and uncertainty on how to educate and protect my own daughter, who was two at the time.

That was 17 years ago and the issue of child abuse was still falling under the radar screen in our society.

Fast forward to 2006 and protecting our children has emerged as one of our nation's most pressing issues. Laws that have been passed have gotten a lot tougher and focus on stricter management of sexual offenders. Unfortunately, and sadly,

many of them have come from the tragic ending of innocent lives.

Along with tougher laws and through the use of collaboration and coordination, many communities now have Children's Advocacy Centers, which provide a child-friendly environment, specifically created to reduce the trauma of all forms of child abuse.

The Child Advocacy Center of Lehigh County is such a place and as a resident of the city of Allentown, I applaud their dedication and commitment to children and I thank them for their ongoing efforts to educate and empower, not only children, but also communities.



Community Day set for July 25

Summer time and the living is easy. So it's the perfect time to bring your entire family Bucky Boyle Park in Allentown on Tuesday, July 25 from 3-7 p.m. for a fun and festive event that features great food, your favorite refreshing beverages, games for the kids and all sorts of educational opportunities.

Casa Guadalupe has organized a Community Day that spotlights health care, after-school, summer and government programs and a wide variety of activities. This event is offered free-of-charge.

Please contact me at (610) 821-8468 with any ideas or suggestions you may have for future newsletters.

State Senator

Pat Browne

16th District



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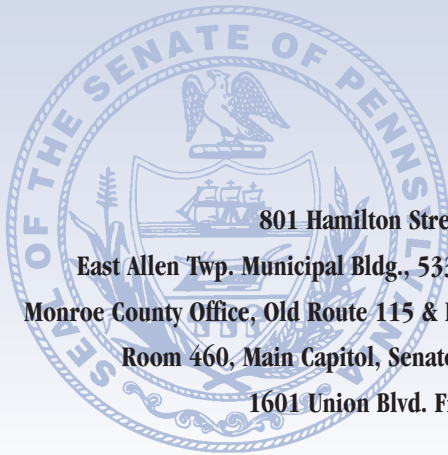
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