

EPCC NEWS

Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center
Volume 15, Issue 1
January 2015

The Joint Commission Accredited
Medicaid Certified
"Helping Kids SOAR"



Are We Doing Our Best?

It is the policy of EPCC to handle all concerns/questions in a timely manner.

If you have concerns or questions about patient rights, quality of patient care or safety, or ethical issues, contact:

EPCC's management at 812-477-6436.

If concerns or questions cannot be resolved at the EPCC management level, you may contact:

Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction, Consumer Services or

Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Phone - 1-800-901-1133
TDD - 1-317-232-7844

Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services

1-800-758-5264.

If concerns or questions cannot be resolved at one of these levels, you may contact:

The Joint Commission

Phone - 1-630-792-5800
Web site - www.jointcommission.org

The Joint Commission is a voluntary accreditation program whose mission is to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public through provision of health care accreditation and related services that support performance improvement.

The Joys of Christmas

Christmas was joyful and bright for the children—with the help of many groups and individuals.

Area groups and individuals—(including but not limited to) Northside Kiwanis, Junior Mental Health Association (JMHA), Christian Motorcyclists Association, Olivet Presbyterian, UE Art Therapy, Holy Rosary, 911 Gives Hope, St. Ben's, Bible Center Cathedral Choir, Sunshine Homemakers, Paradise Homemakers, Christian Fellowship Small Group, The Pest Experts, Neeley Koester, VUJC Student Nurse Organization, Dawn Hurlbut, Debbie Sale, Jeanne Crow, Emilio Delgado, Ryan Houston, George Houston, Carolyn James, and Shirley Hankins provided parties, activities, and/or gifts for the children.

Activities included parties, visits from Santa, crafts, caroling, quilt-making, and a Nativity play. Children also

participated in Secret Santa shopping for their parents/family members (event sponsored by JMHA).

Donations included (but were not limited to) individual and group (dorm) gifts, pajamas, hats, gloves, DVDs and players, iPads, iPods, Xbox/ games, bicycles, books, roller blades, Play-Doh sets, creative/art kits and supplies, dolls, puzzles, personal care items, jewelry kits, Karaoke machine/ CDs, Buddha boards, jump ropes, posters, board games, card games, stuffed animals, toys, coloring/activity books, remote control cars, magazines, puzzles, blankets, and much more; as well as funding for seasonal activities and outings.

The children also visited Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights, and enjoyed other seasonal activities and special holiday meals.

2014 Highlights

Making a Difference in Children's Lives

- ▶ 23 admissions and 31 discharges
- ▶ Maintained accomplishments of SAMHSA Grant for the Reduction of Seclusion and Restraint Use
- ▶ Continued focus on integration of trauma informed care (TIC) into program
- ▶ Provided staff self-help activities re: vicarious trauma
- ▶ Presented "Dealing with Vicarious Trauma" training for clinical community at Deaconess Cross Pointe
- ▶ Emphasized "Healthy Lifestyle" choices for staff and children (daily walks, etc)
- ▶ Trained staff on Teambuilding & Burn Out
- ▶ Held Health & Safety Fair for children, staff and families
- ▶ Participated in 911 Gives Hope, receiving many wonderful gifts for the children
- ▶ Donations totaling \$4771.51 to the children's Recreation Fund
- ▶ Hosted 13 students—provided front line educational opportunities as part of their college education—including social work, psychology, occupational therapy, and art therapy; also, nursing and pharmacy students rotated through for brief direct observation
- ▶ Conducted 7 group tours and gave 6 presentations to groups/organizations
- ▶ 2 artists from Foundation for Hospital Art drew murals on bedroom walls and volunteers painted them
- ▶ Photo art donated by Elaine Pioggi
- ▶ Provided Common Sense Parenting classes for EPCC parents/guardians

...and that's the truth...

Trust is the most valuable thing you'll ever earn.

—Susanna, age 17

The following items are always needed for the children and their activities: gift cards to craft and department stores, restaurants, and entertainment (movies). Gift cards provide toys and craft items, and allow children with designated behaviors to enjoy off grounds activities.

Did You Know?

- EPCC served 46 children during the 2013-14 fiscal year.
- EPCC has served **over 1280** children since opening in 1966.
- The SAMHSA Grant activities resulted in elimination of the use of seclusion and a significant reduction in the use of physical restraints.

Look What We Did
 —A Dorm staff spearheaded a weekend afternoon of challenging fun for the children (stacking dice on mouth-held tongue depressor—stacking plastic cups—stringing pasta on mouth-held spaghetti and more...

Cards for the Courageous

A special activity for those children unable to be at home with their families during the holidays turned into a valuable learning experience.

The project—"Cards for the Courageous"—involved making holiday greeting cards for US soldiers. In the process the children learned how soldiers are always on duty—even on holidays—and that a soldier's job consists of service to others.

The children used uplifting thoughts, poems, funny jokes, etc. as messages.

While utilizing social skills such as showing appreciation, showing respect, showing you care, expressing feelings appropriately, etc. to make the cards, the children also discovered that giving to others is a great feeling.

Staff members provided the project and assistance to the children. Kelly Counts created the project and designed the cards; Lori Schutz contributed creative ideas, and Jamie Smithey helped present the project to the children who wanted to participate.

One child's greeting read:

"May this card bring cheer to you, good health, and success. May your safe return be speedy. Thanks for everything and God bless!"



Anyone can send letters of thanks to our military—

A Million Thanks
 17853 Santiago Blvd
 #107-355
 Villa Park, CA 92861

Joy Delivered by 911 Gives Hope

You can't stop joy from spilling into every nook and cranny when 911 Gives Hope arrives at EPCC. The group's tireless efforts always result in a wonderful collection of games, toys, stuffed animals, puzzles, and other great gifts to brighten the children's Christmas.

Although not usually requested, this year there were bicycles on the "wish list." The staff were delighted that they were among the gifts which also included specialty

items such as iPads, iPods, blu-ray DVD players, and a keyboard.



The staff are grateful and excited that 911 Gives Hope shares the Christmas Spirit

with EPCC each year. The abundance of gifts and the generosity with which they are given is most appreciated.

When the work was done—as is the tradition—Mike and Sully were more than happy to pose with the group that delivered the gifts.

Thanks to 911 Gives Hope and the visiting volunteers, the children definitely experienced a wonderful, memorable, and very Merry Christmas.

We're Ready for Your Referrals

Refer through the assigned liaison from your MHC.
 Referral packet information needed includes:

- Psychology Evaluation with IQ
- State Hospital Referral Form
- CANS
- Psychiatric Evaluation from your MD

Contact Sharon Austin at 812-477-6436, X226

Need to contact us?
 Call 812-477-6436 (exts. listed below) or email

- Lottie Cook, Supt (231).....lottie.cook@fssa.in.gov
- Sharon Austin, Admissions (226).....sharon.austin@fssa.in.gov
- Pam Dewey, Clin. Dir (233).....pam.dewey@fssa.in.gov
- Beth Angermeier, Dir of Nursing (223).....elizabeth.angermeier@fssa.in.gov
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MISSION
 Resolve Needs – Build Strengths

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Published periodically for employees and friends of EPCC.

Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center
 Division of Mental Health & Addiction
 Indiana Family & Social Services Administration

