



CHILD ABUSE INTERVENTION CENTER

BECAUSE EVERY CHILD HAS A RIGHT TO BE SAFE

Winter 2019

Dear Friend,

May Hope and Gratitude Fill All Our Days!

This is such a wonderful season of hope and thanksgiving; a time to express our gratitude and to take stock of the important things in our lives. As we enter our 23rd year of service, Juliette's House is **very grateful** for our volunteers, supporters, and partners. *In every way, you make possible the important work we do!*

We strive to **Make Hope Happen** for kids and families impacted by child abuse and neglect. That's what we do every day – take a hurting child and their caregivers and help them find hope and healing. We see it also in the faces of kids and adults who go through our abuse prevention trainings. They experience empowerment to protect themselves and others and know there's so much each of us can do to prevent child abuse and make ours a more thriving community.

Hope and healing are what we give away every day at Juliette's House. Your generosity makes it possible.

Right now, we have an urgent need.

Our building is over 20 years old and while it continues to serve our work well, **our families have no private waiting room**. Now, when a child comes to Juliette's House for assessment or treatment their families sit in our small lobby at the front door. There's no real privacy for them during this very emotional time – and that's just not right. As more and more people pass this area every day because Juliette's House is doing more and more work, we must address this *now*. To fix this situation, we need to enclose our front porch and create a much-needed personal space for these families. While this may seem a somewhat simple capital project it's crucially important.

Hope Can't Wait! Our hope is to start this project this winter. Our contractor has said they can start by mid-February and finish in a few weeks. We have a narrow window then to finalize the plans and get the needed funds together. *As we see more children and families each year this issue become even more urgent.*



Last year we asked for help in remodeling our interview and observation rooms and you generously responded. Those upgrades are currently under way and making a great difference in our work with kids - *and we are so grateful*. Creating a private waiting room now will provide more comfort for our families and significantly improve their experience at Juliette's House.

You Too Can Make Hope Happen!

This project will provide a less stressful environment where a child and their caregivers will feel even safer and possibly more open to tell their story of what happened to them in their own way and own time. To do this much needed work – remodel the entrance, enclose the front porch, furnish the room, and improve security for our families and staff will cost \$74,000 dollars. Some labor and materials we hope will be donated and we've already raised some funds toward our goal!

SO, we need to raise approximately \$62,000 dollars in capital funds to better serve our community's kids and families impacted by child abuse. *With your help we can do this! We simply must.* Every dollar raised beyond this goal will go to other needed improvements, like replacing our 23-year-old carpeting and put into reserve for any future capital improvement needs.

There are many ways you can give –

- Make an End-of-Year outright gift of cash or appreciated stock;
- Donate from your IRA that has tax benefits beyond a direct cash gift (this takes a bit of time so contact your financial advisor right away);
- If your company has a Charitable Matching Gift program, then your gift can go even further;
- Turn your Holiday Party into a fundraising event and use your social media to help us;
- Become a **Hope Maker** with your recurring monthly sustaining donation; or
- Urge your company to become a **Heroes of Hope** business member with an annual pledge.

Your generous gift will help insure that each child in our care receives the services they need to be safe, find healing, and have real hope for a happier future - *beginning today*.

Please **Help Make Hope Happen** for the most vulnerable children and families of our community. *It's the best investment you can make and the best gift of the season!*

To learn more and donate online please go to www.julietteshouse.org or email us at gifts@julietteshouse.org. If you prefer, you can send a check to the address below.

Thank you for your ongoing and generous support!

May we all have holidays that are merry and bright – sending best wishes to you and yours, with hopeful dreams of safety for all our children in the New Year!



Russell Mark
President/CEO

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The following is a vignette of what our families currently experience at Juliette's House and how remodeling our waiting room will make a difference:

James and Sarah Alexander* came to Juliette's House with their daughters, Hailey and Lindsay (ages 6 and 9), in the spring of 2019. The Juliette's House staff was very welcoming and ushered them into the playroom. There were some forms to complete at the small table with two chairs in the playroom while the girls got busy discovering the dollhouse, play kitchen, and a large collection of Polly Pocket dolls. A member of the Juliette's House Family Support Team was in the playroom as well, to interact with the girls and keep them company until it was each of their turns for a medical exam and forensic interview.

After completing the paperwork, James and Sarah went out to the more comfortable waiting area in the lobby of Juliette's House. There are two couches and a coffee table; the local newspaper and several magazines are available to peruse. James and Sarah were feeling anxious about the assessments - they were very worried about what was going to happen since both girls had disclosed sexual abuse by their uncle. As they sat in the lobby for several hours (an assessment of one child usually takes about 3.5 to 4 hours - with two children, it's more like 5.5 to 6 hours) they became acutely aware of the lack of privacy afforded by the waiting area. It is within a few feet of the Juliette's House front door, so everyone entering the building, from staff, to board members, to volunteers, to the mail carrier, walked in and saw them. Everyone was friendly but they would have preferred to stay more anonymous. Because they were there for such a personal and painful reason, Sarah was continually dabbing her eyes with a tissue and James was barely able to contain his anger about his girls having been hurt by a close relative. People came and went the whole time they sat there. At one point Sarah was even approached by a FedEx delivery person and asked to sign for a delivery to Juliette's House.

As Juliette's House has grown in terms of the numbers of children assessed each year, and other programs, like Prevention, have grown in size and scope, more and more people enter Juliette's House through that front door. It became clear that families experiencing trauma needed to have a more private place to wait for their children.

When Mark and Natasha Roberts brought their twelve-year-old son, Eric, to Juliette's House in the spring of 2020, they were ushered into a new private waiting area that was connected to the playroom. It was quiet, music was playing, and they felt insulated from the other business of Juliette's House. The new waiting area felt like a place they could express whatever emotions they needed to in a private place. Conversations with the Family Support Team members about very sensitive subjects were no longer audible by anyone not directly involved in the case. When the detective stopped in to talk to them about next steps in the case, the conversation was private and secure. It was the same when the child protective services worker met with them as well. It felt safe and supportive and seemed perfectly designed to meet their needs while they were at Juliette's House.

**All names are changed for privacy*

