

January
2017

Bright
Tomorrows
Child Advocacy Center
Working Together for our Children

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BRIGHT TOMORROWS CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Working together for our children

What is a Child Advocacy Center?

A 2013 review of child sexual abuse prevalence studies conclude that **1 in 10** children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday. There is hope and healing.

A Child Advocacy Center is a place where children and their families can heal from the trauma of child abuse. Bright Tomorrows is Bannock County's Child Advocacy Center.

At Bright Tomorrows, a Pocatello based non-profit, we provide a unique, child-friendly location where specially trained professionals from law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, and medical work together with the common goal of supporting families during the investigation of suspected child abuse.

We offer families a place to receive crisis intervention, education, and necessary referrals to community resources; and strive to maintain a supportive environment where families and community members can access information concerning child abuse. We also go an extra step and provide trauma-specific counseling services to help the child and family heal.

Our Mission . . .

To help children and their families heal from the trauma of child sexual abuse through counseling, advocacy, education, and support; assisting them to live happier lives, and to **restore the laughter, joy, hopes and dreams of childhood.**

Our Services . . .

- Coordinated child abuse forensic interviews
- Caregiver advocacy & crisis intervention
- Counseling services for sexually abused children
- Sexual abuse prevention trainings

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

~Martin Luther King, Jr

Working Together...

As a part of Bannock County's response to child abuse, **Bright Tomorrows** works alongside and coordinates with:

- **Local Law Enforcement:**
Bannock County Sheriffs
Pocatello Police Dept.
Chubbuck Police Dept.
- **The Department of Health and Welfare:**
Children and Family Services
- **Bannock County Prosecutor's Office**
- **Medical:**
Portneuf Medical Center

Together, we provide a coordinated, professional response to child abuse in Bannock County.

All of the listed response agencies meet at Bright Tomorrows twice monthly to work together, ensuring that no child's case is overlooked.

Services at Bright Tomorrows January-December 2016

Number of child Forensic Interviews due to possible abuse	269 children
Family members receiving support, advocacy, education & referral information	311 family members
Children who received abuse specific counseling	118 children

In 2016, 97% of caregivers reported that Bright Tomorrows gave them helpful resources to support their child and respond to his or her needs in the days and weeks following their child's forensic interview. Supported caregivers are crucial in a child's healing.

"Before I was referred to Bright Tomorrows, I felt lost, confused, and very much alone. The help that Bright Tomorrows has given my family has been tremendous. We have come such a long way in a short period of time and I truly felt the support from the staff every step of the way. I cannot express enough appreciation and gratitude!"

~Anonymous Parent