

## **Successful Child Abuse Seminar Raises Funds**

By: Bright Tomorrows Staff

The recent seminar focused on Child Abuse detection and reporting held at Idaho State University raised over \$1,000 to benefit the local 501c3 Bright Tomorrows who provides services for children and families affected by child abuse.

Kathy Downes, the Executive Director of Bright Tomorrows stated, “we so appreciate the community’s support and the amazing sponsors of this seminar, who include Peak Coaching & Workshops, Portneuf Valley Family Center Inc., Portneuf Medical Center, DRA Life Change Associates (Dr. Ravsten), Idaho State University Work Force Training, and KPVI News 6. This funding will help us to meet the growing need and requests for our services by the community.”

Over the past three years, Bright Tomorrows has seen a 26% increase in the number of child forensic interviews conducted at their facility for child abuse which are requested by law enforcement and the Department of Health and Welfare. Funds raised from events such as the recent seminar and local donations help to offset the cost of services provided to children and families facing these traumatic events.

A child forensic interview is a fact finding interview in which a qualified professional talks to a child one-on-one in a child friendly designated room at Bright Tomorrows. This professional is trained to talk to children in a developmentally appropriate way that allows them to discuss any issues they may be facing in a non-threatening, non-leading manner.

This interview is observed via live feed into a separate room at Bright Tomorrows by law enforcement and is video taped, so the child does not have to be questioned again.

The parents or caregivers are also receiving services while their child is interviewed. Crisis counseling is provided, as well as educational information, assessment for mental health needs and linking them with needed services.

Downes stated, “many people who come through our doors never even knew that Bright Tomorrows existed, but they express gratitude and appreciation that a facility is in place in Pocatello to deal with the traumatic, life changing events they are facing.”

For more information about Bright Tomorrows visit: [www.brightcac.org](http://www.brightcac.org).