

## What is a Child Advocacy Center?

By Bright Tomorrows Staff

Many studies have shown that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday. When your child is abused, it can feel hopeless, overwhelming, and isolating. There is hope, healing, and support available to help navigate through this emotional experience. Child Advocacy Centers across the nation provide this support and can guide victims and their families through the healing process, restoring hope, joy, and dreams.

Bright Tomorrows is the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) in Bannock County, and is a place where children and families can heal from the trauma of child sexual abuse. Bright Tomorrows provides a unique, child-friendly location where specially trained professionals from a variety of disciplines (Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Child Protection, Medical, and Mental Health) work together with the common goal of supporting families during the investigation of suspected child abuse.

Bright Tomorrows CAC also offers trauma specific counseling services focused on child sexual abuse. We are a non-profit organization where families can receive support, education, and necessary referrals to community resources. We strive to maintain a confidential, supportive environment where families and community members can access information concerning child abuse and safety.

At Bright Tomorrows, we feel honored to be able to assist in the healing of children in our community, regardless of the family's financial resources. If you would like to help us in continuing to be able to provide support for children and families, please join us at our Raising Hope Annual Fundraiser, to be held on Thursday, June 21, 2012 from 6-9pm at the Harvest Event Center (formerly The Booth Barn) at 1100 Booth Drive. There will be dinner, live acoustic music performed by Absolute Zero, and live and silent auctions. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door, and can be purchased from Bright Tomorrows CAC at 409 Washington Ave in Pocatello.

For more information about CACs, visit [www.nationalcac.org](http://www.nationalcac.org) or [www.brightcac.org](http://www.brightcac.org). You may also contact Bright Tomorrows CAC at 208-234-2646.