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August 17, 2012
For Immediate Release

Skydiving to Prevent Child Abuse



2011 Participant, Jennifer Fisher with
Tandem Master Justice Perkins

Sunflower House, a children's advocacy center serving Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas, the Children's Center of Southwest Missouri together with Skydive Kansas City announce the kick-off to the *3rd Annual Take an Extreme Step to STOP Child Abuse* event. (www.extremestep.com).

This unique fundraiser gives participants the opportunity to earn a tandem skydive for raising funds that will be used to fund the vital programs of these two

More than 9,000 cases of abuse are reported in Wyandotte and Johnson Counties alone. Southwest Missouri is expecting to register another 1,000+ cases of reported child abuse in 2012. Child abuse is growing problem and this event lets participants takes a unique step toward ensuring the programs and services offered by these two organizations are available in the future.

In its first two years, *Take an Extreme Step to STOP Child Abuse has raised over \$20,000* in support of the fight to stop child abuse in our communities. These funds are used to help support the ever growing needs of each community's children's advocacy center (CAC) in their efforts to stop child abuse, yet provide victims with the services they need during a tragic time in their lives.

By raising money and taking the extreme step from over 2-miles above the earth, you will be supporting the programs and services offered by Sunflower House and The Children's Center of Southwest Missouri. All donations no matter how big or small make a difference in the lives of the children that need these services.

For additional event information, contact Mitch Stevenson (msteve@kc.surewest.net, 913-645-6576) or visit <https://fundraising.active.com/event/TakeanExtremeStepToStopCh>

About Sunflower House

Sunflower House is a nationally accredited children's advocacy center dedicated to protecting children from physical and sexual abuse through education, forensic and medical services. Sunflower House provides a child-focused environment for children and their families dealing with the trauma of abuse. Children referred to Sunflower House after an allegation of abuse are provided a specialized forensic interview and medical exam. Families are provided comprehensive family advocacy and support services.

Prevention efforts include providing thousands of children with the *P.S. It's My Body Happy Bear* play, designed to teach children ages 4-7 how to **RECOGNIZE, RESIST and REPORT** abuse. Prevention education targeted towards adults and child-serving professionals includes: Keeping Kids Safe Online, Mandated Reporter Training, Stewards of Children and Abusive Head Trauma Prevention.

For more information about Sunflower House, please contact Jaime Skultety at 913-631-5800, jaime@sunflowerhouserhouse.org or visit www.sunflowerhouse.org

About Children's Center of Southwest Missouri

With facilities in Joplin, Monett, Butler and Nevada, Children's Center of Southwest Missouri is dedicated to reduce the trauma for children who have been abused by facilitating a multi-disciplinary response. Professionals from law enforcement, Division of "Family Services, prosecutors, medical and mental health professionals come together as a team to reduce the number of interviews child victims must endure. The Center also provides advocacy, referrals and prevention education.

For more information about Children's Center of Southwest Missouri, please contact Kathi Olson at 417-623-2292 or kolson@childrens-center.org or visit www.childrens-center.org.

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