

THE SCOOP

SAFE PASSAGE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021



Impact Story

by: Emily Bowker, Director of Development

It was a Friday afternoon and we were low on volunteer coverage to assist with the children in the playroom that afternoon and so I had the privilege of filling in. A grandmother and her two young grandchildren (Jack, a young toddler and Kevin of preschool age, names changed for confidentiality) came to Safe Passage. Jack had sustained three broken bones and it was believed that Kevin had witnessed the abuse. It was still uncertain who committed the abuse. There was a forensic interview scheduled for Kevin as part of the investigation process.

Grandma entered the playroom with her hands full and carefully holding Jack in order to not disrupt the broken bones and bandages that he had. I visited with Grandma until she had to meet with the team of helping professionals (Department of Human Services caseworker, Safe Passage advocate and Colorado Springs Police Department forensic interviewer). At that time I offered to hold Jack and play with Kevin in the playroom so she could meet with the team. She was very appreciative for the help.

For the next two hours I held Jack in the playroom, kept him comfortable and fed him goldfish crackers and juice. Kevin talked and had me watch him play while he was waiting for his forensic interview. After his interview Kevin came back to the room to play and eat goldfish crackers and juice too. During this time, Grandma was given resources, emotional support, educational materials and needed supplies to assist her in taking care of her grandsons during the coming months of investigation.

As the family left that evening and I drove home, I knew in my heart that Safe Passage made a difference in the lives of that family today. They experienced comfort and safety and the young boys were given a voice after a seemingly long time of having theirs taken away. I now trust that our team partners will carry forth the important work of investigation in order to ensure that these boys are safe and justice is served.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



THANK YOU

April is Child Abuse Awareness month and pinwheels are the national symbol for child abuse prevention. They represent childlike whimsy and lightheartedness and a vision for a world where all children grow up happy, healthy, and prepared to succeed in supportive families and communities.

Thank you for your support this year in the prevention of child abuse. Your contributions have given hope and healing to countless children and families. They have served as a reminder to the families served at Safe Passage that they are not alone and that they too deserve to experience a life that is filled with safety and happiness.

Despite a canceled spring fundraising gala, this month I reached out to seven key past gala sponsors to seek their support during Child Abuse Awareness Month. ALL seven sponsors made a donation to Safe Passage to help the children in our community. They have helped us bridge the gap in an unprecedented year with COVID-19, canceled school and limited access to support to children. Thank you, your donation truly makes a difference!



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