



**Family Resource Center
of Gordon County**
Prevent Child Abuse Gordon County, Inc.

June 1, 2015

Gordon Co. Board of Commissioners
P. O. Box 580
Calhoun, GA 30701-0580

Attn: John King, III, County Administrator

Re: January 1 to May 31, 2015

Dear Mr. King:

Between January 1 and May 31, 2015 Prevent Child Abuse Gordon County, Inc. dba the Family Resource Center, the local affiliate of Prevent Child Abuse Georgia, offered the following programs to families in the City of Calhoun and Gordon County.

- 179 families of infants born at Gordon Hospital were visited by First Steps and were offered support, referral, and information services during the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2015. First Steps is supported by a combination of local funds including United Way and state funds which come to us through the Department of Human Services. The total cost of First Steps is about \$26,500 per year. Beginning July 1, we will begin direct services to more families through an expansion grant funded by federal funds administered through the state, Early Learning Challenge Grant. We will be partnering with Brighter Tomorrows Child Development Center to offer First Steps and home visitation services. We will be increasing staff and caseloads. Total budget for the entire First Steps Program will be approximately \$50,000.
- 8 adults attended parenting classes so they could improve their parenting skills. 2 children attended age appropriate classes while their parents attended those for the adults. Some parents came voluntarily; others were referred by the courts and DFCS. The total cost of our Parenting and Nurturing Program in 2014, including salaries, the cost of materials, training and other associated expenses was about \$9,000. In 2014 we received \$2,730 from the County to support this program. Other funding sources are the Department of Human Resources Parent Aide program, private funds including United Way, and the Gordon County Board of Commissioners. During the same period approximately 75% of the participants in this program were from the Gordon County.
- Nurturing Fathers, a parenting class, for men had 2 participants. It is funded by local funds. The purpose of the program is to increase the involvement of men, particularly fathers who are young and possibly non-custodial, in the lives of the children. Nurturing Fathers is a parent education program coordinated by men for men. The cost of the program is \$8,000.00 per year.

The mission of PCA Gordon is the prevention of child abuse in all its forms: physical, emotional, sexual, and neglect in Gordon County, Georgia.



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- From January 1 to May 31, 2015, 214 families were screened for home visitation services offered by the Parents as Teachers Programs.
At present 25 families are participating in the Parents as Teachers. In 2014 the home visitation programs were supported by funds from the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program and United Way. The total budget for the current level of services is \$39,000/year. Parents as Teachers services are for parents of children 0 - 4 who need more intensive support than First Steps offers. The emphasis of the programs is on positive parent/child interaction, child development and other issues which if addressed early improve school readiness and other outcomes for children and families. In Gordon County the home visitation program has been in operation long enough to begin to see a positive impact on family functioning among participants who remained in the program until their children started school. Beginning July 1, we will begin direct services to more families through an expansion grant funded by federal funds administered through the state, Early Learning Challenge Grant. We will be increasing staff and caseloads. Total budget for the entire Parents as Teachers Program will be approximately \$170,000.
- The Child Advocacy Center completed the first full year of service in February 2015. Prior to the center being developed in Gordon County all parties involved, including families, law enforcement and DFCS had to travel out of county for the child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse to be interviewed. Between January 1 and May 31, 2015 we have completed 54 forensic interviews. We also provided education, advocacy and referrals to 62 non-offending caregivers. The program is supported in part by a grant from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council , Victim's Comp and local funds. The total budget for the program is \$74,000.

The agency continues to receive calls from families in crisis, conduct Home Evaluations for adoptions when ordered by the Court, referral services, and other services when the services required are within our area of expertise. We consider education of the community about child abuse to be a very important part of our mission, and to this end sponsor Pinwheels for Prevention and other awareness activities during April which is Child Abuse Prevention Month in Georgia and the United States. We also participate in other community activities when we are asked.

Sincerely yours,



Angela White
Executive Director