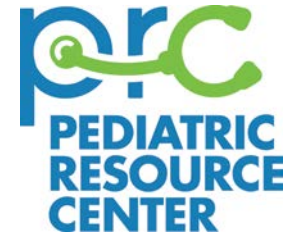




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria
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CENTRAL ILLINOIS CHILD ABUSE CASES RISING *Pediatric Resource Center September 26th event helps with growing need*

PEORIA, III. (Sept. 3, 2015) The Pediatric Resource Center continues to see an increasing number of children who are suspected victims of abuse. As the number of victims continue to grow each year so does the need to provide those services.

The annual Harvesting Hope fundraiser helps PRC provide ongoing child abuse prevention education and ensures clinics are staffed so children can receive the services crucial to their well-being and safety.

In the past year, the PRC provided medical and social services to more than 800 abused and neglected children throughout central Illinois, including those suspected of being abused. Within the past 5 years, the PRC has experienced a 48 percent increase in children evaluated for possible abuse or neglect.

WHAT: HARVESTING HOPE FALL FUNDRAISER FOR PEDIATRIC RESOURCE CENTER
WHERE: Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center Auditorium
1306 N. Berkeley Ave., Peoria (adjacent to OSF Saint Francis Medical Center)
WHEN: Saturday, September 26th at 6 p.m.
MORE: Tickets are \$75 each. For ticket information, call 309-624-9595 or email prcinfo@uicomp.uic.edu.

The event includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails starting at 6 p.m. Musical entertainment will be provided by Larry Harms. Live and silent auctions feature unique and exciting items, including specialty gift baskets, multiple vacation packages, jewelry and more. All proceeds benefit the PRC.

Co-chairs for this year's event are Community Advisory Board members, Trixie Jones and Lauren McBain. Honorary Chairs are the President of OSF Saint Francis Medical Center Dr. Michael Cruz and Assistant Peoria County State's Attorney Mrs. Donna Cruz. For more information, contact the Pediatric Resource Center at 309-624-9595 or visit www.pediatricresourcecenter.org.

The Pediatric Resource Center (PRC) is a service provider of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria and affiliated with Children's Hospital of Illinois. Since its inception in 1993, more than 8,700 children from 50-plus Illinois counties received medical and social services from PRC.

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