



Spring 2015

## **Keeping Our Mission Possible**

We are thrilled to host our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Mission Possible Event on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Radisson Valley Forge Hotel. As guests are invited to sample an assortment of fresh, indulgent food and drinks, they will be simultaneously delighted by the talent of the Vincent James Band, a ten piece band with seven unique lead vocalists. While attendees mingle with friends or relax at the bar, they will be able to bid on auction items through the comfort of their own cellphone using Bidpal. Though the event is undeniably social, there is a greater cause that joins every person in the room.

This enjoyable evening raises funds that are critical to the operation of Mission Kids. We rely upon the generous contributions of our supporters to raise one third of our annual funding. These funds are especially crucial this year as we have already seen a 30% increase in referrals to MK compared to the same period last year. We are thankful for our fantastic event sponsors, donors, and attendees for enabling Mission Kids to continue the all-important work of putting abused children and their families on the road to healing. Mission Kids has served over 2,100 children in Montgomery County since 2009, almost 500 in

2014 alone. Mission Kids has also emerged as a leader in the development of Child Advocacy Centers throughout Pennsylvania and prides itself on being a model CAC. All of this critical work is only possible with your generosity.

To support the work that happens at Mission Kids, you are invited to get involved. Sponsorship and ad book opportunities are still available. Donate or ask others to donate auction items. For more information and to buy tickets please visit our Bidpal Giving Center website, [bidpal.net/missionkids](http://bidpal.net/missionkids), or contact Michelle Mockus at [mmockus@missionkidscac.org](mailto:mmockus@missionkidscac.org).

As we look ahead, we recognize that our work would not be possible without people like you. In the coming years, we foresee growth and achieving healing and justice for the children and families we serve. We will not stop until we have wiped out child abuse in Montgomery County. My heartfelt thanks go out to you all.

Warmly,

Abbie Newman  
Mission Kids Executive Director

## Hogs and Honeys

Mission Kids cannot wait for March 21st, the 11th annual Hogs & Honeys. Hogs & Honeys is a yearly gala featuring a plethora of food, music, and fun. Sam and Sue Gardy of Kickstart Motorcycles started this event in 2004. Their fellow riders were looking for a fun winter event and the Gardy's were looking for a way to give back to the community, so Hogs and Honeys was born. It started out small with 40 attendees raising \$1,100 in the first year. Since then, it has grown by leaps and bounds. Last year over 800 people attended, raising \$35,000 for Mission Kids. This year is expected to surpass that with over 1,000 tickets sold.

This undeniably fun night is a fantastic fundraiser for Mission Kids. Over the 8 years that Hogs & Honeys has benefited Mission Kids, it has raised \$127,000. Hogs and Honeys has been so popular that this year's tickets were sold out in days without any advertising. The stakes are high, but Hogs and Honeys should wow guests as they can expect to listen to the Vincent James Band, eat food from a vast array of vendors, and participate in raffles. This year's event has a special meaning for the Gardys as it honors two members of the Hogs & Honeys family who recently passed, Sharon Gardy Waterman and Bruce Berenato.

## **It Takes a Team: Advanced Multidisciplinary Team Training**

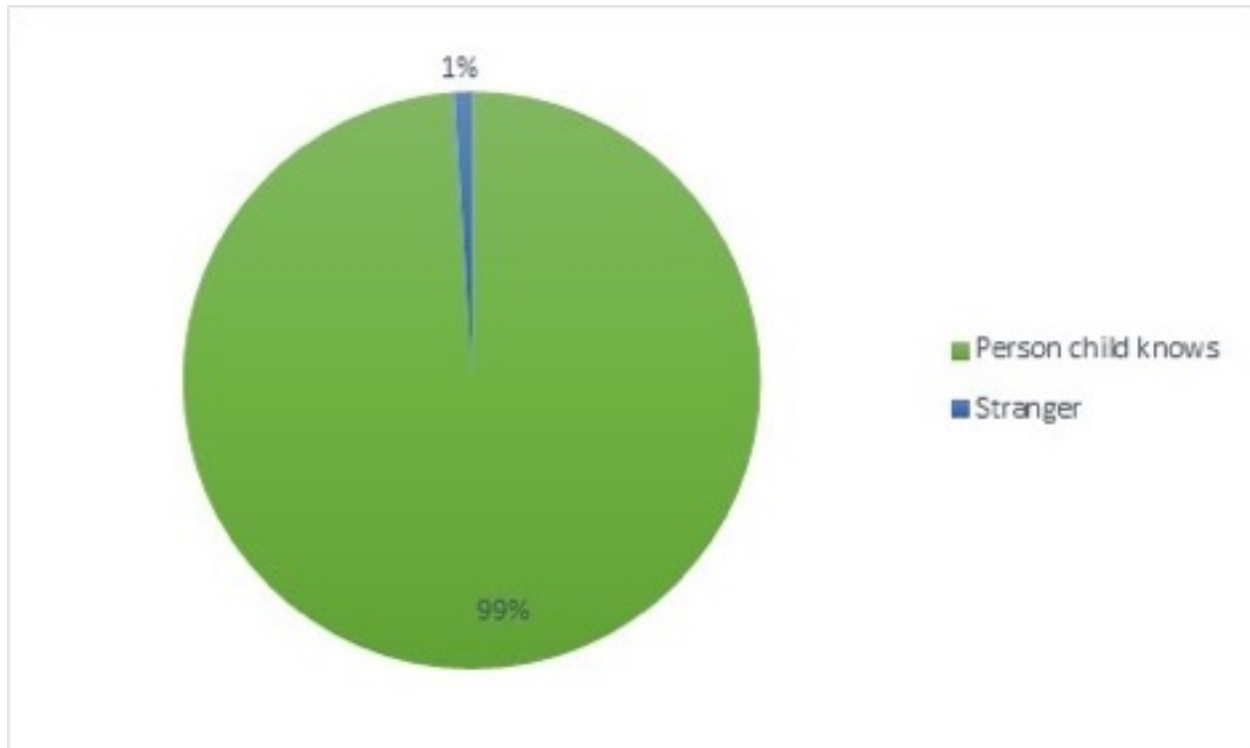
In collaboration with the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office, Mission Kids hosted *It Takes a Team: Advanced MDIT Training*. On January 12th and 13th, over 120 people came together from Montgomery County's law enforcement, children and youth services, schools, mental health services, and District Attorney's office. The main purpose for this two-day conference was to provide multidisciplinary team members with insight from experts in their fields to empower better service for the children of Montgomery County.

The Conference began with a special screening of the film, *Playground*, directed by Libby Spears. This was followed by a thought-provoking panel discussion on the content of the documentary, human sex trafficking. Speakers throughout the two day conference included various experts speaking on topics spanning from trauma-centered therapy to medical evaluations for abuse. Attendees also spent important time building team relationships. They had the opportunity to collectively assess the strengths and challenges of Mission Kids and identified strategies for ensuring a strong, lasting and effective, collaborative approach moving forward.

Mission Kids is grateful for all of the support that allowed these two days to leave such a lasting impression.

## Mission Kids Statistics

Average Relationship of Child Abuse Victim and Offender in Montgomery County in 2014.



**99% of children served at Mission Kids in 2014 knew their offender.**

### A Big Mission Kids Thank You to:

Sue Gardy

David Morris

Kristie Resetco

Shutterleaf Photography

ebLogix/Stan Briddes

**Michelle Mockus and Kelli Murphy**  
**Development Associates/Outreach Coordinators**





Mission Kids welcomed Michelle (right) and Kelli (left) this past December. These two new members of our Development team have quite different pasts, but both are excited to be working for Mission Kids.

Michelle comes to us having experience in the nonprofit sector. She graduated from the University of Toronto as a Psychology and Environmental Studies major, but also spent time living and studying in the Netherlands. Eventually, she moved back to her home state of Pennsylvania with hopes of furthering her career in nonprofit development. She previously worked for both nonprofit organizations and for the government. With these experiences and her background in Psychology, she felt especially connected with the mission behind Mission Kids.

Kelli has years of experience working as a healthcare professional, while simultaneously traveling as much as possible. It was these international experiences and connections with people from all over the world that led her to pursue an undergraduate degree in International Security and Conflict Resolution and then later, a Masters in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from Arcadia University. She has a deep passion for helping others across the globe or locally in Montgomery County. Though she is more than happy to be working at Mission Kids, she does miss the beautiful weather of her home city of San Diego.

When Michelle and Kelli started they were instant partners, conquering the many tasks that come with the Development Associate/Outreach Coordinator position. In this position, they will be writing grants, seeking community partnerships, assisting in event planning, and reaching out to Mission Kids' many generous donors. They can't wait to meet you all!

## **Pinwheels for Prevention**

### ***April is Child Abuse Prevention Month***

In honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, Mission Kids will be planting a pinwheel garden at the Norristown Farm Park visible from Germantown Pike. A pinwheel will be planted for each child that Mission Kids served this past year. In 2014, this amounted to just under 500 children. During this month, we recognize the importance of communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, while also supporting the emotional well-being of children and families. In showing your support for Mission Kids, you are helping both children and families move past a difficult time as we provide them with the necessary tools to move on and lead happy and healthy lives. Mission Kids is so grateful for all of those who support our mission. When you drive by the Norristown Farm Park on

Germantown Pike and see the pinwheel display, we hope that you are reminded of the 493 victims of child abuse that Mission Kids served in 2014.

## Meet Our Board

### Hope Cohen



For over five years, Hope Cohen has been an outstanding asset to the Mission Kids Board of Trustees. Her Mission Kids journey began in a very personal way. Hope was exposed to the trauma of child abuse through a close friend's situation. Upon attending an event for Mission Kids, she realized this was her way to get involved. From that point forward, Hope has been a dedicated supporter of Mission Kids.

Hope has a fascinating background. Her life revolves around three of life's treasures: food, wine, & travel. Hope's passion to work with food began at a very young age. She has fond memories of cooking with her Easy Bake oven and

then transitioning to work with life-size ovens during her high school years. When her two children were born, she began teaching cooking classes out of her home. Her culinary career snowballed from there. She spent free time working in friends' restaurants and later became the host of a cooking show. Now, she is a chef, cookbook author, and media personality.

These incredible experiences have come full circle as Hope is a significant resource for Mission Kids. Hope has been a Board Member since 2010 and is currently Chair of the Committee of Trustees. She is responsible for connecting Mission Kids to many community partners, notably in spearheading fashion related events that benefit Mission Kids. Hope has been able to use her own passions and network to benefit Mission Kids. She is proud and honored to work with Mission Kids to help children heal, especially children that have been through such traumatic circumstances. Just as Hope is happy to be involved, Mission Kids is more than grateful for her incredible, diverse contributions to achieving healing and justice for victims of child abuse.



NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
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## Signs Of Potential Abuse

## Recent News

[Associated Press: Process Gets Underway to Carve up \\$60M Sandusky Fine](#)

[Philadelphia Inquirer: Centers help abuse victims and communities heal](#)



## Staff

**Abbie Newman, R.N., J.D., Executive Director**  
**Amy Kendall Charles, Esq., Associate Director**

**Kim Arrowood, BSW, Family Advocate**  
**Johanna Crocetto, LCSW, Forensic Interviewer**  
**Dina Fink, J.D., Director of Development**  
**Cindy Gehret**  
**Meaghan Kerper, Family Advocate**  
**Sylvia Kershaw, Family Advocate**  
**Michelle Mockus, Development Associate/Outreach Coordinator**  
**Kelli Murphy, Development Associate/Outreach Coordinator**  
**Kristen O'Brien, MBA Director of Information Technology**  
**Kaitlyn Ramsey, BSW, Case Coordinator**  
**Judy Sborlini, Assistant Accountant**  
**Denise Silvers**  
**Maggie Sweeney, MSW, LSW, Forensic Interviewer**

## Upcoming Events

### **Hogs & Honeys**

March 21, 2015

### **Young Friends of Mission Kids Yoga & Wine**

March 27, 2015

### **7th Annual Mission Possible**

April 30, 2015

## Board of Directors

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**Wishlist**

We have posted a list of recommended items on our website. Please click [here](#) to see the list and thank you for supporting us!



*Please remember Mission Kids when you make your United Way donation.*

*Code #47859*

## **Tributes**

The following donations were made (October 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014):

### **In Honor Of:**

Billy Bredt  
Jim and Maripeg Bruder  
Amy Charles  
Felix Chen  
Alvin Lester Cooper  
Lynne Ferman  
Risa Ferman  
Lisa Diener Domestic Violence Foundation  
Jillian Kesselman-Ratinoff  
Cris Maxwell

Abbie Newman  
Mark Nicoletti  
Gabrielle Santangelo  
Shana Silverman  
Howard Weitz

**In Memory Of:**

David Sell's Father  
Marie Faust  
Robert Freed  
Mother of Kathi Gubernick  
Hyman Holzman  
Shirley Itzenson  
Lester Karafin  
Ary Kaufmann  
Phillip Kendall  
Mel Smith  
Barbara Weitz