

# ROOTING FOR KIDS!



The Children's Hospital

News for The Children's Hospital's  
Grassroots Advocates



## Children's Welcomes New Advocacy Coordinator, Elissa Udell!

The Children's Hospital Government Affairs Department announces Elissa Udell as the new Advocacy Coordinator. "I'm extremely excited and inspired by the work of The Children's Hospital and am eager to contribute to make a difference in the lives of children throughout the state of Colorado," said Udell.

Previous Advocacy Coordinator Julie Snyder left The Children's Hospital at the end of March to return to Seattle, her hometown. Julie will continue her work on behalf of kids at the World Association for Children and Parents. "I feel incredibly blessed to have had the opportunity to work at an amazing organization such as TCH, and with such passionate children's advocates for the past four years. I know you all will keep up the great work!" she says.

Please feel free to contact Elissa Udell with any questions or concerns or to introduce yourself. She can be reached directly at [udell.elissa@tchden.org](mailto:udell.elissa@tchden.org) or 720.777.6253.

## April Marks Child Abuse Prevention Month!

### Keeping children safe from harm: we all have a role to play

Child abuse is one of the leading causes of death for children, both nationally and here in Colorado. At The Children's Hospital, where we are the only Level One Pediatric Trauma Center in the region, it is the number one cause of trauma death for the children we care for.



Child abuse is a devastating issue, but the good news is that it can be prevented. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, The Children's Hospital kicked off Child Abuse Prevention Month with a series of activities designed to raise awareness about the issue of child abuse and neglect, and to prompt community action to support efforts to prevent it.

The hospital's ongoing partnership with **The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect** (link to <http://www.kempe.org/>) is one way that we engage in activities to prevent abuse and neglect. Another way is through the **Colorado Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Campaign** (link to <http://www.dontshakeababy.com/>), which is a partnership between Kohl's Department Stores, The Children's Hospital and The Kempe Center. The campaign, now in its third year, is designed to educate the community about the dangers of shaking a baby, and to offer solutions for how to calm a crying baby, as well as manage the frustrations a caregiver may experience when caring for a fussy baby.

We all have a role to play in keeping children safe from harm. Here are some ideas of ways you

can help:

- *Wear a blue ribbon to raise awareness.* Blue is the color that symbolizes child abuse prevention .
- *Learn more about local prevention efforts.* The April 22 Advocacy Lunch & Learn Children's hosted on this topic was one of our best attended Lunch & Learns yet! If you missed it, you can visit the websites listed above for more information, as well as <http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/> to access some of the program information provided by our presenters.
- *Offer your time and support.* After-school activities, parent education classes, mentoring programs, and respite care are some of the many ways to keep children safe from harm. Volunteer your time, donate, or speak up in support of these types of efforts in your community.
- *Be a friend.* Reach out to other parents, neighbors, friends who may need a break.
- *Spread the word.* Education is the key to prevention.

## Healthy Kids, Healthy Choices, Healthy Life!

Save the Date!



The Children's Hospital Grassroots Advocacy Network  
Advocacy Lunch & Learn

(Free Admission - Lunch Provided)

Topic: Wellness

Date: June 25, 2008

Time: 12pm - 1pm

Location: Mt. Princeton Conference Room at The  
Children's Hospital

RSVP Required: Please visit

[www.TheChildrensHospital.org/advocacy](http://www.TheChildrensHospital.org/advocacy). Click on

"Advocacy Events" for more information. You may also  
RSVP by emailing [advocacy@tchden.org](mailto:advocacy@tchden.org).

### Legislator Profile: Rep. Karen Middleton (D-Aurora)

**District:** 42 - covering the Denver city line to the West, Colfax to the North, Chambers to the East, and Mississippi to the South.

**Previous Occupation:** Owns a small, non-profit management firm, Karen Middleton & Associates.

**Political Experience:** Was appointed by vacancy committee in February to fill Michael Garcia's House seat. Middleton formerly served on the State Board of Education, and as Policy Director for the Democratic Caucus in the state House of Representatives.

**Background:** Middleton has extensive professional experience in K-12 and higher education, and previously worked for an education publishing company that offered a dropout prevention curriculum. She has also taught political science at the Community College of Aurora.

**Personal:** Middleton is married to Larry Beer and they live in Aurora's Park East neighborhood.



Larry is a member of the Aurora City Council representing Ward III. Her stepdaughters Molly (13) and Katie (10) attend Denver Public Schools. She is expecting a baby due in August!



### **Thank You!**

The Children's Hospital would like to thank each and every one of you for caring about the health and well-being of kids. We are over 4,000 strong in the Grassroots Advocacy Network, which joins the voices of physicians, healthcare professionals, patients and families with business leaders and community members to speak up clearly and powerfully for kids when public policy decisions are made. If you aren't currently part of the Network and would like to join or let others know how they can get involved, please visit <http://capwiz.com/tchden/mlm/verify/> to sign up today!

Rooting for Kids! is published 5 times annually by the Office of External Affairs located at:

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