

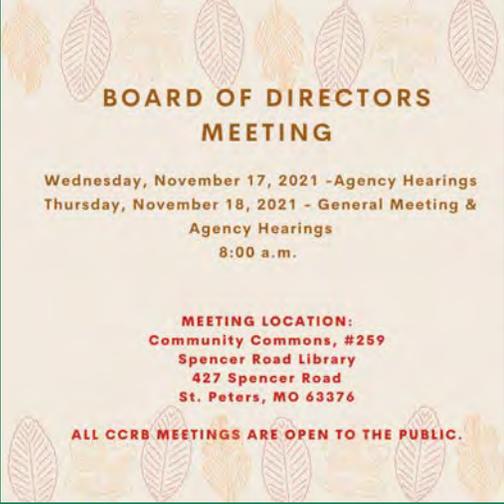


## CARING FOR KIDS – November 2021

Greetings!

The CCRB is dedicated to increasing awareness and access to mental health services for children in St. Charles County. Keep reading to learn what's happening in our county.

To learn more about CCRB-funded services, follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), or visit our [website](#).



- After 2,531 Days in Foster Care
- Sexual Abuse Prevention
- Chad's Story
- Love & Logic Parenting
- November Awareness Month
- Trunk-or-Treat with the Boys & Girls Club
- News from the Field

Learn more about our monthly Board meetings here.

### After 2,531 Days in Foster Care...

by Yanelis Castillo, Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition, Director of Mission Engagement

#### ...Sam Finally Found His Forever Home

Twelve-year-old Sam was in foster care for seven years when Amanda, Extreme Recruiter for Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition, got involved. Sam had been labeled un-adoptable and had experienced a lot of trauma throughout his life. He was let down so often, he no longer trusted those closest to him and pushed them away.

After reviewing Sam's file, Amanda discovered Sam had a godmother, Orla. She was noted as a potential caregiver for Sam and had frequent visits with him until communication stopped two years ago. Amanda deployed Mike, Extreme Recruitment® Investigator, to locate Sam's godmother. After several attempts, he found out that the name in the file was incorrect and that's why they couldn't find her. A clerical error almost cost Sam this relationship.



When Amanda reached out to her, Orla was in disbelief. The last time she spoke with Sam he was at a foster home that cut off all communication with her. Sam was eventually moved from that home, but no one let Orla know. She assumed Sam was still there and possibly had been adopted. It hurt Orla to learn that Sam spent the last two years of his life without her. They could now heal because of Amanda's diligence and persistence.

After speaking with Orla, Amanda brought Sam to see her for the first time in two years. When Sam got out of the car, his eyes eagerly scanned the parking lot for any sign of Orla. They saw each other at the same time. Without hesitation, Sam ran into Orla's arms, tears streaming down his face. They both cried as they held each other. Orla told Amanda she wanted Sam to move in with her. She wanted to be his forever family.

Amanda referred Orla to the Coalition's Families United® program to become licensed and connected Orla to the Coalition's Family Works program to help with any issues during the transition. Sam moved in with Orla over the summer giving him the stability needed to heal. Giving up on him was simply not an option. Sam finally got the family he deserves when Orla adopted him in the Spring of 2021.

*Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition's Extreme Recruitment® is a race to find permanency for youth using 12-20 weeks of intensive recruitment efforts and permanency preparation. The program works exclusively with the hardest-to-place children: ages 10-18, sibling groups, children of minority status, and youth with emotional, developmental, or behavioral concerns.*

## The Child Advocacy Center & Inclusive Sexual Abuse Prevention

Did you know that The Child Advocacy Center of Northeast MO (CAC) provides child sexual abuse prevention programs for special education students, too?

Too often special education students are excluded from prevention programs in regular classroom settings, and the CAC staff rarely presents to special education classrooms. Sexual Abuse Prevention materials have been adapted for a variety of special needs so that every child has access to the Body Safety program. Their current Sexual Abuse Prevention programs meet the needs for most students, but presenters recognize students with disabilities may need more than one lesson or different teaching methods to internalize the concepts presented.

The audience for the CAC's Special Education curriculum is atypical learners and students identified as needing special education services as a result of physical, emotional, or intellectual disabilities. Content is adapted to students' needs by providing curriculum which includes: repetitions, concepts broken down into smaller "chunks," taking into account different modalities of learning, and using a variety of materials and assessments.

### WHEN TO ASK FOR CONSENT



Hugs



Holding Hands



Tickling

The CAC presentations are tailored to student needs after consulting with the special education teacher. They provide all programs in person and over Zoom for students who are learning virtually. Virtual programs are presented in PowerPoint, with embedded videos and pictures and staff will adapt the virtual programs as needed with input from special education teachers.

To learn more or to request a presentation, you can visit The Child Advocacy Center's website.

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Chad McCord was not your ordinary teenager. He was an Eagle Scout. He was in the top 15% of his class at Oakville High School and had almost 20 college credits.

Chad's life was forever changed after depression reared its ugly and deadly head. The disease was just as deadly and invasive as cancer. Slowly, it took over Chad's spirit, body and mind. With every passing day, Chad lost hope and began seeing himself as a burden to all. His depression blinded him to the many gifts he had.

Chad could no longer hide his depression behind the mask he wore so well. In October 2003, Chad was diagnosed with depression and an anxiety disorder. Several months later, he was diagnosed with OCD (obsessing to hurt himself) and rapid cycling bipolar disorder.

As Chad underwent his treatment, he vowed that after he got better he wanted to make a difference in people's lives by bringing mental illness out of the closet. He said that once he was better, he wanted to stand in front of the school assembly and say, "Hi, my name is Chad McCord, and I suffer from depression."

Chad McCord was 18 years old when he lost his battle with depression and took his life on April 15, 2004. Unfortunately, Chad left this world before fulfilling his dream to increase awareness and acceptance of mental illness. Chad's parents, Larry and Marian McCord, vowed to be Chad's voice. In 2005, they founded CHADS Coalition for Mental Health in memory of their son, Chad. CHADS' goal is to save teen lives.

## Love & Logic Classes Offered in November

**Saint Louis Counseling** is a recognized leader of Parenting the Love and Logic Way. Their simple, practical and easy techniques teach children how to become more responsible and create a positive atmosphere where everyone wins. By encouraging the home-school connection and promoting collaboration among parents,



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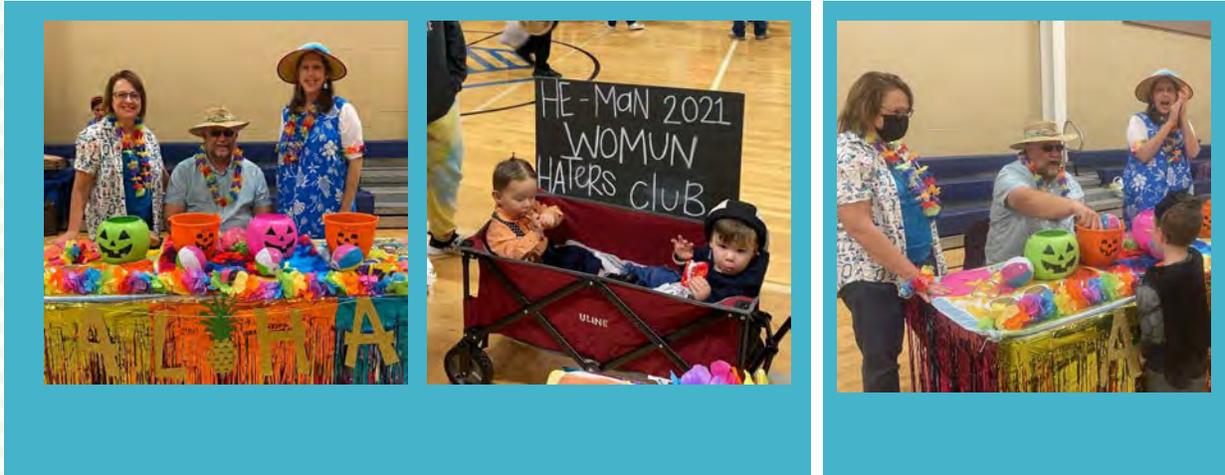
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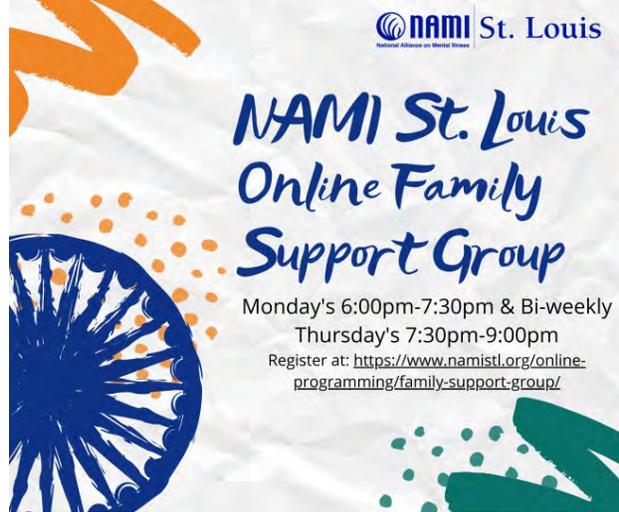


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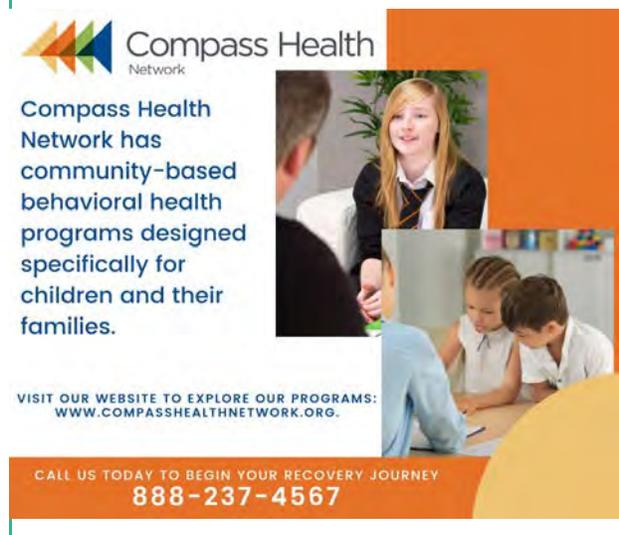
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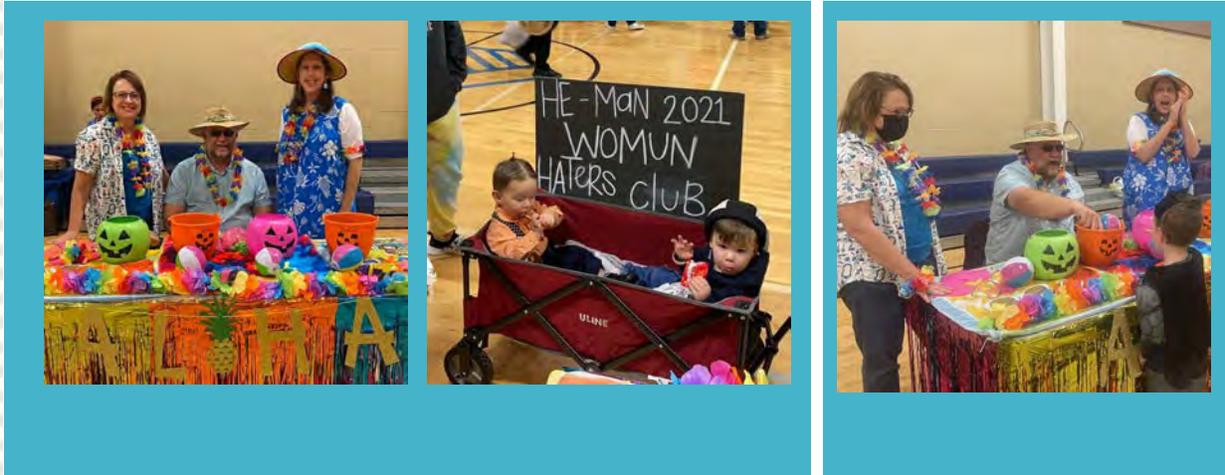
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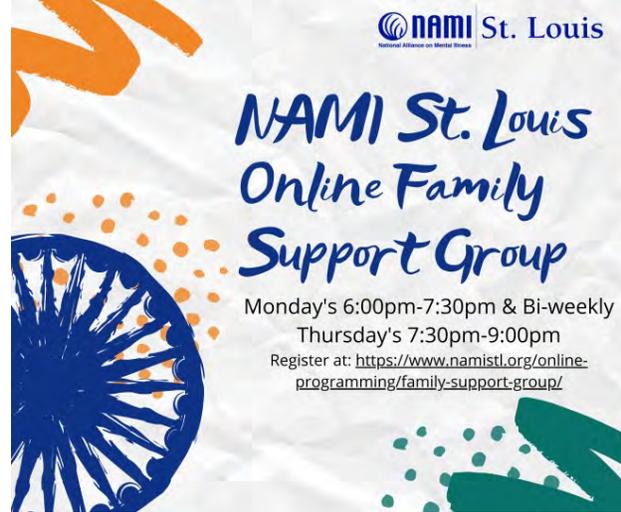


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