



# SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

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## KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MEDIA RELEASE AUGUST 10, 2017

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The Kootenai County Sheriff's Office was pleased to present Safe Passage, the umbrella organization over the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) a check today for \$23,000.00 to help cover the operating costs of the Child Advocacy Center.

The money came from the Drug Asset Forfeiture Account. Sheriff Ben Wolfinger stated: "I am glad that we can use forfeiture money to help keep this important resource in our community available to all law enforcement throughout the area in their efforts to investigate both physical and sexual abuse of children." He also said: "Since so much abuse occurs at the hands of people who use and abuse controlled substances, it seems only fitting that money from the Drug Asset Forfeiture Account helps to pay for the Center's operating costs."

Safe Passage helps all survivors of domestic and sexual violence, including children. They offer a safe shelter, counseling, court advocacy and more. Their services are free and confidential. The Child Advocacy Center is a safe, child-friendly place designed to assuage the fears of children who experience violence. Trained forensic interviewers help children through the difficulty and confusion of disclosing sexual or physical abuse, and cameras allows multidisciplinary teams--including members of law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors, mental health providers, pediatricians and advocates—to maintain a low profile.

In the photo are: (left to right) Michelle Manteuffel, Family Advocate at the CAC; Tamarah Cardwell, CAC Director; Ben Wolfinger, Sheriff and Chauntelle Lieske, Executive Director for Safe Passage

