October, 2016

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MARSHFIELD, VERMONT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

38 Summer Street Barre, VT 05641 ~ ourhousebarre@gmail.com ~ 802-476-8825

Board Members: *Karen Lauzon, President *OPEN, Vice President *Regan Howard, Treasurer *OPEN, Secretary *Francis (Paco) Aumand III * Sylvia Lozier *Sharon Bisson *Kay Oles *David Orrick * Tim Bombardier

Dear Town of Marshfield,

OUR House of Central Vermont is a non-profit Children's Advocacy Center and Special Investigations Unit located in Barre and serving all of Washington County. OUR House's mission is to provide a safe and supportive setting for child victims of sexual abuse, their non-offending family members, and adult survivors of sexual assault. OUR House (which stands for One Unified Response) implements a multidisciplinary approach to the issue of sexual abuse. We work very closely with the Dept. for Children and Families, Law Enforcement, the State's Attorney's Office, Washington County Mental Health Services, and other local non-profit organizations to conduct investigations in a child friendly environment. We also offer therapy referral, case management, safety planning, training, and referral services to children and adults. Every town in Washington County has used our services in one way or another in the year of 2015.

Within Washington County:

- OUR House saw 109 cases walk through our door.
  - 73 of those received forensic interviewing with a trained professional.
    - Out of these 73 interviews, 72 of these victims knew the perpetrator well via family friend or direct relation.
  - 92 of those vitcims were under the case of 18, with 28 under the age of 6.
  - 13 received a SANE exam by a medical professional.
  - 32 received a direct referral for counseling.

While these numbers are lower than last year, we quantify this to a lack of staffing at OUR House for 5 months of 2015, and expect that 2016's numbers will contine to rise, *as current data has 2016 already serving 104.*

While it is difficult to monetarily quantify a child abuse investigation, national statistics show that on a per-case basis, traditional investigations were 36% more expensive than CAC investigations. Because of this cost savings, OUR House is asking Marshfield to place us on the 2017 budget for the same amount as the previous year of $100.00

Thank you for considering OUR House of Central Vermont to be added to your town budget as well as for your support in last year's budget. I would be happy to come to any Select Board or Fiscal Committee meeting and speak further about our services and the basis for this request.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Duranleau
Rebecca Duranleau
Executitive Durector & Forensic Interviewer @ OUR House of Central VT