

# Stark County Job & Family Services

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**Human Services   Children Services   Child Support**



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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When children have experienced abuse, an important part of recovery is to help them to feel like kids again. Stark County is very fortunate to have an organization devoted to helping children and their families cope with sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, human trafficking and exposure to violence. The Children's Network of Stark County (the Children's Network), was founded in 1987, and has served nearly 14,000 children. The Network provides comprehensive services to abused children and their caregivers through prevention, assessment, intervention, treatment, education and advocacy.

The work of the Children's Network is demanding and intense. One of the real bright spots, though, is the Children's Network Pajama Closet, started by the Friends of the Network (a non-profit organization), to help kids be kids. The Pajama Closet, supported through donations, provides a new pair of pajamas, a children's book and toiletries to every child seen at the Children's Network, and to the child's siblings.

The Pajama Closet passes out about 50 pair of pajamas to children each month, about 600 pair each year. While for many of us the thought of a new pair of pajamas is not of great consequence, for children struggling for normalcy, selecting a brand new pair of PJs and a book can bring great joy.

Network Administrator Sherri McKinney-Frantz tells the story of a six-year-old boy who disclosed he had been abused. As part of the Children's Network intake process, the little boy was taken to the Pajama Closet where he picked out a pair of Batman PJs that were just his size. Ms. McKinney-Frantz said the little boy was so thrilled with his new Batman PJs that he immediately put them on. She said that he stood in a super hero pose in his new PJs and smiled from ear-to-ear. That, she said, was a very good day at the Children's Network.

With the holidays coming, the Children's Network is grateful for the donation of new pajamas ranging in size from newborns to adult 4X, new children's books, and hygiene items such as tooth brushes, tooth paste, shampoo, and deodorant. Unused hotel samples also make wonderful donations.

If you are interested in making a holiday donation to the Children's Network of Stark County, please call the Network at 330. 451.1705 to learn more about what is needed.