

Linda Wastyn – Board President

What inspired you to become a part of the Child Abuse Council Board of Directors?

I had worked with the Child Abuse Council to write a grant application to fund some of their programs and became inspired by the depth and breadth of services they provide the community. I have a passion for women's and children's issues, especially for vulnerable children, so the Child Abuse Council's mission also hit one of my passion spots.

What has been the most meaningful experience you've had since being a member of the BOD?

I've enjoyed getting to know the staff and hearing stories about the difference Child Abuse Council programming has on the quality of life in the Quad Cities. Learning that a child figured out through a Child Abuse Council program that someone was abusing her and she knew to report it and got help will stick with me for the rest of my life. Fortunately, or unfortunately, stories like that abound.

What do you contribute to your role in the BOD?

I currently serve as board chair. In that role, I have worked to formalize some of the board meeting processes and procedures to better engage board members and the community at large in our mission.

What would you like the community to know about the Child Abuse Council?

I want them to know that child abuse can happen to anyone and that the Child Abuse Council works with kids who experience trauma as well as abuse. Trauma can come from everyday situations such as living through the derecho or pandemic. You never know how a situation will impact a child. Only the Child Abuse Council specializes in providing therapy and support to children under the age of 5 who experience adverse consequences from a traumatic event in their lives.

What is your hope for the Child Abuse Council in the future?

I hope the Child Abuse Council continues to receive the funding and support it needs to continue its critically important work. I hope that society and government officials realize and invest in the mental health of all residents, including children, as crucially important to the future success and security of our communities.