



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF KIDS' KORNER AT THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Prior to opening Kids' Korner, children in the Lake County courthouse were often left unattended while their parents or guardians conducted business. These children were at risk of being adversely impacted by court proceedings, affecting themselves or their families. They were exposed to inappropriate behavior by adults attending court for criminal, traffic, or divorce matters. They endured unnecessary stress while waiting to testify in court proceedings. Unfortunately, they also often created a distraction to the orderly conduct of court. Kids' Korner was founded in 1994 to address the needs of children in the courthouse.

"Kids' Korner has been opening our doors to the families of Lake County for the past 25 years. We have only been fortunate enough to do so because of the support from so many, including our "founding mother", former Circuit Judge Jane D. Waller, former Kids' Korner Coordinator, Rosanne Sherwood, our dedicated staff, our indispensable volunteers, the judges of the 19th Judicial Circuit, the County of Lake, and of course our donors. Our abilities and successes are truly a community effort," said Sue Hrycyniak, Kids' Korner Coordinator.

Since its inception Kids' Korner has been able to provide a haven to over 53,000 children involved in the court system. Kids' Korner is a free service for children ages 2 – 12. Its purpose is to provide a safe and enjoyable waiting area for children who are in the Lake County Courthouse either to testify in court or whose parents or guardians are conducting court business. The children's waiting room is open Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

"A courthouse can often be an intimidating place for a child. Kid's Korner is a warm and welcoming space for children to feel comfortable, safe, and be able to play while their parents or guardians are conducting court business. Our incredible staff and loyal volunteers make this a friendly environment by interacting and caring for children at what could be a very stressful time in their young lives," said Chief Judge Jay W. Ukena.

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