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seek to uncover the underlying problem that leads to abuse, provide treatment, and hopefully prevent future maltreatment.

Based upon information as found in the Child Maltreatment 2017 report, there were over 4.1 million referral reports made alleging some form of abuse in 2017 in the United States. To put it in perspective, that equates to an average of over 11,000 child abuse reports per day.

Today, the approach on child maltreatment prevention seeks on boosting the role of communities in reinforcing protective factors in a child's environment and prevention services that are targeted toward sections of the population deemed at risk.

Partnerships with various public and private agencies have been put in place to provide the services needed for those at risk of maltreatment to prevent the occurrence or for those who are experiencing maltreatment. The positive aspect and the role a community plays in encouraging the development of a child's well-being brings about the shift from just educating the parent. By educating a

community, everyone becomes more aware of risk factors, treatment options, and where to seek help for those who may be in need.

Child maltreatment, protection, and prevention has evolved over the last sixty years. Each decade has witnessed changes though policies and laws that are aimed at fostering positive family environments by building parenting skills and parenting confidence. It is important to remember that although one evidence-based practice has been successful for one group or area of population, it may not be successful for another area. To ensure a positive outcome, it is important to factor in the target group.

Social Service Clinician Sarah Perkins explained why she chose her field of work and what others can do to help prevent child abuse.

"My greatest hero and person of inspiration in my life is by far my grandpa, Larry Bennett," Sarah said. "He served as Sheriff of Russell County for over 23 years – basically all my childhood and college years."

Growing up, Sarah



HOPE for all Social Workers outside on 127 in front of the local DCBS Office.

spent many hours at the Sheriff's office, spending time in the courtroom, going on transports with her grandpa, and riding along each summer to take a group of girls to the Kentucky Sheriff's Summer Camp.

"I have learned many valuable life lessons as a result, but little did I know all of these experiences would benefit me in my career as an adult," Sarah said.

She shared that one of the greatest lessons learned from her grandpa was to be a blessing to others. He always told her that God would use her to do good for others.

"As a young teenager, that did not seem so important to me. But now that I am older, I find those words to be something I strive for each day," Sarah said. "Fortunately, as a social worker, I am bless-

ed with a job where I have the opportunity to help others."

Sarah had never fully considered a career as a social worker, but to her surprise she found herself taking on this role. She explained that some days are emotionally exhausting day.

"I picked up the phone to call my parents," Sarah said of a difficult day on the job. "As soon as my mother answered the phone, I simply blurted out, 'Thank you for giving me a good life'. For the first time, there was a realization for me that my life could have been so tragically different had I not been blessed to live in a home where I felt loved and safe and protected and nurtured. From that point, my job took on a new meaning."

After working one year in Florence, Ky., Sarah was able to transfer to

Russell County as a social worker.

"My job is demanding," Sarah said. "I will not lie about that fact."

Social Workers have large caseloads that continue to grow. When one case is closed, it seems three new ones take its place. The demand, the need, the absence of resources, the frustration, and the lack of workers are difficult, as well as the lack of time to complete the required tasks at hand. However, Sarah still finds the joy among it all.

"I love the families I serve," Sarah said. "I want to help them rise about their situations and find real help to keep their family intact. I have seen some devastating situations. Sometimes I see progress, other times it is a difficult battle."

Sarah has worked for

the Cabinet for Health and Family Services for the past six years and is currently pursuing Master of Social Work (MSW) degree through Western Kentucky University. Looking toward the future, she sees the necessity to further her education in order to enhance the skills she has already learned from being a social worker and emerge with new ways of critical thinking and a better way of application.

"My desire is to lead so that others – whether my clients, the children I serve, or my colleagues – will desire to have a more fulfilling life," Sarah said. "I just want to be a blessing to others!"

Anyone who suspects child abuse can make a report to the hotline at 606-303-2192.

# SANITIZER continued from page one



Sheriff Derek Polston, Russell Springs Mayor Eddie Thomas and Chief of Police Joe Michael Irvin happy with donated hand sanitizer.

along with Heaven Hill Distillery, provided hand sanitizer to the 120 county sheriffs and their departments in Kentucky.

"In times like these, such as the COVID-19 situation, it is good to see other distilleries in Kentucky and other business stepping up to help first responders," Sheriff Polston said.

Polston and his wife, Hester, picked up 10 cases at the distillery for Russell, Adair, Casey, Clinton, and Cumberland County Sheriffs and their Departments. The couple delivered the sanitizer to the corresponding sheriffs and their departments.

As for Russell County, the hand sanitizer was directed to the local Sheriff's Department and Mayor Nick Shearer of Jamestown and Mayor Eddie Thomas of Russell Springs.

"Me, being elected as Sheriff in the county, I have to take care of the smaller departments in the cities under a State of Emergency," Sheriff Polston said of his reason behind this. "The Sheriff is your highest law enforcement official in the county, and under a State of Emergency the other police departments fall under the Sheriff's Office if things start to get worse. Let's hope and pray it does not get any

worse."

Sheriff Polston could not express how thankful he was to Sheriff Pineiroa and his staff as well as Heaven Hill Distillery for this generous donation during a crucial time of need. Polston also stated that the department is receiving private donations of gloves and other items as well.

"We will all get through this," Polston said. "Please continue to pray for this to end."

As always, Sheriff Polston ended by saying: "God, family, county, and country."

# FAMILIES continued from page one



Several waiting in line for the generous commodities offered to Russell Countians in need.

facility's parking lot.

Cars were lined-up at the church beginning at noon and didn't stop until all commodities were given away. This was a drive-thru situation only, and no one

was permitted to exit their car.

Judge Robertson thanked those who donated pizza for all the workers during this trying time.

For more information on future commodity times and locations contact the office of the Russell County Judge-Executive Gary D. Robertson at 270-343-2112.

## GROW YOUR BUSINESS!

Call Today to place your business advertisement in the Times Journal 866-3191

# PPE continued from page one

- N-95 masks
  - School bus drivers and staff delivering meals
  - Essential workers not in the health care field
- If you have the desire or ability to help, there are several who could use donations of home-made cloth masks.
- Per CDC guidelines, please do not drop off cloth masks to local health departments. Instead, reach out to the following to see if there is a need for cloth masks:
- Meals-on-Wheels staff
  - Bankers

## DONATIONS NEEDED

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Eye Protection
- Gowns
- N95 & General Face Masks
- Swabs & Viral Transport
- 70% Isopropyl Alcohol

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## Jamestown Pharmacy

Owner: Jeff Warner

1417 North Main Street in Jamestown, KY  
Phone: 270-343-4443  
Hours: Monday - Saturday from 8:00am - 5:30pm  
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