



## Director Speaks on Gender Based Violence in Zambia

By Linda Olson; Executive Director

Linda Olson, Executive Director of Bright Horizons, had the privilege of speaking on gender based violence at a school in Zambia, Africa in June. Linda's daughter, Bethany, is serving in the Peace Corps in Zambia and Linda and her friend, Barb Shane, had the opportunity to visit her this summer.

"After arriving, my daughter told me that she had scheduled us to give a talk to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and some of the adults in the village. She asked me if that would be a problem" said Linda. "I replied that no, that wouldn't be a problem at all, I do it all of the time in Nebraska. But then I got to thinking about what options an abused woman has in Zambia and what resources are available and I realized that this was going to be a lot harder than I originally thought."

"After discussing this with Bethany, we decided to keep the focus on awareness" stated Linda. "My daughter and I each spoke and had a translator that translated what we were saying into Tonga, the language spoken most often in the village." There were about 35 students in attendance and 15 adults. Many of the adults had walked several miles to attend. "I'm sure that part of the draw was meeting these visiting women from the United States."

"A lot of the concerns that the adults spoke about was the lack of birth control and how hard it was to leave an abusive situation with so many little children" said Linda.

"They shared a lot of the same barriers and concerns that women in the United States face."

Bethany, or Mutinta as they call her in Zambia, has been serving in the Peace Corps for 21 months and still has six months left to serve. "It was wonderful to see my daughter. It was a trip of a life time" stated Linda. "We got to see some of the tourist destinations but also spend time in the village where my daughter serves. She does not have electricity or running water."

"This trip made me realize the advances that the women and families affected by domestic violence in the United States have. It makes you thankful to be working in a country where there are shelters and agencies such as Bright Horizons" said Linda.



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## Atkinson's 3rd Annual Big Give

By Linda Olson; Executive Director

Atkinson's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Big Give will be held on Tuesday December 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a 24-hour promotion to support the non-profits that work to support the citizens of Atkinson and make the Atkinson community a better place to live. Bright Horizons is again participating in this event and all funds raised are used to support victims of domestic violence and sexual assault from the Atkinson area. You can participate by stopping by the giving station at Braun's Food Center between 7:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. or at the Atkinson Lanes from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. You can also visit your favorite charity's website and donate on line or drop a check off. Please mark your calendar and plan to support our efforts on December 1<sup>st</sup>!



# Shopko Foundation Grant

By Linda Olson; Executive Director

Bright Horizons was recently awarded a \$500 grant from the Shopko Foundation to support Kris' House of Grace, their transitional shelter that will be opening soon. Pictured is Linda Olson, Executive Director, receiving the check from Deb Hinz and the Norfolk Shopko employees. We would like to give them a big thank you for their support in this exciting endeavor!



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## Mark Wynn Training

By Amanda Wallace; O'Neill Program Director

We are extremely excited about an upcoming training opportunity, to be held in O'Neill NE on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. Bright Horizons, in partnership with O'Neill Police Department, the City of O'Neill and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska are bringing national speaker Lt. Mark Wynn (ret.) to our rural communities. Lt. Wynn has been a national trainer to police executives, patrol officers, training officers, prosecutors, judges, legislators, social service providers, healthcare professionals and victim advocates in all fifty states for over thirty years and an international lecturer at police academies. He is a survivor of domestic violence, enabling him to teach both effectively and passionately. In short, Lt. Wynn is devoted to ending family violence as a police officer, detective, educator, program supervisor and now consultant and advisor.

The training being offered is titled "Building a Community Coordinated Response to Domestic Violence". This training is designed to assist professionals in understanding their roles and responsibilities when first responding to survivors of domestic violence. The training brings together all agencies and persons serving survivors. The session will introduce participants to model communities, their response to domestic violence, and the roll of the law enforcement as a leader. Examples of obstacles, resources, and benefits to the government-community partnerships will be explored.

We encourage anyone serving survivors of domestic violence to attend. Our target audience includes, but is not limited to, multidisciplinary team members, law enforcement, child and family specialists, prosecutors, child and family advocates, mental health professionals, school personnel, CASA, clergy, volunteers, and other service providers.

There is no cost to attend, however registration is required. The **deadline is November 25<sup>th</sup>** and spots are filling up fast. The content of this conference is believed to meet the requirements for CEUs. Individual practitioners would submit the conference information during their renewal year. Bright Horizons will take the appropriate measures to facilitate the process (i.e. maintain attendance records, provide certificates, etc.) and be able to provide verification if needed. Please note we are unable to offer nursing or medical CEU's.

To register please contact Amanda or Katie at 402.336.1774. A block of rooms have been reserved at both Super 8 and Holiday Inn for December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>; rooms must be booked by November 1<sup>st</sup> to receive the special rate. Please reference Mark Wynn training.

Super 8 106 US HWY 20, O'Neill NE 68763 402.336.3100-Single rate of \$60.00 + tax, Double \$65.00 +tax

Holiday Inn 1020 E. Douglas Street, O'Neill NE 68763 402.336.4500-Single Rate of \$89.00 + tax Double \$99.00 + tax