

Letter from the Executive Director

“What will happen if the wind blows and blows?
I wonder what I’ll do?
If the wind blows again and the light of my heart
Turns black and blue.”

(From Ten-Second Rainshowers)

Sadly, for children living with the horror of abuse, I often think their hearts must feel black and blue. Children are, by nature, vulnerable and that vulnerability is unmistakable to us when we think of a child being abused and their hearts being bruised. We know children are powerless to stop someone from abusing them. They deal with feelings of helplessness, anger and sometimes a desire for revenge. They may wonder what they did to deserve the abuse and even wonder if they did something that caused them to be abused. They were victimized, but struggle not to remain a victim. Each day at Scotty’s House, we see brave children ready to place their lives and their futures in the hands of adults, ready to trust where no one would think trust could remain.

As we look into the faces of our own children, trying to convince them that they are safe and that we will always protect them, we cannot overlook those children who remain in unsafe homes. We need to be prepared to provide a safe place for them to disclose the horrors of their abuse when they have the courage to tell. At Scotty’s House we are reminded that child abuse goes on in communities throughout the Brazos Valley. With continued support, Scotty’s House will go on, paving the way for a safer future for children and providing a place where healing can begin.

I encourage each of you to renew your efforts to reach out to all children, not just your own. Adopt a family, play catch with a neighborhood child, volunteer at a child serving agency, and most of all – report abuse when you suspect a child is hurting. Nothing speaks louder to children than adults who pay attention to them. Show them you care, and in doing so you give them the courage and the ability to voice their joys and their fears when it is most important to do so.

Linda Patton
Executive Director