



*Children's Service Society*

## SUPPORT SERVICES

April, May & June

### From the Desk of Jacci Graham



What an exciting and exhausting couple of months.

We have lots to toot our horn about this month. We are so very proud of our Home Visitation Program; they do such an amazing

job that when the National Parents As Teachers needed a model program for the folks from Australia to see, they sent them to us. Cathy and her home visitors do such incredible work with the families they have the opportunity of serving that it was just a natural that we would be the program for this Australian parent educator to shadow.

We just completed another year at the Utah State Legislature. We had the opportunity to visit with key legislators as they tackled things like the autism bill, the early childhood issues, adoption and kinship caregiving. We helped write and advocated for adult adoptees to have access to their original birth certificate. Unfortunately this did not pass but we did better this year and we will continue

to educate legislators of the needs for adult adoptees. We worked closely with the Director of Guardian AD Litems office, and the Division of Child and Family Services to defeat HB 0418. It went down to the wire the night before the close of the session, but with great advocates like Senator Hillyard the voices of kinship caregivers were heard and the bill was defeated. Many of our families wrote to their respective representatives and they responded. This year CSS went before the Social Services Appropriations Sub-Committee for the first time and requested \$200,000.00 to expand our Grandfamilies program to Weber and Cache Counties. We were thrilled at the close of the session that they awarded us \$600,000.00 to be used over the next three years. A special thanks goes to Elder Merrill Bateman, Brent Platt, and Senator Todd Weiler for being advocates for kinship caregivers and their children.

As you can see, many things continue to happen and Children Service Society continues to be a place where miracles happen. Many of those miracles take place because we have dedicated staff and amazing families that we have the honor of serving.

*Jacqueline R. Graham, LCSW*



### Children's Service Society

Safe Children • Caring Families  
Strong Communities • Since 1884



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#### SUPPORT SERVICES

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Home Visitation Coordinator

*Tami Hansen*  
Volunteer Coordinator

*Nanette Evans, CPM*  
Contract Compliance Coordinator

*Becky Davis*  
Social Services Assistant

# Thank You IKEA!

We would like to publically thank IKEA for coming to our offices and making our children's group room so inviting and efficient. IKEA sent staff to measure the room, make drawing of what would be possible and then delivered such wonderful gifts. We now have a children's group where children that have been traumatized can come and begin to heal. To IKEA I say "Thank you" for your kind donations and the care that was taken to ensure that the children that enter that room will feel safe and welcomed.



# Understanding Teen Abuse of Prescription Drugs

The Medicine Abuse Project

*Prescription drug abuse is not a new problem, but one that deserves urgent attention. In the past year, about one in nine young people aged 12-25 abused prescription drugs. Unfortunately, many people do not appreciate that some prescription drugs, such as prescription pain relievers and stimulants, can act in the brain in ways similar to drugs of abuse like heroin and cocaine. Thus, the consequences of medication abuse can also be similar, including the possibility of addiction, overdose and even death."*

**Dr. Nora D. Volkow**  
**National Institute**  
**on Drug Abuse**

- Every day 2,500 teenagers use a prescription drug to get high for the first time.
- 1 in 5 teen say they have taken a prescription drug without having a prescription themselves.
- 12 to 17 year olds abuse prescription drugs more than they abuse ecstasy, crack/cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine combined.
- 70 percent of teens who abuse prescription drugs say they get them from family member and friends.
- Prescription medicines are now the most commonly abused drugs among 12 to 13 years old.

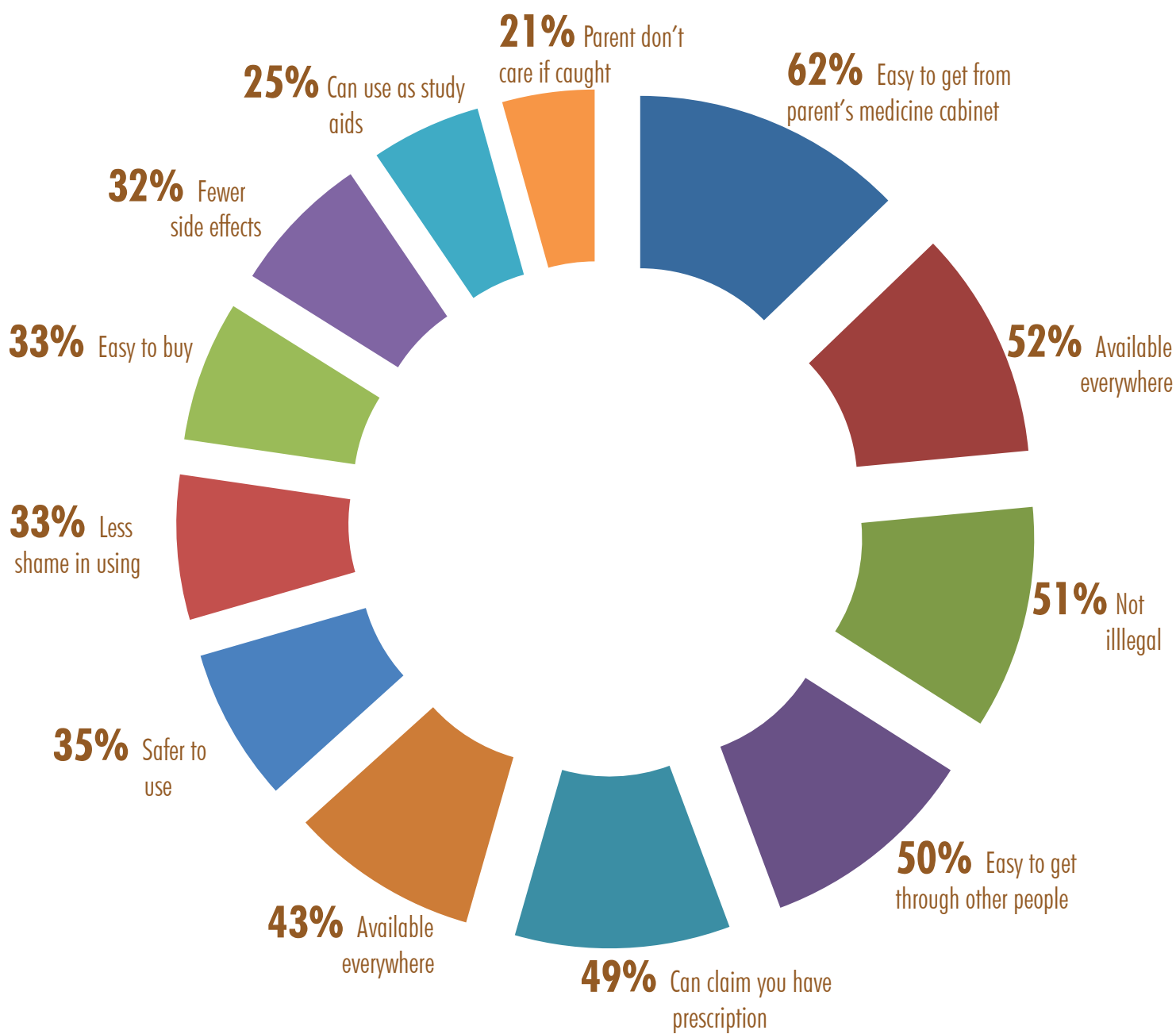


## Parent Tip

Research indicates that parents are not communicating the risks of prescription medicine abuse to their children as often as they talk about street drugs. In addition to become aware and educating themselves about teen medicine abuse, parents also need to set a good example. Twenty-seven percent of parents surveyed by Partnership at Drugfree reported that they themselves have taken prescription medicine without a prescription.

# 12 Reasons Teens USE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

University of Texas





# Tips for Safeguarding Medication

*The Medicine Abuse Project*

There are both immediate and long-term risks to medicine abuse. These include overdosing in the short-term, and establishing a lifelong pattern of addiction in the long run. Since most teens access medication from friends and families, safeguarding prescription is medication in the home is crucial.

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**MONITOR:** Keep track of your refills. Encourage family members to regularly monitor their medicine cabinet.

**SAFEGUARD:** Keep prescription medicine in a secure place

**DISPOSE:** Discard expired or unused drugs when the kids are not around.



# Springtime activities for grandparents and grandchildren

[www.grandparents.com](http://www.grandparents.com)



- Set up a lemonade stand

- Catch frogs

- Go on nature walks pointing out bugs, trees, birds and butterflies

- Ride bicycles somewhere new

- Go on a picnic, even if it is just in your backyard

- Teach your grandchild a hobby

- Fly a kite

- Go to a petting zoo

- Go to a farmer's market making a game out of finding one item for each letter of the alphabet

- Pick flowers

- Wash the car together

- Make a birdfeeder

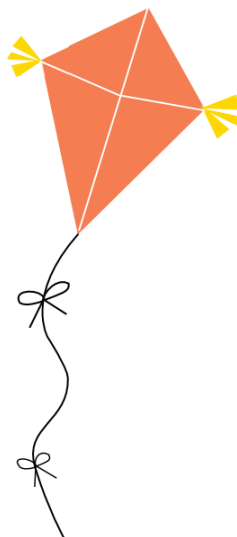
- Dig for worms

- Go to a baseball game

- Find a local set of swings

- Make a fruit salad

*Spring offers a wealth of opportunity for grandparents and grandkids to be engaged in creative and fun outdoor activities.*



# Latest Updates

*Join us for our Annual Spring Gala to raise funds to prevent child abuse and neglect:*

April 10, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

La Caille, 9565 S. Wasatch Boulevard, Sandy

Please visit our website at [www.cssutah.org](http://www.cssutah.org) to purchase tickets

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The Grandfamilies Program has a new statewide website:  
**[www.grandfamiliesutah.org](http://www.grandfamiliesutah.org)**



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**Administration**  
801-355-7444

**Care About Childcare**

Referrals: 801-355-4847  
Training: 801-326-4403  
Recruitment: 801-326-4404

**Support Services**  
801-326-4409

## RESOURCES

[www.parentsempowered.org](http://www.parentsempowered.org)  
[www.thetruth.com](http://www.thetruth.com)  
[www.thecoolspot.gov](http://www.thecoolspot.gov)  
[www.theantidrug.com](http://www.theantidrug.com)  
[www.teens.drugabuse.gov](http://www.teens.drugabuse.gov)  
[www.drug-rehab.org](http://www.drug-rehab.org)

## CHILDREN'S SERVICE SOCIETY SUPPORT SERVICES IS FUNDED BY:

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[www.cdc.gov/parents](http://www.cdc.gov/parents)  
[www.guidance.group.com](http://www.guidance.group.com)  
[www.familyfunshop.com](http://www.familyfunshop.com)  
[www.brillbaby.com](http://www.brillbaby.com)  
[www.eyeonearlyeducation.org](http://www.eyeonearlyeducation.org)

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Utah Health Department, Office of Home  
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Utah Masonic Foundation

