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Sue Moore, an investigator for cases of child sexual and physical abuse, is the winner of an award honoring people who help victims of violent crime.

Ms. Moore received a “Hope in Heels” award from the Hope in Heels Foundation, which was started in 2005 by Lora Besse and her family. Ms. Besse is a victim’s advocate for the Hamilton County Prosecutor’s Office. The award recognizes those who use outstanding sensitivity, determination, collaboration and skill in their work with crime victims.

The honor came with a check for \$1,000. Ms. Moore intends to use the money to buy anatomically-correct dolls. Investigators sometimes use the dolls in interviews with children.

Ms. Moore is supervisor of a specialized investigations unit for Hamilton County Children’s Services. Children’s Services, a division of the county department of Job and Family Services, is charged with investigating reports of child abuse and neglect and acting to protect children.

Ms. Moore and her unit of seven caseworkers are based at Children’s Hospital Medical Center in the Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children. The Mayerson Center, which opened in January, 2000, brings together many resources dedicated to preventing and treating child abuse. Besides the child abuse investigators, the staff includes law enforcement officers, a victim’s advocate from the prosecutor’s office, and Children’s Hospital physicians, nurses and social workers. About six or seven suspected child abuse cases are investigated at the Mayerson Center every day.

A graduate of Bowling Green University and a resident of St. Bernard, Ms. Moore has worked for Job and Family Services since 1997. She began as a Children’s Services caseworker and then was a sex abuse investigator for four years before becoming supervisor of the unit in 2005.

“I love working with all the different types of professionals here: law enforcement, prosecutors, doctors, and hospital social workers,” Ms. Moore said. “You get to do a thorough job on every case. Getting good outcomes in prosecution and seeing the perpetrators go to jail – that’s very rewarding.”

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