



Breaking *the* Silence



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Hello everyone!

Spring is definitely in the air at The CAC. A lot of excitement and bustle fill the air with the many projects and events we are managing. None of which could be possible without our incredible group of volunteers.

Erma Bombeck once said, "Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience and just plain love for another."

National Volunteer Week is April 10th through the 16th and a time for us to express our heartfelt gratitude to our volunteers for all of their incredible support. I was so impressed with Girl Scout Troop #5548 and their dedication to painting the mural in our playroom. The newly painted bright and colorful wall sends a message to each of our children expressing our concern for their well-being. Letting them know that The CAC is a safe place and that everyone here cares about them. One component of our accreditation is a child-friendly facility. We thank the girls of Girl Scout Troop #5548 for helping us with our mission and creating a happy environment for our children.

Thanks go to each and every one of our many CAC Volunteers!

Elaine Stolte Executive Director
The Children's Assessment Center

2010 Holiday Season at The CAC

During the 2010 Holiday Season, our continued partnership with the Harris County Sheriff's Office brought enormous smiles to the faces of 500 children served by The CAC. Bright and early on the morning of December 2nd, hundreds of CAC staff and volunteers lined the streets surrounding The CAC to welcome the parade of HCSO officers, the motorcycle unit and mounted patrol, which truly arrived with bells on! All eyes were on the decked out 18-wheeler packed full of toys requested by children through The CAC's Holiday Wish list Program. For 16 years, the HCSO has provided gifts, bicycles, gift cards and many more special items to the children served by The CAC.

Throughout the holidays, The CAC was able to provide gifts to approximately 1,577 children through corporate and individual Toy Drives and monetary donations. Nearly 300 children visited with Santa and received gifts at the annual Holiday Party on December 15th. There the children decorated stockings, made ornaments, bejeweled treasure boxes and decorated cupcakes donated by Crave Cupcakes. Families also enjoyed pizza from Little Caesars Pizza and treats donated by Whole Foods. Once again, our heartfelt gratitude goes out to each volunteer and donor who made this holiday season truly special for over 2,000 children served by The CAC.





3rd Annual CAC Friends Guild Board Holiday Coffee

The Children's Assessment Center (The CAC) Friends Guild Board hosted the 3rd Annual Holiday Coffee on December 10, 2010. Lucinda Loya, Friends Guild Board member and generous hostess, opened up her gorgeous home for this festive occasion to gather supporters and friends of The CAC. It was a perfect December morning and guests brought toys, gift cards and donations for the children and teens served at The CAC.

Mrs. Loya provided guests with a beautiful breakfast array and everyone enjoyed visiting and helping to make the children's holidays brighter through their toy donations. Elaine Stolte, Executive Director of The CAC, thanked everyone for attending and for their support and involvement throughout the year. She also spoke about *One with Courage*, the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc. statewide campaign centered around the courage it takes to talk about child sexual abuse. Mrs. Stolte explained how it takes tremendous strength for young victims to come forward to talk about the abuse they've suffered and it takes courage for adults to recognize the signs of abuse and report suspected abuse. The CAC is thankful for supporters such as the guests of the Holiday Coffee who help not only spread awareness, but also encourage prevention of child sexual abuse.

Kimberly DeLape and Alicia Smith, two of the Event Chairs for the Spirit of Spring Luncheon, reminded everyone to save the date of April 1, 2011 for the 12th Annual Spirit of Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show at the Omni Hotel. This is the largest fundraising event for The CAC each year and funds raised support the direct service programs which are critical to the hope and healing of these young victims. Thank you to all of the attendees for supporting The CAC during the holidays and year-round!



12th Annual Spirit of Spring Fashion and Fragrance Soirée

On **Friday, April 1, 2011**, The Children's Assessment Center (The CAC) will host the **12th Annual Spirit of Spring Fashion and Fragrance Soirée, *The Power of One***. For the past 11 years, Houston has supported this premier event in support of child victims of sexual abuse. This year's event is generously underwritten by **H-E-B** and **Leslie Alexander and The Houston Rockets**, and the fashion show is underwritten by **Momentum Porsche and Porsche West Houston**. The event will take place at the **Omni Hotel** with a fashion and fragrance show presented by **Saks Fifth Avenue and Guerlain**. **Event Chairs are Kimberly DeLape, Deborah Duncan and Alicia Smith, and this year's Honorary Chair is Pily Simón**. Guests will enjoy an exciting afternoon of lunch and designer fashions!

This year's luncheon has an extraordinary message that is being shared across Texas. The theme for the event, ***The Power of One***, ties into the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc. statewide campaign centered around the courage it takes to talk about child sexual abuse. It takes tremendous strength for young victims to come forward to talk about the abuse they've suffered and it takes courage for adults to recognize the signs of abuse and report suspected abuse. The goal for the 12th Annual Spirit of Spring Luncheon is to inspire the courage required to take action against child sexual abuse. *One person really can make a difference in the fight against child abuse!*

Funds raised at this event will support direct service programs that The CAC offers such as forensic interviewing, medical and therapy services which are critical to the hope and healing of these young victims.

The event begins with a reception, silent auction and fragrance bar at 11:00 a.m. and the luncheon and fashion show to follow at 12:00 p.m. Sponsorships are available ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000. Limited individual tickets are offered at \$175 each. For more information and to reserve your table/tickets, please contact Aubre Barr at (713) 986-3370 or Aubre.Barr@cac.hctx.net



95% of children are abused by a family member or someone they know and trust



Girl Scout Troop 5548 Completes Silver Project at The CAC

This past fall, nine girls from Girl Scout Troop 5548 completed their Silver Project at The CAC. Each girl completed 40 hours individually for a total of nearly 360 hours spent researching the process of painting a mural, soliciting donations for their supplies, and designing and painting a mural in The CAC Playroom. The Girl Scouts began their process in early February and completed the mural in late June. The Scouts met with local artist, Suzanne Sellers, for guidance with the design and supplies. Each girl then created a sketch and the group voted for the finalist. Once they had the design and knew what supplies they needed, they raised money for the supplies by selling lemonade, asking for donations from vendors or by drafting letters to send to friends, family and local businesses. By the time they began painting in the Playroom, the girls felt ownership of the project and were excited about how their work would impact children just like them. They worked diligently over the course of eight weekends to complete a beautiful underwater scene that lends whimsy and fun to a room beloved by the children who visit.

The CAC is honored to have been chosen by this industrious group. Their hard work not only taught the Girl Scouts many valuable lessons, their work lives on to touch thousands of children. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors and continue to send them our most heartfelt gratitude and admiration.



Local Grocers Help You Help The CAC

Kroger's "Neighbor to Neighbor" Program links our organization to your KrogerPlus Card. The Children's Assessment Center will earn a percentage based on purchases of the \$1 million donated by Kroger annually through this program. In order to link your KrogerPlus Card to The CAC, take this barcode to check out and ask the cashier to scan your KrogerPlus Card and then the barcode. It will remain active until April 30, 2011. **This linking process is necessary once each year.** If you do not yet have a card, you can sign up at any Kroger location and begin earning money for The CAC every time you shop at Kroger.



Clip out the card and take it with you to the store as your reminder of our organization's Good Neighbor Program account number to fill in on your Remarkable card application.




3851

Organization Number

Don't forget to link our Good Neighbor Number to your Remarkable Card and help us raise funds the easy way!

The Children's Assessment Center also participates in Randalls "Good Neighbor" Program. Link your Randalls card to The CAC's Good Neighbor number **3851** at the customer service booth so that 1% of all your purchases will benefit The CAC. You only have to link it one time and it will remain in effect unless you decide to change it.

The Family Advocate at The CAC

Imagine a typical day during the week. You drop the kids off at school on your way to work and have just settled in for the hustle and bustle of the day. Suddenly, seemingly out of nowhere, you get a call from Child Protective Services (CPS) telling you that your youngest daughter has been taken from school to The Children's Assessment Center and that you need to meet her there. You have no idea what is going on and are confused why anyone could pick up your child without your permission.

You enter The CAC and you meet a CPS worker, a detective and a forensic interviewer. You are in shock. You comprehend every third word they are saying and feel overwhelmed and unable to take in what is going on around you. You have not seen your daughter and feel a rush of emotions coming over you. You are told your child will be interviewed, but you have no idea what is going on or how you ended up here. The workers continue speaking to you but it all seems to be going too fast for you to process.

You are then met by a woman, who introduces herself as the Family Advocate. She asks if you would like to come back to her office and to talk about what is going on. You sit on the couch and burst into tears. You have millions of questions. The Family Advocate again explains that there has been an allegation of sexual abuse and that your daughter is being interviewed about those allegations. She answers your questions about the process, what happens after the forensic interview, and sits with you as you try to put the pieces of this puzzle together.



As you leave the Family Advocate gives you her card, information on child sexual abuse, as well as a list of therapy resources. She assures you that she is there to offer support and will call you next week to see how you are doing and find out what she can do to help. You get her card but are still in shock and don't expect to hear from her again.

A week passes and you get a call. It is the Family Advocate calling to see how you are doing and offering assistance getting you or family members into therapy services. You feel relieved and comforted knowing that there is someone who is willing to help you and your family get the healing they need.

This is an example of a typical case that is seen at The CAC on a daily basis. Mom's or Dad's trying to understand what is happening and just needing some support and education to get through the crises.

The Family Advocate Program is an early intervention model designed to support non-offending caregivers in cases of alleged or substantiated child sexual abuse. Caregivers are provided support and education as they work through the various reactions and stages of coping with the allegations. The goal is to address the needs of the caregiver so that the caregiver is more able to protect and support the alleged child victim. Services available include crises intervention, psycho-education, initial assessment, short-term counseling, referrals to community agencies, consultation, support groups and/or resource coordination.



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The median age for reported abuse is 9 years old