

The
Children's
Assessment
Center

BREAKING THE SILENCE

A publication of The Children's Assessment Center, a safe place serving Houston's sexually abused children.

The mission of The Children's Assessment Center is to provide a professional, compassionate and coordinated approach to the treatment of sexually abused children and their families and to serve as an advocate for all children in our community.

5th Annual Polo Italia & Risotto Festival Really Cooked, Netting \$100,000!

The Houston Polo Club's fall season launch was a polo and palette pleaser Sunday, September 12, as more than 600 fabulously attired guests packed the newly constructed Hibernia Bank Polo Pavilion for the 5th annual Polo Italia & Risotto Festival.

Chaired by Jennifer and Lance Gilliam and Marlee and Mark Sikes, the event honored the Moody family and cleared more than \$100,000 for The Children's Assessment Center Foundation.

Jennifer Gilliam and Marlee Sikes planned a one-of-a-kind family event, beginning with an Italian Kids Carnival at 4:30 p.m. While the wee ones wolfed down on cotton candy and popcorn, adults enjoyed sampling antipasti and a variety of wines from Boisset America.

The most beautiful sport in the world — on and off the field — featured The Stanford Group Company vs. Moody Rambin Interests. Ponies were replaced with Ferraris at halftime as the Ferrari Car Club of Houston presented other fine forms of horsepower in a car parade.

Following polo, guests sampled superb risotto dishes prepared by Houston's finest restaurants, including Arcodoro Ristorante

Italiano-Houston, Aries Restaurant, The Art Institute of Houston, Daily Review Café, Fresh Foods Catering, Ibiza Food and Wine Bar, Masraff's, Mockingbird Bistro, Molina's, Olivette at The

Houstonian, The Remington at the St. Regis-Houston, and Trevisio.

Judging the competition was a stellar group of Houston food experts: Alyce Eyster, *Culinary Thymes*; Teresa Byrne-Dodge, *My Table Magazine*; John DeMers, cookbook author and editor of *Texas Foodlover*; Robin Tinsley,



Auction Co-Chairs Tami Pearson and Alicia Smith with KPRC's Roseann Rogers

WineSkinny.com; and Ernie Manouse, anchor and host, KUHT-TV.

Taking first place was Daily Review Café, second place winner was Aries Restaurant, and third place was awarded to The Remington at the St. Regis. Arcodoro took Honorable Mention, and the judges said the best-looking booth belonged to Olivette at The Houstonian, which featured a hanging table above a prize-catch Alaskan king salmon frozen in ice.

Tami Pearson and Alicia Smith coordinated a fabulous silent auction featuring kid-friendly offerings as well as some unique finds, including getaways to Steamboat Springs, Beaver Creek and Aspen.



Makell and Kim Moody

Moody Rambin Interests was the presenting sponsor. Other sponsors included Houston's WB39; Friends of the Moody Family; Frost Bank; The Kellner Family; Stanford Group Company; Faye Sarofim & Co.;

The Interfin Companies; L.J. Melody and Co.; and Bennett, Mallory & Emma.

If you missed it this year, make plans to attend next year. Thanks to everyone who made this incredible event possible.



Event Co-Chairs Marlee Sikes and Jennifer Gilliam

More photos on page 3.



Hello Everyone,

We are thrilled to announce several new partner agencies that have joined us during this past year: Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital, Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services, Jacinto City Police Department, Katy Police Department, Lakeview Police Department and Webster Police Department. On behalf of each and every one of our children, we welcome you to The CAC.

In 2004, advocacy centers in the state of Texas provided services to more than 30,000 children; 88% of them received first-time services, and 78% were younger than the age of 13. Currently there are 59 advocacy centers throughout the state of Texas all working together to protect children.

We are grateful for the support we have received from the Texas Attorney General's Office and our State legislators via the Crime Victims Compensation Fund. We remain hopeful that the 79th Legislative Session will continue to protect that vital funding as it greatly assists us in providing needed services for our child victims.

We continue to expand our education initiative by providing

training for our community, and are grateful to Harris County Judge Robert Eckels for supplying us with a new brochure to

In 2004, advocacy centers in the state of Texas provided services to more than 30,000 children; 88% of them received first-time services, and 78% were younger than the age of 13.

assist us in this endeavor. By collaborating with the Harris County Department of Education, we have begun quarterly training for principals, teachers, nurses and school counselors on "What Every Educator Needs to Know About Child Sexual Abuse." We look forward to expanding these education classes as the project continues.



Leading into our more global reach of educating future clinicians and social workers, we are extremely proud of our Internship Program, which is being recognized internationally. This year we have 12 interns training in the fields of Psychiatry, Clinical Psychology, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy and Education. While the majority have come from the University of Houston, this year we also had students from Georgia and Canada. If we think about the number of children whose lives have been positively impacted through our education and training, it's just overwhelming! We are proud of our accomplishments and thank you for your continued support.

Happy Holidays,

Elaine Stolte, Executive Director
elaine_stolte@cac.co.harris.tx.us

LEADERS IN GOVERNMENT

Reception



Kathy Wells and U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee

Mayor Pro Tem Carol Alvarado and The Children's Assessment Center Foundation Board of Directors hosted a reception October 25 for area elected officials and those seeking office. The evening provided an opportunity for guests to tour The CAC and learn more about the services we provide for helping sexually abused children and their families.

Guests included U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee and soon-to-be U.S. Representatives Al Green and Ted Poe. Also attending were Texas State Representative Martha Wong; Houston City Council Member Ron Green; District Judges Bonnie Hellums and George Godwin; and Harris County Judge Robert Eckels, who addressed the crowd on the many accomplishments of The CAC. The evening was full of lively discussion about child welfare, which is sure to be a hotly debated issue in the upcoming legislative session.

We truly appreciate all who attended. Thank you to the Advocacy Committee, led by Board Member Yolanda Green, for organizing such a delightful evening.



Above: CAC Foundation Treasurer Phil Cook, Elaine Stolte, soon-to-be U.S. Congressman Ted Poe and Dr. Lawrence Thompson



Left: State Representative Martha Wong, Harris County Judge Robert Eckels and Judge George Godwin

Director Appreciation Awards

September brought our 2nd Annual Director Appreciation Awards, given to CAC employees who in addition to their regular duties go above and beyond the call of duty. This year, the outstanding individuals are: Amie Mersmann, Executive Assistant; and Raevann Fuller, Intake/Data Entry Technician.

At the ceremony Executive Director Elaine Stolte said, "It is wonderful to recognize the incredible work done by our staff. Choosing the winners was difficult as we have such a dedicated team of professionals working for our children every day.

I congratulate the winners and look forward to next September's awards. Great job and thank you for all of your hard work."



Raevann Fuller, Amie Mersmann and Elaine Stolte at the awards ceremony.



Right: Robert and Amanda Brock with sons Ryan and Robert

Below: Steve Dalton, Barlee Flanders, Kristy Waters Outhier and Sam Banks of the Moody Rambin Polo Team



Below: Terry Wayne Jones and Anne Carl



5th Annual Polo Italia & Risotto Festival



Above: Peter and Catherine Badger with their children, Carson and Parker



Risotto winners, the team from the Daily Review Cafe



Right: Makell Moody tries out the bench given to honor her family. Children at The CAC painted the tiles.



Katie Perrini with a fun friend from the Kids Carnival



CAC Foundation Board Member Roy March, Rachel Capote, Allan Pinkett and CAC Foundation Chairman Chris DeClaire hit the links.

VAN CHANCELLOR GOLF CLASSIC HITS THE MARK

Great weather prevailed on October 19 as 100 golfers took to BlackHorse Golf Club for the 12th Annual Van Chancellor Golf Classic sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas. The event brought in \$64,000 for The CAC. Pat Hemingway Hall, President of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, said, "We are delighted to again be the title sponsor of the Van Chancellor Golf Classic and are committed to meeting the needs of children in the communities we serve."

Along with title sponsor Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, major sponsors included British Airways; the Houston Golf Association; Redstone Golf; the Roger Clemens Foundation; John P. McGovern, M.D.; The Methodist Hospital; Separation Services, Inc.; and Everyone's Internet.

We were thrilled to have Van Chancellor, head coach of the WNBA Houston Comets, as our celebrity host for the tournament.

Coach Chancellor has led the Comets to four WNBA titles and also led the U.S. Women's Basketball Team to an Olympic Gold Medal this summer in Athens, Greece.

Event Chairman and CAC Foundation Vice President Bruce Reiser commended all those who served on his committee and all the volunteers for doing such a great job

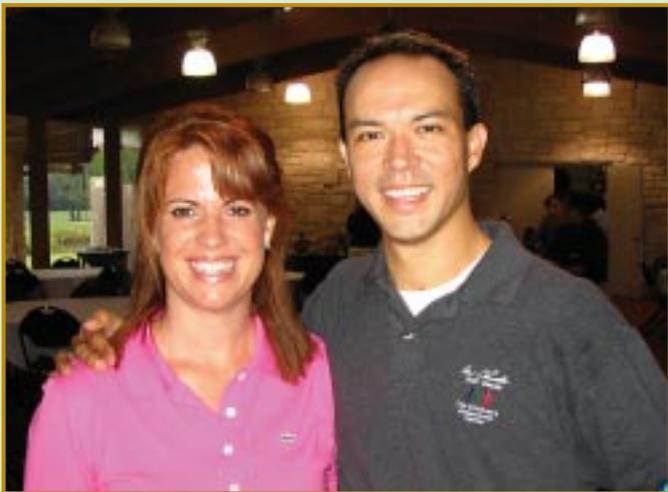
again this year. Many thanks to Continental Airlines; Tierra del Sol Resort & Country Club; The Houstonian; Green Links, Inc.; The Shell Houston Open; Sportsradio 610AM; Custom Clubs by Larry Gibson; and

the many other donors for providing the fabulous raffle prizes. We would also like to thank Masterpiece Lithograph; PointSmith; Rinkers Boat World; Sports Express, Inc.; and Stotts & Company for their in-kind donations. We are so grateful to each and every one of you who helped make this event a success.

*The
12th Annual Van Chancellor
Golf Classic brought in \$64,000
for The CAC*



Above: Clyde Drexler and Barry Edick



Left: Next year's Event Chair Peppi Lausen with Sean Carter

Below: Mickey Patrick and Jeff Hayes



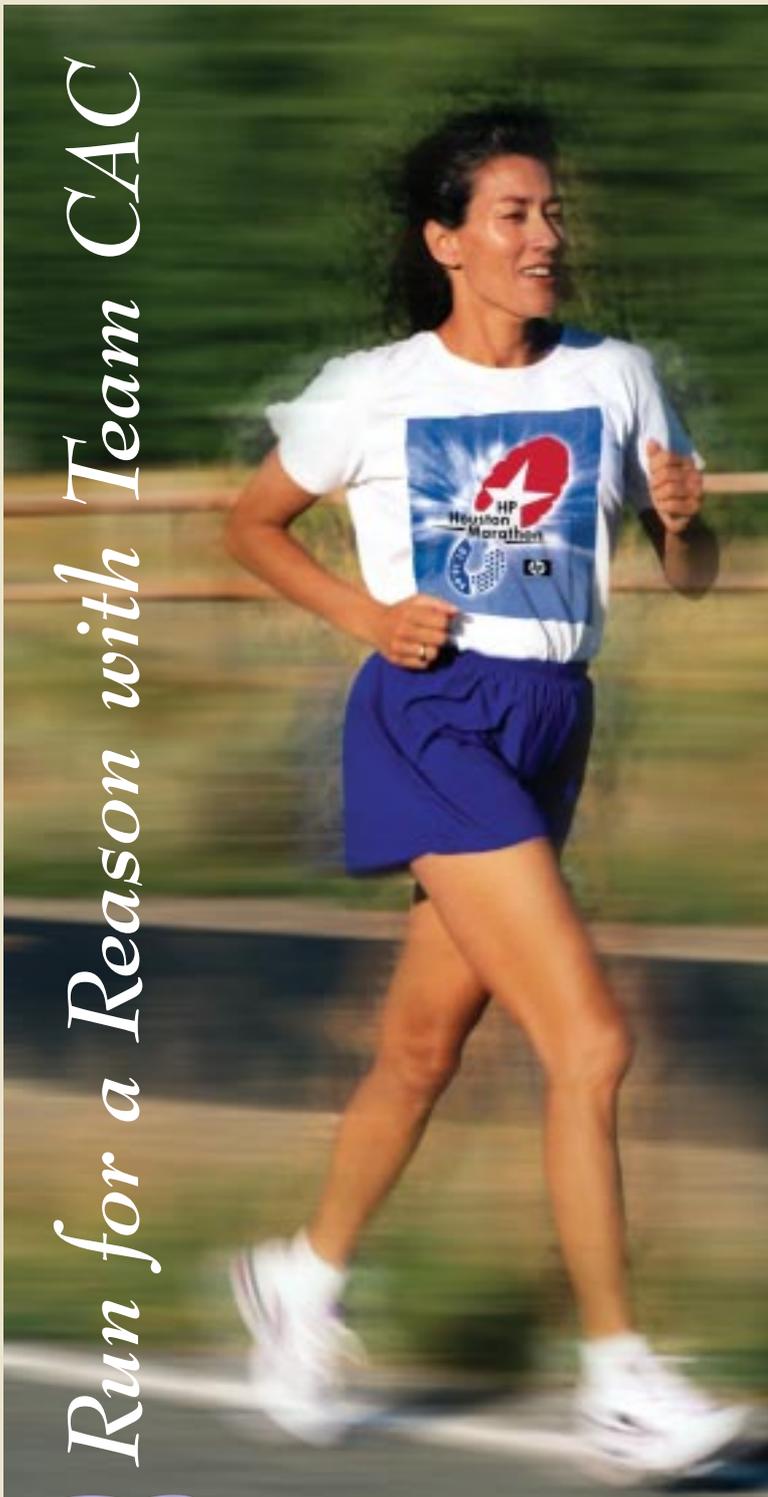
A Shower of Golf Balls

The 3rd Annual Helicopter Golf Ball Drop was held at the end of this year's tournament at the BlackHorse Golf Club driving range. Many thanks for the generous support of everyone who purchased tickets and/or helped sell tickets, and for the tremendous effort of our Development team led by Sean Carter and Houston Golf Association led by Susan Anderson in coordinating this successful event.

Helicopter Services, Inc. dropped a total of 406 balls, and \$4,060 was raised to support our work with the children. Congratulations to the lucky winner, Holcombe Crosswell. He received two ClubWorld round-trip tickets to London courtesy of British Airways.



Run for a Reason with Team CAC



Each year, through the HP Houston Marathon, Halliburton International Half Marathon and Houston Press/METRO 5K, runners raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for Houston-area charities. We are honored again this year to be one of the official charities and encourage you to make every step count on January 16 by using your race to raise money for the sexually abused children of Harris County.

This year it's especially easy to get involved because all the fundraising can be done online. Simply go to <http://www.hphoustonmarathon.com/runforareason.php> and follow the easy steps to set up your own Web-based donation page. You don't even have to run or walk in the race to collect donations for The CAC.

Step by step, you can make a difference in the life of a child. Start today! For more information, please call Robyn Howard at 713-986-3482 or Sean Carter at 713-986-3536.

The CAC Hosts New Initiative

In collaboration with Harris County Children's Protective Services and the University of Houston's Graduate School of Social Work, The CAC will house a field unit offering evening and weekend internship placements for graduate students.

A CPS supervisor and worker will provide training, supervision and direct practice experience to interns interested in working with child abuse and families in crisis, and in strengthening the systems of care for traumatized children.

Practice experiences will include working with children in foster care to offer a consistent source of support, completing home studies on families interested in fostering children, helping to stabilize families in crisis and supervising weekend visits between children in foster care and their families. For more information, contact Sharon Alpert or Olga Chavez at 713-986-3300.



CAC Joins TeleLegal Network

The Children's Assessment Center has joined the TeleLegal Network so its professionals can testify in Harris County civil court cases by videoconferencing instead of in person. The TeleLegal Network was initiated in 2001 as a collaboration of Harris County Children's Protective Services Region 6 Training Institute, Harris County Family Court Judges, Harris County Attorney's Office and attorneys and administrators of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. The network saves hours of driving, parking and waiting to testify in court cases. The saved time can be spent providing valuable direct services to sexually abused children.



Greater than \$100,000

The John M. O'Quinn Foundation

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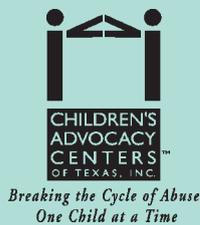
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Sgt. Vincent Battaglia of the
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up on a case from the United Kingdom.

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