

# BREAKING THE SILENCE

A publication of The Children's Assessment Center, a safe place serving Harris County'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.

## SANTA'S Hip-Hop Holiday Bash

December 10 had The Children's Assessment Center hip-hoppin' with over 500 children and their families celebrating the joy of the holidays. DJ Reed spun the tunes, and dancers from Youth Advocates entertained the crowd with gravity-defying moves. All three floors of The CAC were filled this year with craft projects, face painting, toys, games, entertainment by a brass quintet from the Houston Symphony, a choir from Texas Southern University, food and of course photos with Santa.

Special thanks to CAC Children's Services Coordinator Lisa Andrews, who did an outstanding job planning the party, and to all the volunteers who donated their time to coordinate the activities,

CAC Children's Services Technician Miguel Galan, somehow kept unending lines of eager children entertained as they waited to tell Santa holiday wishes and have photos taken. Santa, known throughout the rest of the year as Detective James Fitzgerald, posed patiently and passed out treats while Chief Elf and CAC Development Assistant Mary Coleman snapped the photos. Thanks to Randall's Food Markets for donating cameras and all the film so that each child could have a holiday keepsake.

Rounding out the event, the Robot from the Harris County Sheriff's Office educated kids on safety issues, while the Harris County Sheriff's Department fingerprinted them in case they are ever lost.

The holiday bash was a huge success, and once again we would like to thank everyone involved!

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▲ Who has the best moves on this dance floor?



▲ Holiday cards from the heart

set up the rooms, man the various party stations and clean up after the festivities. For the fifth year in a row, CAC Friends Carol Milam and Judy Fred did another fantastic job organizing all of the arts-and-crafts projects. There were 10 stations, including decorated miniature Christmas trees; holiday cards; stockings; angel necklaces; and picture frames made out of construction paper, glitter and glue.

Mrs. Claus, played by CAC Therapy Intern Remi Aderohunmu, and Santa's Elf, played by



▲ DJ Reed spinnin' at the Holiday Bash



### We Left the Decorating to the Pros

A real highlight happened before the party this year when volunteers from the architectural design firm Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc. stepped in to decorate The CAC from top to bottom. Each floor had a different holiday look. The first floor was traditional with a beautiful tree and huge wreaths to greet visitors. The second floor was like an underwater fantasy complete with another tree adorned with starfish and shells. There were also flowing waves and starfish on the ceilings. The third floor had three Texas-style trees with chili-pepper lights and a rootin' tootin' wreath complete with ropes and bandanas—very patriotic, festive and creative. It just goes to show you that the professionals know what they're doing. Thanks again, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam!

*Hello Everyone.*

We begin 2004 with a heartfelt thank you to one of our greatest leaders, Christopher DeClaire, President and CEO of Imperial Petroleum Recovery Corporation. Chris has served on The CAC Foundation Board (Board) since 1997 and as our Board President for the past three years. He

now moves to Board Chairman, overseeing the Nominations Committee, and Susan Wagner, a Managing Director with JP Morgan Private Bank, begins her term as our new Board President.

Reflecting on the paths our lives take, we often think of special people who inspire us along the way. Chris is one of those special people. His vision, leadership and determination

have led to incredible accomplishments for us. He has a sincere appreciation for hard work, and his commitment to the children we serve is unwavering. He has spent countless hours serving on Board committees including, Finance, Executive, Development, Building and Golf. He has served as Chairman of our Gala and

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our Golf Tournament and volunteered at our Toy Drive, Holiday Party, Back to School Party, Legislative Reception, Child Abuse Prevention Month Reception and Volunteer Appreciation Reception. Chris has become a spokesperson on the importance of private-sector funding in an arena that was typically viewed as a public concern. He has also served to strengthen the relationships with our partner agencies and with Harris County. For me, Chris always has the perfect words at the perfect time.

I look forward to working with Susan and learning from her as we continue to improve our system of care for children through our unique public/private partnership. I am honored to hold this position and learn from so many talented individuals guiding and accompanying me on my path in serving our children. Chris, we applaud your innovative style and leadership unsurpassed. We will always be grateful for your vision, your entrepreneurial spirit, your bright smile and your concern for our children. A thousand thanks!

*Elaine Stolte, Executive Director*  
elaine\_stolte@cac.co.harris.tx.us

# Holiday Bash

CONTINUED



▲ Elaine Stolte and Chris DeClaire accepting one of many awards received during DeClaire's tenure as CAC Foundation Board President



▲ Facepainting courtesy of CPS Caseworker Ashley Abbot



Santa James ► Fitzgerald and Chief Elf Mary Coleman



◀ CAC Foundation Board Member Yolanda Green creating holiday bracelets



▲ Santa's Elf Miguel Galan and Mrs. Claus Remi Aderohunmu

# WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD PRESIDENT...

Susan Wagner became involved with The CAC four years ago through her work at JP Morgan Chase, where she is a Managing Director in the Private Bank. "I was looking for a charity to get involved with and wanted to do something with children." Susan explains, "Our Director of Community Relations at the bank told me about The CAC and all the great things going on there. Initially, I wasn't certain if I could really deal with the type of work we do, but I decided to take a tour and have been hooked ever since." Susan joined the Board in 1999, serving on the Development Committee and chairing that group for three years, successfully guiding their fundraising efforts.



*Susan Wagner*

State University, she began her career at E. F. Hutton as a stockbroker. Then women were few and far between in the world of financial advisors, but when Susan talked, clients listened. In 1984, she joined First City National Bank, where she earned the Certified Financial Planner designation. Susan joined Texas Commerce Bank in 1987 and Bank One from 1990 to 1997. In 1997, she joined J.P. Morgan Chase. There she developed the Women's Business Initiative, a targeted business development program aimed at meeting the needs of women clients. Her drive, foresight and integrity have served her well.

As President, Susan says she will focus on three main priorities: advocacy, fundraising and community awareness. She hopes to keep the Board focused on these initiatives and will look to each committee and to the Partner Council to determine the best use of our Board. "I really believe if we stay focused on a few big things we will be very successful and look back at the end of the year and be proud of our accomplishments." It sounds like a great plan to us Susan! Thank you so much!

## Please Take Notes!

- ⑥ The CAC and Houston Aeros Charities is kicking off Child Abuse Prevention Month in April with the Fifth Annual Spirit of Spring Luncheon & Fashion Show on Friday, April 2, at the beautiful Warwick Hotel. The event, hosted by KHOU's Debra Duncan, features celebrity models and a fabulous auction. For tickets, sponsorships and auction item donations, please call Janna Brown at (713) 361-7922. Don't miss the fun!
- ⑥ Summer is a way off, but it's not too late to be thinking about sponsoring a child for Camp Cullen. We are hoping to send 75 children to the beautiful YMCA camp on the shores of Lake Livingston this June. It costs about \$350 per child to attend. Please call Lisa Andrews at (713) 986-3459 for more information.
- ⑥ We are thrilled to welcome a new partner to The CAC—Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services (HCPES). We will benefit greatly from this alliance by receiving both historical and current statistical trends in child fatalities in Houston and Harris County. Sharing this type of information for educational purposes may ultimately help prevent such tragedies.

## Councilmember Ada Edwards Takes Action

On January 12, Houston City Councilmember Ada Edwards presented The CAC with a check in the amount of \$2,272. The money was donated to a supplemental Crimestoppers reward fund by concerned citizens for the capture of the Southside Child Molester back in the Fall of 2003. Councilmember Edwards spearheaded the drive in cooperation with Radio One, owners of KMJQ-Magic102 and KBXX-The Box, which air her weekly radio show. Since the case was solved by the Houston Police Department, the funds went unused and the Councilmember requested the funds go to help the sexually abused children served by The CAC. Elaine Stolte accepted the funds and expressed her extreme gratitude to the Councilmember, Radio One and Crimestoppers and to those who contributed. The money will be used for general operating expenses, including therapy and psychological services, outreach, children's services and training.



*Crimestoppers Ray Wathen,  
Elaine Stolte and  
Councilmember  
Ada Edwards*

*Way to Go!*



▲ *Twelve Days of Christmas*



▲ *Toy drive at Half Price Books in Rice Village*



◀ *Mark Ellis from UT Medical School*

## The Faces of Holiday Giving



◀ *West University Elementary 4th Graders and Principal John Threet*



► *Texas Tea Party Republican Women*



► *Friends from UBS Financial Services*



▲ *Volunteer David Gomez*



▲ *The Primrose School in Katy*

► *Lisa Andrews, Americorp Volunteer Jessica Ramos and a friend from Sysco Corporation*



The joy of the 2003 Holiday Season for The CAC started on December 2 when the Harris County Sheriff's Department delivered an 18-wheeler full of toys right to our doorstep. As in the past eight years, The Sheriff's Department "adopted" the names of 500 of our dear children, providing hundreds of bikes, skates, toys, games, dolls and clothing. Deputies carefully unloaded the gifts to the waiting arms of helpful volunteers, while the media swarmed about seeking interviews with Sheriff Tommy Thomas, Captain Robert Van Pelt and Investigator Marco Cantu, who coordinated the Department's initiative. It was quite a day!

"We are so thankful to have the support of the Sheriff's Department, as well as other companies and individuals in the community," said Lisa Andrews, our Children's Services Coordinator. "Thanks to all of these wonderful partners, our overall holiday gift drive was able to make the wishes of 1400 children come true this season."

A special thank you to the many volunteers who donated their time by helping sort gifts. We also greatly appreciate the CPS caseworkers and supervisors for helping us distribute the gifts to the children and families.

It is only through members of the community providing time and generous corporate assistance that we can continue our mission to protect and provide services for the children we serve. On behalf of the children we serve, thank you for once again being so generous. Please take a moment to look at the faces of holiday giving — the faces of love.



▲ *Harris County Commissioner Jerry Eversole donated dozens of cowboy boots.*



◀ TIRR Systems

► Annunciation Orthodox School 7th Grade Computer Class and their teacher, Daniela Fejer



◀ Lisa Andrews and friends from Kingwood High School



◀ Karen Kennard and Dr. Herminia Palacio of Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services



▲ Lisa Andrews with friends from Shell Energy and Unger Technology



▲ Sheriff Tommy Thomas and his team of holiday helpers



▲ Harris County Adult Probation



▲ Karen Kennard, Kelly Bolton, Genia Ripley of Pasadena I.S.D., Lisa Andrews and Becky West of Memorial Baptist Church with donations of handmade blankets and teddy bears



▲ Robyn Howard, Elaine Stolte and Lisa Andrews receive a donation from the Texas School of Business.



▲ Deputies delivering the magic



▲ Verizon Wireless



▲ Remi Aderohunmu, Miguel Galan and friends from Devon Energy Corporation

## Team CAC Triples '03 Results

On January 18, members of Team CAC braved the chill and completed their respective races in the 32<sup>nd</sup> running of the HP Houston Marathon and its companion events, the Haliburton International Half-Marathon and the Houston Press/Metro 5K. The 12-member team included Houman Alagha, Laura Benjamins, Joey DeBruyn, Monroe Giese, Robyn Howard,



▲ The wiggid and wonderful CAC Hoopla Station Gals Tammy Urban, Lisa Bourgoyne, Mary Coleman and Alexis Tate surround Team CAC's Robyn Howard.

Diana Kline, Diana McQuire, Lisa Newton, Bettina Schmitz, Beth Shipley, Duncan Skinner and Carla Teskey.

Supportive volunteers cheered on the race participants throughout the morning at The CAC's "Hoopla Station" at University and Morningside in Rice Village. Nearby, two Elvis impersonators added that extra Vegas flair! It's all in line with what has become one of Houston's most popular events, as well as one the city's greatest

fundraisers. The Marathon raised over \$400,000 for Houston area charities last year.

This year, Team CAC tripled its results from last year, raising \$3406. The top three fundraisers were our own Robyn Howard with \$1465; Houman Alagha of BlueSphere Consulting with \$610; and Beth Shipley of our partner agency, the Harris County District Attorney's Office, with \$445. Thanks to our runners, walkers and volunteers for their dedication to making every step count in the fight against child sexual abuse.



## The Children's Assessment Center Birdie # 22



**Use Your Good "Cents" to Help Us Raise \$50,000!**

Join in the fun of the Houston Golf Association's Birdies for Charity! Pledge a penny or more for every birdie made during the 2004 Shell Houston Open, April 19-25, 2004. Then guess the number of birdies the PGA TOUR pros will make at the Shell Houston Open and you could win a 2004 Buick Ranier SUV or one of many other great prizes. One guess is allowed for each penny pledged. It is expected that the pros will make between 1,500 and 1,800 birdies.

The CAC "Birdie" is #22. This number MUST be included on your pledge form for us to receive your contribution. For more information, visit our website at [www.cachouston.org](http://www.cachouston.org), or to obtain a pledge form, contact Mary Coleman at (713) 986-3529.

## VOLUNTEERS

# Galore

Over 60 people attended our Volunteer Reception, which was held January 15. We were privileged to have AJ McCormac, Vice President of Human Resources at CenterPoint Energy as our special guest speaker who shared her moving story with the crowd. Tours of The CAC

were provided to those individuals who never had the opportunity to see firsthand our child-friendly facility. Chairs of the special events for The CAC were on hand to talk with interested volunteers about signing up to lend their time and resources to support our children. The evening was educational and fun, and we were able to introduce The CAC to many new faces that are looking forward to volunteering in 2004.



▲ Karen Kennard flanked on either side by new volunteers Genia Ripley and Becky West



▲ HPD Officers Wade Head and William Staney along with CPS Program Directors Mildred Hart and Isaac Laryea



◀ Elaine Stolte and guest speaker AJ McCormac of CenterPoint Energy

## \$10,000.00 +

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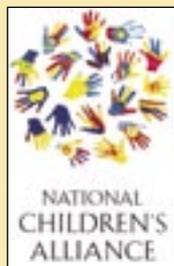
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▲ Kathy Wells; Gene Mosley, Special Projects Director from Harris County Judge Robert Eckels' Office; Elaine Stolte; and Dr. John Sawyer, School Superintendent of Harris County's Department of Education



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