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The Children's Assessment Center

Restoring Hope - Rebuilding Lives



Greetings!

At this time of year, we count our blessings and take time to express our sincere gratitude to those of you who continue to support our efforts on behalf of our children and families. I reflect on a recent letter received from a mother, who wrote:

"There is a special place in heaven for people who are willing to look into the horrible world of child abuse, day after day, and be the voice for our children. From the bottom of my heart, with tears in my eyes, my family and I thank each of you so very much."

Our inner strength comes when we are able to provide healing and safety for children who, through no fault of their own, have become a victim of child sexual abuse. As we guide them through this process, we are hopeful that their future is full of promise and possibility, something every child deserves.

At The Children's Assessment Center, we are grateful for our incredible staff and partner agencies who do this noble work each and every day. In addition, we are grateful to you, our donors, who give generously so we are able to make a difference for child victims of crime in Houston.

Please consider making a donation today in honor of a family member or friend during the holidays!

Thank you,

Elaine Stolte, Executive Director
The Children's Assessment Center

The Children's Assessment Center's mission 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.



HCSO Print-a-Kid

Back ²⁰¹⁵ to School



Children enjoyed hugs from the HLSR's Miss Moo.



Houston Dynamo's Diesel gave a brushing demonstration



Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Clowns are always a bit.

Thank you Conoco Phillips for underwriting our annual Back to School event. It was a huge success! More than 500 children received school supplies and uniforms to get the school year started. We are so thankful to our 43 volunteers who assisted in putting together backpacks for each child at our Backpack Stuffing event. The CAC finished off our Back to School event by hosting our annual Back to School party where clients enjoyed face painting, food, free dental exams, music by DJ Roly, photo booth, HLSR clowns, autographs from the Dynamo cheerleaders, a special visit from Miss Moo and so much more! We would also like to give a special thank you to Sysco for their continued support in donating FREE and FRESH produce for all of our clients here at the CAC. Back to School at The CAC was a great community effort. Without our sponsors, we wouldn't be able to host such a special event for our clients and serve over 500 children. They now get to start their school year full of confidence!

Advocates for The Children's Assessment Center

Advocate Through Art Party

at Winter Street Studios



Advocate Through Art Party Chairs: Jordan Seff, Ashlee Rubbo & Natalie Mohtashami

The Advocates for The Children's Assessment Center hosted the Third Annual Advocate Through Art Party benefiting The Children's Assessment Center (The CAC) on October 15th at Winter Street Studios.

The event was an overwhelming success with nearly 400 guests in attendance, a live and silent art auction, delicious cuisine donated by Clark Cooper Concepts, cocktails, music by DJ Senega, break dancers and a Live Painting by Taft McWhorter. There were over 70 art pieces donated.

Event Chairs were Jordan Seff, Natalie Mohtashami and Ashlee Rubbo. Guests included: CAC Foundation Board of Directors members Ericka Bagwell, Emily Essaye, Allison Flikerski, Yolanda Green, Ursaline Hamilton, Lauren Maloy and Yvette Webb. Others present were Ben and Sarah Cotting, Javier and Lucinda Loya, Leti Morales and Rachael and Jason Volz.



*Ward and Lauren Maloy,
Amanda Seaberg & Allison Flikerski*

The event was a great success raising over \$250,000 for the expansion of training and education programs at The CAC. Thank you to all who supported this wonderful event.



Ursaline Hamilton & Ericka Bagwell



*Anthony Barnes
& Yolanda Green*



Artist Taft McWhorter painting for the Live Auction



Southside Fire Department and Elsa the Snow Queen

National 2015 Night Out



Harris County Sheriff's Office Tactical Vehicle



Southside Fire Department had hands-on demonstrations for children and families.



Harris County Sheriff's Office had safety resources and an interactive game for the kids.

October 6, 2015, The Children's Assessment Center hosted a National Night Out Event to support national efforts to build strong community partnerships that promote safe neighborhoods. The event was free and included fun activities for local families. Activities included demonstrations from emergency response vehicles such as Houston Police Department SWAT vehicle, a Harris County Sheriff's Office Tactical Vehicle, a Southside Place Fire Department Fire Truck and more. Other activities included face painting, a bounce house, music, food and a guest appearance by the Snow Queen. The CAC is so thankful to the community for making this a great family event.

Special thanks to Elite Care, Frost Bank, Mi Luna, Trademark Property Co. – Rice Village, Village News and Your Party Princes for helping to sponsor the event.

Thank you Houston Gold Exchange

On Wednesday, November 11th, the Houston Gold Exchange hosted “Angels Over Texas” benefiting The Children’s Assessment Center. Brad Schweiss, owner of Houston Gold Exchange, designed medallions to show support for the children we serve. These medallions were purchased during the event and will be given to every child who graduates from our Clinical Services program at The Children’s Assessment Center. The medallions will serve as a symbol of accomplishment for children recovering from their abuse.

A big thank you to Houston Gold Exchange for the amazing work in custom designing these medallions and hosting such a wonderful event! Thank you to the Offering Band for putting on such a great show! And thank you to all who came out to show their support!



Medallions designed by Houston Gold Exchange Owner, Brad Schweiss

The Children’s Assessment Center Adds New Multidisciplinary Enhancement Program “MEP”

This Fall, The Children’s Assessment Center added the Multidisciplinary Enhancement Program “MEP” to the list of services provided. The MEP was designed to improve the coordination of investigative activities between local law enforcement partners and the Department of Family and Protective Services.

The focus of MEP is to proactively strengthen and sustain The CAC’s Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) to ensure timely access to the full array of services for all children; and to ensure effective communication, coordination and collaboration at all stages of child abuse cases through our program at The Children’s Assessment Center.



The new MEP Team!

high expectations for the quality service provided to children who have been abused. It is through collaboration and information sharing that MEP will enhance and ensure safety, justice and healing for child abuse victims.

2015 OFFICER APPRECIATION WEEK

September 14th-September 18th, 2015, The Children’s Assessment Center Foundation Board provided breakfast for CAC Law Enforcement office in recognition of Law Enforcement Appreciation Week. It was a fun week and gave CAC staff and partner agencies a chance to stop by and say thank you to the officers working hard each day to protect the children of Harris County. Thank you to everyone that participated. The CAC also like to sends special thank you to community members who donated and contributed giveaways to make the officers feel appreciated.



The CAC appreciates all the work our officers do.



Suzanne Sellers with Chevron & Shell Volunteers

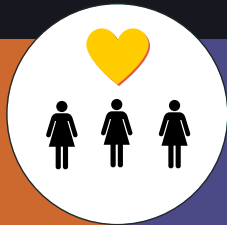


Thank you Chevron

Suzanne Sellers and CAC Volunteers Complete Mural at The CAC

The Children’s Assessment Center would like to thank local muralist and artist Suzanne Sellers for the design and coordination of the new mural leading CAC clients from our parking garage to The CAC. Suzanne’s murals can be seen throughout The CAC and add an element of peacefulness and happiness throughout our halls. CAC staff and volunteers joined Suzanne in painting the mural and the end product looks amazing and something for all to be proud of. The CAC sends special thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who helped, including staff from Chevron, Shell, the Harris County Sheriff’s Office, Children’s Protective Services, and the Houston Police Department. We could not have completed this project without each of you.

Ways You Can Help



Love working with kids?

**Help out daily in our children’s playroom
or sign up to assist with special events**



Can’t make it in?

**There are many ways to help on your own time.
Host a drive, organize a corporate service project,
or use your skills to create your own project**



Still in school

**Our internships provide the perfect opportunity
to gain field experience across disciplines**



For more information or to apply please visit cachouston.org/volunteer-opportunities to learn about the many ways you or your group can help The CAC.

Capital Campaign Update

Phase II

Phase I



Restoring Hope - Rebuilding Lives

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONATIONS



As 2015 winds down and a new year is upon us, The Children's Assessment Center would like to take this time to ask you to consider financially supporting our Restoring Hope Rebuilding Lives Capital Campaign. With a little over \$6 million left to raise, we are very optimistic that we can finish our \$33 million Capital Campaign in 2016; but we need your help!

Construction began this past October and we anticipate the expansion being complete in the Spring of 2017. This is a promising time for The CAC as we plan for a brighter and safer future for sexually abused children and all children in our community. The children we serve come from every zip code in Houston and preventing child sexual abuse is an adult responsibility. It is our responsibility!

If you have not contributed to our Restoring Hope Rebuilding Lives Campaign, please do so today. You can donate by going to our website www.cachouston.org. We are very grateful for your support. No gift is too small. Every gift brings our goal closer to a reality. Will you help us make a difference in the lives of abused children? If not us, then who?



Aerial view of CAC Expansion

1 in 4 Girls 
IS SEXUALLY ABUSED BEFORE THE AGE OF 18

1 in 6 Boys 
IS SEXUALLY ABUSED BEFORE THE AGE OF 18

1 in 5 children 
ARE SOLICITED SEXUALLY WHILE ON THE INTERNET

20%

OF CHILDREN ARE SEXUALLY ABUSED BEFORE THE AGE OF 8

95%

OF CHILDREN ARE ABUSED BY A FAMILY MEMBER OR SOMEONE THEY KNOW AND TRUST

AN ESTIMATED **40 MILLION** 
SURVIVORS OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE EXIST IN AMERICA TODAY



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APP SAFETY

The Children's Assessment Center would like to make safety a part of every child's selection of smartphone applications. Below is a list of some of the most popular apps in 2015. We have listed a brief summary of the application, a picture of what the app icon usually looks like on a phone (Gaggle, 2015), any safety issues that could be a concern and a few tips on how parents can keep children safe while using the internet, apps and social media.

BULLYING

Burn Note- This is a messaging app where all messages self-destruct after reading. This app only uses text messaging. Parents would have no evidence that a conversation took place. This can lead to bullying or sexting or any other dangerous practice, and parents would have no idea.

HIDING APP



Best Secret Folder- This is an iOS app that allows users to store photos secretly. The app icon is called "My Utilities" so others don't even realize the app is on the phone.

VIDEO RECORDING AND SHARING



Meerkat- This app captures live streaming video through a mobile device. Users can link their Meerkat to their Twitter or Facebook account to share their live streaming videos to followers. The problems with this are numerous. Live streaming opens the door to cyberbullying and predators.

LOCATION SHARING



Foursquare- This is an app that allows users to geotag their exact location at any time. Problems with this are obvious to us as adults. But we must teach our children why this is so dangerous.

HOW TO KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE

How to Keep Your Kids Safe. It is necessary for parents to stay educated as new apps and social media sites become available. Obviously no parent can be on top of everything all the time. So the MOST IMPORTANT thing parents can do is communicate with our children. • **BE THE PARENT.** Click on any apps you don't recognize on your child's phone. • Discuss the hidden dangers of social media that teens may not recognize. Kids need to be taught not to over share on the Internet. • Set restrictions on their cell phones and check the phone often. • Internet filters are also a great option. Information collected from educateempowerkids.org

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