

Monthly Mission Moment

with The Children's Assessment Center



January 2024

A Message from our Executive Director

In 2023, our team provided services to nearly 7,000 children and families victimized by child sexual abuse and child sex trafficking.

This number reflects the incredible strides made with our devoted community and 60 partner agencies! We want to thank The CAC Foundation Board of Directors, the Harris County Commissioners Court, our generous donors and supporters, and our amazing staff. Without you, many children in Harris County would not have access to the free services they so richly deserve and would have to navigate their trauma alone. *You are true champions for our children, and Harris County is a better place because of you.*

Sincerely,

Kerry McCracken, J.D.

Executive Director at The CAC





We hope that you will be able to join us at our annual Spirit of Spring Gala on **Friday, April 12, 2024**, at The Houstonian Hotel.

Our Gala Chairs, Buckley Morlot and Kim Pinyopusarek, are excited to host our guest speaker, Jenna Quinn. We're looking forward to an evening of fun in support of protecting children, healing families, and preventing child sexual abuse in our community.

[Visit our Event Website](#)

[Buy Your Table](#)

[Become a Sponsor](#)

If you're interested in volunteering for this event, please email our Volunteer Coordinator, Kamryn Pliler at kamryn.pliler@cac.hctx.net.



If you have any questions about the event or would like to join our host committee, please email our Special Events Supervisor, Kat Doven, at kathleen.doven@cac.hctx.net.



**TRAFFICKING
STOPS HERE.**

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

January 2024

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. This month, our team put together a training series to bring awareness to the Human Trafficking that is happening in our community, how to respond to trafficking, the effects of trafficking, and how you can prevent it.

On Thursday, January 4th, we hosted our annual Human Trafficking Awareness Month press conference at The CAC. This event included speakers from our partners from the Harris County District Attorney's Office, Harris County Resources for Children and Adults, the Houston Police Department, No Trafficking Zone, and State Representative Ann Johnson.

Thank you, Texas State Representative Ann Johnson, for presenting our organization with a resolution to recognize Human Trafficking Awareness Month and our work at The CAC.



BIRDIES FOR CHARITY

Presented by Halliburton

DONATE TODAY

\$20 DONATION = 1 GUESS



The CAC is honored to be a part of the 2024 Texas Children's Houston Open Birdies for Charity presented by the Halliburton program. Birdies for Charity is a fundraising program designed to give local charities and schools the opportunity to generate contributions through the Texas Children's Houston Open. **100% of your donation comes back to The CAC!**

Individuals are entered into the Guess the Birdies Contest when they donate to one of the local charities registered for the Texas Children's Houston Open Birdies for Charity program. Donors can make a one-time flat-rate donation at a minimum of \$20 by clicking here: <https://events.trustevent.com/index.cfm?eid=4650&charityid=8484639>.

One lucky supporter of the Texas Children's Houston Open Birdies for Charity program who guesses the correct number of birdies at the 2024 Houston Open, will win an Astros Suite Night at Minute Maid Park.

For more information email Special Events Supervisor, Kat Doven, at atkathleen.doven@cac.hctx.net



Thank you to James Avery Artisan Jewelry for supporting our Safe Spaces Program through a generous grant. Their support helps us create secure environments for children affected by trauma in their own homes. Sadly, child sexual abuse frequently occurs within the walls of a child's bedroom, their safe space. Our Safe Spaces Program, spearheaded by our mental health team, helps clients replace trauma-tainted items with new, safe, and non-triggering ones to support their healing process.

Learn more about how their donation has supported our mission by visiting [our Community Connections page](#).

If you would like to learn more about how you can support our Safe Spaces Program, please email our Donor Relations Specialist, Chelsea Sallans, at chelsea.sallans@cac.hctx.net.

At the January 30th Commissioners Court, Judge Lina Hidalgo recognized January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month.



We are grateful for the recognition and kind words by the Commissioners in support of our mission as we continue to serve child victims of sex trafficking in our Harris County community.

Thank you to State Representative Ann Johnson and Tasma McGowan, with Harris County Resources for Children and Adults, for representing a few of our partners who work tirelessly to stop human trafficking.



Katharine Chirla, our Prevention & Trafficking Supervisor, presented on a panel at the Mid-South Anti-Human Trafficking Summit in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Leaders from various advocacy centers, advocacy agencies, and law enforcement agencies attended the summit.

We are grateful for all of the advocates and teams working together to end human trafficking, especially those who attended as representatives of The CAC and the Child Sex Trafficking Team.

Thank you Kellye Turner, Elaine Stolte, Judge Ted Poe, Rhonda Graff, and Katharine Chirla.

Upcoming Trainings Hosted by The CAC

February 6th

Darkness to Light:
Stewards of Children

February 8th

Darkness to Light:
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

February 28th

Darkness to Light:
Talking with Children about Safety
from Sexual Abuse

At The CAC, we believe that prevention happens through education.

Visit our Events Calendar to sign up for a training and to learn more about the virtual trainings we offer at The CAC. Check out all of our trainings [here](#).

Yaren



Training Specialist

1 year and 3 months at The CAC

What is your motivation for the work that you do at The CAC?

I am motivated by having the opportunity to play a part in educating adults and children in our community about The CAC's mission and how to prevent abuse. I want to be a reassuring voice to children so they know it is okay to say "NO" if someone makes them feel uncomfortable or if they find themselves in an unsafe situation. I am thankful for being able to provide resources and tools that motivate and prepare adults and children to speak up about abuse and possible red flags.

CAC
Staff
Highlight

The mission of The CAC 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.



Make a Donation

Important CAC Links

Consistent Support

Become a Volunteer

The Children's Assessment Center | 2500 Bolsover St., Houston, TX 77005

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