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Together, breaking the cycle of child abuse

www.childadvocacycentergainesville.org

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July, 2009

Issue I, Volume 1

Letter From the President

I would like to start off my message with a giant THANK YOU to all of the contributors, supporters, MDT members, volunteers, Board members and staff of the Child Advocacy Center (CAC). This has been quite a year for the CAC! In September 2008, the CAC was relocated from the wonderful space provided for many years by Judi and Davis Rembert. The community came out in force to assist us with furniture, labor, computers, toys for the children, copy machines, carpet, goodies for the staff to keep spirits up, and supplies to assist with clean up. We are so grateful to the outpouring of support and efforts. After Tropical Storm Faye, what we thought was a disaster, became a wonderful collaboration to ensure the CAC was up and running again in its new location serving children once again after 4 days. That was a miracle!

While we continue to be grateful for the support of all of you, we also realize how important it is to continue shining light on the victimization of children and why it is so important for the CAC to grow to meet the need. As I'm sure you are all aware, with economic struggles comes family stress. The economic downturn has affected everyone, including our most vulnerable citizens, our children. I say, "Our Children", because children depend on all of us every day to help keep them safe and let someone know when children are not safe. This is when the Multidisciplinary Team members of the CAC shine the most brightly in their professional roles.

And finally, how can you help? With comprehensive, supportive, and appropriate intervention, abused children become whole, happy and successful. The CAC has many ways you can assist in supporting the CAC to provide these services for abused children. These include attending special events like Gainesville Gone Nashville (learn more inside), providing supplies by hosting drives in your school or businesses, and volunteering your time to teach others about the CAC.

Gratefully,
Sherry Kitchens, Ed.S., LMFT
President/CEO



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Events

Jay's Hands

An on-going community awareness project Kick-Off Party

The community joined together at Do Art Studios on May 17, 2009 from 1PM-5PM to kick-off an exciting community awareness project for the Child Advocacy Center! Jay's Hands is in memory of Board Member Dr. Jay Herrington's passion and enthusiasm for the Child Advocacy Center. More than 70 people helped craft, paint, and string together beads for the Jay's Hands ornaments. Each ornament will be placed around Alachua County to help spread awareness of the CAC. Jay's Hands is available at Do Art every Tuesday and Thursday from 12PM-7PM. All proceeds benefit the CAC. For more information please visit: www.JaysHands.com.

Do Art is located in Thornebrook Village at:
2441 NW 43rd Street, Suite 18, Gainesville, FL.



Gainesville Gone Nashville: Kountry for Kids

October 1, 2009

Canterbury Equestrian Showplace

Reserve your tickets now for a knee slappin' good time! Gainesville Gone Nashville: Kountry for Kids is the Child Advocacy Center's inaugural signature event!

Featuring music, line dancing, silent auction, a saloon, and good old fashioned BBQ, this event will be a casual affair to benefit the children served by the Child Advocacy Center.

Sponsorship opportunities are now available! For sponsorships, ticket and corporate table information please visit: www.GainesvilleGoneNashville.com. Or call Margot Wilder at 352.376.9161

Employee Spotlight

Corinne Edwards, Ed.S., LMHC Lead Therapist

Corinne began working at the Child Advocacy Center in September 2006. She received her B.S. in Psychology from the University of Florida in 1998 and her M.Ed./Ed.S. in Mental Health Counseling from the University of Florida in 2001. She became a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in 2006. Her work with children began in 2000 as a Counselor/Case Manager at the Family Action Program through the Corner Drug Store. From 2002 to 2003, she provided individual, group, and family therapy to female adolescents in a juvenile commitment facility. From 2003 to 2005 she was a counselor with the Drug Free Communities Support Program working with children and their families. For a year she also worked as a counselor for the 21st Century Program at the Corner Drug Store, providing therapy to elementary school children. From 2005 to 2006, prior to coming to the Child Advocacy Center, she was a Case Coordinator for the Child Protection Team at the University of Florida. In her current position, she hopes to assist in expanding the Center's therapy program and further the Center's efforts of using creative means to assist children in their healing process.



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OUR MISSION

To meet the needs of abused children in our community.

OUR VISION

A community-based, child focused Center that facilitates a compassionate, multidisciplinary approach to the prevention, identification, prosecution and treatment of child abuse.

OUR VALUES

Safety, Support, Solution, Success.

Therapy News

By Corinne Edwards, Ed.S., LMHC

The therapy program at the Child Advocacy Center consists of part-time therapists Corinne Edwards, Ed.S., LMHC and Mary McCue, Ed.S., Registered Marriage and Family Intern. The therapy program also has a Clinical Intern position, which is for a graduate-level student working 20 hours a week for two semesters. The children seen for counseling at the Center range in age from 3 to 18 years old. The types of abuse experienced by therapy clients include sexual and physical abuse, exposure to domestic violence, and neglect. Referrals for counseling can come from a variety of sources including parents and the multi-disciplinary team. Because the therapy program is funded through grants, children and their families have access to therapy without the barriers of health insurance or fees. This is particularly helpful given many of the children seen at our Center do not have health insurance. The therapy program offers individual, family, and group counseling. The therapy staff finds one of the most rewarding parts of their jobs to be the resilience of the children seen at the Center.

Most of the children seen for therapy at the Center are under 10 years old. Play therapy is one of the most useful approaches to working with this age group. Play therapy involves the use of various materials such as art supplies, play-doh, puppets, and sand trays as a means of exploring the child's experiences. Using play in therapy allows the therapist to create a bridge with the child to explore and heal the effects of confusing and painful experiences. Including the child's family is a crucial part of therapy. One of the biggest predictors of a child's ability to heal from an abusive experience is the reactions of the parents. Caregivers need guidance in how to interact with their child about the abuse, as well as how to assist in their child's healing. The therapy staff hopes to seek enough funding to allow both therapists to attend a family training workshop in the fall. This training involves an evidenced-based approach that offers intensive skill building sessions for both the caregiver and the child. This is a much needed addition to the therapy program and will assist in increasing emotional safety for the child within the home.

If you are interested in more information or donating specifically to the therapy program at the Child Advocacy Center, please call 352.376.9161.



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Help Us Restore Childhoods

The Child Advocacy Center, Inc. frequently needs the following items:

- Juice Boxes
- Snacks
- Toys
- Art supplies
- Office Supplies
- Gift Certificates or other teen-friendly items
- Cleaning Supplies
- Volunteers

Make a donation by completing and mailing the form below:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

- My Check is Enclosed (*Made payable to Child Advocacy Center, Inc.*)

Please charge my Visa Mastercard for AMOUNT: \$ _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Name as it appears on the card: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CSV Code: _____

Billing Address (if different from above): _____

Billing City/State/Zip: _____