

[illegible]

CHILD ADVOCATES, INC.

THE POWER OF

## **contents**

program details

community events and programs

fundraising events and campaigns

financial information

our children

stats and facts

our volunteers

board of directors

**I am only one;**  
but still I am one.

I cannot do everything,  
**but still I can do  
something.**

I will not refuse  
**to do the something**  
I can do.

Helen Keller



**“You came into my life and changed me  
from who I was to who I am now.”**

Lilia, 14



# THE POWER OF **one**

One. Such a tiny little number. Yet it's possibility, strength and promise are staggering.

We know the potential of a single person or act because we see it every day – in the smile on a child's face, the glint of determination in a foster mother's eye, the piles of paperwork on a caseworker's desk. We see it in each of our volunteers, in each of our staff members and in each dollar we are entrusted with.

It's the power of one. One child. One opportunity. One act of compassion. One connection. One gift. One vote of confidence. One commitment. One hug. One goal.

Although our task is daunting, we know that at the root of our efforts, it all comes down to one. One thought, one action, one solution.

One life — changed.

## **recruitment**

Recruiting the right volunteers is an ongoing – and ever-evolving – quest. The sources through which our volunteers are referred range from advertising and public service announcements with major media outlets to word-of-mouth personal recommendations from those already involved with Child Advocates. Whether they come to us online or through their place of work, play or worship, we know that volunteers are at the core of fulfilling our mission, and will do whatever we can to get them – and keep them – involved.

## **orientation**

Our one-hour orientation session details the next steps to becoming a court appointed advocate and helps individuals learn about additional volunteer opportunities. Last summer's addition of a brand new video allows potential volunteers to hear directly from tenured volunteers, judges and others involved in the system about the importance of their role and the critical needs for volunteers. Whether they want to give one or 100 hours of their time, we're committed to helping them determine how they best fit within our organization.

## **advocacy university (au)**

Otherwise known as “part-time heroes in training,” our Advocacy University program allows our volunteers to learn about everything from the psychology of abuse to writing important court documents. Held six to eight times each year, this comprehensive, 30-hour training program has become a model for Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs across the country.

## **au grad school**

Knowledge never ends where we're concerned. We empower our volunteers, even after they've completed training and have begun their roles as guardians ad litem. AU grad school covers a range of topics that speak directly to the experiences our volunteers encounter during the course of their service, from working with individuals diagnosed with bi-polar disorder to drug court in Harris County.



**program**

**“You were there to support me and help me – and most of all you believed in me. Because of you, I have a chance to be someone when I grow up.”**

Adina, 15





# program



## **court services program**

Child Advocates provides mission-critical support and supervision to court appointed advocate volunteers. The court services program makes up the true meat-and-potatoes of our organization and includes diligent search, educational advocacy, reunification services and support to the family. Through the court program, volunteers guide abused and neglected children into safe, loving environments where they can thrive.

## **court appointed advocate volunteers**

Since Child Advocates began in Harris County in 1984, we have trained more than 3,800 individuals to become court appointed advocate volunteers — volunteers who make a difference in the lives of children. These volunteers are assigned to the cases of children who have been victims of life-threatening abuse or neglect and — as a result — have been placed in protective custody.

Our volunteers contact caseworkers, interview parents, ensure the children receive necessary medical care, look out for their educational interests and make recommendations in court regarding their permanent placement. They dry tears and give hugs and throw birthday parties too. Most importantly, they serve as a “constant” person for those children to count on during a very tumultuous time. Essentially, they do whatever it takes to ensure the needs of the children are met while they are in care.

## **advocacy coordinators**

Upon completing Advocacy University, our volunteers are paired with a member of the Child Advocates staff called an Advocacy Coordinator (AC). The AC serves as a source of information, advice and guidance for the volunteer during the course of the case, and the collaborative relationship allows the volunteer to feel both empowered and supported at the same time.

## **volunteer appreciation event**

This much-anticipated annual event allows us to pay special tribute to our court appointed advocate volunteers, who are on the front lines every day in the fight against child abuse. Each year at this event we present our Rookie of the Year and James A. Gwinn Outstanding Court Appointed Advocate of the Year awards for stand-out advocacy efforts by our volunteers.

“You never know  
may have on a  
**wanted you to know**  
**tremendous**

what impact you  
person's life; **so I**  
**that you've had a**  
**impact on mine."**

Marie, now 24

# children's eve

## **childspree**

We're sweetening the back-to-school experience for 525 children served by Child Advocates! Thanks to several awesome sponsors and hundreds of high-energy volunteers willing to show up very early on a Saturday morning, each child eligible for the event receives a \$100 gift card and their own personal shopper to help select back-to-school clothing, shoes and necessities just in time for the big day.

## **holiday party**

"It's the most wonderful time of the year." Well, we sure think so anyway. Hundreds of children served by Child Advocates and their foster siblings are treated to an afternoon of holiday bliss at the annual Holiday Party. Dozens of volunteers help produce a variety of holiday-themed contests, crafts, food and fun – including photos with Santa – to make the event as memorable as possible for all involved.

## **young professionals for children**

The YPC is a group of young professionals from our community dedicated to breaking the cycle of child abuse. They provide critical volunteer support for special events benefiting Child Advocates, hold several fundraisers to help support the organization's mission, and produce at least four exciting events and activities each year designed to help enrich the lives of the children we serve. Recent events include a trip to cheer on the Houston Rockets, a learning-filled day at the zoo, some serious cooling-off with an afternoon of water activities and the much-anticipated annual Great Pumpkin Party.

## **friends of child advocates**

Whether they are producing their signature Angels of Hope Luncheon, recruiting new members, holding their annual Egg Hunt for the children, coordinating logistics for the Childspree or making the holidays memorable for girls who visit their "Ginger's Spa" booth at the Holiday Party, the Friends of Child Advocates is a treasured group of volunteers who support Child Advocates' mission through both fundraising and volunteer hours.

# nts & programs







**“You were my  
voice before  
I could be  
my own.”**

Nealy, 18







**“You were the one person who knew  
what was going on, the one person  
I could count on to get it sorted  
out.”**

Michelle, mom



**children's even**

## **birthday parties**

Quarterly birthday parties for the children we serve and their foster siblings have become a big hit in recent years. The kids come out for lunch and a party in their honor with themes ranging from the rainforest to the Wild West. This effort is an example of the tremendous opportunities for both Junior League volunteers and the children served by Child Advocates which are made possible by the long-time partnership between our organizations. Junior League volunteers work on a variety of special projects designed to inspire positive interactions and build self-esteem for our children.

## **lifebooks**

A second option for Junior League members, the Lifebooks program allows many of our teenage children to have a written record of their lives from birth to the present. Essentially a scrapbook, the Lifebook includes the story of why the child came into CPS care, photos of family members and foster families along the way, a copy of their birth certificate, a family tree, addresses, schools and other details that have played a part in the life of that child. These scrapbooks are often the only mementos a child has of their biological families and histories.

## **santa's wish list**

Certainly not your average toy drive! Fueled by a spirit of goodwill on the part of hundreds of individuals and corporations, along with months of hard work, planning and organization by Child Advocates staff members and volunteers, the Santa's Wish List program is a highly impressive effort that allows over 1,400 children served by Child Advocates to receive many of the gifts on their lists during the holiday season.

## **gilbert & rachel's closet: special needs room**

Diapers, school uniforms, prom dresses, backpacks, eyeglasses, dance or karate lessons, tutoring, bunk beds, baby formula — everyday items that may easily be taken for granted by some. Named after two of the first few children served by Child Advocates, Gilbert and Rachel's Closet opens the door to a host of items that make a huge difference in the lives of our children.

# **ts & programs**





**“Thank you for caring for me enough to change my future. Because of all you have done for me, I was able to become who I am today.”**

Joanna, 24

# fundraising events

## **car pros for kids**

Participating auto service providers help raise funds for Child Advocates during the month of February by offering two free oil changes to individuals who visit their shop and make a \$30 donation to Child Advocates. One hundred percent of the proceeds benefit Child Advocates.

## **houston children's festival**

The annual Houston Children's Festival — deemed “the Mayor's official family event” — offers several city blocks of entertainment, complete with games, activities, crafts, exhibits, rides and more to tens of thousands of children and their families each spring.

## **pull for kids classic**

This annual event — the largest of our fundraisers — honors individuals and corporations who have had a pivotal impact in the lives of abused children. The event kicks off on Saturday morning with a sporting clays tournament and concludes that evening with a festive party offering live and silent auctions, food, fun and fantastic entertainment.

## **angels of hope luncheon and fashion presentation**

Each winter, this annual luncheon and fashion presentation is the kickoff to Houston's holiday social season. Produced by the Friends of Child Advocates in conjunction with Neiman Marcus, the event honors local philanthropists and longtime Child Advocates supporters. The runway show puts the luncheon on the Houston social crowd's annual “must-attend” list.

## **heroes society**

The Heroes Society Campaign is a targeted ask for unrestricted gifts — our annual campaign — conducted each year in the fall. The campaign is intended to (1) help us serve more children and grow our program, (2) further distinguish Child Advocates from other organizations with 100% participation from volunteers, board members and staff, (3) increase awareness about the importance of annual gifts to our mission and (4) continue to build Child Advocates' legacy.



# ents & campaigns



To an abused or neglected child in the foster care system, one can make all the difference.

One dollar, one volunteer, one act.

Thank you for being a part of our efforts to improve the lives of so many children - one at a time.

THE POWER OF  
**one**





**“I love you so much and I hope you love me too. I think you are my best friend.”**

Anave, 6



**Do your little bit  
of good  
where you are.**

It's those little bits of good  
**put together**  
that overwhelm  
**the world.**

Desmond Tutu

CHILD ADVOCATES, INC. OF HARRIS COUNTY MOBILIZES COURT APPOINTED  
VOLUNTEERS TO BREAK THE VICIOUS CYCLE OF CHILD ABUSE. WE SPEAK UP  
FOR ABUSED CHILDREN WHO ARE LOST IN THE SYSTEM AND GUIDE THEM  
INTO SAFE ENVIRONMENTS WHERE THEY CAN THRIVE.

**childadvocates®**

2401 PORTSMOUTH, SUITE 210  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
77098

713-529-1396 / [WWW.CHILDADVOCATES.ORG](http://WWW.CHILDADVOCATES.ORG)



one one one one  
one one one one  
e one one one on  
e one one one on  
one one one one  
ne one one one o  
one one one one  
one one one one  
e one one one on  
e one one one on  
one one one one  
e one one one on  
one one one one  
e one one one on  
one one one one

# financial information

2010\*\*

## REVENUE, GAINS AND PUBLIC SUPPORT\*\*\*

Contributions	\$1,592,143
Financial Assistance	\$975,972
Memberships	\$28,689
Special Events (Net of \$276,606 in event expenses)	
Houston Children's Festival	\$124,319
Pull for Kids Classic	\$451,558
Angels of Hope Luncheon	\$204,230
Other Events	\$150,748
Other	\$10,436

TOTAL REVENUE, GAINS AND PUBLIC SUPPORT \$3,538,095

## EXPENSES\*\*\*

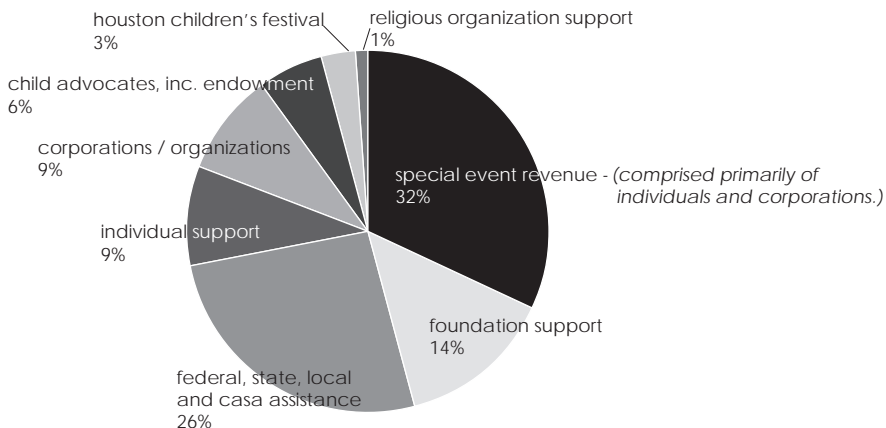
Community Services	\$2,300,144
Professional Education and Training	\$545,310
Management and General	\$308,998
Fundraising	\$291,036

TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,445,488

NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) \$92,607

ENDING NET ASSETS \$1,557,911

## SOURCES OF REVENUE



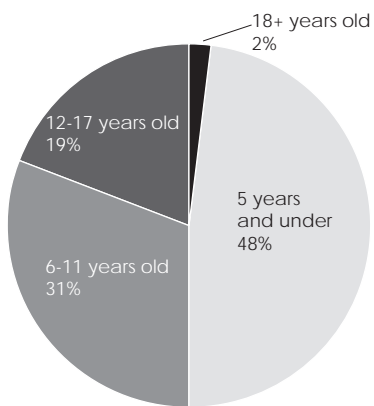
\* All data as of December 31, 2010 unaudited financial statements

\*\* Excludes Child Advocates Endowment, Inc.

\*\*\* Revenue and expenses do not include in-kind contributions and expenses: advertising - \$1,042,650, Christmas gifts - \$170,500 and volunteer services - \$1,365,819.

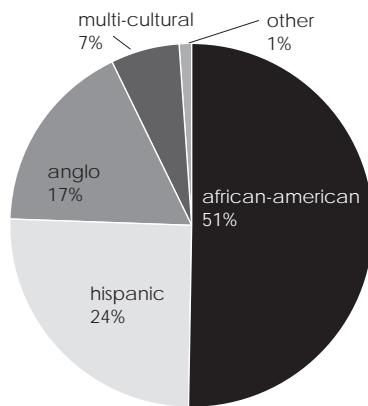
# our children

2010

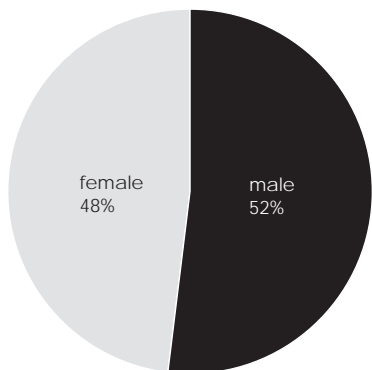


children served  
by age

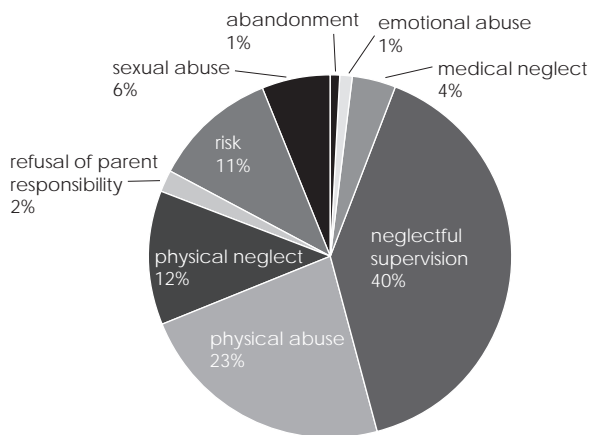
2,018 children served



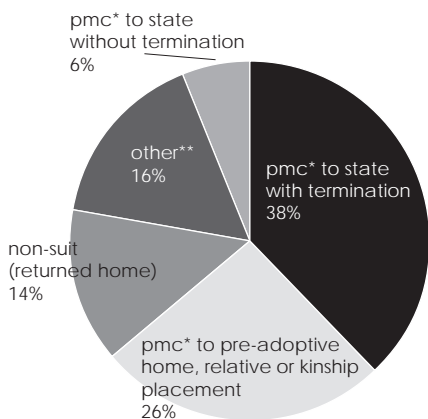
children served  
by ethnicity



children served  
by gender

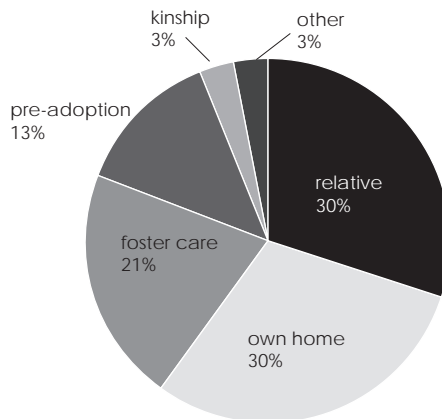


types of abuse



outcome  
of closed cases

In 2010, the family court judges ruled in favor of the outcome recommended by the court appointed advocate volunteer 85% of the time.



placement of children  
at close of case

\*pmc = permanent managing conservatorship \*\* includes death, runaway, adoption, aged out, Lifebook

# stats & facts

2010

## CHILD ADVOCATES, INC. 2010 STATS

- provided critical advocacy for 2,018 abused and neglected children
- trained 228 new court appointed advocate volunteers
- worked on 1,116 cases - 750 volunteers collectively gave more than 65,000 hours of their time (the equivalent of 31 full-time staff members!)
- raised \$3.5 million
- the cost for Child Advocates to serve one child in 2010 was \$1,700

## CHILD ADVOCATES, INC. FACTS

- served more than 17,000 children in Harris County since 1984
- is not a United Way agency — thus we rely heavy on donations from individuals, companies, organizations and foundations for more than 70% of our annual budget
- is a member of the National and Texas Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Associations

## LOCAL FACTS ON CHILD ABUSE

- 35,729 reports of alleged child abuse in Harris County in 2010\*
- 6,535 confirmed victims of child abuse in Harris County in 2010\*
- a CPS caseworker in Region 6 (Harris County + 12 surrounding counties) has an average caseload of 36 cases\*

## NATIONAL FACTS ON CHILD ABUSE

- an average of four children die every day in our nation as a result of abuse and neglect \*\*
- children under the age of four account for 80% of those fatalities\*\*
- in 2009, approximately 3.6 million children were reported as abused and/or neglected in the U.S. \*\*
- an estimated \$103 billion accounts for the direct and indirect annual costs of child abuse in the U.S. \*\*\*

\* source: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, *2010 Data Book*

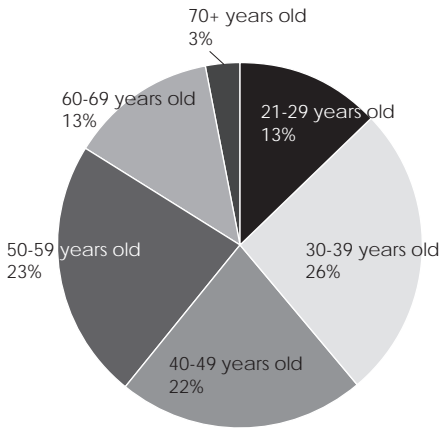
\*\* source: U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, *Child Maltreatment 2009*

\*\*\* source: [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org)

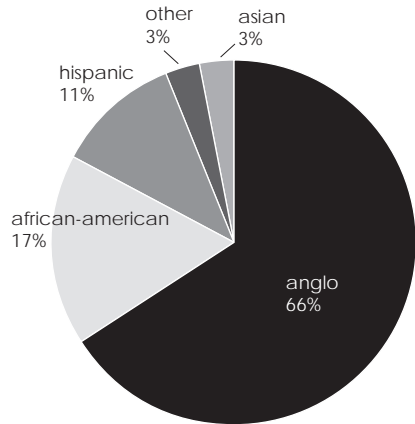
# our volunteers

2010

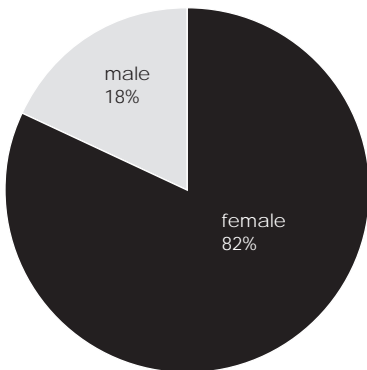
750 active volunteers



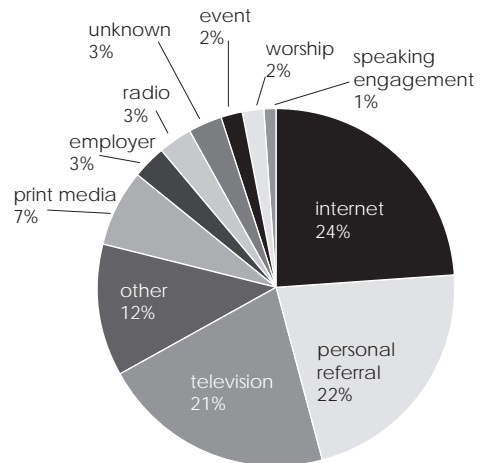
court appointed advocate  
volunteers by age



court appointed advocate  
volunteers by ethnicity



court appointed advocate  
volunteers by gender



sources of referral  
for potential volunteers



# board of directors

2011

Sheryl Androphy  
David Baird  
Kenny Baldwin  
Hildegarde Ballard  
James Brodnax  
Rick Burnett  
Mollie Castaneda  
Jane Dabney  
Kim David  
Bob Davis  
David Davis  
Eddy De Los Santos  
Bill Gardiner  
Terrence Gee  
Quinton Harp  
Jim Kimble  
Bob Krenzelok  
Ross LeFevre

June Lohman  
Ron Orsini  
Joy Posoli  
Mike Preston  
David Quackenbush  
Brad Robbins  
Cynthia Sebald  
Angie Sherrell  
John Storms  
Ellie Sweeney  
Don Taylor  
Dolly Dawson Thomas  
Suzanne Thomas  
Nancy Thorington  
Mike Van Hoozer  
Milton West  
David Winn