

*stories*  
2005

HORROR STORIES

WAR STORIES

SUCCESS STORIES

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

FUNDRAISING AND SPECIAL EVENTS

STATISTICS

*stories*

# *stories*

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The stories originating from and recounted by those of us here at Child Advocates, Inc. are many things – shocking, heartwarming, sickening, fascinating, tragic, even occasionally funny. Often, they are some combination thereof.

They all have one thing in common, though: they are a recurring testament to the truly amazing spirit of the children we serve, the volunteers who work tirelessly on our behalf each day and the benevolent financial supporters who allow us to continue doing the work we do.

Since our inception in 1984, Child Advocates has trained more than 2,700 court appointed advocate volunteers who have gone on to make a difference in the lives of over 13,000 children.

That kind of history makes for some pretty awesome stories.

Whether you're a returning character or one that has yet to be part of our tale, we look forward to your help as we write the story of our future.

*ries*

*horror*  
STORIES



*“... the mother sits on Alan’s stomach as a form of discipline, pokes him with forks and knives, pinches his arms and forces him to kneel on his knees for long periods of time ...”*

Stories of children beaten, burned, abandoned – it’s hard to describe them as anything other than horrific. And we hear a great many of them – 1,562 in 2005 to be exact.

Stories like Harrison and Nicolas’s – seven- and nine-year-old brothers who, during a drug raid by HPD, were found huddled in a hot back room of the trailer they lived in, while their mother and her boyfriend were in their air-conditioned bedroom, smoking crack and playing video games. Or stories like teenaged Eugenia’s – who was given drugs and alcohol by her father before he sexually molested her.

Each one of these children’s stories represents one innocent life. A child who – instead of thinking about school and friends and playing outside – thinks about what it would be like to live in a safe home with a family who loves him.



*war*

STORIES

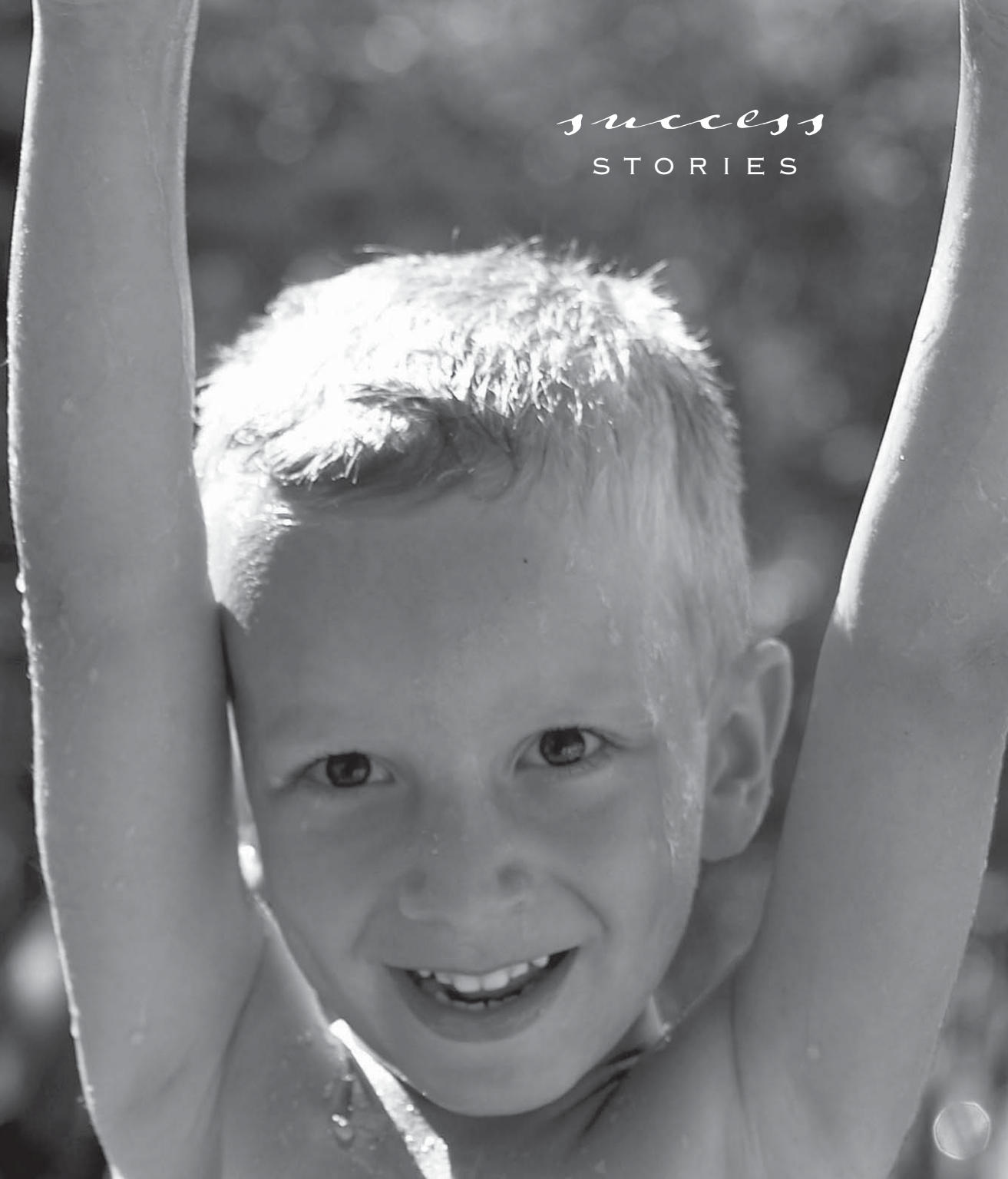
*“... trial for this case took seven days; Kelly testified for almost four hours ... about why it was in the children’s best interest to terminate the parents’ rights ... about the mother’s history and instability ...”*

We definitely heard a lot of the word *war* in 2005 – in political debates, on the news, around the water cooler. But at Child Advocates, there were 440 Houstonians engaged in a different kind of war – the war against child abuse.

Darrell battled the system to get a firm answer on who would handle a father’s services when the kids on his case were placed with a grandmother who lived on the line between two counties. Arline went into the trenches for the eight special-needs children on her case when she created and kept a running list of each child’s testing scores, IQ score, and diagnoses – and then was able to use this information and compare it to more recent testing.

Arline and Darrell are just two examples of the individuals who are out every day passionately fighting – within the confines of the system – for the rights of “their” children.

*success*  
STORIES





*“... Kristen really “cleaned up” all the details ... the mother had everyone so confused about what services she’d done ... she ended up relinquishing her parental rights, but surely would not have if Kristen had not been on the case.”*

People often assume that the horror stories probably outweigh the success stories around here. But because our success stories come in so many shapes and sizes, it’s actually the other way around.

Because Caroline worked so hard to keep the communication open between all the parties to the case, a homestudy was finally approved on the relative in San Marcos and the children – to their delight – were placed there permanently. The case Tom was assigned to lasted over the course of three years, and in that time there were changes in caseworkers, supervisors and foster homes for the three children on the case. Tom was literally the only “constant” in the children’s lives during that period, and because of his dedication, termination was approved and adoptions are pending on all three children.

Whether in the form of reunification of healthy families or in the termination of parental rights to allow a child a life with a loving and supportive adoptive family, our success stories warm our hearts and bring us smiles every day. The beauty of our program model is evident time and again in the details of each one of these wonderful tales.

*statistics*

2 0 0 5



## C H I L D A D V O C A T E S , I N C . 2 0 0 5 S T A T S

- Provided advocacy for 1,562 abused children in Harris County
- Trained 131 new volunteers
- Worked on 725 cases – 440 volunteers collectively worked more than 36,000 hours
- Raised \$2.9 million
- The cost to Child Advocates to serve one child in 2005 was \$1,570

## C H I L D A D V O C A T E S , I N C . G E N E R A L S T A T S

- Served more than 13,000 children since our inception in 1984
- Member of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (NCASAA), and is one of the largest of 900 member programs across the country
- Member of the Texas Court Appointed Special Advocate (TCASA) program
- Family judges agree with the recommendations of the Child Advocates guardian ad litem 84 percent of the time

## L O C A L F A C T S O N C H I L D A B U S E

- 29,288 alleged victims of child abuse in Harris County in 2004 (most recently released data)\*
- 5,953 children taken into protective custody in Harris County in 2004 (most recently released data)\*
- A CPS worker's caseload may range from 50-70 cases

## N A T I O N A L F A C T S O N C H I L D A B U S E

- An average of 4 children die every day in our nation as a result of abuse and neglect\*\*
- Children under the age of four account for more than 78 percent of those fatalities\*\*
- Each year, more than 2.9 million children are reported as abused and/or neglected\*\*
- An estimated \$94 billion accounts for the direct and indirect annual costs of child abuse\*\*\*

\* Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Data Book 2004.

[http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About/Data\\_Books\\_and\\_Annual\\_Reports/2004/databook/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/2004/databook/default.asp)

\*\*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Child Maltreatment 2003.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cm03/index.htm>

\*\*\*<http://www.preventchildabuse.org>

# *programs and services* FOR THE CHILDREN WE SERVE

## MERVYNS BAKER HUGHES CHILDSPREE

At our 2005 event, “shop ‘til you drop” took on a whole new meaning. More than 425 children received a \$100 voucher and a personal shopper to help select their back-to-school clothing, shoes and necessities.

## COURT PROGRAM

Child Advocates provides mission-critical support and supervision to court appointed advocate volunteers. The court program 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.

## GILBERT AND 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 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.

## HOLIDAY PARTY

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year.” Nearly 700 children served by Child Advocates and their foster siblings were treated to several hours of holiday bliss at the annual Holiday Party, generously sponsored by ExxonMobil. Dozens of volunteers helped produce contests, crafts, food and fun to help make this event memorable.

## SANTA’S WISH LIST

Fueled by the spirit of good will of individuals and corporations, along with lots of hard work, planning and organization by Child Advocates staff members and volunteers, the Santa’s Wish List program ensures that the children served by Child Advocates receive gifts during the holiday season.

## YPC CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES

Committed members of Child Advocates’ Young Professionals for Children group provide exciting quarterly activities to help enrich the lives of children served by Child Advocates. 2005 activities included the *Rodeo Round-Up*, the *Woodshop Challenge*, *Mad Science!* and the annual *Great Pumpkin Party*.



# community outreach

## A D V O C A C Y   U N I V E R S I T Y   ( A U )

We like to think of it as “heroes in training.” Our volunteers learn about everything from the psychology of abuse to writing important court documents. Our 30-hour training program has become a model for CASA programs across the country. All six of our AU training sessions in 2005 were generously sponsored by BP America.

## A U   G R A D   S C H O O L

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 volunteer work.

## F R I E N D S   O F   C H I L D   A D V O C A T E S

Whether they are producing their signature Angels of Hope Luncheon, recruiting new members to join the Friends, coordinating logistics for the annual ChildSpree or making the holidays memorable for girls who visit their “Ginger’s Spa” booth at the annual Holiday Party, the Friends of Child Advocates is a treasured group of volunteers who support Child Advocates’ mission.

## O R I E N T A T I O N

Our one-hour orientations help individuals learn about different volunteer opportunities at Child Advocates, and determine how they best fit within our organization.

## R E C R U I T M E N T

We find our volunteers in both obvious and unique places. We recognize that volunteers are at the core of fulfilling our mission, and will do what we can to help get them involved.

## V O L U N T E E R   A P P R E C I A T I O N   E V E N T

Generously sponsored by BP America, this much-anticipated annual event allows us to pay special tribute to our volunteers who are on the front lines everyday in the fight against child abuse.

## Y O U N G   P R O F E S S I O N A L S   F O R   C H I L D R E N

Volunteer manpower at its best! A group of young professionals who are dedicated to breaking the cycle of child abuse helps produce enriching activities for children served by Child Advocates, provides critical volunteer support for special events benefiting Child Advocates, and even holds a fundraiser to help support Child Advocates’ mission.

# *fundraising and special events*

## ANGELS OF HOPE LUNCHEON AND FASHION PRESENTATION

Each November, 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, our 2005 event honored former court appointed advocate and recent adoptive mom to three children from the foster care system, Page Parkes-Eveleth. The runway show – a preview of Oscar de la Renta's Spring 2006 line – put the luncheon on the Houston social crowd's "must-attend" list.

## CAR PROS FOR KIDS

For the eleventh year in a row, participating auto service providers helped raise funds for Child Advocates during the month of February by offering two free oil changes to individuals who visited their shop and made a \$25 donation to Child Advocates. One hundred percent of the proceeds benefited Child Advocates.

## GIVING

Child Advocates cannot operate without the support of individuals, corporations and foundations. Year after year, we rely upon the benevolence of the entire community to help us fulfill our mission. Child Advocates has a host of giving opportunities ranging from supporting us through our direct mail campaign or becoming a sponsor of one of our special events. Every contribution helps us continue to provide critical services for abused children – as we are not a United Way agency and over 75% of our funds are raised through philanthropic gifts each year.

## H-E-B HOUSTON CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The annual Houston Children's Festival – deemed "the Mayor's official 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. The 2005 Festival featured appearances by Sponge Bob Square Pants and Dora the Explorer!

## 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 2005 Pull for Kids Classic, presented by Accenture, honored BP America for its unparalleled support of Child Advocates' mission since 2000. The event kicked-off on Saturday morning with a daytime sporting clays tournament and concluded on Saturday evening with a festive party in a giant Continental Airlines hangar that offered food, fun and live musical entertainment for more than 700.

# highlights

## CHILD ADVOCATES, INC. 2005 HIGHLIGHTS

- After nearly seven years of hard work on the parts of so many, the final report of our longitudinal research study is published and available for distribution. Entitled *Making a Difference in the Lives of Abused and Neglected Children*, the publication demonstrates that children in custody are measurably better-off with a court appointed advocate assigned to their case.
- Of the 440 court appointed advocate volunteers assigned to cases in 2005, 54% were what we consider tenured volunteers (those who have worked three or more cases to date). This means that more than half of our court appointed advocates brought significant prior casework experience to the table.
- As a result of outstanding successes on all of our 2005 fundraising events – each one surpassed the revenue goal set! – we raised more than 120% of our accrual basis budget for the year.
- Court appointed advocates Mark Applegate, John Krebs and Susan Stotzer were recognized for their outstanding efforts in serving our children – Mark was awarded the Visteon “Go the Extra Mile” National Award by his company; John was named the 2005 James A. Gwinn Outstanding Volunteer of the Year by Child Advocates; and Susan’s employer, BMC, recognized her with the BMC “Building My Community” Award.
- The Houston Texans Foundation selected Child Advocates as one of their five officially-supported charities for the 2005, 2006, and 2007 NFL seasons.
- *Just for Now: Kids and the People of the Court* – an illustrated, hard-cover children’s book that can serve as a communication tool for children ages 6 to 12 and clarify the role of the court appointed advocate volunteers and others in the court system – is a reality. Nearly 50% of all funds required for the project were raised with printing and distribution to begin during 2006.
- From August through October, we conducted our 2005 Heroes Society Campaign with a goal of 100% participation from the Child Advocates “family”: Board, staff and court appointed advocates. Forty percent of our court appointed advocates made unrestricted financial donations and 100% of our staff and Board of Directors made an unrestricted financial donation directly, or had a gift made in their honor.





Hundreds of our 2005 stories ultimately ended happily – thanks to so many dedicated court appointed advocate volunteers in Harris County.

Someday, we hope to serve every abused and neglected child who needs us – but we need your help to get there. The 1,562 children that we served last year was less than half of the total who could have benefited from the life-changing service of a court appointed advocate. Our limits lie not in passion or desire – our limits lie only in our resources.

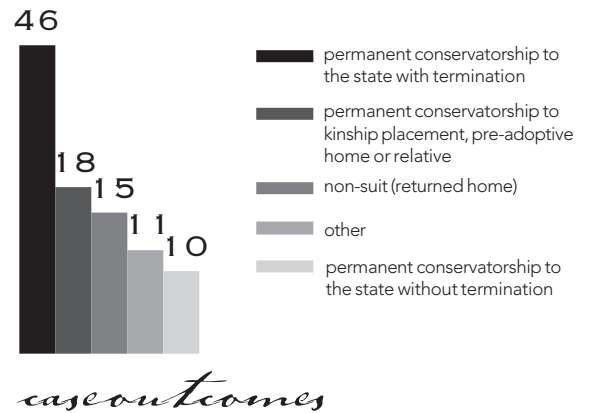
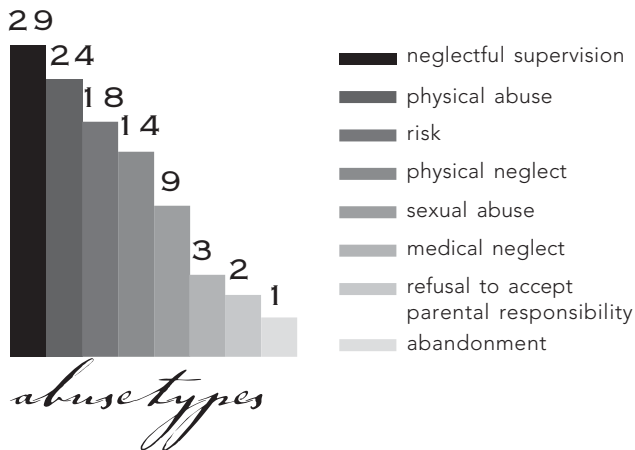
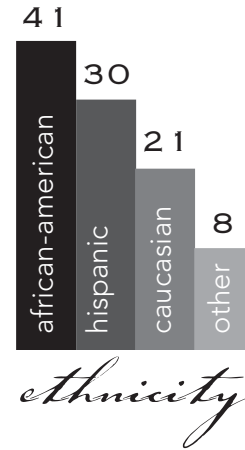
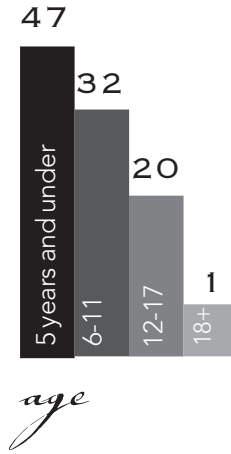
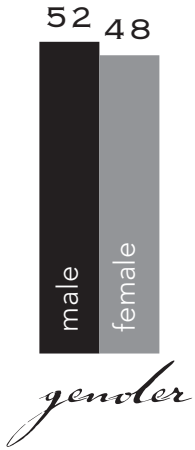
So, without your continued support, not every child who needs one will be assigned a volunteer ...

... what about *their* *happy endings?*



# children served

2005\*



\*ALL DATA AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005. ALL FIGURES ARE IN PERCENTAGES.

# *financial information*

## 2005\*

### REVENUE, GAINS AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,315,085
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	\$508,763
MEMBERSHIPS	\$26,953
SPECIAL EVENTS (NET OF \$132,669 IN EVENT EXPENSES)	
HOUSTON CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL	\$239,798
PULL FOR KIDS CLASSIC	\$354,535
ANGELS OF HOPE LUNCHEON	\$289,023
OTHER EVENTS	\$163,180
INTEREST	\$11,960
<b>TOTAL REVENUE, GAINS AND PUBLIC SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$2,909,297</b>

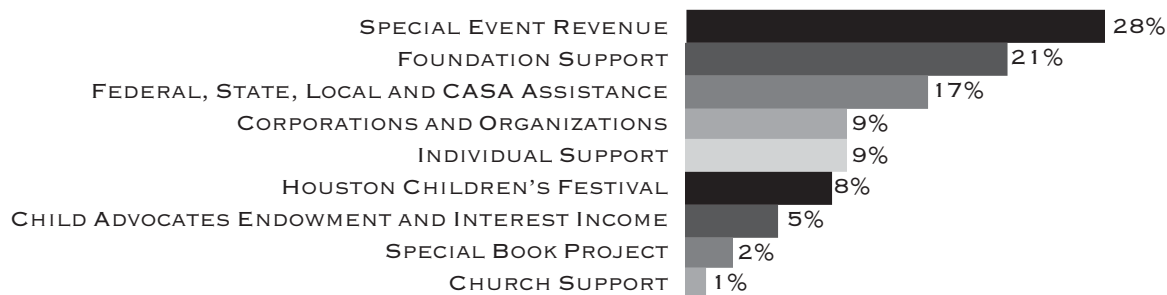
### EXPENSES

COMMUNITY SERVICES	\$1,434,512
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING	\$483,925
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	\$261,392
FUNDRAISING	\$276,066
CONTRIBUTION TO CHILD ADVOCATES ENDOWMENT	\$450,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,905,893</b>

### NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)

**\$3,403**

### SOURCES OF REVENUE



\*ALL DATA AS OF FINAL DECEMBER 31, 2005 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - PENDING FINAL AUDIT OF 2005 DATA.

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®**

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