

Advocate News

HOUSTON'S LEADING VOICE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

CHILD ADVOCATES, INC.

SUMMER 2007

The Long Road Back

Homeless, unemployed and addicted to drugs and alcohol, Michelle Faultry had given up the luxury of having a choice. Her three sons sat angry and afraid while she was escorted from the Child Protective Services (CPS) office – sobbing both her apologies and her goodbyes.

While Montego (12), Marquis (10) and Mitchell (3) were transported to a foster home by a caseworker, their mother went to a relative's house and got high.

"It felt like someone was cutting my heart out," says Michelle. "I thought the drugs would dull the pain, like they always did – but it didn't work that day."

Michelle recalls the hours following as she made up her mind that she was done using drugs and alcohol. "I took all my paraphernalia out to the curb and threw it away," she says. "I told myself that if I was going to help my kids, I had to help myself first."

And that she did. Michelle promptly checked into a 90-day inpatient drug treatment program and made herself a model resident.

Soon after, at a court hearing regarding the boys, Michelle first met Alison Meyers, the court appointed advocate volunteer assigned to the case.

Alison's role as court appointed advocate was to act, in effect, as an extra pair of eyes and ears for the family court judge. She would visit the children in their foster home, contact caseworkers and counselors, interview Michelle and other relatives, ensure necessary medical care, look out for educational interests and, ultimately, make recommendations in court regarding the permanent placement of the children.

"I didn't really understand exactly what she was supposed to do, but I could tell from the beginning that she wanted what was best for my kids – and since I wanted what was best for my kids, we had that in common," says Michelle.

Alison visited the boys often in their foster home and communicated regularly with their foster mother. She kept in close contact with their schools and therapists, looked into summer programs for them and established that their maternal great aunt was willing to take them into her home if approved by CPS.

(continued on next page)

“We had a lot of different caseworkers, therapists and attorneys. But I always knew that no matter how confusing it seemed, this was the one person who knew what was going on, the one person I could call on to get it sorted out.”

In Harris County alone, 4,800 children languish in foster care because of life threatening abuse or neglect. With our current resources, Child Advocates can provide a volunteer to less than half of them. If you would like to help us provide critical advocacy services for more children, please consider becoming a volunteer or making a financial donation [online at www.childadvocates.org](http://www.childadvocates.org).

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The Long Road Back CONTINUED

Alison also attended many of the supervised visits between Michelle and the boys at the CPS offices, noting that the children seemed to be rebuilding their ability to trust their mother – something that had been damaged significantly through her years of drug abuse and their resulting placement in State custody.

“We ran into a challenge regarding the boys going to live with Michelle’s aunt and her husband,” says Alison. “A CPS caseworker was sent out to the home to conduct a homestudy but sometime between physically coming out and putting the homestudy details in writing for approval, she left the agency – and we had to start over.”

Alison and her Child Advocates, Inc. supervisor, Kathy Nevarez, conducted the homestudy a second time and were able to present their recommendations to CPS and to the judge. The placement was approved and the boys were moved to the relative’s home where all three of them immediately began improving – both in their behavior and in their grades.

“Without Alison, this case would have been chaos,” says Michelle. “We had a lot of different caseworkers, therapists and attorneys. But I always knew that no matter how confusing it seemed, this was the one person who knew what was going on, the one person I could call on to get it sorted out.”

As the months went on, Michelle worked steadily toward completing the services outlined in her State-issued family plan. Alison regularly communicated with Michelle’s therapist through the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority (MHMRA), kept up with her aftercare at the drug treatment facility, checked in on Michelle to ensure that she continued attending Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous and was able to report to the judge that Michelle had indeed secured housing and had begun working as a home health care provider through the MHMRA work program.

The case hit another stumbling block last summer, when additional CPS personnel changes on the case caused a stall in the agency getting court-ordered random urinalysis (UA) set up for Michelle.

“Michelle had done everything on her plan and we were ready to recommend that the boys start pre-placement visits in her new home,” says Alison, “but despite our confidence in her progress, we knew that Michelle’s history necessitated those random UAs for us to be 100% sure of our recommendations.”

Because Alison knew that the delay on the UA paperwork was ultimately a delay for the entire case moving forward, she called and emailed each of the previous CPS supervisors until she was able to find one who could submit the paperwork in the interim between caseworkers assigned to the case.

“I knew that if Alison was anywhere as firm with them as she was with me, things would get done,” Michelle jokes.

And they did. Once several UAs were conducted on Michelle at random and each one came back negative for any substances, Alison recommended the boys be placed back with Michelle. Last September, the judge ordered that they be returned home.

“I never thought my life could be like it is today,” says Michelle. “We’re renting a house, I’ve held my job for several years, I just got a new truck and I even put some money in a CD to gain interest. Looking back, it wasn’t easy, but all the pain did nothing but make me grow,” she says.

When we asked Marquis – now 12 years old and a young man of few words – if he was proud of his mom, his emphatic head-nod and a rare grin said it all.

From the CEO

Dear Friends,

It's been hard to ignore the news lately – as it seems like we hear a horrific story of child abuse almost every day. Earlier this year, we heard about the child whose genitals were severed; last month it was the child who was placed in the microwave; and just a few weeks ago, we heard about the child whose lifeless two-month old body was found in his mother's apartment with broken bones that would never have the chance to heal.

As shocking and terrible as these stories are, the worst part is that they're only the tip of the iceberg. For every child whose unfortunate fate makes the evening news, there are 10 more who you won't hear about – children who are burned, abandoned, beaten, born addicted to drugs or horribly neglected.

Child Advocates' ultimate goal is to provide a court appointed advocate volunteer to every child who needs us – and that number isn't getting any smaller.

After months of discussion with volunteers, board members and staff, our Strategic Planning Committee has laid out a roadmap for major growth over the next several years, and as you know, with major growth will come major challenges.

We cannot serve more children without recruiting more court appointed advocate volunteers. Our plan is to increase our total volunteer base by 30% by 2009 – and our success in this goal requires that we recruit 30% more *new* volunteers than we are recruiting currently.

Because we are committed to continuing our reputation of providing high quality service to the children we serve, we feel very strongly that in addition to growing our base of volunteers, we need to grow our staff and our financial resources in order to support this substantial increase.

I'm interested in hearing what you think – both in regards to the strategic plan as well as any ideas that you might have that will help us recruit new court appointed advocate volunteers.

Perhaps you have some ideas regarding potential sources of volunteers that we may not yet have tapped into, or maybe you have an invaluable media contact you can connect with Child Advocates in hopes that they might be willing to donate public service space for one of our print, radio or television ads.

If you'd like to see a more detailed copy of the strategic plan, I'm happy to share it with you. My email address is sonya.galvan@childadvocates.org and I look forward to hearing from you. I'm confident that with your help, we'll reach our ultimate goal.

Sonya Galvan

Pull for Kids Classic

"Pull" Celebrates 15th Anniversary; Breaks All Previous Records

The 15th Annual *Pull for Kids Classic* event was a record-breaker all around – with the money raised through sponsorships and auction purchases combined totaling more than \$580,000! This significant dollar amount will ensure that more than 300 abused and neglected children receive the services of a court appointed advocate volunteer this year.



Event chairs Dolly and Jeff Thomas and Child Advocates CEO Sonya Galvan (right) present an award to Accenture's Bill Mearse (left).

Our seasoned *Pull for Kids* event chairs Dolly and Jeff Thomas led a fabulous committee including Jeff Birmingham, Hildegard and Barry Ballard, Sarah Wilbanks, Rachel Owens, Nolan Lehmann and Sheryl and Joel Androphy.

A humidity-free day, a new location, gourmet coffee, fantastic brisket sandwiches and plenty of

cold beverages made this year's shoot one to remember for the 300 participants.

The 700+ guests at the evening party were treated to an underwater experience from the moment they arrived. Darryl

Murchison Design, Behind the Scenes and an army of dedicated volunteers – together with the lighting magic of J&S Audio Visual – truly transformed the Methodist Training Facility into "A Sea of Endless Possibilities..."



Accenture volunteers lend a hand at the clay shoot.

Guests bid the night away with thrilling live and silent auctions, enjoyed a formidable spread by Cordua Catering and grooved to the live music by Accent. A moving video presentation featured several employees of Accenture – the honoree for the event – who work closely with Child Advocates and recognized the company for its outstanding corporate community involvement.

A unique highlight of the evening came in the form of "party favors." Attached to a beautifully wrapped, ocean-themed cookie was a printed card letting guests know that in lieu of favors, Accenture would be giving back to Child Advocates – by throwing a party at a summer Astros home game for all of "our" teens who celebrate their 15th birthdays in 2007, in honor of the 15th anniversary of the event.

To see more photos from the 2007 *Pull for Kids Classic* event, visit <http://www.childadvocates.org/calendar/events/pfk.htm>.

Focus on the Friends

FRIENDS OF CHILD ADVOCATES

FIRST ANNUAL FRIENDS EASTER EGG HUNT

The first Annual Friends Easter Egg Hunt for children and foster families that Child Advocates serves took place on Saturday, March 24, at Jaycee Park. There were 37 children five years of age and younger, 20 caregivers, 17 Friends Members, and an Easter Bunny in attendance. Following a yummy Whataburger lunch, the kids were given their own Easter baskets and collected over 700 candy-filled plastic eggs. After the hunt, there were games including the duck walk and a spoon egg balance.



Eggs escape from the overflowing basket of a little hunter at Jaycee Park.

The winners received prizes and everyone received an additional free gift donated from our Gilbert and Rachel's Closet. The Egg Hunt was a huge success thanks to the leadership of Chair Rose Ellisor and her committee members Michelle Comstock and Ginger Duncan Harris.

THE ANGELS OF HOPE LUNCHEON AND FASHION PRESENTATION BY NEIMAN MARCUS

The Friends of Child Advocates Angels of Hope Luncheon and Fashion Presentation by Neiman Marcus was kicked off in style with the first host committee invites issued in April. Our Chair, Mollie Castaneda, could not be more pleased with the initial response of over 70 individuals agreeing to serve and more than \$88,000 in table revenue thus far. Much of this can be attributed to Mary Bratton, our Honoree, who is a long-time supporter of the luncheon and Child Advocates. We will honor Mary at the Westin Galleria Grand Ballroom on Tuesday, November 27, 2007. Neiman Marcus, our benevolent sponsor, has not yet announced our fashion designer but they never fail to provide a cutting edge show for our attendees' enjoyment. Exciting news just in: the Luncheon Underwriter Kickoff Party is officially scheduled for Thursday, September 13, from 6:00-8:00pm – keep an eye on your mail for an invitation. For information call Marla at 713-529-1396 x 234 or marla.endieveri@childadvocates.org.

Snapshots



CAI mascots Rachel and Gilbert visit with Houston Children's Festival attendees.



Bernie Powell (cntr) was presented with a Mayor's Outstanding Volunteer Award in May.



First United Methodist Church teacher Sally McKee and her class hold several of the Build-A-Bears they made for children served by CAI.

Voices

Court appointed advocate volunteers tell us how making a difference in an abused child's life has made a difference in their own.



YVETTE CLARK

Court Appointed Advocate since 2006

Being a court appointed advocate is an honor and a privilege, as I truly believe that we can make the world a better place one child at a time. My experience with the children I've served has helped me put things into perspective and reminds me not to "sweat the small stuff" in my own life.



BERTHA McCUE

Court Appointed Advocate since 2005

I used to read the news reports about child abuse and think how overwhelming the problem is and wonder why "they" aren't doing something to solve it. Then I realized that "they" was really me. As a court appointed advocate, you realize that you cannot, alone,

solve the problem. But you can make a real, maybe even life-or-death, difference to the one child that you are involved with right now. The children don't give up hope – you can see it in their eyes each time you visit – so neither can we.



BRANDON LeBLANC

Court Appointed Advocate since 2007

After having read the case file and even before being formally assigned to my case, I was certain that advocating for this particular child would leave a much bigger impact on my life than I could ever hope to leave on his. And true to form, at least in my humble

opinion, that's been exactly what's happened thus far. Truly, I can only hope that I've been able to give him even a modicum of what he so unknowingly continues to give me – most notably, a recognition of the curative power of a positive, loving environment. I feel enriched by having had this opportunity, because, in part, it so fully illustrates that sometimes, when you give a little, you stand to gain so much more.

Donor Spotlight

THE ANNE AND HENRY ZARROW FOUNDATION

The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation is not only a supporter of Child Advocates but of the CASA organization and mission as a whole. Located in Oklahoma, the Foundation has donated to Child Advocates and to other CASA chapters in Oklahoma and beyond. Recently, they became key contributors to the *Just for Now: Kids and the People of the Court* book project and our Court Services Program, because they believe that the impact of our work reaches far beyond the borders of Harris County. We are certainly grateful to our friends in the Sooner State.

LORI STEWART

Lori Stewart contacted us in December of 2005 and has donated regularly since then via a monthly, automatic, credit card donation. While her donations are consistent, she will often call our offices to increase the amount as her budget allows. During the 2006 holidays, Lori donated \$100 worth of H-E-B gift cards, above and beyond her debited amount, in the hopes that we would distribute them



to our families or whomever we deemed most worthy. Lori is a shining example of the many Child Advocates supporters who extend themselves as much as they can to help those in need.

DAVIS CHEVROLET

Not only does Sylvia Scarborough support Child Advocates as an active court appointed advocate, she also introduced her employer, Davis Chevrolet, and many other dealerships to the Car Pros for Kids program. In the two short years since Davis Chevrolet came on board, they have raised over \$20,000 for the program through the donations of their customers and were recognized as one of the top fundraisers of 2007 – a remarkable feat for being so new to the program.

HOUSTON CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Child Advocates would like to thank all of the generous sponsors of the Houston Children's Festival, many of which have been supporters for multiple years. What is so outstanding about this year, is that despite the fact that it rained the entire first day of the festival, we still nearly met our revenue goal due to the overwhelming support of our sponsors. Thank you for supporting Houston's #1 family event and the abused and neglected children that it benefits.

Thanks Donors

The donors listed below contributed to Child Advocates, Inc. between the months of February and May 2007, in an amount equal to or greater than the cost of serving one child for one month (\$130). Child Advocates also extends our sincerest appreciation to the 1,228 individuals and companies that donated between \$1 and \$129 during this period (totalling more than \$53,845), whom we are unable to list due to space constraints.

More than 62 children for one year

H-E-B Houston Children's
Festival, presented by
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31 - 62 children for one year

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 Mr. James S. Wright



Thank you!

Doing Something

RYAN FALCONA AND PATRICK MULVEY

Boy Scouts Ryan Falcona and Patrick Mulvey recently celebrated their birthdays together and asked friends to bring a gift for Child Advocates instead of for themselves. Ryan and Patrick are part of Boy Scout Troop 922, sponsored by Christ Memorial Lutheran Church.



EDDY DE LOS SANTOS

A full-time attorney with Spain, Hastings, Ward, Carey & Chambers, and a dedicated husband and father, Eddy de los Santos is still able to remain committed to his role as a court appointed advocate. In April, Eddy appeared on the Fox television program "Hola Houston" to help us publicize *Just for Now*. Going a step further, he submitted information on the book and Child Advocates to his employer's newsletter, providing wonderful exposure to the legal community. He continued to show what an asset he is to the organization last month when he attended the National CASA Conference in Florida to speak about the book.

ANN THURMOND AND THE ST. MARTIN'S HOLY STROLLERS

Ann Thurmond is a member of both the Friends of Child Advocates and St. Martin's Episcopal Church. The Holy Strollers are a group of young mothers at St. Martin's. When Ann approached the Holy Strollers



about helping Child Advocates, they responded immediately – delivering diapers of all sizes, twin sheet sets, pillows, formula, wet wipes, coloring books and supplies for Gilbert and Rachel's Closet. Not only do they want to continue helping with these types of items, but also want to get involved as volunteers – what a great connection, thanks ladies!

OTHER COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAMS

At the Texas Librarian's Association conference in April, hundreds of librarians got a first hand look at *Just for Now: Kids & People of the Court* and the response was overwhelming. As a result, several districts have purchased copies of the book and even more encouraged their school counselors to review it. Since the TLA conference, the 900 CASA chapters across the country have purchased hundreds of copies and many participated in a workshop about the book at the National CASA Conference. One reply: "Wow! What a dynamic book. I shared this with our volunteers and each of them expressed how beneficial it will be in explaining the roles of the court!"

YPC Update

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FOR CHILDREN

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!

Thanks to the hard work of fundraising chair Michelle Hundley, YPC will host our annual Astros night fundraiser on Friday, August 24, as the Astros take on the Pittsburgh Pirates. Your \$40 ticket entitles you to a pre-game happy hour buffet (location to be determined) plus your game ticket in our bullpen-section party block. Limited number of tickets available – call Dena at 713-529-1396 ext. 213 to reserve yours now!

DANCE FEVER

In May, YPC volunteers and a handful of fantastic instructors at the Houston Metropolitan Dance Company hosted 45 of the children served by Child Advocates and their foster siblings for a dance clinic for all ages. Under the leadership of event chair Angie Lapp, the kids and volunteers alike danced their hearts out (or at least tried!) and enjoyed giant pizzas for lunch.

SOCIALS

YPC social chair Kendra Madison is keeping our glasses full! Our March social at 13 Celcius and our May social at 702 Houston were big hits amongst the happy hour crowd and served as great opportunities for many of our newer members to sign up for events and get acquainted with the crew.

Mark your calendars for our remaining socials and plan to grab a friend and join us out (socials are always held from 6:00-8:30pm and locations will be announced – visit www.childadvocates.org for details as the dates near):

Thursday, July 26

Thursday, September 27

Thursday, November 29

PUMPKIN PARTY

Exciting news – remodeling masters, The Brothers Strong, will host our annual Great Pumpkin Party at their facilities this year! Event chair Amanda Hall is planning an afternoon of tricking, treating and Halloween-themed wood crafts for the kids. Let the children on your cases know to be on the lookout for invitations in the mail in mid-September.

YPC members, we're currently signing up volunteers for this year's Great Pumpkin Party – if you're a current member and your background checks are clear, email Dena at dena.miller@childadvocates.org to get on the list!

JOIN YPC TODAY

Interested in getting in on the fun? Become a new YPC member or renew your lapsed membership for only \$35. Go to www.childadvocates.org/YPC.htm and click "join YPC" to print the necessary forms.

Special Thanks

GENERAL

XO Communications for allowing us to use their conference room for a volunteer get-together

To those **companies/individuals who made the Friends Social a success**: Kai Spa for manicure gift certificates, Be True, Inc., Jewelry by Gin Bartlett for the gold door prize necklace, Nina Friedman for serving as notary, Mac Nouri for the Nouri Gallery space, El Meson Restaurant for tapas for 75 and April Lopez for underwriting the security

Rick Orkin for donating 258 girl's long-sleeve shirts

Accenture for donating camp supplies for 10 of our children to go to Camp Cullen this summer and for sponsoring a birthday party at the Astros game for all the children we serve who are celebrating their 15th birthdays this year

The **over 40 restaurants and vendors who participated in the Menu of Menus**

The following television programs for featuring *Just for Now: Kids and the People of the Court*: **Nuestra Vida, Noticias 45, Fox 26 News, Local 2 News Sunday Morning, Hola Houston**

Pegge Bogle and **Leslie Friedman** for lending your PR talents to promote our book

The Merry Thought for donating four boxes of clothes, shoes and baby items

To those **companies/individuals who made the Friends Easter Egg Hunt a success**: Brunswick Press for the invitations, Brandon Boone for table/chair rental, Martha Turner Properties for the candy, Joy and Paul Posoli for the plastic eggs, Kroger Food Stores for the ham gift certificates for the families, The Houston Texans for Beanie Babies, the Junior League for the Easter baskets, the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department for waving the rental fee for the park pavilion and Laura Armstrong for her Easter Bunny costume

PULL FOR KIDS

The **nearly 200 businesses and individuals who donated items or services to the auction**

1 to 1 Printers for generously donating the printing of all signage

ABC Pest Control for donating gun cleaners at the shoot

Academy Sports & Outdoors and **Winchester** for donating shot gun shells and cases

Alliance Graphics for donating the printing and design of letterhead, invitations, programs and favor cards

Applied Production Services for supplying two generators for audio visual power

Aquarium Environments, Inc. for setting up a 250-gallon customized fish tank with 20 beautiful fish

Bevco International LLC for discounting the price of wine for more than 400 evening party guests

El Puerto Mexican Restaurant for providing food for 100 party volunteers

Flavia Beverage System for providing a coffee station for 150 shooters

Houston Texans for providing the venue space for the evening party

Houston Total Video for providing in-studio professional video recording

Kroger Food Stores for providing soft drinks, sports drinks, water, chips and cookies for shooters and party volunteers

Republic Beverage Company for donating spirits for 300 party guests

Sofia van der Dys Photography for donating her time and talent for the party

Silver Eagle Distributors for donating beer for 300 afternoon shooters and 400 evening guests

Universal Truck & Trailer Sales for donating a HUGE rental truck for all party and shoot deliveries

Happenings

FOR DETAILS ON THE THINGS LISTED HERE AND THE LATEST CALENDAR UPDATES, VISIT WWW.CHILDADVOCATES.ORG/CALENDAR

JULY

26 YPC social. See website for location, 6:00-8:30pm, all members and prospective members are welcome!

AUGUST

4 Borders Book Signing and Benefit Day. 2:00-4:00pm at 3025 Kirby Drive. Get your copy of *Just for Now* signed and receive a 10% discount good for all purchases in the store that day. Please call Abby Holt at 713.529.1396 ext. 265 for your coupon and additional information.

11 Cameron Childspree. Cameron has returned to sponsor this significant event, providing hundreds of children with the opportunity to shop, with a volunteer, for back-to-school clothes at several participating Target stores. Email suzanne.ronne@childadvocates.org for details.

24 YPC Take Me Out to the Ballgame Fundraiser. Get your \$40 tickets today for a night at the ballpark with YPC. Call Dena at 713.529.1396 ext. 213.

SEPTEMBER

12-16 55th Annual Theta Charity Antiques Show benefiting Child Advocates, located at the George R. Brown Convention Center. For details, times and ticket information, visit www.ThetaAntiquesShow.com.

17 Hospitality USA "Sherlock's On the Green: The British Pub Open" golf tournament benefiting Child Advocates, located at Sweet Water Country Club. For details visit <http://childadvocates.org/calendar.htm> or call Andrea at 713.529.1396 ext. 214.

19 Friedkin Affiliated Companies "One Good Swing Deserves Another" golf tournament benefiting Child Advocates, located at Redstone Golf Club. For details visit <http://childadvocates.org/calendar.htm> or call Andrea at 713.529.1396 ext. 214.

27 YPC social. See website for location, 6:00-8:30pm, all members and prospective members are welcome!

Our annual Heroes Society letter will reach your mailboxes this month. You can join the Heroes Society by returning your gift with the form we provide or by contributing online for added convenience. For more details visit <http://childadvocates.org/heroessocietyoverview.htm>.

OCTOBER

18 Don't miss out on the competition, entertainment and some of the best chili in town at the 3rd Annual LIT Chili Cook-Off benefiting Child Advocates. Email andrea.dulany@childadvocates.org for details.

27 YPC Great Pumpkin Party. Any current members with clear background checks who are interested in volunteering at the event should email dena.miller@childadvocates.org.

Board Voice

RICK BURNETT

Professional Life:

Burnett Staffing Specialist – Vice President/Region Manager

Board Roles and Committee Involvement

Past: Advisory Board, Pull for Kids Team Sales, Cameron Childspeer and Human Resources committee. Current: Board of Directors, Development Committee, PFK Team Sales and Childspeer.



How did you get involved with CAI?

I was involved years ago but drifted away after getting married and being blessed with two children. Bill Livesay took me to breakfast and encouraged me to re-engage – and it's hard to say "no" to Bill. Soon after, my family experienced a tragedy that hit too close to home regarding Child Advocates. I allowed God to help me through and became a fighting rebel for the cause.

Favorite Pastimes (Besides Child Advocates!):

Kelly and I are very active in Foundry United Methodist Church. Christ is certainly the foundation of our marriage and the anchor for our family. I love working in the staffing industry helping others reach their goals and potential. In general, I delight in watching my kids grow up, spending time with my bride, having dinner with friends, playing golf, hunting and cooking.

AMY ANTON

Professional Life:

Stay-at-home mom and community volunteer

Board Roles and Committee Involvement:

President Friends of Child Advocates 2005-07; Membership Committee Chair 2002-05; Governance Council member since 2001.



How did you get involved with CAI?

I have always been impressed by the commitment, dedication and talent of the staff who works there, so who wouldn't want to help them? That coupled with having my first child, I was very taken with the idea of helping children who needed safe havens and someone to care about them.

Favorite Pastimes (Besides Child Advocates!):

Cooking for my friends and family, hanging out at the family ranch, raising three boys, Ashton (6) and twins Pete and Elliot (4) – who are quite a handful!

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CHAIR-ELECT

Barbara Scott

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Nolan Lehmann

Brad W. Robbins

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Spotlight On ...

TENURED VOLUNTEERS

Our court appointed advocates commit to serving a child for a year. So why (according to our 2006 data of 488 volunteers) are 51% of them working on their third case or more?

Says one experienced volunteer: *"The short and simple answer is that I quickly saw how important we were in speaking up for the kids and doing leg work on the case. My first three cases all had runaways and the kids contacted me, not the caseworker. Who would they have turned to if they did not have a child advocate? As long as that question has to be asked, I will be here for my kids!"*

The staff turnover rate at CPS is at an all time high. Experience tells us that in order to have a deeper understanding of the needs of children and their families, tenure can be a key factor. In addition to hands-on work, volunteers bring their own strengths, life experiences and passion.

Our longitudinal study shows that the presence of a loving and supportive adult during childhood can make all the difference for a child, and potentially, break the cycle of abuse. CAI is fortunate to be part of a community that supports such a valuable asset: our volunteer.

Join us in recognizing our most tenured court appointed advocates – those who have worked 15 or more cases. Wow!

Zack Coapland	15	John McMillan	21
Mary Kay Dingler	16	Smitty Snodgrass	21
Elizabeth Ingersoll	18	Bonnie McMillan	24
Vivian Mower	19	Bernie Powell	52

HEROES SOCIETY

The 2007 Heroes Society Campaign kicks-off in September, so be on the lookout for our mailing. You can join the Heroes Society by returning your gift with the form we provide or by giving online for added convenience.

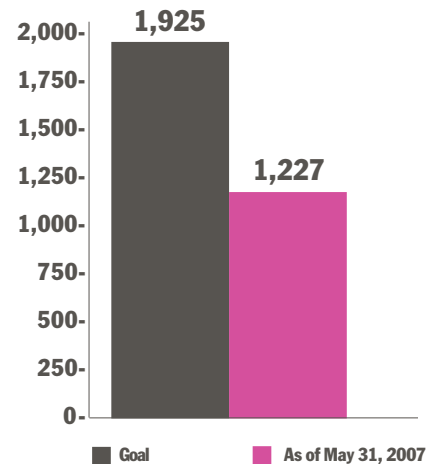
The Heroes Society Campaign is a targeted ask for unrestricted gifts – our annual campaign – intended to:

- ♦ Help us serve more children and grow our program (currently we can only serve 1 in 3 children in foster care)
- ♦ Further distinguish us from other organizations with 100% participation from the Child Advocates family
- ♦ Increase awareness about the importance of annual gifts to our mission
- ♦ Continue to build Child Advocates' legacy

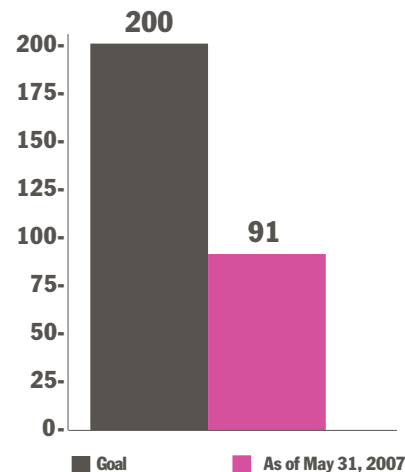
The campaign will run between September and November. Visit <http://childadvocates.org/heroessocietyoverview.htm> or email Marla at marla.endieveri@childadvocates.org for more details and to find out how YOU can be a hero!

Goal Review

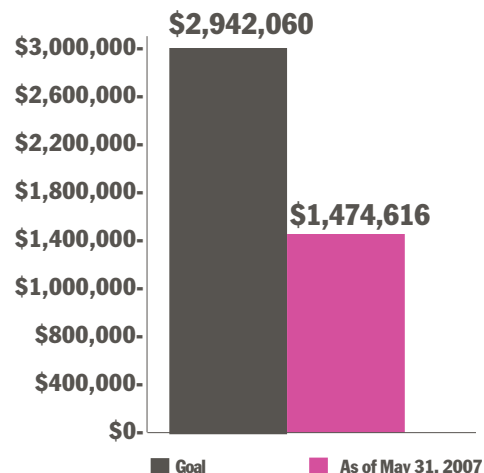
CHILDREN SERVED



VOLUNTEERS TRAINED



ACCRUAL BASIS BUDGET RAISED



Thrive

A maternal grandmother talks about the difference Patricia Eike, a court appointed advocate volunteer since May 2006, has made on her family's case.

My name is Ms. Turner and I want to tell you about the volunteer for my three grandchildren (ages 3,2 and 1) – her name is Pat. I still feel funny calling her a “volunteer” – I thought she was getting paid for all the work she did for our family and couldn't believe when I found out she wasn't!

When my grandchildren were taken into custody, I quickly learned that working within the system isn't easy. It's hard to get a hold of people on the phone and often takes a lot of patience and persistence to get the ball rolling. Pat had a wonderful ability to somehow make things happen when I had all but given up.

When I had trouble connecting with CPS, Pat made it happen. She called the caseworker and supervisor regularly to make sure things were moving forward. When I couldn't get a referral from my doctor so that my oldest grandson could get an evaluation, Pat called the doctor's office every day until I received it. When CPS told me they couldn't approve my home for placement until I had a baby bed for the youngest one, Pat took advantage of the many resources available to her through Child Advocates and had a bed and mattress delivered to my house within weeks.

Without Pat, I think we would still be in a long, drawn-out process. She kept up with all the different caseworkers we have had. They would change so often, I had to call Pat to find out what caseworker was assigned to my case!

Because the children are so young, they can't put their feelings for Pat into words. But I know that they trust her, as she has shown them how much she really cares. When she comes around, all three of the kids run to her – even my little granddaughter, who never goes to anyone besides me!

Basically, Pat is just really, really good and has been such a blessing for me and my grandchildren. I hope that she will remain a part of our lives even when the case is closed.

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OUR MISSION

Child Advocates, Inc. 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.