



2008 James A. Gwinn Outstanding Volunteer
of the Year Johnny Walker and Melvin.

Advocate News

HOUSTON'S LEADING VOICE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

CHILD ADVOCATES, INC.

FALL 2008

2008 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year

CHILD ADVOCATES AWARDS HIGHEST HONOR TO COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE JOHNNY WALKER

Texans game, work trip, happy hour, client meeting, MS-150 ride, beach vacation – if it's not one thing it's another when it comes to the busy social and professional life of court appointed advocate Johnny Walker. Many in his shoes would cite their packed schedules and demanding jobs as reasons not to become a court appointed advocate volunteer – but not Johnny. On the contrary, Johnny dedicates hundreds of hours of his time to abused and neglected children through Child Advocates. Through his advocacy over the past five years, he has made a tremendous difference in the lives of nine abused and neglected children.

Johnny's above-and-beyond approach to serving the children on his cases earned him the organization's highest honor this month at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Event – the *James A. Gwinn Award for Outstanding Advocacy*, created in 1996 in memory of a dear friend to the organization.

Recipients are nominated and voted upon by Child Advocates staff members based on: willingness to serve on difficult cases, thoroughness, diligence, integrity, professionalism, commitment to Child Advocates, ability to communicate and facilitate communication, consistency and dependability.

"Johnny is an all-around solid individual – both personally and professionally," says Child Advocates advocacy coordinator and team leader Layneigha Holland, who has been working with Johnny since 2005. "I've been so fortunate to see the bonds he has forged with the children he has served, finding each child's strength or interest and encouraging it."

He recently completed a case with a boy who turned 16 in 2007. Knowing that teenagers in protective custody are notoriously difficult to connect with, Johnny took it upon himself to buy Houston Astros tickets for the caseworker, the child, his supervisor and himself so they could attend the baseball game together and get to know each other on more "neutral" and relaxed turf. The child was placed with his aunt in Utah and Johnny spent a day skiing and snowboarding with him in March 2008. The case is now closed but Johnny and the child continue calling and emailing each other.

"Two attorneys, Donna Everson and Jeanette Duer, have repeatedly told me how much they love working with

(continued on next page)

“The kids on his cases become very high priority for him; he schedules their activities on his calendar with equal (and sometimes higher!) importance than his own.”

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.

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Outstanding Volunteer CONTINUED

him and both ask about him all the time,” says Holland. “His ability to quickly establish and then maintain strong relationships on his cases is impressive.”

On a past case, Johnny was charged with completing a home study on a family member in Karnack, Texas – five hours away by car. He gave his Astros tickets for that weekend to a colleague and hopped on a plane to get the job done in the timeliest manner. Once the child was placed there, he made the long drive on multiple occasions to see with his own eyes that “his buddy Melvin” was doing as well as reported.”

He has quickly earned a reputation as a dedicated researcher and passionate advocate from attorneys, caseworkers, supervisors and judges alike. On one case alone, he completed four different home studies on relatives. He is admired by his peers for his thorough research and his solid recommendations, on which judges have relied time after time.

Johnny was instrumental in working with a young mother and father with methamphetamine habits helping to locate services and reassuring them their child was safe. Johnny would drive an hour every Saturday morning to see the child play basketball then would spend the afternoon at the great-grandparents’ home playing baseball and riding bikes with him. Johnny explained what PMC to the relatives without termination meant to the parents and was able to get them to agree to it, thus avoiding a lengthy trial. The great-grandfather became so attached to Johnny that he built him a slider/swing for his new house as a token of appreciation.

“Johnny really represents the spirit of the JAG award. The kids on his cases become very high priority for him; he schedules their activities on his calendar with equal (and sometimes higher!) importance than his own,” says Holland. “Mark, Brianna, Melvin, Anika, Arianna, Kermit, Michael, Grady and Richard are definitely fortunate to have Johnny in their lives.”

COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE LEE ANN DAVIS NAMED ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

After more than a decade of tenured *James A. Gwinn Award for Outstanding Advocacy* winners, Child Advocates added an additional award this year, designed to recognize a volunteer who shows excellent advocacy skills despite being relatively “new” to our program.

The *Rookie of the Year* award nominations included court appointed advocates who had served in this capacity less than 1.5 years and on two or fewer cases. Nominees should demonstrate a thorough understanding of and dedication to Child Advocates’ mission, show independence in their casework, possess the desire and ability to work with all parties and have made an instrumental difference on a case.

Lee Ann Davis was named 2008 *Rookie of the Year* at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event earlier this month. Lee Ann’s advocacy coordinator Ashley Phillips had this to say:

Recently, Lee Ann received a phone call from the court with a request for a meeting the same day with the judge, attorneys and the Houston Chronicle. She left work, during her very busy season, to attend. What she was able to say was very limited due to confidentiality, but she represented herself and Child Advocates with confidence, responded to what she was legally able and handled it all with grace, professionalism and the spirit of true advocacy. The scrutiny and pressure of having the media at a trial, listening to your testimony, reporting it in the paper and then calling a meeting thereafter to discuss it, is not in the regular course of duty for any volunteer, let alone one in her first 18 months of advocating. Lee Ann sets a precedent in her ability to respond to the issues on a given case.



From the CEO

In late October, I was able to stop in at one of the quarterly birthday parties for the children we serve. The smiles on the faces of all who were there and the creative activities the Junior League Special Projects volunteers had put together for the event brought me a wonderful sense of pride and appreciation. I want to personally thank all the people helping behind the scenes to make each one of our children's events – YPC events, the Holiday Party, the Santa's Wish List program, the birthday parties, sports outings and the Childspree – so special for our kids.

As this newsletter goes out in the mail, we'll be announcing the winners of our *James A. Gwinn Award for Outstanding Advocacy* as well as our new *Rookie of the Year Award*. With over 571 court appointed advocates active on cases so far this year, you can imagine that selecting just one winner for each of these awards is no easy task. Please join me in wishing a huge congratulations to Johnny Walker and Lee Ann Davis – in addition to our heartfelt appreciation of *each and every one of you* who serve as court appointed advocate volunteers to Harris County's abused and neglected children.

I'm thrilled to share with you that we have two additional award-winners in our midst as well! Our amazing Board of Directors Chair Barbara Scott was named a 2009 *Woman of Distinction* by the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. Nominated by several of her peers along with the Houston Ballet and Child Advocates, Barbara will be officially inducted at the Foundation's Winter Ball event in January. In addition, the Houston chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals presented Comcast with the 2008 *Outstanding Media* award at their November annual luncheon. Child Advocates led the process of nominating Comcast, with input from several other non-profit organizations, for their continued, impressive donations of airtime for our television Public Service Announcement spots.

I'd like to thank those of you who have answered our plea and joined me in becoming a 2008 *Heroes Society* member. We're not sure what to expect from the economic climate during 2009, our 25th anniversary year, but I'm confident that we'll definitely need everyone's help to meet our goals of serving kids, raising dollars and spreading the word about Child Advocates' mission. Your continued support means so much to us and to the children who we're able to help as a result.

Warm regards,

Sonya Salvan

25 Years and Counting

The coming year marks Child Advocates' 25th anniversary of speaking up for the best interests of Harris County's abused and neglected children.

Since our inception in 1984, we have trained more than 3,000 court appointed advocate volunteers who have served on the cases of more than 14,000 children.

We intend to use 2009 as an opportunity to both look ahead to the future as well as to reflect on the progress we've made so far – 25 years of asking the tough questions and pushing a step further to establish permanency; 25 years of forging relationships with caseworkers, parents, attorneys and judges; 25 years of drying tears, giving hugs and inspiring hope.

In an effort to bring our history to life, we're looking for your help:



25 YEARS OF STORIES

Send us an email at 25@childadvocates.org with your memories and stories of change, success and truly making a difference.

- Tell us about a case you remember in which Child Advocates' involvement was the difference between a happy ending and a potential horror story. Maybe it was a high-profile "media case" or maybe it wasn't. If it hadn't been for you, things may have gone very, very differently. This is your opportunity to highlight the difference that you've made!
- Tell us about how being involved with Child Advocates has changed your life. Do you look at the world differently after getting to know this organization? Did you change careers as a result? Did you meet the love of your life through your work with Child Advocates?
- Tell us about the children you still keep in touch with from a past case – where are they now? How have they fared? Maybe they went to college, or married, or have children of their own?

We plan to compile your stories into several "25th Anniversary" projects in the works for 2009. If you have any questions or additional ideas for celebrating our anniversary year, feel free to let us know at the email address listed above or by calling the office at 713.529.1396.

Thanks for a terrific quarter-century ... and counting! We wouldn't be here without all of you.

Focus on the Friends

FRIENDS OF CHILD ADVOCATES

ANGELS OF HOPE LUNCHEON TO HONOR NANCY THORINGTON

The Fall social season is upon us! Invitations have gone out for the *Angels of Hope Luncheon and Fashion Presentation* by Neiman Marcus and we hope you can join us on Monday, December 8 to see the FENDI Spring 2009 Ready-to-Wear collection on the runway. Event chairs Anita O'Shaughnessy and Cathy Fitzpatrick Cleary are thrilled to honor their longtime friend and Child Advocates loyalist, Nancy Thorington.

Mother to a college freshman and former commercial real estate banker, Nancy Thorington has always been compelled to serve those less fortunate than she. In the early 1990s, Nancy became a tutor and later served on the Board of Directors for Literacy Advance, a non-profit agency that trains volunteers to be literacy tutors for both English- and non-English-speaking adults.

With her son off to elementary school, Nancy set out looking for an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children. After finding Child Advocates online, Nancy went through Advocacy



Nancy Thorington and Sheryl Androphy at the Angels of Hope Luncheon Underwriter Kick-off party.

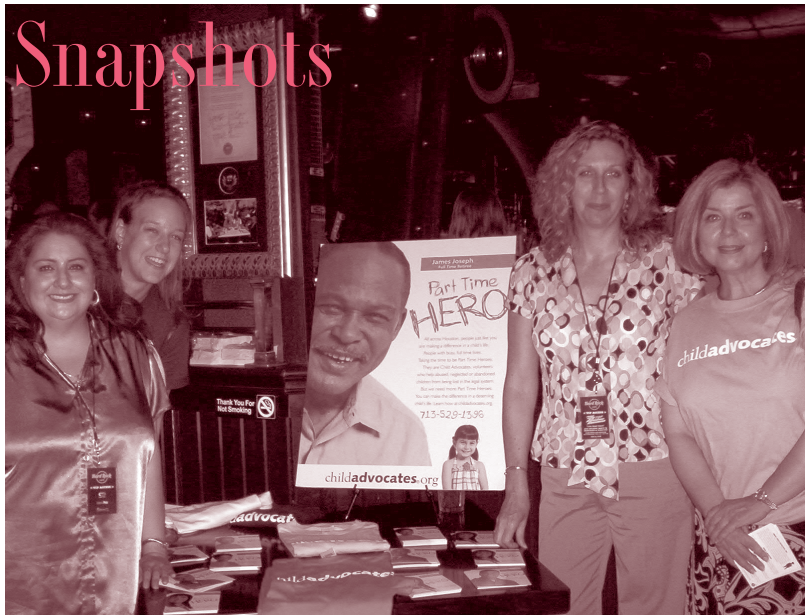
University in 1996 and was sworn in as a court appointed advocate volunteer that year. During her seven years as a court appointed advocate volunteer, Nancy served on the cases of 15 abused and neglected children and was named the 2000 *James A. Gwinn Outstanding Volunteer of the Year*.

In addition to her casework, she joined the Advisory Board and served as multi-year chair for both the Santa's Wish List program and the annual Holiday Party for the children we serve.

In 2003, Nancy retired from casework in order to dedicate herself more fully to committee work for Child Advocates. She was asked to serve on the Board of Directors and joined the Friends of Child Advocates that same year. After two years as Friends of Child Advocates chair and Development Committee member, Nancy was elected Board of Directors Chair. Currently, Nancy is an active member of the Child Advocates Nominating Committee and serves on the Friends' Governance Council.

We have been lucky to have such a dedicated advocate for our abused children. Join us to thank and honor Nancy by purchasing a table or tickets to the *Angels of Hope Luncheon*, contact marla.endieveri@childadvocates.org.

Snapshots



Child Advocates volunteers and staff members distributed information at the Hard Rock Cafe's Memorabilia Auction benefitting Child Advocates in July.



A volunteer helps pick out back-to-school clothes for one of the children who participated in August's Cameron Childspeer.



Board Chair Barbara Scott learned that she will be among the 2009 Women of Distinction during a surprise "ambush" at the Child Advocates office.

Voices

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



GENE SABATIER

While visiting the school of a little boy on my case, I found myself suddenly surrounded by seven or eight other little boys. They were standing around looking at me. I figured it was my very white hair, which tends to get the attention of children, but as I reviewed the visit with my Coordinator, it struck me that these boys might not see many

adult men in their daily routines. I realized that these young boys are surely in need of role models who are men, and I know that I can't take that for granted in the future.



CHERYL POWERS

I realize how fortunate I am and how small my everyday problems are in comparison to other people's life situations. Being a court appointed advocate has really taught me how one person can make a difference in a child's life. I have found that I am often the only person who has continuity on the case and, without that, a lot of information would be

forgotten in the process and quite possibly a child's best interest could be lost in the shuffle. This has given me a great sense of satisfaction and pride in the volunteer work I am doing. Being a volunteer has been more rewarding than I could have ever imagined. When I first started the volunteer process, I was confident that I could be of service, but I never realized how rewarding, and at times challenging, this role could be.

All-Star Partners



De'Anna Carlson went from one front line to another when she became an attorney for the Harris County Attorney's Office after serving as a court appointed advocate for three years. Her experience with Child Advocates gave her a unique perspective on the need for legal representation for children in protective custody. De'Anna remains focused on the best interest of the children, saying, "Having been an

advocate helps me every day. I truly miss being a volunteer."

Donor Spotlight

ENTERPRISE

We are pleased to introduce Enterprise as



our 2008 Holiday Party sponsor. We have been thrilled to work with the staff at Enterprise who are bringing in new ideas and loads of energy. Beyond their Holiday Party sponsorship, Enterprise also plans to have toy drives at many of their retail locations to get their entire organization involved in helping out with our Santa's Wish List Program. They also plan to attend our December Advisory Board Luncheon, which is held at Santa's Warehouse every year and is a great way for current Child Advocates' family members and potential new family members to learn more about our efforts to serve abused children.



GEORGE KLAGES

George Klages is one of our many unsung heroes that deserves to be recognized for his dedication to Child Advocates. George is a retiree and proud grandfather, who learned about our cause through his interest in policy and the law. Although he is living on a fixed income, he has continued to show his support by making monthly donations to Child Advocates

since 1999. While we do not often get the chance to meet many of our unsung heroes, we still know that they are a critical element of our organization's success. Thank you to George and all those that save a bit each month to support Houston's abused children.

GEORGE & MARY JOSEPHINE HAMMAN FOUNDATION

We are pleased to recognize the George & Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation for their commitment to our organization. The Hamman Foundation has supported Child Advocates and its mission to serve abused children in Houston since 1988. During these 20 years they have provided enough funding to serve over 86 children. This year alone, they have allowed us to serve six abused children. We are humbled to know that the Hamman Foundation has seen the value in our work for two decades.

300 HOUSTON

Upscale bowling center 300 Houston has entered the Houston market and, thanks to Page Parkes-Eveleth, selected CAI to benefit from their grand opening earlier this month. The event, called "Child Advocates Pins & Play" took place Thursday, November 13,



HOUSTON

2008 from 6 -10pm and included our court appointed advocates, staff, board and event sponsors. We are truly grateful for this one-time opportunity and had a "ball" hitting the lanes with some of our favorite volunteers and supporters.

Thanks Donors

The donors listed below contributed to Child Advocates, Inc. between the months of May and September 2008. This list does not include those who have joined the 2008 *Heroes Society*, as we plan to acknowledge the complete list of *Heroes Society* members in the Spring 2009 edition of the *Advocate News*.

57+ children for one year (\$100,000+)

Houston Endowment Inc.

29-57 children for one year (\$50,000 - \$99,999)

Child Advocates Endowment, Inc
In Honor of CAI Volunteers
The Ellwood Foundation
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14-28 children for one year (\$25,000 - \$49,999)

Texas CASA, Inc.
Victims of Crime Act

6-13 children for one year (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

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Mrs. Susan A. Speert
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Ms. Samantha Stevens
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Ms. Patricia Walsh
Ms. Camilla D. Ward
Ms. Phyllis A. Washburn
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Mr. Henry Weissenborn, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Welborn, III
Mr. Daniel J. Widdis
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Williams
Mr. and Mrs. Rodney H. Williamson
Ms. Mandi Winter
Ms. Anne R. Woods
Mrs. Mari Woomer
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Worley
Mr. Timothy Wright
Ms. Rebecca Zimdars

Doing Something

CAMERON CEO, JACK MOORE

The most recent Childspree that took place this August was another tremendous success and we cannot help but think that some of that is due to the leadership and direction of new Cameron CEO, Jack Moore. In his first year as CEO, he not only agreed to continue Cameron Corporation's involvement as the title sponsor of the Childspree, but he also agreed to attend the event with his wife and actually serve as a store champion who organized many elements of the check-in process. He also experienced the event first-hand by shopping with one of our many deserving children. His enthusiasm for this event spread throughout the entire organization as we were proud to have nearly 200 Cameron employees volunteer as well.



RICHARD "IRONMAN" ORELLANA

New court appointed advocate volunteer Richard Orellana took supporting Child Advocates to new heights. He raised money for Child Advocates while he trained for and completed a grueling full Ironman competition this summer. Richard put himself through the ultimate test of strength and endurance, so that more abused children would have a Child Advocates volunteer to speak up for them. In Richard's own words, "My Ironman experience definitely took my breath away. I'm still on cloud nine and I am so thankful for the generosity of so many people who donated money towards Child Advocates." Congratulations Richard and thank you for literally going that extra mile to help abused children.



PAGE PARKES-EVELETH

We want to congratulate Page Parkes-Eveleth for being the most recent recipient of the "Cadillac Texas Spirit" Award being promoted on KHOU, Channel 11. This prestigious award salutes men and women of Houston for their contributions to the future of our world-class city. Through Page's work as a court appointed advocate and board member, we can be certain that she has given many of Houston's children a brighter future.

YPC Update

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FOR CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S EVENTS GALORE

This year, Child Advocates' Young Professionals for Children celebrated July 4th on skates! The Roller Skating Party in June was a smashing success, with a record number of children attending. The teenagers especially enjoyed this event, which included games, great music and pizza! Just a few months later in October, YPC held another great event – often said to be a favorite for the volunteers too – the annual Pumpkin Party! The kids came dressed-up in their Halloween costumes to take part in moonwalks, games, arts and crafts and even built their very own wood-working project. A special thanks to the Brothers Strong, who hosted us again this year, and to our volunteer event chairs, council members Amanda Hall, Amanda Stringer and Andrew Nguyen.



Volunteers man the moonwalk entrance at the YPC Pumpkin Party in October.

ALL HANDS ON DECK

The YPC held our first YPC Volunteer Appreciation Event on the high seas ... okay, the Houston Ship Channel! Port of Houston Commissioner Jimmy Burke hosted an evening tour for our group in early November to thank YPC for their active volunteerism throughout 2008 in their support of Child Advocates. We extend our most sincere appreciation to Commissioner Burke and YPC council member Michelle Hundley for making this event possible.

MAKE THE SEASON BRIGHT

YPCers are encouraged to volunteer on November 23 for the Annual Holiday Party sponsored by Enterprise at the Galleria. YPC will have a booth for kids to turn painted cigar boxes into their very own treasure boxes! The party will also have photos with Santa, dancing and lots of other crafts and treats! Background checks are required to volunteer. Email Kendall at kendall.pace@childadvocates.org for more information on how you can participate.

JOIN YPC!

Interested in getting in on the fun and doing some good along the way? Become a new YPC member or renew your lapsed membership for only \$35. This small fee helps support our yearly efforts and includes a cool CAI t-shirt! Visit www.childadvocates.org/volunteer/ypc or email Kendall at kendall.pace@childadvocates.org for more information on how you can participate. Also, check the calendar on our website for upcoming YPC socials and membership drives!

Special Thanks

Hospitality USA for choosing Child Advocates for the second year as their beneficiary of the *Sherlock's on the Green Golf Tournament*

All who helped support the Angels of Hope Luncheon kick-off party: **Bob Wickman** and **Brunswick Press** for underwriting the cost of the invitations; **David Baird** and **Bevco International** for supplying the wines; **Laura and Jerry Lasco** and **Max's Wine Dive** for underwriting a portion of the tasty cuisine; court appointed advocate **Sindi Sonnier** for sharing her story; and **Elizabeth and Anthony DeLuca** for hosting us in their beautiful home

Houston Downtown Alliance – Emerging Leaders for their donations of gift cards, arts-and-crafts and sports items for the children we serve

National Charity League – West Houston Chapter for purchasing and putting together party favor bags for our kids and for collecting and donating school supplies for the Cameron Childspree

The Houston Paralegal Association and **the Houston Corporate Paralegal Association** for their donations of gift cards, cash, diapers, sports items and toys for our children

El Paso Corporation and **Ami Dave'** for donating 150 "hygiene packs" for our kids

Ilene Levine and **Party Warehouse** for donating more than \$700 worth of party goods and candy for our kids

Adams & Reese LLP and **Kirksey** for donating school supplies distributed at the Cameron Childspree

Shipley Do-nuts for donating hundreds of delicious donuts for all children and volunteers at the Cameron Childspree

Dance Houston for their donation of tickets to a performance for our kids

Access Sciences Corporation for "lending" us several volunteers to help with the Cameron Childspree database

The Junior League of Houston for donating 1,000 "Sweet Dreams Douglas" books for our children

Cameron for their huge donation of school supplies and backpacks and for hosting a backpack-stuffing party at their offices prior to the Childspree

Target for providing breakfast for hundreds of children and volunteers at the Cameron Childspree

Happenings

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

NOVEMBER

23 *Holiday Party sponsored by Enterprise*, making the season brighter for more than 700 of the children we serve. Visit the calendar online for more details, www.childadvocates.org/calendar.

DECEMBER

8 *Friends of Child Advocates Angels of Hope Luncheon and Fashion Presentation by Neiman Marcus* featuring the FENDI Spring Collection; honoring Nancy Thorington. Anita O'Shaughnessy and Cathy Fitzpatrick Cleary Co-chair at the Westin Galleria. For tables, tickets and details email marla.endieveri@childadvocates.org.

10 *Santa's Wish List*, warehouse open for sponsor drop-off from December 10-12 and volunteer pick-up from December 13-17. Email santawishlist@childadvocates.org for details.

JANUARY

18 *Chevron Houston Marathon*. Run for a Reason this year with Child Advocates, Inc! Visit the calendar online for more details, www.childadvocates.org/calendar.

24 *Advocacy University*. Sign up for an orientation session now! www.childadvocates.org.

Special Thanks CONTINUED

The Junior League of Houston Special Projects Volunteers for making YPC roller skating party goody-bags

YMCA and **Haskell Hart** for their financial help in sending 29 of our children to Camp Pine Tree over the summer

Ann Thurmond and **St. Martin's Episcopal Church** for decorating nearly 60 stockings for our Santa's Wish List program and for donating a myriad of items for Rachel and Gilbert's Closet

Kris Martinez for her generous donation of Gund stuffed animals that were included in the backpacks for children who participated in the Cameron Childspree

Comcast Cable for their generous donation of PSA spots to help us recruit new court appointed advocate volunteers

Lorna Muniz-Farr for her bi-lingual skills and willingness to help with translating part of our PSA script into Spanish

Board Voice

EDDY DE LOS SANTOS

Professional Life:

I am a shareholder with the law firm of Spain Hastings Ward Carey & Chambers. We are a full service litigation and transactional firm providing legal services to local, national and multi-national clients in a wide array of practice areas.

Board Roles and Committee Involvement:

I serve on the Board of Directors and serve on the Development and Program Committees. I also serve on the Recruitment Sub-Committee. However, my most important role is serving as a guardian ad litem (court appointed advocate volunteer) on cases of children who come into CPS custody and to make recommendations to the courts in the best interest of the children I serve.



How did you get involved with CAI?

I attended an informational meeting about Child Advocates during my first year of law school and discovered the desperate need for volunteers to help Houston's abused and neglected children. I felt an immediate calling to get involved and to make a difference in the vicious cycle of child abuse. The children that cross our path in our work as court appointed volunteers are victims of their parents' poor choices. As court appointed advocates, we are the voice for abused and neglected children that are unable to protect or speak for themselves. As an impartial third party, we have the unique opportunity to make recommendations that are in the children's best interest and to positively influence aspects of these children's lives. As a board member, I strive to raise awareness and to increase the resources in both volunteers and funding to allow CAI to continue working towards its goal of breaking the cycle of child abuse.

Favorite Pastimes (Besides Child Advocates!):

Spending time with my wife, Nicole, and our three children: Elle (6), Emma (3) and Jace (1). I enjoy wrestling with our kids and serving as an assistant coach for my daughter's soccer team. Additionally, I enjoy playing in a weekly softball league, recreational basketball and tennis with my wife.

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Spotlight On ...

CAR PROS FOR KIDS

A group of local auto service providers – including several major dealerships – are teaming up to support Child Advocates again this year for the 12th Annual Car Pros for Kids program. During the month of February, when you visit any of the participating locations and make a \$35 or more donation to Child Advocates, you will receive two free oil and filter changes to be used anytime during 2009.

To date, Car Pros has raised over \$570,000 with an average of at least 25 merchants each year. This year our goal is to raise at least \$100,000 or enough money to serve 60 children.

Returning this year is NAPA, who will sponsor all of the oil filters and contribute toward a television commercial for the program.

New for '09 is a radio sponsorship from Sunny 99.1. Listen in to hear on-air promotions and a radio remote at one of our participating shops!



CPS ALL-STARS : MONICA BARRIONUEVO

Monica has been a CPS caseworker for seven months.



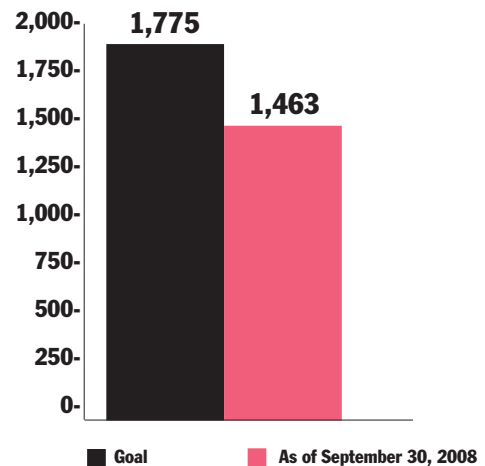
She is currently working with two of our court appointed advocates, Cyndi Diller and Becky Chmielewski who describe Monica as “sincere, consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty, is always available by cell phone or email and responds quickly.” Monica has good assessment skills and is able to bring all of the parties on a case together and develop a cohesive plan for the children

– both short and long term. She has compassion for the families we work with and is never satisfied with “minimum casework requirements.” Monica has expressed appreciation for the expertise and commitment of Child Advocates and always asks for input as we work jointly to resolve all issues for the children we serve.

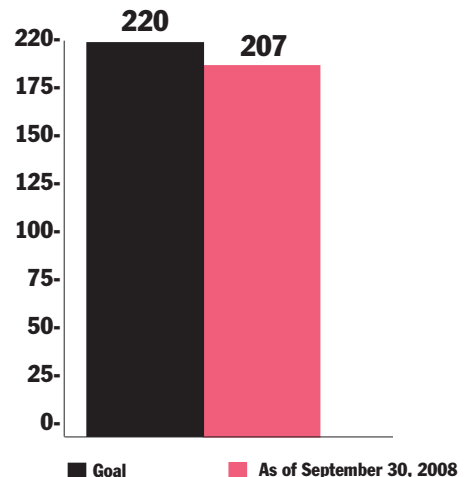
Monica is currently working a very complicated case that involves five children that have been victims of life threatening physical abuse, emotional abuse and domestic violence. She immediately scheduled home visits with the foster parents to meet the children and learn what each of their individual needs are. Court-ordered services for the children had been minimal at best, however, once the case was assigned to her, the children began more intensive individual and sibling therapy as well as sibling visits. She has been a blessing in this particular case and is preparing for the upcoming trial in which the goal is termination of parental rights so the children can be adopted.

Goal Review

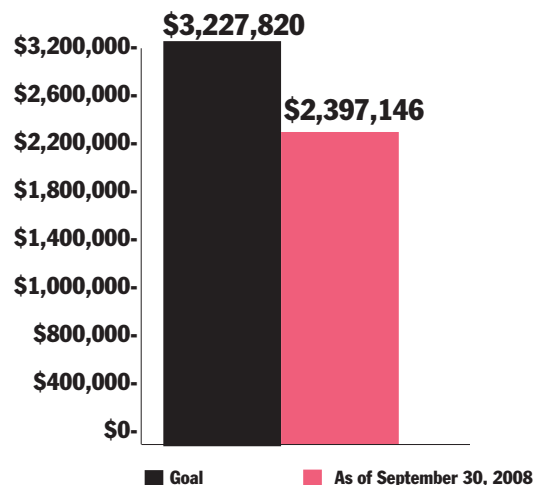
CHILDREN SERVED



VOLUNTEERS TRAINED



ACCRUAL BASIS BUDGET RAISED



Thrive

Court appointed advocate Bertha McCue has served on the cases of seven children since becoming a volunteer in 2005. Below is a note from a paternal-aunt-turned-adoptive-mother who recounts the invaluable difference that Bertha made for her new (slightly bigger!) family.

I am writing to you today to say thank you to Child Advocates, and to let this program know how important court appointed advocate volunteer Bertha McCue was to the process of adopting our neice and nephew. First let me tell you that this has been a very long ordeal for my family. We have just consummated the adoption after a year and nine months. Bertha McCue was appointed to this case from the very beginning. We first begin with placement of the children. Before the children came to us they were placed in foster care. Bertha made regular visits to the children wherever they were. Bertha became a familiar face for the children. Bertha was someone the children knew they could trust. When the children first arrived with us she was the one who calmed them, and made them feel comfortable. We live in Uvalde, Texas and we would have to travel to Houston to go to court and for sibling visits. Bertha was always there to make the sibling visits easier on the children. Bertha went out of her way to visit the children in Uvalde, and by out of the way I mean traveling from Houston to Uvalde – a total of 283miles – on her own time. We found out during her visit to see the children that she was in the area on vacation visiting family. That very much touched our hearts knowing that she was willing to take time out of her vacation to make sure the kids were doing well. We just wanted to say how much we appreciate Bertha for going above and beyond the duties of her volunteer assignment and putting the children first. We wanted to point out what a valuable asset Bertha McCue is to the Child Advocates program and to our new family.

- Hortencia Gomez



Judge Evan Glick and the entire Gomez family immediately following the adoption.

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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.