



Cora Casey, Kathleen Blanchard and Alex.

# Advocate News

HOUSTON'S LEADING VOICE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

CHILD ADVOCATES, INC.

SUMMER 2008

## Building On Love

As a court appointed advocate volunteer assigned to the cases of abused and neglected children, Kathleen Blanchard's role is often one of recognizing and addressing many different needs.

When she met five-year-old Gracie, she immediately set out doing just that.

Gracie has cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome, is blind and is fed and given medications via a feeding tube to her stomach. She cannot walk or talk and is hearing impaired. CPS determined that Gracie was at extreme risk based on her special needs and medical requirements combined with heavy drug use by her mother. She was brought into care due to neglectful supervision, physical neglect and risk of physical abuse.

Placed in a therapeutic foster home, Gracie's needs were many. She needed services at her school, through MHMRA and from the Center for Speech and Hearing. Kathleen was there to advocate for Gracie's needs all around – medically, educationally, therapeutically and legally.

But during her first few visits to the home where Gracie was placed, Kathleen came across perhaps the greatest need yet. Gracie's single foster mother, Cora, had five children in her home – each of them profoundly handicapped. Ranging in age from 5-19, these children required high-level care including feeding, bathing, diapering and dressing. Early on, Kathleen witnessed the bathing routine: Cora lifted, moved and bathed each one of them in a hard-to-access, 4'x4' shower stall, still unfinished since the death of Cora's husband years earlier.

"A big part of my job is to make sure the needs of the children I serve are being met while they are in care," says Kathleen. "You become good at identifying needs and figuring out creative ways to get them addressed. At Cora's house, I saw a need and I thought – what can I do to fix this?"

Kathleen remembered seeing a mention in a recent edition of the *Advocate News* for a construction company that had helped or donated to Child Advocates. Flipping through the Special Thanks section, she found it: the Brothers Strong, a family-owned company specializing in residential remodeling. Off to the Internet she went, landing on the Brothers Strong website.

(continued on next page)

**“To think, none of this would have happened if Kathleen had not taken the time to consider my needs and picked up the phone to ask for help.”**

*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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## Building On Love CONTINUED

“I figured they were already supporters of the work we do at Child Advocates and that the worst that could happen would be they would say no,” says Kathleen. “So I called and told them all about Gracie and Cora.”

While the Brothers Strong were unable to take on the project on their own, they quickly referred Kathleen to the Remodeler’s Council of Houston who pitched the project to the Greater Houston Builders Association’s HomeAid Houston as a joint endeavor.

“My biggest wish was to have a roll-in shower downstairs so I could wheel my kids in for their baths,” said Cora.

She got her wish; she now has two roll-in showers attached to two bedrooms for the children along with a master suite downstairs for her.

“The investment of time, effort, energy and money was bigger than anything I could ever hope to achieve on my own,” says Cora. “To think, none of this would have happened if Kathleen had not taken the time to consider my needs and picked up the phone to ask for help.”

Her second wish, a way for her children to receive their breathing treatments even if the power goes out, was granted in the form of a \$15,000 emergency generator. In addition, HomeAid and the Remodeler’s Council updated Cora’s plumbing, electrical wiring and air-conditioning, provided basic carpentry and yard work, donated and installed a brand new tankless hot water heater and organized Cora’s study so she could better handle paperwork. The whole project, which lasted a week and involved dozens of professionals, was completed in early April 2008.

The following is an excerpt from a letter Cora wrote to Kathleen in May:

*... what an honor it is to serve. What I do might be a chore, yes, but it’s a chore for which I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to do – this little contribution to my community, to make a difference in a child’s life. I have learned that the way to make a difference is not found in big accomplishments, but in the small things, the little miracles. It’s about simple acts of generosity and kindness that promote trust and connection in our communities.*

*My deepest gratitude is beyond the limitations of words. Kathleen, thank you for your caring and loving help and for giving to us when you had needs of your own. You have made a wonderful, life-changing difference in my life and in my children’s lives.*



**One of two roll-in showers; each has multiple shower heads for added convenience.**



**Cora and son, Alex, stand next to their home’s new generator.**



**The master bedroom, added on to Cora’s bedroom.**

# From the CEO

In June, six staff members and I (see photo below) attended the National CASA conference in Washington, DC. While



Staff members Lee Welborn, Penny Frierson, Karim Kafray, Suzanne Ronne, Maria Cano, Lee Beckman and myself in front of the Senate office building on "CASA at the Capitol" day.

the sessions, speakers and meetings are often great, the thing about this conference that really hits me year after year is how much pride I have in our program.

Child Advocates, Inc.'s strengths and accomplishments are highlighted by seeing so many of our peer programs side-by-side and listening to hundreds of directors sharing their challenges. We are widely recognized as a leader by

other programs and are often sought out and consulted on issues from recruitment and training to marketing and fundraising.

As we approach our 25th anniversary year (2009), I am so proud to say that Child Advocates is doing an outstanding job in ensuring that we have court appointed advocate volunteers assigned to *every* case – still staying true to the mission upon which we originally embarked.

I'm thrilled to announce that, as of press-time, we have trained 170 new volunteers in our Advocacy University sessions so far this year. With three more AUs left – August, September and October – we're well on our way to reaching our ambitious goal of 220.

Please join me in thanking our *Pull for Kids Classic* chairs for making this year's event our most successful one ever. The hours and effort that these individuals put into planning, organizing and executing the shoot, party and auction portions of the event is substantial and each one of them gave of themselves with a smile.

Read all about the details in the *Pull for Kids Classic* article (right); my sincerest gratitude goes to all of the staff and volunteers who gave their time and energy to this event.

Warm regards,

*Sonya Salvan*

# Pull for Kids Classic

The 16th Annual *Pull for Kids Classic* saw success like none before. This year, more than \$680,000 was raised through sponsorships and auction purchases! This significant dollar amount – even after expenses – will ensure more than 310 abused and neglected children receive the services of a court appointed advocate volunteer this year.



You couldn't tell it was the first time **Cherie and Alan Hassenflu** had chaired the *Pull for Kids*. That could be, in part, to the seasoned committee chairs (all logging their second year in a row!) including: **Jeff Birmingham, Sarah Wilbanks, Rachel Owens** and **Sheryl and Joel Androphy**. Together, the group grossed nearly \$100,000 more than last year!

A beautiful day at American Shooting Centers started off the event. More than 310 individuals were greeted with breakfast from Shipley Do-nuts and coffee from Starbucks before trying their hands at several games and raffle drawings. The second flight of shooters arrived just in time to grab a burger – hot off the grill from Baker Street Pub in Katy. Once everyone was done for the day, plenty of cold beverages (courtesy of Budweiser/Silver Eagle and Kroger) made this year's shoot one to remember. The camouflaged hats and Child Advocates t-shirts were a hot commodity as folks went on their way to the evening party.

More than 750 guests were part of the "haute" evening party, each enjoying a Havana-inspired atmosphere, complete with entertainment from Mango Punch. The Cuban-flared meal was delightful, but the mojitos nearly stole the show! The Methodist Training Center (aka the Texans Indoor Practice center) was hopping with "Rhythm of the Night...Change a Child's Life" and when Mr. Gochman said a few moving words, it made the evening perfect.

Mother of a feisty 6-year-old and former Child Advocates client, Peggy Sanders, kicked-off the evening with a moving testimonial, but it was the "Sponsor-a-Child" portion that brought the house down. After kicking off the auction with a record breaking performance, auctioneer Lynn Spell kept the crowd raising their paddles to the tune of nearly \$3,000 per minute in the live auction. The brand new 2008 Ford Mustang, compliments of Mac Haik Ford and donated on behalf of Sunny Sue Haik, was only one of the hottest items. Beaver Creek – private jet included – Cayman Islands, Hawaii, a Yellow Labrador puppy, an Orvis endorsed hunt trip to Utah and a beautiful painting rounded out the live auction.



# Focus on the Friends

FRIENDS OF CHILD ADVOCATES

## Friend of Child Advocates Egg Hunt - Another Sweet Deal!



The Friends of Child Advocates hosted the second annual Friends Egg Hunt in March at Jaycee Park. The weather was perfect for 30 little hunters and their families to enjoy a visit from the Easter Bunny (aka **Nicole Walters!**), Chick-Fil-A, games and over 700 eggs stuffed with candy. Many thanks to chairs **Caroline Finkelstein** and **Joy Posoli** for their expertise and kid-know-how in pulling this event together, to the Junior League volunteers for the baskets that went home with each child and to **Brandon Boone**, who for the second year in a row, provided the chairs and tables with delivery. One lucky family even won Rodeo tickets as a door prize. Look out for Peter Cottontail again next year!



## Angels of Hope Luncheon to Showcase Fashion Giant FENDI

The staple event for Houston's fashion-conscious philanthropists each Fall, the Friends of Child Advocates' Angels of Hope Luncheon and Fashion Presentation by Neiman Marcus is just around the corner. Event chairs **Anita O'Shaughnessy** and **Cathy Fitzpatrick Cleary** are thrilled to announce the event honoree – their longtime friend and Child Advocates loyalist, **Nancy Thorington** – and featured designer, FENDI. The event will showcase the fashion house's 2009 Spring Ready-to-Wear Collection on the runway.

FENDI began in 1918 when Adele Casagrande opened a leather and fur shop in central Rome. When Adele married Edoardo Fendi in 1925, they made a decision to change the name to FENDI and the business prospered. In 1962, the Fendis signed on German designer Karl Lagerfeld – widely recognized as one of the most influential fashion designers of the late 20th century – who has also collaborated with couture labels Chanel and Chloé.

Lagerfeld created the inverted FF logo that joined the growing list of international status symbols, appearing on products from handbags and shoes to luggage and apparel. In 1970, FENDI presented its first ready-to-wear line after they were unable to find quality clothes to show under their fur collection. The family sold the brand in 1999 for an estimated \$850 million and the network continues to expand with more than 120 boutiques worldwide.

For information on tables or tickets to the 2008 Angels of Hope Luncheon and Fashion Presentation, contact [marla.endieveri@childadvocates.org](mailto:marla.endieveri@childadvocates.org).

# Snapshots



Court appointed advocate volunteers from the March Advocacy University class proudly wear their Child Advocates logo t-shirts.



Young Professionals for Children chair Angie Lapp paints the faces of a young attendee of the Houston Children's Festival.



Pull for Kids Classic honoree Arthur Gochman (back row, center) poses for a photo with a group of volunteers at the event's shoot portion.



# Voices

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



## **SHEPHALI PERKINS**

In considering what Child Advocates has meant to me over the years, I think of the kids I have served, the ACs I have worked with, getting family and friends to join in volunteering, the special events and the staff members that I now count as friends. I considered the work we do advocating for our kids. We do this in the hopes of improving our kids' lives. We try to raise their self-esteem.

We do this to help heal families. We do this to help provide our kids the best family life we can, even if that family is a different one. I realized that I had my answer. Child Advocates means to me what it has meant to all the kids we have served. It means finding a better me, making a family out of friends, and it is a home.



## **DEANNE MALLOY**

Grateful for the life I enjoy with the love of my life and our wonderful kids; when the nest emptied I wanted to "pay back" in gratitude. I knew I wanted to do something for kids (it is in my genes!). Kids are our future! Being an ordinary person with no particular skills, Child Advocates provided the training and skills I needed to actually help children who need it most: abused

kids who have no one to speak for them, fight for them, help them. I am proud to say I have been a Child Advocate volunteer since 1998.



## **MARC APPLGATE**

When I started to volunteer with CAI I truly did not know what to expect. When I got assigned to my first case, I realized ... these are real live children! Their problems and issues are real and profound, not something chaperoning field trips or being "cookie mom" for my kids' various interests prepared me for. They look to us with eyes cloudy with doubt and worn by promises not

fulfilled, fearful that we are just another someone in their lives. I had no idea that what I said to anyone meant what it means to these kids. I have been blessed to see kids come out the other side, their eyes no longer cloudy with troubles, but clear, with what we want all children to have: hope and high expectations for their future.

# Donor Spotlight

## **The Jackson Foundation**

For over 10 years, the Jackson Foundation has helped us serve over 30 children, and for that we are very grateful. We are also thankful for the solid relationship we have fostered with Executive Director, Ms. Carol Deason. She is always easy to get in touch with and happy to provide feedback or answer questions regarding the grant submission and reporting process. We feel fortunate to work with a foundation that has such a clear interest in our mission and our desire to fight the vicious cycle of child abuse.

## **Wells Fargo**

Wells Fargo is one of our most cherished corporate partners. We are fortunate to have many volunteers come to us from Wells Fargo, including Board Member **Cecil Arnim** and advocate volunteer **Victoria Varner**, who is currently featured in our "Part-Time Heroes" ad campaign. Wells Fargo employees have



spent 1,300 volunteer hours at the Houston Children's Festival over the eight years they have participated, coordinated by Wells Fargo employee Kathryn Butcher. They have also been extremely generous with their financial support as they have been a long-time and very prominent sponsor of the Houston Children's Festival. Kids of all ages enjoyed the 2008 Wells Fargo Barnyard featuring panning for gold, a Wells Fargo Stagecoach, a petting zoo, pony rides, Elsie & Beauregard – the Borden's cows, and other games. They have also supported the *Pull for Kids* and most recently, Branch Manager and YPC Member **Jennifer Polk** chose to use funds earmarked for charitable giving to support Child Advocates.

## **St. Martin's Episcopal Church**

For over 20 years, St. Martin's Episcopal Church has helped us serve over 40 abused and neglected children in Houston. Most recently, we have been fortunate enough to receive proceeds from their Easter breakfast, a 2007 grant, and proceeds from the Giving Tree Program. We have also been touched by the participation of members of the congregation, like Friends Member **Ann Thurmond** who has volunteered her time with us and encouraged

other St. Martin's members to donate their time and resources to help the children that we serve. Another shining example is the participation of **Milton West** who served as Board President in 2007 and is also a member of the St. Martin's congregation. All in all, we are extremely grateful for their support and consider the congregation of St. Martin's a wonderful partner in our efforts to make a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children.



# Thanks Donors

The donors listed below contributed to Child Advocates, Inc. between the months of February and May 2008, 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 500+ individuals and companies that donated between \$1 and \$129 during this period (totalling more than \$27,500), whom we are unable to list due to space constraints.

## 62+ children for one year

H-E-B Houston Children's  
Festival, presented by Baker  
Hughes

## 31 - 62 children for one year

Child Advocates Endowment, Inc.  
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Texas CASA, Inc.  
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## 15 - 30 children for one year

Academy Sports & Outdoors  
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## 6 - 14 children for one year

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Mr. Ralph S. O'Connor  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Olsen  
Mr. Alan Perry  
Ms. Stefanie Pullin  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Rentz  
Ms. Blanca R. Rios  
Safeway, Inc.  
Ms. Lucy Sahagian  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Scott  
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Smothers  
Mr. Drew Stackel and Ms.  
Elizabeth Stein  
Mr. Steve Steen  
Mrs. Macey Stokes  
Ms. Camille A. Stovall  
Texas Petrochemicals Corp.  
The Arthur J. Gallagher  
Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Thibault  
Mr. David M. Tollar  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Travis  
Mr. Ken Trawick  
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Veith  
Ms. Rita Walker  
Wells Fargo - Community  
Support Campaign  
Ms. Barbara A. Woolhandler  
Mr. and Mrs. David Zaozirny  
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Zuanich





# Doing Something

## BROWNIE TROOP #14247

The first-through-third grade girls in Brownie Troop #14247 recently put their volunteer hats on to help the children served by Child Advocates. These young ladies put together “necessities bags” for Child Advocates children going to camp this summer and have offered to help again in any way they can!



## HOUSTON YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (HYLA)

Thanks to all of our volunteers who have helped cultivate our relationships within the legal community. Most recently, five of our court appointed advocates; **Laura Lasco, Eddy De Los Santos, Duane King, Teresa Schneider** and **Chastiti Horne**, were featured panelists, along with 315th Court Judge Mike Schneider, at a HYLA event in April. The volunteers spoke to a group of attorneys and Amicus attorneys about their family law experiences and promoted the benefits of becoming court appointed advocates or attorneys ad litem to attendees, who could gain valuable family law experience and accrue pro-bono hours. Events like these help us recruit more volunteers from the legal profession and expand our reach in the community.

## SUSAN BISHOP-BROWN

Court appointed advocate **Susan Bishop-Brown** reached out to her personal contacts to sponsor two little girls she is working with on a case, so that they could attend a YMCA day camp. She was able to pay for 10 weeks of camp and even the field trip fees. Plus, the children’s foster mother was able to plan a joint birthday party at Chuck E. Cheese for the girls. To top it all off, she still had enough money left over to sponsor another child served by Child Advocates to go to camp.

## QUINTON HARP AND SMITTY SNODGRASS

Recently, two of our tremendous volunteers have been acknowledged in the community for their efforts. Board Member and court appointed advocate, **Quinton Harp**, received the Channel 39 *Committed to Caring* Award, honoring a Houstonian each month who is making a difference in the community. Since he became an advocate in 2002, Quinton has served 19 children and has been an integral part of our organization through his leadership on the Board. **Ida “Smitty” Snodgrass** was one of two finalists for the ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program *Volunteer Spirit Award*. In 16 ½ years, Smitty has served on 22 cases – ultimately making a difference in the lives of 46 abused and neglected children.

# YPC Update

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FOR CHILDREN

## WITH A LITTLE SALT AND LIME ...

YPC partnered with Hard Rock Café Houston and the Houston Margarita Society to host a Cinco de Mayo party as a spring fundraiser. Volunteers from the trio of organizations pitched together to build, literally, Houston’s largest margarita. Combine a tasty cool beverage with live music by Mango Punch and Las Skarnales, and you’ve got one successful day of raising funds and awareness for Child Advocates! Thanks to all who participated, and look for this to become an annual CAI/YPC event!



## GET READY, GET SET, VOLUNTEER!

October 25 is the date for the annual Pumpkin Party! Special thanks to The Brothers Strong (read about how they connected one of our court appointed advocates to a great group in our cover article!) who have graciously offered to be our host again this year. YPC members should sign up now to make sure you don’t miss the tricking-and-treating with the children served by Child Advocates. Our event chair Amanda Hall and a fantastic team of volunteers are working hard to make this another memorable event for the kids!

More details and volunteer sign-up information on these and other upcoming activities can be found at [www.childadvocates.org/calendar](http://www.childadvocates.org/calendar).

## COME TOGETHER ...

YPC hosts bi-monthly socials at various hot spots around the city as a means of staying connected with current members and recruiting new ones. Next on tap is a social at **Porch Swing Pub** in the hip Washington / Heights area. Mark your calendars for July 31 from 6-8:30 pm, bring a friend, and join us! Future dates and other events are featured on the Child Advocates calendar at [www.childadvocates.org/calendar](http://www.childadvocates.org/calendar).

## JOIN YPC TODAY!

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](http://www.childadvocates.org/volunteer/ypc) or contact Sherri at [sherri.leicht@childadvocates.org](mailto:sherri.leicht@childadvocates.org) for more information on how you can participate.



# Special Thanks

Court appointed advocate **Monica Alvarado** for her donation of furniture to one of our families.

**Jana and Luis Hernandez** for their donation of furniture to one of our families.

**Spain Hastings and Ward** for their donation of Astros tickets for our volunteers, staff and families.

**AIM Investments** for funding a trip to the Corpus Christi Aquarium and lunch for AIM employee and court appointed advocate **Virginia Bond** so that she could attend a sibling visit for the children on her case.

**Claudia Hallowell, A Merry Thought, Little Patooties, Julie Axelrad, Parkway Place, the Holy Strollers, the Houston Corporate Paralegal Association, Miss Alexis Shoss, Teresa Bayne** and the **Memorial City Target** store for their donations of new clothes, toys and other necessities to our Rachel and Gilbert's Closet Special Needs Room.

**Houston City Personnel and Temporaries** for donating a valuable temporary staff member.

**BE & K Engineering, Mr. Steve Haban, Ms. Theola Hagger and Mr. Tim Ping** for donating Houston Rodeo tickets for our families, including hard-to-get Fergie tickets.

**Mr. David Baird and Ms. Mary Kae Dingler** for their donations of Shrine Circus tickets for a fun night of entertainment for our families.

**Shipley Do-Nuts** for providing delicious donuts for our Advocacy University training classes, our Houston Children's Festival volunteers and our *Pull for Kids* volunteers. Yum!

**Comcast Cable** for continuing to provide air-time for our Part-Time Hero PSA's.

The **Houston Comets** for providing 150 tickets to several home games for our children and families to attend.

## PULL FOR KIDS CLASSIC

The nearly 200 businesses and individuals who donated items or services to the *Pull for Kids Classic* 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.

**Baker Street Pub Katy** for donating the grilled burger lunch for 250 shoot participants.

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

**Charles Joekel** for donating an entire truck of ice for the evening party.

**Enterprise Rental** for donating a 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](http://WWW.CHILDADVOCATES.ORG/CALENDAR)

## AUGUST

**9 Cameron Childspree.** Cameron has returned to this significant event to give hundreds of children the opportunity to shop at Target stores, with a volunteer, for \$100 worth of back-to-school clothing. Email Suzanne for details, [suzanne.ronne@childadvocates.org](mailto:suzanne.ronne@childadvocates.org).

**16 Advocacy University.** Sign up for an orientation session now! [www.childadvocates.org](http://www.childadvocates.org).

## SEPTEMBER

**13 Advocacy University.** Sign up for an orientation session now! [www.childadvocates.org](http://www.childadvocates.org).

**18-21 56th Annual Theta Charity Antique Show, benefiting Child Advocates, Inc.** George R. Brown Convention Center. For hours and ticket details, visit [www.thetaantiquesshow.com](http://www.thetaantiquesshow.com).

**25 YPC Social.** Visit our website for location in the coming weeks, 6:00-8:30pm, all members and prospective members welcome!

**2008 Heroes Society.** Our annual campaign letter will reach your mailbox this month. Join the Heroes Society by sending your gift with the form provided or by contributing online. For details visit <http://childadvocates.org/heroessocietyoverview.htm>.

## OCTOBER

**11 Advocacy University.** Sign up for an orientation session now! [www.childadvocates.org](http://www.childadvocates.org).

# Special Thanks CONTINUED

The **Houston Texans** for providing the venue space and operations for the evening party.

**Houston Total Video** for providing in-studio professional video recording for the event video.

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

**Michael Ramos Photographer** for donating his time and talent for the shoot participants.

**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.

**Shipley Do-nuts** for donating all the donuts for 30 party volunteers and 150 morning shoot participants.

**Starbucks Highland Village** for providing coffee favors for 800 and a coffee station for 300 evening guests.

# Board Voice



## NANCY SIMS

**Professional Life:** I'm a Senior Vice President with Pierpont Communications. I lead our Public Affairs practice that includes crisis communications, issues management, community relations, stakeholder engagement, litigation consulting and more.

**Board Roles and Committee Involvement:** I serve on the Board of Directors and Chair the Marketing Committee. We are embarking on a Social Media adventure and I really enjoy it.

**How did you get involved with CAI?** I have a passion for abused and neglected children. Since it is often a topic that makes people uncomfortable, I volunteered my time to help communicate the importance of the issue.

**Favorite Pastimes (Besides Child Advocates!):** Spending time with my 7-year-old son is the greatest joy of my life.



## MIKE VAN HOOZER

**Professional Life:** I am a former Senior Executive with Accenture and have been in consulting for 20 years. I started a company in 2004 to help individuals and organizations reach their maximum potential through speaking, coaching, and consulting. I enjoy writing and have just completed a book entitled

*Moments: Making Your Life Count For What Matters Most.* I also work with an organization called Total BEST, delivering corporate workshops on the principles of Balance, Excellence, Service and Truth.

**Board Roles and Committee Involvement:** I am currently on the Board and serve on the Development and Nominating/Governance Committees.

**How did you get involved with CAI?** I began as a CASA volunteer in 1989, later joining the Board to use the sphere of influence I had in the business world to the benefit of CAI.

**Favorite Pastimes (Besides Child Advocates!):** I love spending time with my wife, coaching my five boys in sports, teaching a married Bible Study class at our church, running and cycling.

# Board of Directors

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Barbara Scott

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Nolan Lehmann

David Quackenbush

Brad W. Robbins

Ivana Shumberg

Nancy Sims

Suzanne Thomas

Lynda Transier

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Kenny Baldwin

John Binick

Rick Burnett

Jane Dabney

Kim David

David Davis

Robert Davis

Eddy De Los Santos

Judy Farrell

Ellie Francisco

Terrence Gee

Quinton Harp

Angie Lapp

Ross LeFevre

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Leslie Taylor

Dolly Dawson Thomas

Nancy Thorington

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Belinda Price

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Vanessa Sendukas

Marcia Weinstein

Richard L. Wynne

Blake Young



# Spotlight On ...

## MS. PEGGY SANDERS

In the Summer 2005 edition of the *Advocate News*, our cover story featured Peggy Sanders and court appointed advocate volunteer **Joan Mandola**. Theirs is a successful tale of one mother's determination to beat a debilitating drug addiction and have her daughter returned to her. Peggy credits herself, God and the love and support of Joan Mandola for the eventual reunification of her and her daughter Briana.

Since the case was closed and our story was published, Peggy has remained clean and sober, maintaining a job and buying both a home and a car. Her love for Briana and gratitude to Joan have stayed consistent; as has her support and promotion of Child Advocates.

She has spoken at several events, including Advisory Board lunches and other engagements, giving testimony to the impact Joan had on the outcome of Briana's cases and, ultimately, their lives. Most recently she was featured in our *Pull for Kids Classic* event video and she and Briana attended the event as our guests. Peggy kicked-off the Live Auction the night of the event and her story and affirmation of Child Advocates was so compelling that this year's "Sponsor a Child" portion of the Live Auction doubled our 2007 returns and incurred enough revenue to serve nearly 60 children!



**Peggy calls for support during the Pull for Kids Classic live auction.**

But Peggy's impact goes far beyond the dollars raised. Her support of our program and her moving testimonial connects people with our mission and encourages more members of the community to get involved. We are fortunate to have Peggy Sanders as part of the Child Advocates family.

## SHERLOCK'S ON THE GREEN - THE BRITISH PUB OPEN

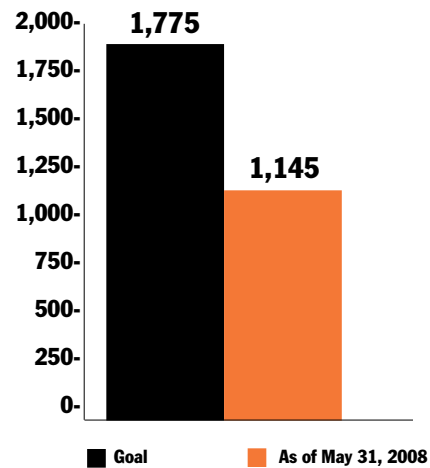
Join Hospitality USA for the Sixth Annual *Sherlock's on the Green – The British Pub Open Golf Tournament*. For the second year in a row, this tournament will benefit Child Advocates and should be as fun and festive as last year's event. And, above all else, it should provide at least 40 children with an advocate.

Grab some friends or coworkers and hit the links, Monday, November 17 at Sweetwater Country Club in Sugar Land.

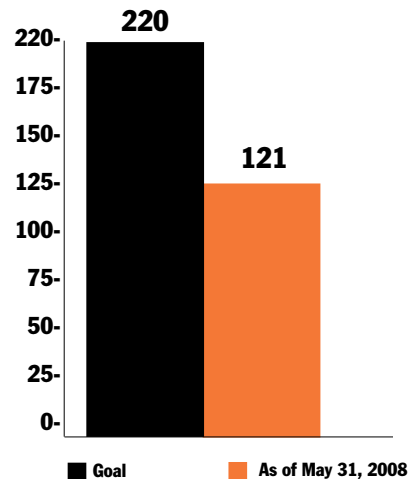
You can register as an individual, as a foursome, or choose one of the many sponsorship opportunities available. Visit [sherlocksonthegreen.com](http://sherlocksonthegreen.com) for details or call Andrea at 713-529-1396, ext. 214.

# Goal Review

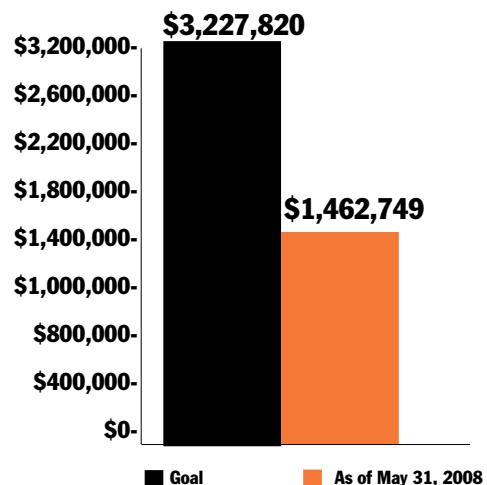
## CHILDREN SERVED



## VOLUNTEERS TRAINED



## ACCRUAL BASIS BUDGET RAISED





# Thrive

## **An adoptive mother recounts the invaluable volunteer service of court appointed advocate, Yen Le.**

Several years ago, my husband and I agreed to foster three young boys. They warmed our hearts, calling us Mom and Dad from the very first day in our home. I knew it would be a difficult task, but prayed that God would help us through. Soon after the boys came to us, we received a call from a young woman who identified herself as the "child advocate" for the boys. She explained that they advocate for the child's voice and look out for the child's well-being.

Yen, my boys advocate, came to my home with another lady. I could tell she fell in love with the boys immediately just as I did. At least once a month, she would come to visit with the boys, my husband and me. Many of the times Yen came to our house, she bought the boys little gifts - always checking with me to make sure that it was okay. She actually knew the types of games and toys that each one of them liked. She listened to them. Yen knew my boys apart - a great accomplishment, considering two of them are twins and the third heavily resembles them as well. If this wasn't confusing enough, their names are Austin, Dustin and Justin. She never treated them differently because they were "foster kids." Because of Yen, my boys were able to go to their first baseball game. Yen kept us informed about everything: court dates, family visits, if someone could not make it to the visits, anything I needed to know, Yen told me. She was awesome.

One day Yen told us that she was hired by Child Advocates. "What do you mean hired?" I had to ask. "I thought you worked for them." She reminded me that she served on the boys' case as a volunteer. I thought of everything she did for them - the gas she used, the gifts, the food - all from her heart. Child Advocates made the best decision when they hired her. It is a blessing to have a person working for the children who truly cares and loves them.

We went to court and stood in front of the judge as he pronounced us a family. Yen was there. She stood beside us. She has been there from the beginning of the boys' foster care to the beginning of their adoption. And to tell the truth, we all agree she will forever be in our lives. I prayed that God would help us and He answered my prayer, He sent me an angel named Yen.

- Marcy Dickey

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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.