



Team Leader and Advocacy Coordinator Lucius Walton presents the 2009 JAG award to court appointed advocate Les Schmaltz

Advocate News

HOUSTON'S LEADING VOICE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

childadvocates⁵ years
SERVING ABUSED CHILDREN SINCE 1984

CHILD ADVOCATES, INC.

25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION, 3

FALL 2009

2009 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year

CHILD ADVOCATES AWARDS HIGHEST HONOR TO COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE LES SCHMALTZ

Not even a continental divide can keep Les Schmaltz's mind off the children on his cases.

"It shouldn't have surprised me, to be honest, because it's who he is," says Advocacy Coordinator and Team Leader Lucius Walton, who has worked with Les during his entire tenure as a court appointed advocate. "But when I was being copied on emails to an attorney that he was writing from Africa, I had to sit back and think 'wow — this is what commitment looks like'."

A court appointed advocate volunteer since 2003, Les has made a tremendous difference in the lives of 23 abused and neglected children over the course of his eight cases with Child Advocates.

His above-and-beyond approach earned him the organization's highest honor last 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 cause.

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.

"Les is what I consider the 'complete' volunteer," says Walton. "Since getting involved as a court appointed advocate six years ago, he has taken his intense commitment to abused children and applied it whole-heartedly across the entire organization."

And he shows no signs of stopping; in fact, his work on his current case has proven to be no less than amazing.

When recently assigned to a 12-year-old girl who has repeatedly run away from placements and has significant emotional problems, Les dove in head-first. Very early on in the case, he told her caregivers to call him at any time — which they did. Les found himself out looking for the child on the streets on several occasions after being called about her running away.

(continued on next page)

“I had to sit back and think ‘wow — this is what committment looks like’.”

In Harris County alone, 4,300 children languish in foster care because of life-threatening abuse and 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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Les Schmaltz **CONTINUED**

Both the child's caseworker and attorney were leaning towards returning her to her mother's care, as the consensus was that her behavior was too much for any placement. But Les felt strongly that in order for the child to make any headway, the first order of business was to get her placed in a residential treatment situation, where she could receive a combination of structure, supervision, therapy and medication.

Les met one-on-one with the caseworker and her supervisor as well as the attorney for the child and made his case. Despite their original positions, Les was able to convince them that placing the child with her mother was the equivalent of giving up on her — something he was not willing to do. She currently is living in a residential treatment center where she continues to need a lot of services but is improving each day. She will soon start family therapy with her mother through the placement.

“This particular child is a roller coaster, but Les' consistency has been exactly what she has needed,” said Walton. “I hate to think about the situations she could have been in had Les not fought for what he considered to be in her best interest.”

Congratulations Les! From the bottom of our hearts and those of the children you've served so far, thank you for your outstanding service to this organization.

COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE KAREN KEY NAMED ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

In 2008, Child Advocates added the Rookie of the Year award, designed to recognize a volunteer who shows excellent advocacy skills despite being relatively new to our program. Nominees are court appointed advocates who have served in this capacity less than 1.5 years and on two or fewer cases, yet demonstrate a thorough understanding of and dedication to our 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.

Karen Key was named 2009 *Rookie of the Year* at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event last month. During her 10-month tenure, Karen has clocked nearly 300 hours of service — an average of 29 hours per month. Currently, she is serving three children on two separate cases.

“She has gone over and above in many ways including agreeing to take on a difficult case after the other volunteer on the case was removed,” said Advocacy Coordinator Julie Hennington. “I asked Karen to take the second case because of her growth during her first case, her ability to quickly build trust with people and the fact that I can depend on her work being thorough and timely.”

Karen has a kind, open presence which aids her in interviewing parties. She is professional, inquisitive and has an ability to put her personal beliefs aside to truly develop a neutral opinion. She always keeps a positive attitude and she always keeps the focus on the child.

Recently, on a Saturday night at 9:30 pm, Karen went to the police station to interview several officers involved with the mother and her new husband in a recent domestic violence dispute. It was the only day/time they were available and she wanted to ensure she could gather the information she needed. Ultimately, that information was integral in the case.

Congratulations Karen!



Karen Key (right) and her Advocacy Coordinator Julie Hennington

From the CEO

Hello all,

We spent so long looking forward to this year, I almost don't know what to do now that we're nearing its end!

I can't thank you enough for all of your support during our 25th anniversary. From the "Studio 25" themed *Pull for Kids Classic* to our two anniversary campaigns to setting a record for volunteers active on cases (650 at presstime, 40 more than we've ever had in our history!), this year has been a whirlwind of activity and success that wouldn't have been possible without you.

Last month, we celebrated our anniversary at the annual court appointed advocate volunteer appreciation event. This is always one of my favorite events and this year was particularly memorable. We were hoping for a big turnout for the event – and we weren't disappointed! I'm thrilled to say that we had more than 475 in attendance. Another highlight was seeing our October Advocacy University class sworn-in as court appointed advocates at the event – bringing our new volunteers trained this year to 270! A huge congratulations goes to Les Schmaltz who was awarded the 2009 *James A. Gwinn Award for Outstanding Advocacy* and Karen Key who was named our 2009 *Rookie of the Year*. You both are a wonderful representation of the dedication and commitment of all of our court appointed advocate volunteers.

I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank an individual who is truly one in a million — our 2008 and 2009 Board of Directors Chair, Barbara Scott. Barbara's leadership and support have been truly invaluable over the past two years, and her level of involvement with our staff members and volunteers serves as an inspiration to all of us. She has been a constant source of encouragement, our cheering section and a true lead-by-example leader — often rolling up her sleeves and jumping into the trenches right along side of us. Barbara, words cannot express what a pleasure you are to know and to work with — thank you.



Lucky for us, we have just the right person to fill the big shoes Barbara will leave behind: long-time Board members and Child Advocates loyalist, Kenny Baldwin. Kenny will be taking over as Board chair in January and we're all looking forward to working with him.

I wish you all a happy and safe holiday season from the Child Advocates family to yours.

Warm regards,

Sonya Galvan

Forgotten Children

850 CHILDREN STAND UP AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

Every day, approximately 850 children across the United States enter the foster care system due to life-threatening abuse or neglect. For one week this October, Child Advocates brought attention to the plight of foster children by displaying 850 life-sized child cut-outs on Discovery Green in downtown Houston.



The display, titled *Forgotten Children*, offered a moving visual reminder of the epidemic of child abuse and a stirring call to action for these vulnerable youngsters. Six different styles of cut-outs were

featured, representing the different races, ages and ethnicities of the foster children we serve. Each cut-out had a nametag with the real first name of a child we've served along with the name of the donor who sponsored them.

"The sheer number of children who are abused and neglected and removed from their homes is staggering, especially when represented physically, as it is by *Forgotten Children*," Child Advocates CEO Sonya Galvan said. "850 children would fill an average size elementary school or 425 camp bunks; it's hard to ignore when you look at it in those terms."

Although downpours washed out our planned unveiling ceremony, including remarks by Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, Mother Nature provided a beautiful weekend for visitors to check out the display. Attention from the Houston Chronicle, Channel 39 News and Fox 26 News also generated excitement for the event.

In addition to building awareness of Child Advocates' mission, the *Forgotten Children* campaign also helped us raise more than \$300,000 — enough to serve 175 of Houston's most severely abused and neglected children for one year. We are grateful for the persistence and dedication of our many *Forgotten Children* champions and co-champions, who helped secure donations from more than 300 individuals, corporations and organizations.

Special kudos also go out to the more than 50 volunteers who helped set up and tear down the display and who manned an information booth over the weekend of October 24-25. In addition to many of our dedicated court appointed advocates, the volunteers included representatives from Spark Energy, Cardinal Gas and Kappa Delta. Thanks to everyone who helped make this ambitious project a huge success.

Focus on the Friends

FRIENDS OF CHILD ADVOCATES

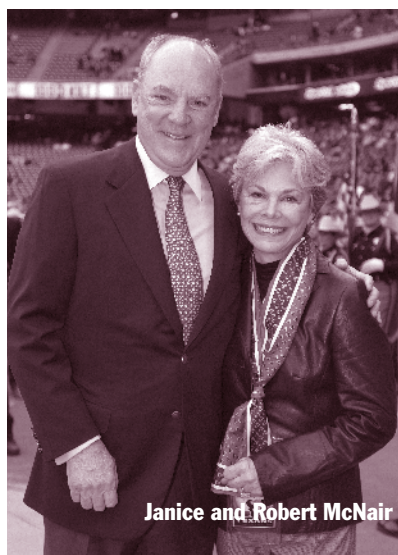
MONTBLANC

The Friends of Child Advocates kicked off the *Angels of Hope Luncheon* in style this year with a fabulous party at Montblanc's new Galleria boutique. The company generously sponsored the bash to celebrate both the grand opening of the boutique's new location and Child Advocates' 25th anniversary. In addition to helping us raise funds, the event also gave us another opportunity to recognize our *Angels of Hope Luncheon* honoree, Mrs. Janice McNair, and our wonderful Luncheon Chairs Kathy Galt and Pat Osborne. Among the attendees were Jan-Patrick Schmitz, President and CEO of Montblanc North America, Regional Vice President Lisa Molina and store manager Jason Bickel.

Our own Friends President Judy Farrell and husband Tom were the lucky winners of his and hers Montblanc timepieces in a drawing held at the party, while Friends member Stephanie Laguarda and husband Sterling won a fine writing instrument in a second drawing the next day. A ladies' timepiece went to lucky party attendee James Nguyen the second day as well. Montblanc is also generously donating an additional piece for the *Angels of Hope Luncheon* raffle.

ANGELS OF HOPE

It is hard to believe that our annual luncheon is just a few weeks away. On December 8th, more than 500 of our fashion-forward supporters will meet Lafayette 148 fashion designer Edward Wilkerson and view his spectacular Spring 2010 collection while honoring Mrs. McNair at the Westin Galleria Hotel. The luncheon and fashion presentation are again made possible thanks to our devoted sponsor Neiman Marcus Galleria.



Janice and Robert McNair

Mrs. McNair will receive the Child Advocates' *Excalibur Award for Volunteer Service* at the luncheon in honor of the more than 85 children who have received lifesaving advocacy services as a result of generous gifts from the Robert and Janice McNair Foundation and the Houston Texans Foundation. However, our award cannot begin to repay the McNair family for their leadership and philanthropy in the Houston community and across the country. In addition to supporting schools, universities and community groups, they established the Baylor College of Medicine McNair Scholars Program in 2007, providing \$100 million in funding for research in the areas of breast cancer, pancreatic cancer, juvenile diabetes and the neurosciences.

Snapshots



A volunteer personal shopper helps a child pick out back-to-school gear at the Cameron Childspeer.



Theta alumna and Child Advocates employee Nicole Scanlin, Child Advocates board chair Barbara Scott and Theta alumnae Janet Lionberger and Nancy Craig.



Tenured court appointed advocates shared their stories with attendees of the Summer Luncheon at Maggianos.

Voices

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



DIANA MATTINGLY
COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE FROM 1992 TO PRESENT

"When I first became involved with Child Advocates, I had three very busy children, traveled with my husband and spent time with my friends — life was good! I felt so lucky, but I also felt I needed to do something to help my community. I spent several months looking for just the right opportunity. It had to be something that fit into my schedule, and more importantly,

something I could do to really make a difference. Child Advocates was perfect. I could set my own schedule and make appointments at my convenience. And I could really accomplish something. I found that my opinion mattered. CPS and the courts paid attention. One case I remember really demonstrated this point. I had a two-year-old boy who had been placed with his grandmother, however, CPS was concerned about cultural aspects, and the grandmother didn't speak English. They didn't think that she could take good care of her grandson. I disagreed and made it known in court that the child was thriving there. The judge agreed with me! There are so many children in need of an advocate. I am very proud to be one of them."



JOAN FLEMING
COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE FROM 1989 TO 1999

"Sometimes one is poised between projects and reaches out for another challenge in the community. In such a place about 20 years ago I seized upon the issue of child abuse. I decided to volunteer as a child advocate. During this period, even the hospitals had begun to have social workers to monitor the children who entered the ER in the hospitals. The juvenile

judges were grateful to us as we could spend hours and even days on a few cases. Although caseworkers maintained caseloads of 35 or more, I was able to help by carrying a caseload of from 2 to 5, and help find aunts and uncles to adopt the children or fathers who had lost track of sons. Searching for foster homes, I found many good ones, or relocated children from poor ones. I found adoptive homes for whole families. We helped foster parents or relatives find everything from beds to washing machines, from counseling to Christmas presents. Most of all, I gave my thoughtful opinions to the judges and to the lawyers of the children. These opinions were generally accepted and appreciated. How gratifying it was that I had made a difference in these families and particularly in the children's lives. It was my most rewarding volunteer experience and ten-year commitment."

Donor Spotlight

25 YEARS OF INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

Individuals are an important part of any organization — but can be especially critical to the life of non-profit organizations. They are the volunteers, the cheerleaders, the people who spread the word and the personal stories that truly make a difference.

Twenty-five years ago, three individuals, armed with \$5,000 and using a kitchen table as headquarters, created the organization. They have seen their vision of building a better future for Houston's abused and neglected children come so far since then. Last year, more than 600 volunteers spent 50,361 hours and traveled 300,000 miles — an in-kind donation worth more than \$1 million — to provide a voice for our community's most vulnerable little ones.

Individuals are the ones who reached into their pocketbooks and donated more than \$1 million last year by attending our special events, participating in our raffles and auctions and making contributions to support our court services program.

Numerous individuals have supported us for years and are still supporting us today. As best we can tell, Mary Bratton, Nolan Lehmann, Bill Livesay, Debbie Martinez, Bernie Powell, Barbara Scott, John Storms, Don Taylor, Lynda Transier and Mike Van Hoozer have supported us for at least 20 of our 25 years!

Child Advocates is so fortunate that this culture of giving is being passed on to future generations as well. Lynda Transier's son Christopher first raised money as a small child to support the Houston Children's Festival and now he and his new wife have become members of our Young Professionals for Children group. Earlier this year, a group of Cy-Fair High School students produced their own event benefiting Child Advocates — the Step Up for a Reason fundraiser, which raised more than \$5,500. We are delighted and inspired to watch young people embrace our mission and share their enthusiasm with their friends.



Chet Sekhon at Cy-Fair High School's Step Up for a Reason fundraiser — his own creation — in April. Currently, plans are underway for a second installment of the event.

If you are reading this article, you too have supported our work. Therefore, you too are one of the reasons we have been able to train more than 3,300 volunteers and serve over 16,000 Houston-area children.

Thank you for your continued support. It will allow us to someday serve every child in Harris County who needs us, breaking the vicious cycle of abuse — one generation at a time.

Thanks Donors

The donors listed contributed to Child Advocates, Inc. between the months of June and September 2009, in an amount equal to or greater than the cost of serving one child for one month (\$130). Child Advocates also extends our most sincere appreciation to the 225 individuals and companies that donated between \$1 and \$129 during this period (totaling more than \$11,614), whom we are unable to list due to space constraints.

58+ CHILDREN FOR ONE YEAR

Houston Children's Festival, Presented by Baker Hughes

29-57 CHILDREN FOR ONE YEAR

Child Advocates Endowment, Inc
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14-28 CHILDREN FOR ONE YEAR

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 Mr. Risher Randall
 Mr. Ernest Rapp
 Mrs. Rachel Rath
 Mr. Stuart Rathe
 Mrs. Joanna Reid
 Mrs. Phyllis Rice
 Mrs. Susan Riley
 Robert D. Colvin & Associates
 Mr. John Robertson
 Mr. Paul Rodney
 Ms. Monica Romero
 Mrs. Suzanne Ronne
 Mr. Frank Rosie
 Mr. Richard Rowe
 Royal Purple
 Mrs. Holly Rubbo
 Mr. Christer Rundlof
 Ms. Claire Sabatier
 Ms. Sara Saber
 Mr. and Mrs. Larry Sams
 Mrs. Suzan Samuels
 Ms. Betsi Sanchez
 Ms. Nicole Scanlin
 Mrs. Rosemary Schatzman
 Mr. Lester Schmaltz
 Mr. Frederick Schneider
 Mrs. Barbara Scott
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Sebald
 Ms. Becky Serri
 Ms. Bernadette Session
 Mrs. Suzanne Shanley
 Mr. Brian Shannon
 Mrs. Diana Shaw
 Mr. Craig Shenkman
 Ms. Angelya Sherrell
 Mr. Roger Shields
 Ms. Suzanne Shields

Mrs. Elizabeth Shoss
 Ms. Michelle Shuck
 Mr. Gary Siller
 Silver Eagle Silver Eagle Distributors
 Mrs. Sandra Simmons
 Mr. Don Sinclair
 Skylark Investments
 Mr. Curry Smith
 Mr. James Smith
 Mrs. Marla Smith
 Ms. Stephanie Smith
 Smith Partners, Ltd.
 Sonardyne
 Mrs. Sindi Sonnier
 Mr. Andrew Stackel
 Mr. Kenneth Stallman
 Dr. Alan Stanton
 Mrs. Karen Steans
 Mr. and Mrs. Ross Stomel
 Mr. John Stone
 Mr. John Storms
 Tower Strategies
 Mr. Charles Strauss
 Ms. Ashley Strawder
 Mr. Carl Stuttts
 Mr. Arthur Sullivan
 Swift Energy Co.
 Mrs. Kim Schuetzner Swords
 Mrs. Gail Taber
 Ms. Leslie Taylor
 Mr. H. L. Teel
 The Hitachi Foundation
 The Rand Group, LLC
 The Shade Shop, Inc.
 Mrs. Suzanne Thomas
 Ms. Lucinda Thomas
 Mr. Kenneth Thompson
 Mrs. Betty Thorington
 Mr. Dale Timmons
 Mr. and Mrs. Dave Tollar
 Mrs. Cynthia Tompkins
 Ms. Barbara Tondre
 Ms. Lynda Transier
 Mr. Edmunds Travis
 Mrs. Heather Tripodo
 Juanita Simmons / Truth Resources
 Mrs. Karen Turbidy
 Mr. Willis Upchurch
 Mrs. Rachel Romans Villareal
 Mr. Darryl Vincent
 Mrs. Elizabeth Vittor
 Mr. Ron Vollmar
 Mrs. Jackie Wadsworth
 Mrs. Felisa Walker
 Mr. Johnny Walker
 Mr. and Mrs. Lucius Walton
 Mrs. Darlene Warring
 Mr. and Mrs. DC Weiss
 Mr. and Mrs. Lee Welborn
 Wells Fargo
 Mrs. Denise West
 Whitney Bank
 Mr. Lawrence Whyte
 Mr. Thomas Wilson
 Ms. Cathy Wining-Thomas
 Ms. Viola Wiswell
 Ms. Jessica Wood
 Ms. Barbara Woolhandler
 Mrs. Arline Worsham
 Mrs. Edith Wright
 Ms. Christina Yi
 Mr. Blake Young
 Mr. James Young

Doing Something

OFFICE DEPOT

Hundreds of the children we serve headed back to school with brand new backpacks thanks to the generosity of the Office Depot Foundation. The foundation has donated more than two million backpacks to deserving children since 2001, including more than 75,000 to Court Appointed Special Advocate groups around the country. Child Advocates has been proud to partner with the foundation for the past six years as we strive to give our children the tools they'll need to succeed in school and in life. Thanks to the Office Depot Foundation's gift, 375 children were able to return to school with confidence and pride this year.

VOLUNTEER SOCIALS

Last year, as a result of feedback from volunteers about their desire to interact more, we started what have now become annual volunteer socials. This past September, tenured court appointed advocate Joan Mandola and former court appointed advocate-turned-board-member Nancy Thorington generously hosted our 2009 volunteer socials in their beautiful homes. Volunteers, staff and board members alike ate, drank and visited well into both evenings — sharing casework stories and trading tips on important resources and other “trade secrets.”



Board member Terrence Gee with court appointed advocate volunteer Dave Cooney

NAVIDAD EN EL BARRIO

We often find ourselves connecting the families we work with and opportunities for assistance. This was the case recently, when the service organization Navidad en el Barrio agreed to provide two window AC units for a mother and her six children who were recently reunified. Prior to buying the AC units, a Navidad representative went out to the home to measure for the appropriate sizes. After the visit, he reported to the Navidad Board that the family needed more help than just AC units. A group of Navidad volunteers decided they would put in a “Day of Service” that included clearing her back/front yard of debris, trash and high weeds as well as a major cleaning to the inside of the house. Navidad also treated the family to a fun lunch of chili dogs and chips and provided them with extra food for the week. Thank you Navidad en el Barrio for providing your service and your compassion to this family and to the community as a whole.

YPC Update

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FOR CHILDREN



EVENTS GALORE

This year, Child Advocates' Young Professionals for Children celebrated Halloween at the annual YPC Pumpkin Party! The kids came dressed-up in their Halloween costumes to take part in moonwalks, games, arts and crafts and trick-or-treating in the park. Many YPCers volunteered for this event, and everyone had a great time! In July, YPC took the kids indoors — and went roller skating. From doing the hokey

pokey on skates to the pizza and prizes, it was a great summer activity!

SPICY FUN-RAISER!

YPCers and others from the community got cooking to raise money for Child Advocates at the 3rd Annual “No Holds Barred” Chili Cook-Off at The Shady Tavern on October 17th. Sixteen teams came with their best recipes to compete for the title of Overall Champion and People's Choice. Thanks to Greg Fields for organizing the YPC team and Lee Beckman for coordinating the Child Advocate staff team (“Chili Advocates”). Hot chili and cold beer (thank you Silver Eagle!) made this event a blast! A big thanks to Brandon and Tiffany Mullen, Louise “Dock” Ashby, Mondo Guerrero and Dennis Whitworth for making this all happen.



TIME TO RENEW

Interested in getting in on the fun and doing some good along the way? Become a new YPC member or renew your membership for 2010. Visit www.childadvocates.org/volunteer/ypc or email Kendall at kendall.pace@childadvocates.org for more information on how you can join. Also, check the calendar on our website for upcoming YPC socials and membership drives!

TWEET, TWEET

Follow us on Twitter [@CAI_YPC](https://twitter.com/CAI_YPC) to keep up with all we're doing! Not yet on Twitter? We also have a Facebook group, Child Advocates' Young Professionals for Children.

Special Thanks

James Brodnax for donating four Coldplay tickets

Konstantino for donating a jewel encrusted cuff and ring for the *Angels of Hope Luncheon and Fashion Show* raffle

Nancy Thorington for hosting the *Forgotten Children* champions party and donating the food and wine

Mike Van Hoozer for donating his time and assessment materials for the development staff's team-building exercise

Brookfield Properties, Spark Energy, Andrews Kurth, J.P. Morgan Chase, the Houston Chronicle, Fulbright & Jaworski, Westside and Northside Lexus, Schlumberger, and Wedge Real Estate Holdings for hosting *Forgotten Children* displays to promote the fundraising and awareness-building campaign

Charlotte Benson for delivering *Forgotten Children* cardboard cut-outs to businesses hosting displays

Teri Bertuzzi for her donation of Maxamec games and building sets

Brenda M. Kuciemba for securing 100 tickets for kids to attend "Dirty Dealings in Dixie"

Kirksey for donating school supplies

Presbyterian Women Quilters of Heights Presbyterian Church for making 20 quilted blankets for our kids

Live Nation, Inc. for donating four tickets to Sea World

Kenny Baldwin for donating four Astros tickets for our kids

Beth Harp for donating eight Astros tickets for our kids

Nancy Ramirez and the **ARMA Houston Chapter** for their generous donation of diapers, clothing, toy and numerous items for our kids

Cameron for their donation of school supplies

Stacy Michel and **Shipley Donuts** for the generous donation and drop-off coordination of 60 dozen donuts for the *Cameron Childspre*

Target for their generous donation of breakfast for the kids and volunteers for the *Cameron Childspre*

Susan Daniel and the **West Chapter of the National Charity League** for making and donating beautifully decorated Polaroid foam frames for our kids

Parkway Place for making 40 quilted blankets for our kids

Happenings

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

19-22 NOVEMBER
57th annual Theta Charity Antique Show — Browse wares from more than 50 of the most notable antique dealers in the United States and Europe at the George R. Brown Convention Center. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Child Advocates. Visit www.thetaantiquesshow.com for more information.

22
Holiday Party — Enterprise Holdings is generously sponsoring this festive annual event for more than 700 of the children we serve that features visits with Santa, a "Reindeer Run" and lots of crafts and treats.

8 DECEMBER
Friends of Child Advocates Angels of Hope Luncheon and Fashion Presentation by Neiman Marcus featuring designer Edward Wilkerson and the Lafayette 148 Spring Collection. Join chairs Kathy Galt and Pat Osborne as they honor Janice McNair at the fashion event of the holiday season! For tables, tickets and details, e-mail marla.endieveri@childadvocates.org.

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

30
Advocacy University begins — Make good on your new year's resolution to become a court appointed advocate volunteer in our first AU training class of 2010. www.childadvocates.org.

1-28 FEBRUARY
Car Pros for Kids — Visit a participating auto service provider during the month of February, make a \$30 donation to Child Advocates and receive a certificate for two free oil changes. Visit the online calendar for more details, www.childadvocates.org/calendar.

Bobbie Bozarth for her donation of birthday cakes for our kids

Robin Wade and **St. Martin's Episcopal Church** for their generous donation of gift cards and items for Gilbert and Rachel's Closet

Rick Burnett for his generous donation of food for the backpack-stuffing party before the *Cameron Childspre*

El Paso Corporation for the use of their tents for *Forgotten Children*

Spectrum Catering, Concessions & Events and **Tony Terwilliger** for their invaluable donation of services, support and assistance with *Forgotten Children* display logistics

Board Voice



JAMES BRODNAX

Board member; Executive Committee member; Finance Committee chair and member; Development Committee member

I am involved with CAI because

Bernie Powell introduced me several years ago prior to having children of my own. She is a dedicated volunteer and salesman for Child

Advocates and she explained the role the organization plays in the system. Several years later when my family was exploring adoption options, we considered going through CPS; and during that process, we had the benefits of Child Advocates reinforced. All children should be loved and protected. CAI help make that happen for more children.

My greatest contribution to CAI is yet to come. I have only been directly involved for a couple of years and have done so little compared to many others. My hope as Finance Committee chair is to help ensure everyone who has an interest in the finances of Child Advocates understands what is happening financially and the needs we have. In addition, I am hopeful my actions help Child Advocates grow and prosper, and, as a result, more children are helped.

When I am not volunteering for CAI, my favorite activities involve my kids. They are still at home. So, I still get to go to sporting events, recitals and school events. And, we love to travel. We are currently excited about a trip to New York City at Christmas. I also love to workout, read and golf. However, there is never enough time to golf.

My greatest CAI experience has actually been several great experiences. I recently observed a Child Advocates volunteer in action in court. Amelia Binkley, one of our coordinators, arranged for me to observe with Bernadette Session, one of our volunteers. It reminded me of the sadness associated

with these cases and the importance of what we do. I was also very impressed with the knowledge of the details of the case Bernadette and Amelia had. Other great experiences have been volunteering at the annual Holiday Party and shopping with my kids for Santa's Wish List. I am also happy to have helped a business acquaintance, Bill Gardiner, and his family become more involved in Child Advocates.



LYNDA TRANSIER

Board member 2004-current; Friends of Child Advocates Director-At-Large; Development Chair (Executive Committee member) 2007-08; *Angels of Hope* Honoree 1998; *Angels of Hope* Chair 2005; Development staff 1993-96; Gala Chair 1993

I am involved with CAI because

it's the most rewarding work I've done. I've been involved since

1990 when I chaired an event for the Texas Society of CPAs and the beneficiary was Child Advocates. I heard the Marty Braniff "starfish story" and was hooked — I believed I could make a difference, one child at a time.

My greatest contribution to CAI has been people, networking and fundraising.

When I am not volunteering for CAI, I like to be with my sons, my horses, my dog and my friends. I'm also involved with Pin Oak, the Ballet, Dress for Success, the Rodeo and TUTS. I just love being around people!

My greatest CAI experience was in 1993. I began attending the Development Committee meetings as that year's Gala Chair, and many of the members on that committee didn't know me. I can remember telling them that I planned to raise \$250,000 net — and they were skeptical, to say the least! Alexander Rogers, John Storms and Ron McMillan thought they had recruited a crazy woman to say that we would raise that much money. You can imagine my delight the day we were photographed with that blown up check for more than a quarter of a million dollars!

Board of Directors

2009 BOARD CHAIR

Barbara Scott

BOARD MEMBERS

Cecil H. Arnim, III

David Baird

Kenny Baldwin, Chair-Elect

Hildegard Ballard

John Binick

James Brodnax

Rick Burnett

Mollie Castaneda

Jane Dabney

Kim David

David Davis

Robert Davis

Eddy De Los Santos

Judy Farrell

Terrence Gee

Amanda Hall

Quinton Harp

Ross LeFevre

Nolan Lehmann

Ron Orsini

David Quackenbush

Page Parkes-Eveleth

James S. Prentice

Mike Preston

Brad W. Robbins

Cynthia Sebald

John Storms

Ellie Sweeney

Don Taylor

Dolly Dawson Thomas

Suzanne Thomas

Nancy Thorington

Lynda Transier

Mike Van Hoozer

Milton West

Spotlight On ...

25 for 25

It's not too late to ask 25 friends to join you in donating \$25 to Child Advocates in honor of our 25th anniversary of speaking up for Houston's abused and neglected children. Thanks to hundreds of generous donors, including many first-time CAI supporters, our 25 for 25 campaign has raised more than \$17,000 so far. That's enough to provide ten children with a court appointed volunteer for an entire year!

We are especially excited to watch the project spread in ways we never even imagined. For example, court appointed advocate Julie Prunty had the opportunity to discuss Child Advocates this summer with the members of a women's social group called Women with a Purpose. She brought information on the 25 for 25 campaign and collected \$250 in donations.

The children's Sunday School classes at St. Luke's United Methodist Church are collecting quarters in cardboard bank boxes in addition to participating in other Child Advocates-related activities this fall. One little boy named Jackson proudly brought his bank back to his second-grade class stuffed to the brim with \$22 in coins. He was so proud of his bank and we are so proud of him and his classmates. We are also very excited about this collaboration with St. Luke's and are grateful for their many years of support. Thanks especially to CAI board member and court appointed advocate Eddy de los Santos for spearheading the St. Luke's project.

For more information and to donate, visit www.childadvocates.org and click on the "25 for 25" link.

CAR PROS FOR KIDS

The wheels are in motion for our 17th year of *Car Pros for Kids*, a program in which — during the month of February — participating auto service providers across the Houston area offer two free oil changes in exchange for a \$30 donation to Child Advocates. Help us make contact with the people and companies you know by answering our *Car Pros for Kids* "Want Ads!"

WANTED: Houston-area auto service providers or dealerships interested in mutually-beneficial friendship and potential long-term relationship with mature and professional annual program.

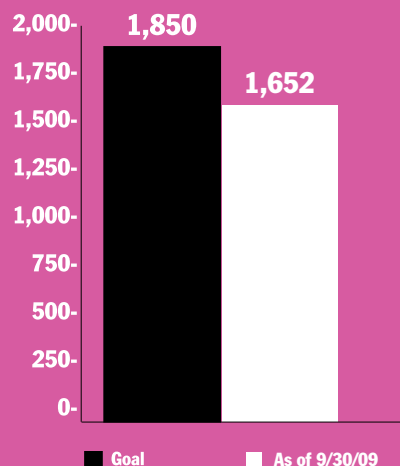
Interests should include: having a good time, meeting new people and supporting a great local organization. Generosity, integrity and a love for children are a must! If interested, call Nicole — 713.529.1396 ext. 214.

WANTED: Compassionate and outgoing manufacturer and/or distributor of automobile oil filters looking for a committed relationship with well-respected and established annual program.

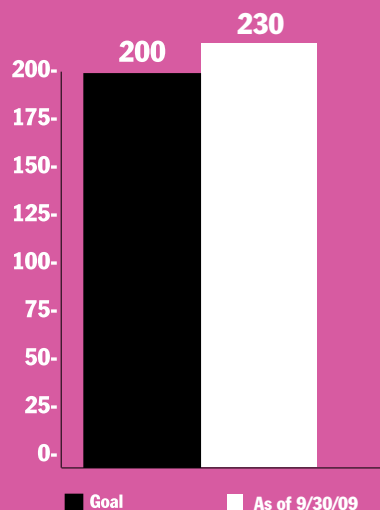
Interests should include making generous charitable donations of product, receiving substantial tax deductions and being thanked profusely by thousands of appreciative supporters, volunteers and staff. If interested, call Nicole — 713.529.1396 ext. 214.

Goal Review

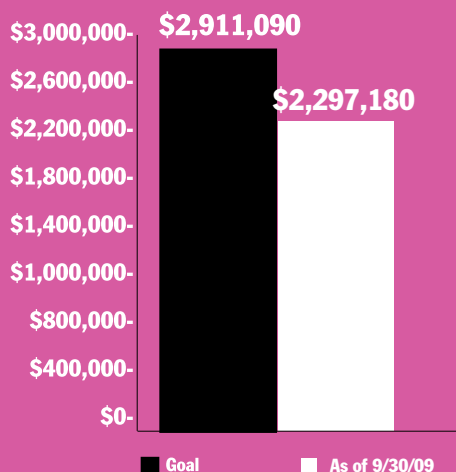
CHILDREN SERVED



VOLUNTEERS TRAINED



ACCRUAL BASIS BUDGET RAISED





2401 PORTSMOUTH, SUITE 210
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77098
713-529-1396
www.childadvocates.org

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.

Thrive

A GRATEFUL FOSTER-TURNED-ADOPTIVE MOTHER SHARES HER APPRECIATION FOR COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE ED THOMPSON.

There are no words that can convey the deep trust, confidence and appreciation that our family feels for the Child Advocates program, in particular Mr. Ed Thompson.

With his help and guidance, my soon-to-be-adopted children (a sibling group consisting of two girls and one boy) have made progress far beyond my greatest expectations. These are not the same scared, insecure and undernourished children that were brought to our home over four years ago.

We have progressed from failing grades and below-grade-level placement to making the Honor Roll and being elected to the 5th grade Student Council. I shudder to think where my children would be now and the conditions they would live in if not for the intervention of CPS and Child Advocates.

I applaud Mr. Thompson and all of the selfless people who reach out to these children who are in such great need.

Again, my deepest appreciation and gratitude.

Sincerely,

Laurna Badeaux

Ed Thompson has been a court appointed advocate volunteer since 2006, making a difference for 10 children.

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