



Court appointed advocate
JoAnn Batey with Ray.

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, 1

SPRING 2009

Lessons in Living

Watching them together today, it's hard to imagine there was ever a time when Ray didn't know court appointed advocate JoAnn Batey. At 15, he was taken into custody of Child Protective Services (CPS), along with his two sisters, due to a long history of physical abuse by their mother.

"When I first met her, I just figured she was another caseworker or something," admits Ray with a shrug, "there were a lot of those kinds of people in my life back then."

A CONSTANT PRESENCE

He was placed with his grandparents initially. When that didn't work out, he moved to a foster home in Missouri City, a second foster home in Atascocita, his uncle's house and then finally to the place he now calls "home" – a house in Fort Bend County where he lives with four other young men and their foster dad, Fred.

The common theme? According to JoAnn: "Ray's determination and vision for himself." According to Ray: "Ms. JoAnn."

Realizing that most teenagers in foster care will remain that way until they "age out" of the system at 18 years old, JoAnn knew that Ray had reached a critical point. "When the judge decided that reunification with his mother was not an option, I knew we had to shift focus," she says. "It wasn't about terminating parental rights or looking for an adoptive placement like it may have been with a younger child – this was about how to best prepare a young man for life after foster care."

JoAnn reached out to her personal contacts and got Ray his first job, working in the shipping and receiving department for a local bearing supply company. She encouraged him to take advantage of the Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) program through CPS and explained the benefits available to him.

She never gave up on me," says Ray. "Even from the beginning, I could tell that she really cared about me and my future and wanted to help me."

NEW HORIZONS

"I've lived in Houston my whole life, but Ms. JoAnn is always showing me stuff I didn't even know existed," says Ray.

(continued on next page)

“I’ve learned that if I want something done, there is really only one person I can count on to do it: me.”

In Harris County alone, 4,300 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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Lessons in Living CONTINUED

“Like the opera?” jokes JoAnn, alluding to Ray’s 18th birthday gift from her and her husband: tickets for all three of them to see the Houston Grand Opera’s *Billy Budd* at the Wortham Theatre.

Even though it has been several years since JoAnn officially closed Ray’s case in the court appointed advocate capacity, they continue to stay in touch regularly and she still tries to provide him with any opportunities and experiences she can. From Texans tickets to help with a tuxedo for prom – if there is an opportunity out there, you can bet JoAnn will make sure Ray knows about it.

Upon Ray graduating high school in May, he will officially “age out” of the CPS system and will be eligible to receive his PAL benefits – including free tuition at any State school to which he is accepted. He sees himself with an eventual career in welding – a skill he learned from his grandfather as a young teen and has honed in vocational classes at his high school

“I’m planning to start at Houston Community College in the Fall,” says Ray. “I’m gonna try to get some college classes in while I keep working and save money to go through the training program with The Ocean Corporation for underwater welding.”

It’s a plan very much in line with his general outlook. “I’ve learned that if I want something done, there is really only one person I can count on to do it: me.”

And, true to form, JoAnn is busy researching grants for which Ray might qualify that would help pay for the Ocean Corporation certification.

FULL SPEED AHEAD

“Put Ray next to some of the other young men and women I’ve encountered in my work with Child Advocates and the CPS system and the difference is striking,” says JoAnn. “He is positive, ambitious and, in my opinion, impressively forward-thinking for *any* kid his age – former ‘foster child’ or otherwise.”

While he admits that he wants to get an apartment at some point soon to gain the experience of living on his own, Ray is planning to take his foster dad up an offer to stay where he is for now. Fred has told him that he can stay as long as he needs to, despite his exiting the foster care system this Summer.

“Everybody is saying I’m grown now that I’m 18,” says Ray. “But I say, nah – my definition of being grown is being able to take care of yourself and support yourself in the real world.”

When asked how he thinks he developed the mature mindset he has today, Ray doesn’t hesitate in his answer.

“I learn from my mistakes,” he shrugs. “And I listen to the advice of people – like Ms. JoAnn – who take an interest in me.”

From the CEO

As I'm sure you all know – considering we've been anticipating this year for quite some time now – 2009 marks a very special milestone for Child Advocates ...

... it's our 25th anniversary!

In 1984, three individuals, armed with \$5,000 and using a kitchen table as headquarters, created the organization. They served 18 children that first year. This year we plan to serve more than *100-times* that amount: at least 1,850.

Whether you've been around since the beginning or have just joined our ranks recently, we're so grateful for your support and involvement in Child Advocates.

You'll probably notice quite a bit of focus on the past in all of our publications and events this year, including this edition of the *Advocate News*. Already in these first few months, I've had fun taking several trips down "memory lane." While the old photos of the staff and volunteers and my memories of offices past have provided many laughs, it's really amazing to see how much the agency has grown.

I want to take a moment to thank all 244 of our 2008 *Heroes Society* Members – thanks to you all, we exceeded our revenue goal for the *Heroes Society* last Fall and, as a result, will be able to provide court appointed advocates to even more children than planned. I'm extremely proud to say that once again, 100% of our staff and Board of Directors members contributed during the year.

Throughout the year, we plan to recognize individuals, corporations and foundations who have been so supportive and helped us through many challenges as well as to celebrate our incredible, selfless and dedicated volunteers who are truly the lifeblood of this organization.

Each and every person reading this publication is making our ultimate vision – to help every abused child in Harris County who needs us – a reality. This is a fact for which we are constantly grateful.

We couldn't have done it – and can't continue to do it – without you. *Thank you for your ongoing support for the abused and neglected children of Harris County.*

Warm regards,

Sonya Galvan

Dear Santa Claus

A little over 15 years ago, several staff members on the Program team came up with the idea of a Christmas party for the children they were working with on their cases. "Having come from CPS, we all knew that a lot of these kids had never experienced the joy of the holiday season – let alone received any gifts," remembers Sonya Galvan.

Over the years, their original party has morphed into two of the largest events/programs Child Advocates provides for the children: our Annual Holiday Party and the Santa's Wish List program.



Bob Krenzelo and Phil Dyson of Enterprise drop off toys from their city-wide toy drive.

The 2008 Holiday Party – held at the Westin Galleria Grand Ballroom this year for the first time! – spread holiday cheer to over 750 attendees thanks to event sponsor Enterprise and the efforts of hundreds of volunteers.

In the gift-giving department, more than 250 individuals, groups and corporations fulfilled the "wish lists" of 1,247 of the children we serve through the 2008 Santa's Wish List program. A whopping 20,000+ square-feet of warehouse space was donated by Steve Gibson and Paul Hobby, making it easy for our many "elves" to drop-off, sort and temporarily store all of the gifts.

Several years ago, the Lakes of Parkway Women's Club came up with the creative idea to make stockings the children would receive in addition to their sponsored gifts. We are so fortunate that, since then, they have continued to champion this project. The following groups and individuals were also instrumental in ensuring that EACH child got a stocking in 2008: Girl Scout Troop #18104, Mary Kae and Katie Quackenbush, Carol Ann Macdonald, Cheryl Brady, Susan and Audrey Daniel, the National Charity League West Houston Chapter and St. Martin's Episcopal Church.

Additional holiday season angels included: Two Men and a Truck for their donation of moving services; Richard Filip, Lynette Barnett and Celia Lozenski for the use of a RE/MAX van for picking up toy

drive items; Brandon Boone donating the use of a truck from his fleet; Tony Terwilliger and Spectrum for the donation of tables and chairs for the warehouse and United Access for allowing us the use of their hydraulic lift. Many, many thanks to all!



The Donnell family sponsored one child of like-age for each of their five sons.

Focus on the Friends

FRIENDS OF CHILD ADVOCATES

ANGELS OF HOPE LUNCHEON

Very few of Houston's fashionistas missed the 2008 *Angels of Hope Luncheon and Fashion Presentation* by Neiman Marcus held at the Westin Galleria Grand Ballroom in December. The crowd, in excess of 630 movers-and-shakers, joined co-chairs Anita O'Shaughnessy and Cathy Fitzpatrick Cleary to help honor long-time Child Advocates volunteer Nancy Thorington.

Over the last ten years Neiman Marcus has brought in only top-notch fashion designers to benefit Harris County's abused and neglected children through this event. This year was no different with the FENDI 2009 Spring Collection against the replicated stage and backdrop from the New York FENDI show. Each attendee received their own luncheon favor, a bottle of FENDI Palazzo fragrance.

As we enter our 25th year it seems only fitting to reflect on how our Friends of Child Advocates Luncheon and Style Show began. Our earliest records show that in the Fall of 1991 a luncheon/fashion show was held at the Jr. League. Friends Directors at Large, Linda Evans and Kathy O'Neil co-chaired the event, with Etui' presenting the fashions. The growth is apparent: the 1991 event boasted about 260 attendees and raised \$45,000 while the 2008 event brought in \$300,000 thanks to the 630 lovely ladies (and gentlemen!) in attendance. Talk about coming a long way, baby!

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL

The Friends of Child Advocates kicked off their membership year with thoughts of the silver anniversary in mind. Child Advocates founder Marty Braniff, was the guest speaker at the February 26 evening event. Braniff shared what prompted her and two friends to start the organization and how and why the Friends of Child

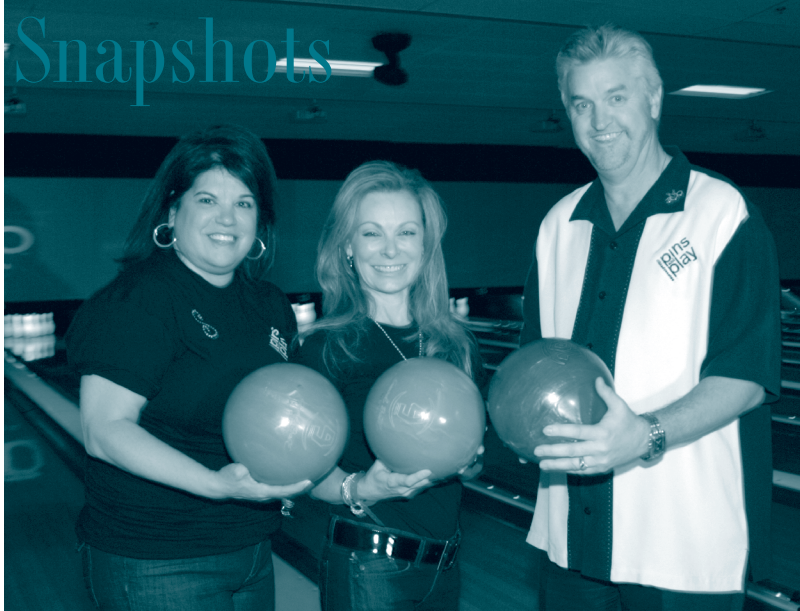


Child Advocates Founder Marty Braniff with Debbie Weil and Shirley Dimmig at the Friends Social in February.

Advocates were formed a few years later. Co-chairs Elisabeth McCabe and Caroline Finkelstein, who opened her River Oaks home to the group, were thrilled with the impressive attendance.

Many, many thanks to in-kind donors *Something Special in Flowers*, *BevCo International*, *Whole Foods Markets - Kirby* and *Tiny Boxwoods*.

Snapshots



Child Advocates CEO Sonya Galvan, Page Parkes-Eveleth and Paul Barkley of 300 show off their form at the Pins and Play event.



Team Child Advocates members Kyle, Kendall and Kelly celebrate after Running for a Reason in January's Chevron Houston Marathon.



One of hundreds of event volunteers paints the fingernails of a young attendee in the "Ginger's Spa" area of the Holiday Party in November.

Voices

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

PAT MORRISON

COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE FROM 1989 TO 1996



"Seeing first-hand the situations of so many children changed my life tremendously. Absent were the carefree experiences of most children's lives. As a court appointed advocate volunteer, I was very determined to bring some normalcy to their lives – to see a light in their eyes. Working with abused children helped me decide to continue to work with children, especially those with special needs. My training with Child Advocates has given me a special insight and sensitivity toward the children I work with today."

PATRICIA AND EUGENE BRAMS

COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATES FROM 1984 TO 1988



"Our experience with Child Advocates provided insights into a variety of family circumstances where the future of children had to be decided by the courts. Recently, we met a child we had helped 18 years ago. She is now a happily married mother. Serving as court appointed advocates was our opportunity to practice what we believe,

that the world would be a better place if everyone cared for each other. Through Child Advocates, we gained the lasting satisfaction of knowing we could make a meaningful difference for others."

CAROL APPELBAUM

COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE FROM 1987 TO 2007



"To say that serving as a court appointed advocate made a difference in my life would be a gross understatement. In fact, working with children in abusive and otherwise detrimental situations is one of the biggest parts of my life to this day. I remember every single child I worked with through Child Advocates. I can't remember where I put my keys sometimes, but I

remember those children. Their names, faces and stories are engraved on my heart."

Donor Spotlight

25 YEARS OF FOUNDATION SUPPORT

As is the case for any non-profit, it is essential for Child Advocates to acquire financial resources in our efforts to provide services to abused and neglected children in the Houston community.

Currently, we have relationships with and receive funding from more than 60 foundations each year. Although developing those relationships took time, our quest has been aided by the increased knowledge of our mission and accomplishments among the Houston community.

EARLY SUPPORT

Imagine then, the challenge our founders must have had reaching out to foundations, who are hearing about our work for the first time. It is amazing to think that back in our earliest years, three foundations believed in our mission enough to see its potential and incredibly still support us today.

These foundations include the **Louis K. Brandt Foundation** (first gift 1984), the **Strake Foundation** (first gift 1985), and the **Brown Foundation** (first gift 1986). The total amount donated by these three foundations since 1984 is over \$1 million dollars! We cannot begin to express our appreciation for those foundations that saw the need for our services and had faith in our mission, back when no one knew our name.

RECENT ADDITIONS

While we are proud that many of the same foundations donate to Child Advocates year after year, we are always striving to introduce new foundations to our mission.

One particular foundation that made their first donation in 2007 was the the **Janey and Melvin Lack Charitable Fund**. Although the Lack family fund is not a large foundation, they are diligent in how they dispense their funds. Their children and in-laws research and nominate deserving causes to receive a gift. As a result, their daughter-in-law, Cinda, who has been a dedicated court appointed advocate volunteer since 2007, and her husband Jeff

Lack, nominated us and we were selected in both 2007 and 2008. In just two years, the Lack Charitable Fund has donated enough money to serve over 32 children. Thank you for being one of the newest members of the Child Advocates family.



Thanks Donors

The donors listed below contributed to Child Advocates, Inc. between the months of October 2008 and January 2009, in an amount equal to or greater than the cost of serving one child for four months (\$500). Child Advocates also extends our sincerest appreciation to the 750+ individuals and companies that donated between \$1 and \$499 during this period (totaling more than \$83,000), whom we are unable to list due to space constraints.

29+ children for one year (\$50,000+)

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14-28 children for one year (\$25,000 – \$49,999)

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Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sweeney
Ms. Linda A. Swiatek
Mr. and Mrs. John Sykes
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Taber
Ms. Leslie A. Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Don Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony L. Terwilliger
Ms. Lucinda Thomas
Mrs. Suzanne Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald P. Thurmond
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Tollar
Ms. Lynda L. Transier
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Treadway
Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Turbidy
Mrs. Marie W. Turvey
Mr. and Mrs. Willis M. Upchurch, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Van Hoozer, Jr.
Ms. Victoria A. Varner
Mrs. Michelle Villareal
Ms. Courtney Votaw
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Walker
Mr. and Mrs. Lucius J. Walton
Ms. Kathi E. Warne
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald B. Weeden
Mr. and Mrs. Brian E. Weessies
Mr. Phillip Weinstein
Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Weiss
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Welborn, III
Mr. Marshall T. West
Mr. and Mrs. Travis West
Mr. Larry Whyte
Mrs. Margery A. Williams
Ms. Viola L. Wiswell
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Wood
Mr. and Mrs. John Worsham
Ms. Edith Wright
Mr. and Mrs. Jorge Zapata

Doing Something

JUDGE JUDY WARNE

Judge Judy Warne made a special trip to Child Advocates to swear-in our first Advocacy University class of the year – 56 new volunteers! Judge Warne is a fitting representative of the judges that appoint our volunteers to cases each day. Between she and her husband, Judge Doug Warne, we saw 96 appointments last year: almost every case we qualified for. For both courts it was an increase from 2007 – noteworthy because both judges work out of the Courts of Continuing Jurisdiction, an area where we are making strides to grow our awareness and our appointments to cases. Thank you to Judge Warne and all of the judges who participate in our volunteer swear-ins, our trainings and who continue to see the value in appointing us as guardians ad litem.



January AU class with Judge Warne

HESS CORPORATION

Kurt Krier from the HESS Corporation and Project Foxhat approached Child Advocates looking to make a donation. Funds became available because his team had just finished a project and – instead of taking a bonus – he wanted to make a donation to Child Advocates. Due to an interest in supporting educational materials, Kurt was able to secure a donation from HESS Corporation to support a portion of the costs associated with printing our Advocacy University manuals. No matter what the economic climate, Kurt and his team still see the value in donating to charity and, for that, we are extremely grateful.

JENNIFER JAX

Court appointed advocate volunteer Jennifer Jax is giving more than her time and energy to Child Advocates – with the help of her company, JAX Hotdogs, she is making sure we are well-fed too! Jennifer secured the hot dog cart for the November *Sherlock's on the Green* golf tournament, and then personally served up some bun-clad fun for all. Not only were the hotdogs delicious, Jennifer and her crew brought friendly smiles to go with them. Thank you Jennifer, as always, you and those JAX Hotdogs were a big hit!



Jennifer and the JAX Hotdogs crew

YPC Update

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FOR CHILDREN

The Young Professionals for Children have been hard at work orchestrating a stellar line-up of children's events, socials, fundraisers and other activities for the upcoming year.



YPC council member Lindsey Agers decorates cookies at the Holiday Party

YPC EVENT CENTRAL

We kicked off our children's events for the year on the ice at the Houston Aeros hockey game January 18. We had a great turnout as our children rooted the Aeros on to victory against the Lake Erie Monsters. Many of the kids even got to go down on the ice after the second quarter for the "chuck a puck" contest. Fun was had by all! A big 'thank you' to our hardworking YPC Chair, Angie Lapp, for all of her efforts in putting together this event!

March brought Rodeo fever for our "Giddy-Up and Go Buckaroo Bash!" We had real cowboys come teach the kids how to lasso, dancers teach line-dancing and all kinds of fun rodeo games! The older kids especially enjoyed this event, not to mention the pizza and donuts! A special thanks to Louis Smyth, YPC Council member, and Marjorie Evans with Universal Weather and Aviation for coming through as our event underwriter!

BUY US SOME PEANUTS AND CRACKER JACKS!

YPC's first fundraiser of 2009 will take place Friday, April 17 at the Houston Astros game! Tickets will not only include great seats as the Astros take on the Cincinnati Reds, but also drink tickets and happy hour prices at a pre-game social at the Longhorn Cafe! Check our website for more information and to purchase your tickets.

MEMBERS ONLY

Membership co-chairs Lindsey Agers and Kim Hollard rallied old and new YPC members for our February YPC Kick-Off Event. Attendees were filled in on all the changes that will be happening this year, how to join and the many ways they can further their involvement. Everyone left feeling energized and excited for 2009!

We have three more children's events this year, from roller skating fun to a pumpkin party. We're also looking forward to a fundraiser at a winery and several socials throughout the year. Keep your eye out for all we're doing!

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

Special Thanks

ANGELS OF HOPE LUNCHEON

Raffle donors: **Neiman Marcus**, **Stacey Swift** and **FENDI** for the Collector's Edition Baguette Purse; **Momentum Audi / Jared Lang** for a free week in the 2009 Audi A4 2.0 Quattro and partially underwriting our teen girls' table; **Page Parkes Eveleth** for a five day stay at her Lake Austin *Living Waters* home and partially underwriting our teen girls' table; **Ann Armstrong /Four Seasons Resorts** for a three-night stay at the Four Seasons Punta Mita; **Sheri W. Moon Couture** for the 40" sterling and ruby necklace; **Ellie Francisco** for underwriting the raffle cards and tickets

Melissa and Arthur Newbould and **Jeff Birminham/Alliance Graphics | Printing** for underwriting the luncheon collateral package

FENDI for the FENDI *Palazzo* fragrance guest favors

Visible Changes, **Palais Royal**, **Mary Bratton** and **Sephora** for providing new outfits, shoes, hair styling and make up for our teen girls who attended the luncheon

CAR PROS FOR KIDS

Clear Channel Outdoor for space on 25+ billboards.

GS Marketing for designing and printing all of the 2009 *Car Pros for Kids* collateral materials and for providing packaging and delivery to each of the shops.

NAPA for providing filters for the entire program and great prizes for Car Pros donors and shop participant drawings.

Sunny 99.1 for serving as our media sponsor for the 2009 program

Car Pros for Kids auto service providers for participating in the program: Adolf Hoepfl & Son Garage, Aldine Automotive Inc., Auto Answers – Atoscocita, Auto Answers – Katy, Auto Answers – Tomball, Auto Answers – Humble, Auto Answers – League City, Beckwith's Car Care, Christian Brothers – Grand Parkway, Cornerstone Automotive – Dairy Ashford, Cornerstone Automotive – Wilcrest, Excel Automotive Technology, Freedom Automotive Services, Itzy's Auto Service, Kacal's Auto and Truck, Master Car Care, Mac Haik Dodge Chrysler Jeep, Mac Haik Ford, Mak Haik Chevrolet, McGinnis Cadillac/Hummer/Mitsubishi, RMS Auto Care, Scott's Auto Repair & Collision Repair, Specialized Auto Repair, Sullivan's Advanced Auto Care, Village Automotive

ENTERPRISE HOLIDAY PARTY

Courtney Evans / Westin Galleria for generously hosting the Enterprise Holiday Party for our children

Shipley's DoNuts for donating donuts for the volunteers

Chuck Codrington / Whataburger for hundreds of delicious cookies

Coby Crawford for his donation of deejay services

Happenings

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

APRIL

4/5 *Houston Children's Festival, presented by Baker Hughes.* Email childrensfestival@childadvocates.org to volunteer, or www.houstonchildrensfestival.com to sponsor.

11 *Friends Annual Easter Egg Hunt.* Contact marla.endieveri@childadvocates.org or 713-529-1396 x 234.

19/20 *11th Annual Jacob Green Celebrity Golf Tournament.* Visit www.jacobgreencharitygolf.com for details or contact Nicole at nicole.scanlin@childadvocates.org.

MAY

16 *17th Annual Pull for Kids Classic*, honoring El Paso. Contact Nicole at nicole.scanlin@childadvocates.org for sponsorships, volunteering and more details.

Special Thanks CONTINUED

Mary Kay consultants Katherine Gibson and **Kathryn Hopkins**, **Chrysalis Skin Care**, **Roula's Nails** and **Beautique** for the make-up and nail polish used in "Ginger's Spa"

GENERAL

Sonoma Retail Wine Bar & Cafe for providing appetizers for the *Pull for Kids Classic* kick-off event

Littler Mendelson for donating seven IBM Thinkpad computers

Houston Corporate Paralegal Association for diapers and arts and craft items for Rachel and Gilbert's Closet

National Charity League – West Houston Chapter for making Valentine's Day treat bags for our kids

Congregation Emanu El's Mitzvah Day volunteers for making and underwriting the cost for birthday party favor bags for our kids

Houston Children's Museum for donating a year-long family pass for one of our families

Aaron Rentals for donating a washer and dryer for a family plus couches and gaming systems for our staff party

Barnum and Bailey for donating circus tickets for several families

Ann Cooper & the Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism for donating kid-designed pillow cases for the children we serve

Ray Biase, **Rick Gianonni** and **PPG Architectural Finishes** for donating paint to the **Chapelwood** home improvement project for one of our families

Board Voice



DON TAYLOR

BOARD MEMBER, 1996 - PRESENT

My involvement with CAI began in 1986 when I audited the financial statements for 1985, the first full year of its operations. Soon after, I became a member of the Advisory Board, a role in which I was able to provide assistance in accounting and financial matters such as

automating the accounting system and in converting to a fund accounting software package.

I recall fondly the early days of Child Advocates when the offices were at the former Chimney Rock Center and the accounting office was essentially a closet. I can remember the original set of books – kept on lined paper in a three-ring binder!

In 1996, I moved to the Board when I was asked to chair the Finance Committee. I have served on the Finance and Development Committees continuously since then and have become a member of the HR Committee as well, of which I currently serve as Chair.

When I think about what it is that has kept me involved with Child Advocates for so long, it's knowing what a difference our volunteers are making in the lives of abused and neglected children. I'm so proud to be associated with the staff and Board of an organization that is as well-respected in the community as Child Advocates.



MIKE VAN HOOZER

BOARD MEMBER, 1992 - PRESENT

2009 marks my 20th year with Child Advocates.

I first became involved in 1989 as a court appointed advocate volunteer and actually started at the same time as current CEO, Sonya Galvan. I took active cases working to impact children's lives

for two years and then received an invitation to join the Development Committee. This opportunity allowed me to meet members of the Board of Directors and allowed me to discover what they were doing to provide the means necessary for our organization to accomplish its goals.

I felt that the time was right to get more involved with the Board and to recruit more professionals to join our cause through their time, talents and resources. I was asked to

(continued)

Board Voice

MIKE VAN HOOZER (continued)

become a member of the Board in 1992 and had the great privilege of joining forces with Beth Harp, who was on staff at the time, to create what is now our Marketing Committee.

We combined the Volunteer Speakers Bureau along with recruitment, training and retention to focus on recruiting the best and most diverse set of volunteers to meet the needs of our children. We also made a concentrated effort to speak to more corporations and associations as well as radio and TV stations to recruit volunteers and sponsors to our cause.

I served as Board Chair in 1996 and assisted with the leadership transition from Marty Braniff, our founder and former CEO, to Sonya. Over the years, I have also helped lead our strategic planning initiatives.

I sometimes feel like the class historian, because I have had the privilege of being involved with so many aspects of Child Advocates for so many years.

My passion to be here is fueled by our mission and the staff and people I volunteer with who serve selflessly every day to impact the lives of abused and neglected children in Harris County.

Board of Directors

2009 Board Chair

Barbara Scott

Chair-Elect

Kenny Baldwin

Executive Committee

Hildegarde Ballard

James Brodnax

Quinton Harp

Nolan Lehmann

David Quackenbush

Brad W. Robbins

Don Taylor

Suzanne Thomas

Nancy Thorington

Board Members

Cecil H. Arnim, III

David Baird

John Binick

Rick Burnett

Board Members (continued)

Mollie Castaneda

Jane Dabney

Kim David

David Davis

Robert Davis

Eddy De Los Santos

Judy Farrell

Terrence Gee

Amanda Hall

Ross LeFevre

Ron Orsini

Page Parkes-Eveleth

James S. Prentice

Mike Preston

Cynthia Sebald

John Storms

Ellie Sweeney

Dolly Dawson Thomas

Lynda Transier

Mike Van Hoozer

Milton West

Spotlight On ...

FORGOTTEN CHILDREN CAMPAIGN

The *Forgotten Children* Campaign, an exciting initiative to build both awareness and revenues for Child Advocates during our 25th anniversary year, will consist of 850 life-sized cut-outs representing children in foster care. Eight-hundred-fifty is the number of children entering foster care in the US *each day*. The initiative will kick-off in April (Child Abuse Prevention Month), and culminate in October at Discovery Green.

Forgotten Children was created by the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association and first unveiled in Washington D.C. with great success. Several programs across the country have brought the awareness-building display to their cities, but Child Advocates will be the first to add a fundraising component.

Our goal is to secure sponsorship for each of the 850 cut-outs. All donors will be invited to assist in setting up the display and to attend both a press conference and culmination event. A necklace tag will be made for each cut-out showing the "name" of the child and the sponsor. To sponsor a "forgotten child" please contact Karim at karim.kafray@childadvocates.org.



PULL FOR KIDS CLASSIC

Since 1992, the *Pull for Kids Classic* has raised over \$5,200,000. It's amazing to see the growth of this event, which at one time consisted of a casual reception after a day of skeet shooting.

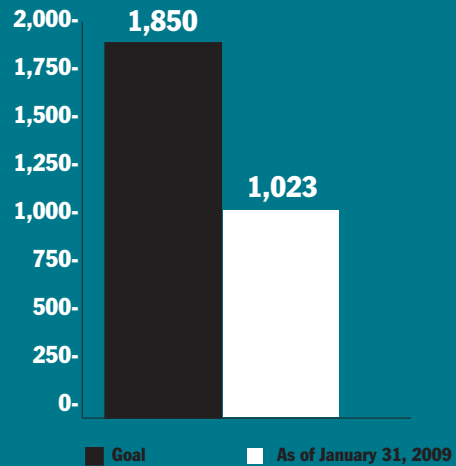
Mark your calendar for May 16, 2009, as we kick off the day with a sporting clays tournament at American Shooting Centers. The evening portion of the event – a casual, yet festive, affair – will once again be held in the Houston Texans Methodist Training Center.

The 2009 event will honor El Paso Corporation, long-time supporter and all-around tremendous partner. Chairs Cathleen and Bob Davis will host our guests at "Studio 25" to "Celebrate Good Times!" Come experience the electric atmosphere – complete with dinner, entertainment, dancing and live and silent auctions. Dust off your go-go boots as we disco the night away!

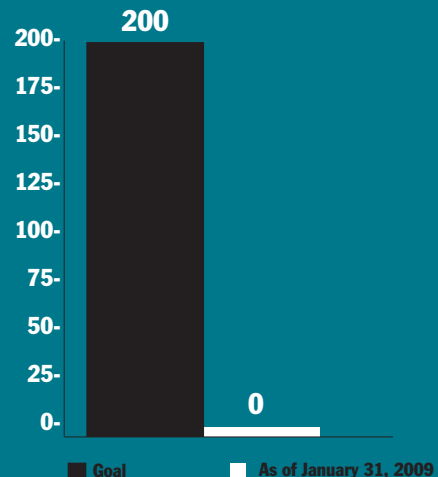
Interested in getting together a shoot team or a group to attend the party? Visit the *Pull for Kids* page on our website calendar or contact Nicole at nicole.scanlin@childadvocates.org.

Goal Review

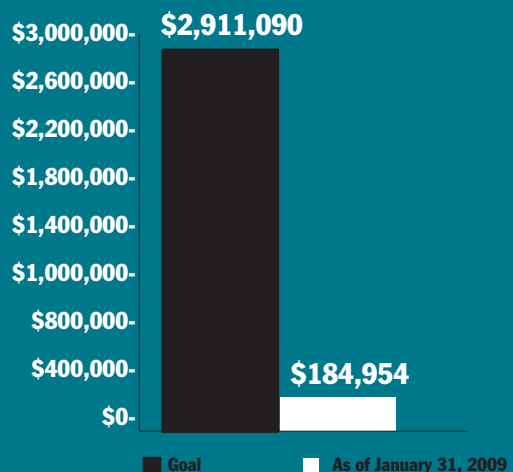
CHILDREN SERVED



VOLUNTEERS TRAINED



ACCRUAL BASIS BUDGET RAISED



Thrive

LOOKING LONG AND HARD FOR THE RIGHT PLACEMENT PAYS OFF FOR COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE JOAN DAVIDSON AND LITTLE KHRISTIAN.

When Khristian was born in the summer of 2006, she was already facing overwhelming circumstances – her mother died of a drug overdose in her first few months of life; her father had reportedly died in an auto accident; and because she was exposed to cocaine before her birth, Khristian needed a breathalyzer for severe asthma and initially suffered residual shakes and crying spells.

Through her research and casework, Joan Davidson found that Khristian was a victim of the “cycle” of child abuse – entire generations of her biological family (including both sets of grandparents and additional relatives) were ruled out as caregivers due to constant involvement with the Department of Family and Protective Services, drugs and long histories of incarceration.

Joan saw to it, that despite Khristian not being placed with a relative, she was placed in a kinship home which suited her needs – a family who knew her biological family through their church. Khristian is currently 2 1/2 and thriving in Louisiana on a huge farm with lots of animals. We received the following from her adoptive mother:

We can honestly say that our court appointed advocate volunteer Mrs. Joan Davidson has a special place in her heart for the case of our little girl. Mrs. Joan came to the visits that we had with our baby, and also all of her hearings. Our baby's case was very complicated, but her court appointed lawyer and Mrs. Joan worked together perfectly and did everything in her best interest. To this day – one year after our daughter Khristian-LeAnne Grace was adopted – Mrs. Joan Davidson still keeps in contact with us; and our daughter knows her as Aunt JoJo. It is wonderful to know that in today's society there are still wonderful people who take their time volunteering to help children that they do not know get a good restart in life. Thank you Child Advocates for allowing us the opportunity to have someone like Mrs. Joan in our lives.

- Bobbie Bailey



Advocate News is published three times annually by Child Advocates, Inc. Dena Miller, Editor Newsletter design by Child Advocates, Inc. Copyright 2009. Published by Child Advocates, Inc. Houston, Texas 77098

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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.