



JJ, Tiffany and Savannah
in December 2008.

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, 2

SUMMER 2009

Family Ties

Tina and Billy Wetzel had gotten their hopes up before. Four times, in fact.

So when they received a call from Tina's sister in 1999 saying she'd heard through another relative's friend that a four-year-old boy needed a "forever home," they approached with caution.

"The grandfather called when he found out Billy and I were interested — and that's when we found out that the little boy actually had two sisters as well," remembers Tina. "He asked me if we wanted JJ; I told him we wanted all three of them."

Earlier that year in Houston, the biological parents of Savannah (5), JJ (4) and Tiffany (2) had their parental rights terminated after severely neglecting all three children and sexually abusing Savannah. The grandparents and several other relatives had been ruled out as possible caregivers due to their own histories — leaving the children available for adoption.

Donna Botrie was their court appointed advocate volunteer through Child Advocates. Since being assigned to the children's case, she had worked tirelessly within the system, coordinating with countless caseworkers, therapists and attorneys to ensure the three children stayed together through eight different foster homes. Although thrilled with the possibility that the children could stay together forever, she remained guarded when Tina and Billy first came from Maryland to meet them.

"I'll never forget being at the CPS offices and Donna coming around the corner with all three children in tow — their bond to her was evident immediately," says Tina. "We all went out to lunch and I remember feeling like she was cross-examining us! Looking back on it now, I can certainly appreciate her intense desire to make sure 'her' kids were going to a good family and a good home."

And that they did. But not without a few hiccups along the way. Several issues regarding contact with the grandparents still needed to be addressed and the children remained in foster care in Texas for what turned out to be a year-long transition.

(continued on next page)

“She was the one person involved in the whole thing that I could call and talk to and actually trust to give me real information.”

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.

Inside

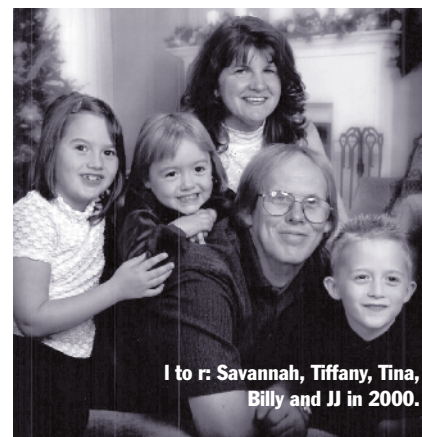
- 4 Focus on the Friends
- 5 Voices
- 6 Thanks Donors
- 8 Doing Something
- 9 Happenings
- 10 Board Voice
- 11 Goal Review
- 12 Thrive

Family Ties **CONTINUED**

“Between the time we met the children and the time all the required paperwork and residual legal proceedings were completed, Donna was my lifeline — I really think she was the reason I was able to stay sane,” remembers Tina. “She was the one person involved in the whole thing that I could call and talk to and actually trust to give me real information — she was amazing.”

Tina credits Donna with always keeping the children ‘number one’ on the priority list, especially as the legalities dragged on with the grandparents. Because the Wetzels hadn’t been in the picture when the children were initially taken into care, they really didn’t have the whole story regarding their past. Donna was able to tell Tina a lot of things that Tina feels now she truly needed to know in order to protect and help her children.

Finally, Savannah, JJ and Tiffany (then 6, 5 and 3, respectively) arrived at their new home in Maryland.



I to r: Savannah, Tiffany, Tina, Billy and JJ in 2000.

“The kids were so happy. I honestly don’t know who was happier, though, them or us,” says Tina. “We spent months just delighting in the opportunity to experience so many ‘firsts’ with them — both for them as kids having a normal, healthy childhood and also for us as a family.”

Nine years later, Tina and Billy continue to juggle their busy household and, according to Tina, there is never a dull moment!

Savannah, now 15, is a typical teenager: rolling her eyes at everything and avoiding summer school with her sheer will; JJ, 14, loves science — he received a special award near the end of the school year — and can’t live without his iPod; and Tiffany, now almost 13, is a laid-back social butterfly who often keeps the peace between her two older siblings.

Only a few things are mandatory in Tina and Billy’s house: homework hour and a family walk (complete with the dog) every weeknight and a movie night each weekend.

Tina is realistic about the emotional scars her children will always have because of what they went through early in their lives.

“We aren’t perfect, but what household with three teenagers is?” she says.

Although on-going therapy and an occasional set-back are facts of life in the Wetzels household, Tina and Billy’s no-nonsense parenting approach allows the children to feel loved and supported while still keeping them moving forward.

“Billy and I just want to turn these kids out into the world to be the best they can be,” says Tina. “Of course they’re going to have some luggage to take with them, but as long as it’s a few bags they can handle, that’s fine.”

Still today, Tina and Donna keep in touch via email and holiday cards and make it a point to talk on the phone a couple times every year.

“The kids know her mostly as an old and very dear friend of the family,” says Tina. “It has been such a long journey and Donna was with us every step of the way — we love her.”

Donna Botrie served abused children as a court appointed advocate volunteer from 1986 to 2003, working on this particular case in 1999 and 2000. She continues to support Child Advocates and the work we do.

From the CEO

Hello all,

Wow — our milestone 25th anniversary year is already half over. They say time flies when you're having fun — we think time definitely flies when you're working at a furious pace for Harris County's abused and neglected children!

October is right around the corner and with it comes an event many of you have heard about already this year — the *Forgotten Children* awareness/fundraising campaign and display, taking place October 21-28 at Discovery Green downtown. Whether you've seen a sampling at one of our recent events or a larger display in another city, I think you'll agree with me that the visual aspect of the campaign — cutouts of 850 children standing together in one area — is a strong reminder to all of us why we do this work.

Even though many who receive the newsletter are able to see or hear the stories about the children we help firsthand, many are not. Last year, right here in Harris County, 4,368 children were placed in foster care, which was higher than any other county in Texas. To have a display like *Forgotten Children* in our community reminds us why an organization like ours is critical to these children's lives and futures.

As much as we'd like it, these are not simply cardboard cutouts; each child in the display represents a real child who needs a court appointed advocate volunteer. A real child like 2-year-old Kyle, who was brought into protective custody after sustaining multiple injuries to different areas of his body at the hands of his mother's boyfriend.

The *Forgotten Children* display is exciting for us not only from a revenue perspective, but because of the awareness we hope it will generate for our cause as well. I want to thank ALL of the volunteers, board members, advisory board members, staff, YPC and Friends who have stepped up to help lead this effort.

On a related subject, we are currently trying to locate a space close to the *Forgotten Children* display for our annual court appointed advocate volunteer appreciation event. Since we hold this event each year in October, we hope to be able to tie it in to *Forgotten Children* in a meaningful way. Please be on the lookout for an email soon with more information about the date.

Thank you all for your on-going support for our mission. I hope to see you very soon.

Warm regards,

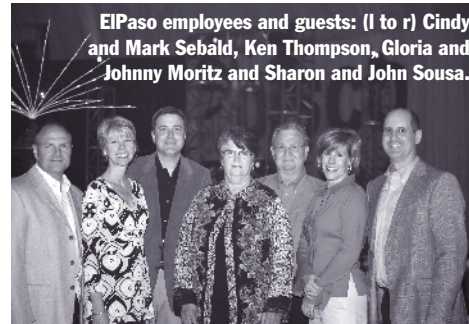
Sonya Gilman

Pull for Kids Classic

“STUDIO 25”: BEYOND THE VELVET ROPE

The 17th Annual Pull for Kids Classic was a blast from the past as partygoers donned their bell bottoms and platform shoes to celebrate a quarter-century of service by Child Advocates volunteers.

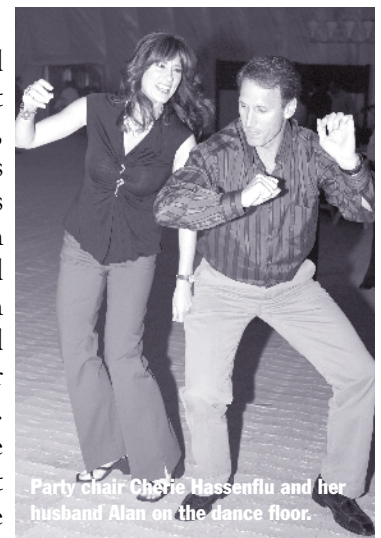
This year's party and sporting clays tournament brought in nearly \$475,000 through sponsorships and auction purchases, enough to provide 210 abused and neglected children with the services of a court appointed advocate volunteer this year.



Event chair Bob Davis deserves a round of applause, along with his committee, including Sheryl and Joel Androphy, Jeff Birmingham, Cherie Hassenflu, Becky Brusen and John Lupomech.

Cool temperatures and breakfast from Shipley Do-nuts greeted more than 250 participants at American Shooting Center, while the second flight of shooters arrived just in time to grab a burger or hot dog courtesy of Baker's Street and Jax Dogs. Once everyone was done for the day, plenty of cold beverages and snacks (thanks to Budweiser/Silver Eagle and H-E-B) made this year's shoot one to remember. Camouflage hats and Child Advocates water bottles also were a hot commodity as folks left to make their way to the evening party.

More than 550 guests packed “Studio 25” (aka the Methodist Training Center) that evening, grooving to the disco favorites spun by DJ Kevin. Dancers soothed their tired soles with stops at the flipbook booth and silent auctions or nibbling on Cordua's seventies-inspired cuisine washed down by their signature Long Island iced tea. A highlight of the night was the flaming Baked Alaska dessert brought out to guests while the DJ played “Burn Baby Burn.”



Eighteen-year-old Cameron Harden kicked off the “Sponsor-a-Child” portion of the live auction after sharing the inspirational story of how his advocate volunteer changed his life. Auctioneer Lynn Spell kept the crowd raising their paddles in the live auction with amazing items including a Hawaiian holiday, a spa retreat, an adorable dachshund puppy, a Grand Cayman getaway and a stay in a Costa Rican penthouse.

Focus on the Friends

FRIENDS OF CHILD ADVOCATES

EASTER EGG HUNT

The third annual Friends Easter Egg Hunt was a success again this April with 49 kids and their foster families. Eight Friends volunteers, including the Easter Bunny of course, led a traditional egg hunt along with a picnic lunch at Jaycee Park. The Junior League graciously provided a basket for each little hunter. Many thanks to co-chairs Susie Hale and Ginger Harris for coordinating another hit event as well as donating the beverages, dessert and candy.



An artist at work at the Friends Egg Hunt.

This year's added activity included Picasso-style self portrait painting for the children with local artist Van McFarland. McFarland incorporated the self-portraits into a 48 x 60" assemblage acrylic

canvas painting that was auctioned at the Pull for Kids party. The painting was purchased by generous supporters Sheryl and Joel Androphy and now hangs in the Child Advocates' training room.

The painting was titled "Sponge Bob and Me" in honor of the smiling yellow square drawn by 10-year-old Lia (name has been changed), who can now look forward to a future as bright as the painting thanks to her Child Advocates volunteer.

ANGELS OF HOPE LUNCHEON AND FASHION PRESENTATION BY NEIMAN MARCUS

The Friends of Child Advocates is thrilled to announce that during our 25th Anniversary year, the Angels of Hope Luncheon and Fashion Presentation by Neiman Marcus will honor McNair family matriarch Janice Suber McNair.

Since their humble beginnings migrating to Houston in 1960, the Robert and Janice McNair family has flourished to prominence in the city's business, sports and philanthropic circles. They have made education and medical research cornerstones of their philanthropic giving, in addition to supporting Child Advocates' mission since 1996. They are founders of the Robert and Janice McNair Foundation and the Houston Texans Foundation in Houston and the Robert and Janice McNair Education Foundation in Forest City, N.C.

The luncheon and fashion style show, scheduled for December 8, will be co-chaired by veteran fundraisers, friends and neighbors Kathy Galt and Pat Osborne. For further information call Marla at 713-529-1396 x 234.

Snapshots



PFK guest speaker, Cameron Harden, a former foster child served by Child Advocates, opening his new laptop computer courtesy of HP.



Chapelwood United Methodist members and Child Advocates volunteers at the recent event thanking Chapelwood for their long-time support.



A little golfer shows her stuff in the Child Advocates and H-E-B Healthy Kids Kingdom at the Houston Children's Festival in April.

Voices

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

LEIGH RAPPOLE COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE FROM 1994 TO 2001



"There was the determined 12-year-old inching her way across the room with a walker the day after serious leg surgery. There were the brave siblings who smiled while boarding the plane for a fresh start with relatives elsewhere. In spite of their problems, the children I worked with were often chatty and engaging, laughing with their siblings or showing me around their school. The courage and resilience of all these children will be with me always. It was a privilege to contribute to the successful efforts that helped them."

MILES HARPER COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE FROM 1989 TO 1995



"I found out about CASA from a friend at CPS that knew of my interest in volunteering in some way for children. I went to the training having no idea at all how our court system worked with children in the CPS system and was just blown away by the conviction that everyone associated with the system had about doing something positive in the lives of these kids who faced so much in the way of hardship. I was assigned

to the case of a nine year old girl who had spent her entire life in the system. Eventually she was placed with family on the East coast and I managed to stay in touch for a while after she left Houston. I have no doubt that if CASA had not gotten involved and been able to help the overworked CPS staffer that locating and placing the child with her family would have taken much longer and might not have ever happened. Her extended family was ecstatic to find her and could not wait to welcome her home. This whole event was such an eye opener to me about the demands on our system of dealing with kids in crisis and how dedicated the staff and volunteers are that try so hard to make a difference. I don't think anyone would say our system is perfect but I know I have met some pretty close to "perfect" staff and volunteers who go out every day striving for one goal – to make a difference."

Donor Spotlight

25 YEARS OF CORPORATE SUPPORT

Child Advocates owes much of its success over the past 25 years to the tremendous support we have received from Houston's business community. From sponsoring major fundraisers and annual events for our children to allowing shoppers to donate a portion of their purchases to our program, corporations have played a key role in our efforts to serve the area's neediest youngsters.

EARLY SUPPORTERS STILL SUPPORTING TODAY

One of our earliest corporate gifts came from **Shell Oil Company**, which donated \$600 shortly after our founding to help print volunteer training manuals. The former **Compaq Computer Corporation** (now **Hewlett-Packard**) also was an early supporter, donating dozens of computers and other equipment to help us better track our children, train our volunteers and correspond with judges, attorneys and CPS caseworkers. Most recently, HP has provided technology upgrades and a new laptop for one of our children who is an aspiring writer.

Both companies supported this year's Pull for Kids, along with many other businesses. Now in its 17th year, the annual clay shoot and evening party have brought in more than \$5.7 million. Corporations represent the majority of sponsorships.

Many businesses also have supported our work by sponsoring the Houston Children's Festival, which just celebrated its 21st year. Thanks to the early support of companies such as **ExxonMobil**, **Randalls** and **AT&T** (formerly **Southwestern Bell**), the festival has raised nearly \$4 million for Child Advocates. This event could not provide smiles for families without our dedicated corporate sponsors.

RECENT ADDITIONS

We are always delighted to have new corporations express an interest in supporting our mission. Among our more recent corporate supporters are **Aaron Sales & Lease**, which is sponsoring a sibling group for the Forgotten Children display, **Enterprise**, which sponsors our Holiday Party, and **Target** and **Cameron Corporation**, which make it possible for hundreds of children to go back to school with brand new clothes.

With more than 25 percent of our overall support coming from companies, we are so thankful to the many tenured and new businesses that donate money and their employees' time, especially in this tough economy.



Thanks Donors

The donors listed below contributed to Child Advocates, Inc. between the months of February and May 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 349 individuals and companies that donated between \$1 and \$129 during this period (totaling more than \$20,500), whom we are unable to list due to space constraints.

58+ CHILDREN FOR ONE YEAR

Swalm Foundation

29-57 CHILDREN FOR ONE YEAR

Child Advocates Endowment, Inc
Texas CASA, Inc.
Victims of Crime Act

14-28 CHILDREN FOR ONE YEAR

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Davis
El Paso
John P. McGovern Foundation
National CASA Association
Rockwell Fund, Inc.

6-13 CHILDREN FOR ONE YEAR

Auto Answers
Berg & Androphy
Cameron Corporation
Chapelwood United Methodist Church
Mr. and Mrs. Trey D. Cook
Harris County Community Services Dept.
Albert & Ethel Herstein Charitable Foundation
Republic Waste Services of Texas
RMS Auto Care, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Scott
Shell Oil Company
Silver Eagle Distributors, L.P.
Sterling-Turner Foundation
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Thomas

3-5 CHILDREN FOR ONE YEAR

Accenture
AMF Bowling Centers, Inc.
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
Mr. Bryan Boyer
Mr. and Mrs. Scott C. David
Mr. and Ms. William J. Gardiner
HESS Corporation
MAXIMUS Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. William Maxwell
Miller Brewing Company
Newfield Exploration Company
Plains Exploration & Production Company
The Prentice Foundation
Fayez Sarofim & Company
The Kiwanis Foundation of Houston
The M.A.D. Agency
Theta Charity Antiques Show
Mr. and Mrs. Curt Webb
Westside Lexus
Anne & Henry Zarrow Foundation

ONE CHILD FOR 6 MONTHS - ONE YEAR

The Active Network
Adolf Hoepfl & Son Garage
Andrews Kurth LLP
Mr. and Mrs. Joel Androphy
Dr. and Mrs. Melvyn A. Anhalt
Anheuser-Busch, Inc.
Apache Corporation
Mr. and Mrs. David L. Baird, Jr.
Baker Alloy and Metal Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Baldwin
Mr. and Mrs. Barry H. Ballard
Bank of America
Mr. and Mrs. David Batey
Beck Redden & Secrest
Mr. James Bennett
BP Fabric of America Fund
Mr. James D. Brodnax
Mr. and Mrs. Steven B. Brown

Mr. and Mrs. William N. Burke
Dr. Michelina Cairo
In Honor of Advocate Volunteers
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Castaneda
Ms. Amanda Chambers
Chase Bank
Mr. John M. Cheesman
Chevron
City of Houston (Combined Campaign)
Mr. Travis Cook
Cornerstone Automotive - Dairy Ashford
Mr. and Mrs. Michael B. Davidson
Davis Hamilton Jackson and Associates
Mr. Cyrus Davoudi
Mr. and Mrs. Alistair Dawson
Mr. John T. Elzner
Ernst & Young LLP
ExxonMobil
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Farrell
First Southwest
Mr. and Mrs. Gary L. Forbes
Freedom Automotive Services, Inc.
Fullbright & Jaworski L.L.P.
Gibbs & Bruns, LLP
Goldman, Sachs & Company
Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau
Greenberg Traurig LLP
Mr. and Mrs. Michael L. Grove
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gruen
Gulf Coast Combined Federal Campaign
Halliburton
Hard Rock Cafe
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Hassenflu
Mr. and Mrs. James Horsch
Houston Junior Woman's Club
Ms. Sherry Hughes
Mr. Jerry Hyde
Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne L. Hyzak
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Joekel
Mr. and Mrs. Carl M. Johnson
Mr. Gary Johnson
The Junior League of Houston
Mr. George W. Kaley
Mr. Duane C. King and
Mrs. Carmen Delgado
Mrs. Karen Klucznik
KPMG LLP
Ladies on the Move Social and Charity Club
LD Systems, Inc.
Lighthouse Document Solutions
Mach International
Main Street Capital Partners, LLC
Master Auto Service, Inc.
McGinnis Cadillac/Hummer/Mitsubishi
Memorial City Bank
Microsoft
Mischer Investments, L.P.
Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated
Mrs. Michelle Mouton
Ms. Linda C. Murray
Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Nelson
Mr. Mark Plotkin
Mrs. Phyllis Prange
Ms. Shemin Proctor
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pylant
Mr. and Mrs. David Quackenbush
Quanta Services, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. David Rains
Randall Thomas Group/Morgan Stanley
RBC Wealth Management
Rusk County Children Advocacy Center
Salners Family Foundation
Schulte Charitable Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Reagan Sirmons
Mr. Reagan Sirmons, Jr.
Spark Energy
Specialized Auto Repair
State Employee Charitable Campaign
Ms. Lori A. Stewart
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Storms
Mr. David Strobbe
Sullivan's Advanced Auto Care
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sweeney
Sysco Corporation
Target
Texas Capital Bank
Texas Children's Hospital
The Arena Foundation
The Student Bar Association
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Thorington
Ms. Lynda L. Transier
Mr. Philip A. Tuttle
UHY Advisors TX, LLC
USI Southwest
Vinson & Elkins, L.L.P.
Mr. Johnny B. Walker
Watson Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Weill
Weinstein Spira & Company, P.C.
Mr. Keith Williams
Mr. John Wilson
John L. Wortham & Son, L.P.
Mr. Bob Zorich

ONE CHILD FOR 3 - 6 MONTHS

ABC Pest Pool & Lawn Services
American Express (Employee Giving
Matching Gifts)
Mr. and Mrs. Peter K. Bott
Mr. and Mrs. Josh Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Burnett
Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Chevalier
Mr. Ron Cook
Cornerstone Automotive - Wilcrest
Mrs. Kameron Craft
Customs Cookers
Mr. Brian Davis
Mr. and Mrs. William Dore
Excel Automotive Technology
Mr. Bobby Fredrick
Mr. Gilbert Garcia
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Guerin
Mr. and Mrs. George Harsh
Mrs. and Mr. Kelly Hewett
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Holcombe
Ms. Layneigha Holland
Mrs. Joni Honn
Dr. and Mrs. C. R. Hoopingarnier
The Houston Chronicle
Itzy's Auto Repair Service
Mr. Don Jackson
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jenkins
Mr. William Johnson
Mr. Gary W. Junek
Kacal's Auto & Truck Service
Mrs. Elizabeth Keeler
Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Lehmann
Ms. Christine Locke
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Lohman
Mac Haik Dodge Chrysler Jeep
Mr. Gordon Menard
Merrill Lynch & Company
Ms. Renee Miles
Mr. Gifford Nielsen
Mrs. Bernice Norris
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald T. O'Keefe

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Orsini
Mr. Mark Paling
Mrs. Kathleen Pluchinsky
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Powell
Mr. and Mrs. James S. Prentice
Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Preston
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Raspino
Mr. Rodney Reed
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Rogers
Mr. Mark Romanchock
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Rubbo
Mr. Scott Santana
Mrs. and Mr. Mary S. Scott
Scott's Auto Repair and Collision Center
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Shelsy
Ms. Cathy Stubbs
Mr. and Mrs. Chris R. Synek
Mr. Michael Taff
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey A. Thomas
Mrs. Suzanne Thomas
Mr. Kenneth Thompson
Universal Weather & Aviation, Inc.
Ms. Victoria A. Varner
Village Automotive, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wahrlich
Mrs. Amy Walsh
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Washburn
Mr. John Watson
Wellesley Information Services, LLC
Mr. Brad Williams
Mr. and Mrs. David Zaozirny

ONE CHILD FOR 1 - 3 MONTHS

Aldine Automotive Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene R. Allspach
Ms. Katherine Bailey
Mr. Joe Baraban
Ms. Karen Bowden
Ms. Cathy Burkell
Ms. Hannah Bushe
Mr. David Casares
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Chovanec
Mr. Garrett Cook
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Dabney
Mr. and Mrs. Eddy L. De Los Santos
First Unitarian Universalist Church
of Houston
Ms. Elvira Fuentes
Ms. Katrina Griffith
Ms. Ursula Hall
Mr. Elsa Hamilton
Ms. Claudia Helmkamp
Judge and Mrs. Lynn N. Hughes
Mrs. Patricia Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Scott L. Jones
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Keplinger
Mr. Kevin Kulish
Mr. and Mrs. Ross LeFevre
Ms. Renee Marrou
Mr. Lucious McDaniel
Ms. Christine McMillan
Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Morris
Ms. Cheri A. Muenchausen
Mr. Ryan Murphy
Dr. Bonnie A. New
Mr. Patrick O'Connell
Mr. and Mrs. Nick Payne
Mr. and Mrs. William Perkins
Mr. Robert D. Ulrich and
Ms. June R. Russell
Safeway, Inc.
Mr. George Saltsman
Ms. Marie Scanlin

Thanks Donors

Since we are not a United Way Agency, we rely on gifts made by individuals and non-governmental groups for more than 75% of our budget each year. Thank you for your help, it is truly appreciated.

Ms. Kristi Sorrels
Mr. John Sousa
Ms. Celina Q. Stabell
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sweet
Texas Apartment Association
Ms. Katy Traywick
Rusty Waldrup

ONE CHILD FOR ONE MONTH

AT&T
Mr. Jerome M. Austin
Mr. and Ms. Chris Beck
Beckwith's Automotive
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Black
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Bratton
Mr. Adan Briones
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Brown
Mr. Will Burdine
Mr. Alejandro Capetillo
Mr. Stan Conly
Ms. Patsy Cravens
Mr. and Mrs. Tom DeGeorgio
Mr. David Drew
Ms. Heather Dunn
Mr. Dick Eicher
Mr. Michael Galvan and Ms. Janell Zeug
Mr. and Mrs. Terrence M. Gee
Give with Liberty
Mr. and Mrs. Luke Gottschalk
Mr. Carey F. Graham
Mr. and Mrs. Quinton O. Harp
Houston Marathon Committee
IBM
Mr. Coley Jones
Ms. Christine Jost
Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Kaminski
Mr. Greg Karp
Mr. Kemp Maer
Ms. Sharon W. Maguire
Ms. Caroline S. Marciano
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Marvin
Mr. William Maslin
Ms. Elizabeth P. Munson
Mr. Khoi Nguyen
Mr. Urban F. O'Brien, III
Mr. Rich Orr
Page.713 Model & Talent Agency
Mr. Daniel Paling
Points of Light Foundation
Ms. Franelle Rogers
Mr. and Mrs. David Rowland
Ms. Sally Russ
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Sabatier
Ms. Jill Sewell
Mr. Brent Southwell
Mr. and Mrs. James Stewart
Ms. Regina Tario
The Storybook Cottage
Ms. Valerie Tomczak
United Way of Tri-State
Mr. Christopher Vasquez
Mr. Neil Wasserstrom
Ms. Sherry Williams
Mr. Richard Wills
Mrs. Suzanne Winkler

25 FOR 25

Rex Adams
Elva Akin
Jerry Alexander
Julie Alexander
Jack Alpert
Michael Alsup

Iris Androphy
Leonard Androphy
Sheryl Androphy
Allison Atherton
Al Austin
Barbara Baker
Robert Baldwin
Kenny Baldwin
Hildegard Ballard
Chawla Bandana
Kauffman Barbara
Davis Barbara
Debra Billingsley
Berne Black
Kathleen Blanchard
Craig Blevins
Stephanie Brewster
James Brodnax
Terri Broussard
Orelessa Brown
Lanie Brown
Betty Burns
Angelin Butler
Charles Butler
Bertha Cabello
Angela Calrke
Nancy Campbell
David Carlson
Alice Carrel
Charles Comiskey
Rhonda Chuter
Deborah Clark
Alice Clarke
Dennis Cohan
Katherine Courtney-Hall
Diana Cox
Jill Cude
Jane Dabney
Kevin Daubendiek
Joan Davidson
Sally de la Haye
Eddy De Los Santos
Carlo Dechiro
Christina Diaz
Anita Dickenson
Jim Ducker
Rachel Dumas
Roxanne Durham
Lisa Ellovich
Charlotte Ewart
Jeanie Eymontt
Eric Fitzgerald
Barbara Fitzgerald
Kathleen Fitzgerald
Sonya Galvan
James Gilligan
Claudia Gonzalez
Kenny Grace
Sandra Green
Sandi Greenstone
Paula Guzman
Frances Hall
Paula Hansen
Patricia Harris
Cherie Hassenflu
Mark Heeg
William Hightower
Ann Hill
Richard Hipp
Layneigha Holland
Sanny Sue Holland Hoffman
Brad Hollingsworth
Virginia Hoops

James Humphrey
Ronald Humphrey
Suzanne Jennings
Jamie Johnson
Kenneth Johnson
Karen Jenkins
Lilian Kaye
Ellen and Ron Kerman
Jennifer Klontz
Heather Koogler
Genie Landon
Arne Larsen
Patricia Lawrence
Linda Laws
David Lemcke
Tracy Letzerich
Vivian Levitt
Tara Lightsey
Sam Listi
Valerie Manis
Barbara Manouso
Linda McCarty
J Mace Meeks
Sharon Mekic
Alison Meyers
Ahmad Mian
Emily Mills
Daylin Mitchell
Nancy Mizner
Dwannah Montgomery
Julie Montgomery
Barbara Moore
Gloria Moritz
Kemper Morse
Larry Mumphrey
James and Jane Munoz
Richard Myers
Brett Nann
Jacqueline Nyman
Ann Ollo
Marie Olsen
Scott Patterson
Kip Patterson
Cora Pendergrass
Johnnie Pennie
Laura Phillips
Jim Prentice
David Quackenbush
Gloria Quackenbush
Dorian Raith
Diane Rawlings
Victoria Rice
Brad Robbins
Mark Sager
Beth Sams
Kellie Sams
Barbara Scott
Shade Shop, Inc.
Marlene Shields
Darryl Shields
Suzanne Shields
Jordana Slawin
Angela Smith
Smitty Snodgrass
Jill Solis
Sinthia Sonnier
Eugene Sonnier
Naomi Stearns
Joyce M Steensrud
Peters Stephen
Jeanie Stoller
Lisa Strauser
Donald Taylor

Talitha Taylor
Christina Thompson
Kathryn Thompson
Nancy Thorington
David Tobin
Allison Trum
Lydia Valadez
Mike Van Hoozer
Terry Otero Vilardo
Courtney Votaw
Judith Walker
Jill & Neil Wasserstrom
Emily Weinstein
Randy Willis
Janie Wilson
Mary Wisnoski
Judy & Ronnie Yambra

FORGOTTEN CHILDREN

Sibling Group Sponsors
James Brodnax
Donne di Domani Association
Mark Heeg

Child for a Year Sponsors

David Baird
Susan Dudley
Terrence Gee
David Quackenbush
Royal Purple
Barbara Scott
Suzanne Thomas
Lynda Transier
Blake Young

In Honor of a Child Display Sponsors

El Paso Corporation
Caroline Finkelstein
Ellie Francisco
Jeffrey Harfenist
Hitachi Foundation
Sanny Sue Holland Hoffman
Kappa Delta Alumnae Association
Yvonne Moran
Ronald Orsini
Robert D. Colvin & Associates
Cynthia Sebald
Wells Fargo
Thomas Wilson
Barbara Woolhandler

Forgotten Children Supporters

Kristin Allen
Bobette Bisbee
Kevin Jordan
Patti Keplinger
Laura Lasco
Nolan Lehmann
Haran Levy
Judith Lupo
David Massin
Gloria Moritz
Amanda Nathan
Tina Nguyen
Jett Petit
Paul Rodney
Monica Romero
Silver Eagle Distributors
Andrew Stackel
Leslie Taylor
Kenneth Thompson
Ron Vollmar
Lawrence Whyte
Arline Worsham

Doing Something

OUR CAI "POLICY PACK"

Over the past two years, numerous volunteers have visited elected officials to thank them for their support and explain the need for more advocate volunteers. Larry Whyte, Debbie Beakley, Sindi Sonnier, Maureen Holcombe and Julia Harnsberry-Davis set up and participated in meetings with Rep. John Davis, Rep. Sylvester Turner, Sen. John Whitmire, and City Councilman Mike Sullivan. Additionally, Hank Garcia testified in Austin before the House Human Services committee on the need for kinship caregiver funding. Collectively, their efforts and the efforts of other volunteers across Texas made a huge impact that will allow more children to have a court appointed advocate in the future.

MS. KENDALL QUACKENBUSH

She may be only 11 years old, but she's already proving to be quite an effective voice in breaking the cycle of child abuse.



Kendall Quackenbush

Kendall, daughter of Board Member David Quackenbush, chose Child Advocates and the plight of abused and neglected children as the subject of her 5th-grade paper earlier this year. In her own words, "the volunteers do so much ... and we need your help!" In addition, Kendall's Girl Scout troop has made stockings for our kids at Christmas for the past two years. We can't wait until you're old enough to

become a court appointed advocate, Kendall, but until then — keep up the good work!

CAMP PINE TREE

YMCA's Camp Pine Tree will host 12 of the children we serve this summer thanks to a now three-year relationship forged originally by former court appointed advocate volunteer Haskell Hart. Camp Pine Tree awards scholarships to several of our 6-10 year-olds so that they may have the quintessential "sleep-away camp" experience.

DR. ROBERT McLAUGHLIN

Dr. Robert J. McLaughlin, Ph.D., CGP, LSOTP is the Co-Director of ADAPT Counseling and has been a long-time friend to Child Advocates, speaking at one of our luncheons, assisting with our longitudinal study and teaching several of our Advocacy University Grad School classes including "Juvenile Sex Offenders," "Child Development," and most recently "Child and Adolescent Precursors of Sexual Behavior Problems." Thank you Dr. McLaughlin for believing so passionately in what our advocates do and lending your time and talents whenever we ask.

YPC Update

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FOR CHILDREN

Young Professionals for Children has already accomplished so much in just the first half of the year! We've had FOUR Children's Events, three socials and two fundraising events!

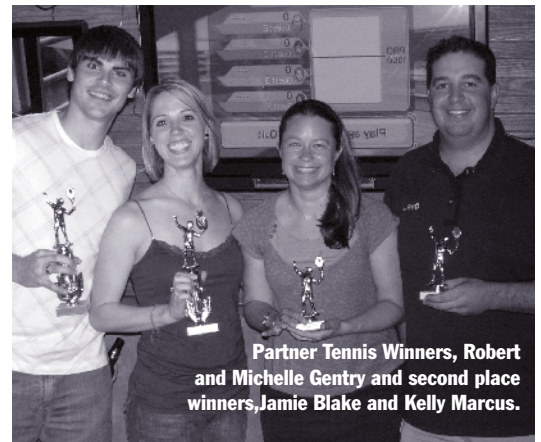
RECENT YPC EVENTS FOR THE KIDS

In May, AD Players of Houston performed a theatrical production of Charlotte's Web, and the children had a blast! Chick-Fil-A was provided after the show as the children got to meet the cast of Wilbur, Charlotte, and all the other farm animals! Thanks AD Players for donating your time and talents to our children!

Perhaps the favorite of children and volunteers thus far was our Roller Skating Children's Event! On July 11, we had a great turnout at Dairy Ashford Roller Rink. The older kids especially enjoyed this event, and put our YPC volunteers to the test during the Hokey Pokey on roller skates! Special thanks to Amanda Hall for organizing an amazing event.

Wii, Wii, Wii ALL THE WAY HOME ...

Many YPCers got their game on at Bubba's Bar and Grill for the YPC Wii Tournament in June. Competitors played singles tennis, singles bowling and/or partner tennis. Bubba's generously provided chips and queso along with donating 10% of all purchased food and drinks to YPC! Spectators and participants had a great time cheering for their friends, playing against one another and winning trophies! A BIG thank you to Kelly Marcus and Jamie Blake for organizing this tournament and to Bubba's for hosting us!



Partner Tennis Winners, Robert and Michelle Gentry and second place winners, Jamie Blake and Kelly Marcus.

GET INVOLVED!

Know of a company, organization or group that may be interested in hearing about Child Advocates? Please let us know! Contact Kendall Pace at kendall.pace@childadvocates.org. We'd love to get your friends involved!

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!

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

Alliance Graphics | Printing for donating the printing and design for the entire suite of *Pull for Kids* printed materials including save-the-date, underwriter packets, invitations and programs

David L. Baird for donating two Rodeo Uncorked tickets

Kenny Baldwin for donating tickets to several Rice University and Astros baseball games

Bevco International, LLC for donating three cases of wine for the Friends of Child Advocates Membership Social

Brandon Boone for underwriting the cost of the tables and chairs for the Friends of Child Advocates Egg Hunt

Christina Gilstrap for donating an assortment of girls clothing to Gilbert and Rachel's Closet

Susie Hale and **Ginger Harris** for donating beverages, dessert and candy for the Friends of Child Advocates Egg Hunt

Julie Handel for donating 60 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies for the Friends of Child Advocates Egg Hunt

Hilton Houston Post Oak for donating a one-night stay for our *Pull for Kids* special guest — former foster child Cameron Harden and his mom

Michelle Hundley for arranging the generous donation of helium tanks and helium from Air Products and AirGas so that we were able to give balloons to so many children at the Houston Children's Festival

Van McFarland for donating his time to help our kids get in touch with their inner artists at the Friends of Child Advocates Egg Hunt and turning their work into a masterpiece for the *Pull for Kids* auction

Laura Lasco for donating plenty of wine and delicious food for the *Forgotten Children* kick-off party at The Tasting Room

Kyle V. Mylius of **Bridgeway Capital Management** for donating dozens of cuddly teddy bears and baby items to Gilbert and Rachel's Closet

Shell Oil Company for donating 50 Houston Zoo guest tickets for the children and families we serve

Suzie Thomas for helping us secure a half-price Rodeo Carnival Jumbo Pack for the children and families we serve

Tiny Boxwoods for donating food for the Friends of Child Advocates Membership Social

Mike Van Hoozer for donating his time to speak to the staff about leadership and his book *Moments: Making Your Life Count For What Matters Most*

Happenings

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

AUGUST

8 *Advocacy University begins.* Sign up now for an orientation session to see how you can be the difference in the life of an abused child. www.childadvocates.org

15 *Cameron Childspree.* Cameron is sponsoring this significant event for the fourth year, giving hundreds of children the opportunity to shop with a volunteer for \$100 worth of back-to-school clothing. Email Suzanne for details: suzanne.ronne@childadvocates.org

SEPTEMBER

19 *Advocacy University begins.* Sign up now for an orientation session to see how you can be the difference in the life of an abused child. www.childadvocates.org

OCTOBER

17 *Advocacy University begins.* Sign up now for an orientation session to see how you can be the difference in the life of an abused child. www.childadvocates.org

19 *Sherlock's on the Green.* The British Pub Open golf tournament benefitting CAI. Foursomes: \$700, singles: \$200. Register at <http://www.sherlocksonthegreen.com/registration.asp>. For sponsorship inquiries or registration questions, call 713-464-8167.

21-28 *Forgotten Children.* For one week, 850 life-sized cut-outs — representing the number of children entering foster care in the US each day — will stand on the lawn at Discovery Green Downtown. Our goal is to secure a sponsor for each of the children depicted in the cut-outs.

NOVEMBER

6 *YPC Social.* 6:30 pm, location TBA



The Gift of Themselves

When we say that our staff and volunteers have been “making a difference for abused children for 25 years,” you may not realize that several of these special people have come very close to single-handedly doing just that.

In celebration of our 25th anniversary year, Child Advocates tips our hats to our most tenured volunteers and staff members. You are an inspiration; thank you for everything you have done for 1,343 children in Harris County!



(l to r) Barbara Angeli, Helen Wheatley, Sonya Galvan, Marsha Kistler, Mary Kae Dingler, Chastiti Horne, JoAnn Batey and Smitty Snodgrass.

COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATES

18 years

Smitty Snodgrass

17 years

Bernie Powell

15 years

Janice Dozier-Houston

Rosalinda Flores

Michelle Gershenson

Marsha Kistler

10+ years

Barbara Angeli

JoAnn Batey

Sandra Calloway

Cleo Campbell

Don Campbell

Zack Coapland

Karen Deran

Mary Kae Dingler

Mark Eisenbraun

Stephanie Francis

Georgia Henry

Chastiti Horne

Charlotte Howell

Nicholas Howell

John Krebs

Dan Kullman

Stacy Lord

Deanne Malloy

Bonnie McMillan

John McMillan

Linda Murphy

Suzanne Musgrove

Richard Neyrey

Shephali Perkins

Pamela Powell

Antoinette Romano

Frank Rosie

Ellie Sweeney

Brenda Tolbert

Wanda Williams

9 years

Laurie Boswell

Terry Boykins

Andrew Chu

Kathleen Forde

Dennis Gardner

Katya Glockner-Dow

Michael Griffin

Donna Guient

Renee Kariv

Joan Mandola

Dawn Rodriguez

Helen Ross

Kelly Rucker

Nancy Spencer

Stephanie Viator

STAFF

Kay Anderson, 20 years

Marla Endieveri, 11 years

Sonya Galvan, 20 years

Dody Gwinn, 17 years

Layneigha Holland, 10 years

Suzanne Ronne, 13 years

Betsi Sanchez, 17 years

All-Star Partner

KENYATTA ANDERSON, CPS

Child Advocates salutes CPS caseworker Kenyatta Anderson for her tireless work in the best interest of Harris County's children.

She truly values each child she works with — evidenced by the way she listens, her encouraging attitude and in the respect that she shows to every child. She encourages them all to work hard and never give up on themselves, especially “her” teenagers.

Kenyatta is also a joy to work with — regularly providing information and consistently following up with Child Advocates, the attorneys and all other parties to the case. She is diligent in responding to new ideas in the interest of the child that otherwise may go overlooked.

Being a caseworker is not an easy job, but Kenyatta goes above-and-beyond to get it done!



Kenyatta Anderson

Board of Directors

2009 Board Chair

Barbara Scott

Chair-Elect

Kenny Baldwin

Executive Committee

Hildegard Ballard

James Brodnax

Quinton Harp

Nolan Lehmann

David Quackenbush

Brad W. Robbins

Don Taylor

Suzanne Thomas

Nancy Thorington

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

Board Members

Cecil H. Arnim, III

David Baird

John Binick

Rick Burnett

Spotlight On ...

25 for 25

For \$25, you could fill your car with gas, get a manicure or take a date to the movies. But did you know \$25 could also provide a court appointed advocate to an abused child for a week? Combine that gift with the donations from 25 other people and you could help a child find a safe and permanent home. Together we can make a difference for the 2,500 children waiting for an advocate so they too have a better chance in life. Maybe one day, they will return the favor.

GIVE. PASS IT ON.
252525
FOR 25 FOR 25 FOR 25
BENEFITING CHILD ADVOCATES

In celebration of the volunteers who have served abused children through Child Advocates over the last 25 years, the 25 for 25 campaign hopes to reach as many people as possible who will each make a \$25 donation and ask at least 25 others to do the same. By asking your co-workers, friends and family to donate, you'll help us raise money while increasing awareness of our efforts to end the cycle of child abuse in Houston.

The campaign kicked off in April, during National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and will end this December. Thanks to many generous donations, we've raised more than \$11,000 so far. That's enough to provide six children with a court appointed volunteer for an entire year! For more information and to donate, visit www.childadvocates.org and click on the "25 for 25" link.

CAI STORE

It just got a lot easier to wear your support of Child Advocates on your sleeve. Our newly expanded online store features a host of different Child Advocates products for sale, including hats, golf shirts and coffee cups.

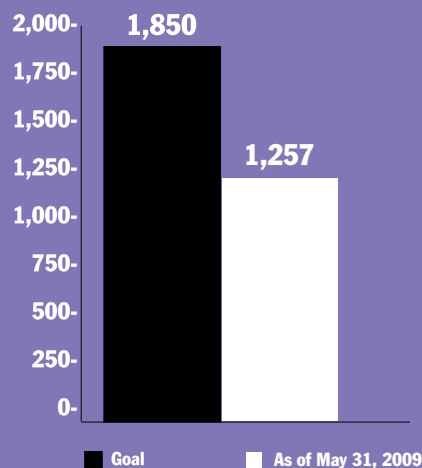
A wide variety of items will be available with multiple colors to choose from. Special this year will even be a few items that bear our 25th anniversary logo. We trust you will find the items of value and high quality, since they will be housed and shipped by one of Houston's prominent locally owned companies, Buffalo Specialties (thanks to Carrie Tollar a long-time Buffalo Specialties employee and CAI volunteer).

We've found that one of our most effective ways to recruit new volunteers and spread the word for additional support is through people like you – our current volunteers and supporters. We hope these items will strike up conversations so you can help us help more children. While we expect to raise more awareness than dollars with this initiative, we do hope it will provide a small financial benefit as well!

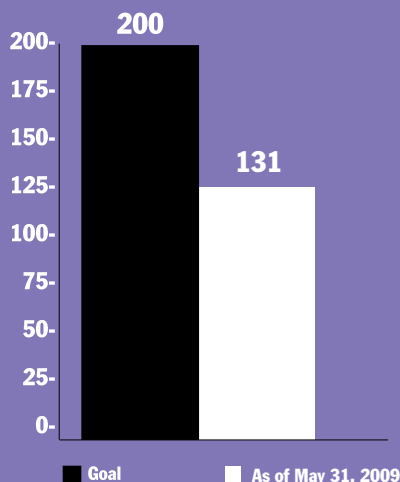
Check it out at www.childadvocates.org and click on "store."

Goal Review

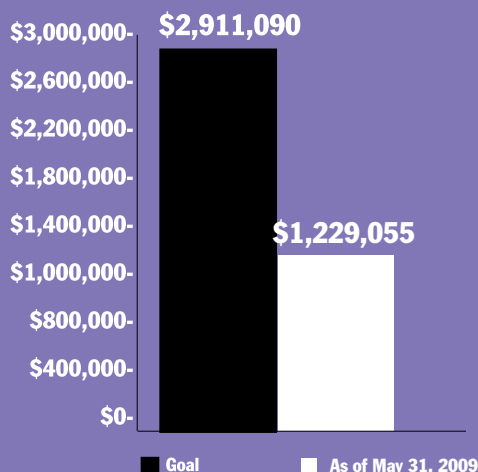
CHILDREN SERVED



VOLUNTEERS TRAINED



ACCRUAL BASIS BUDGET RAISED



12-year-old Monica wrote this note (her foster mother emailed it along with a "perfect attendance" certificate) to court appointed advocate, CJ Ingersoll, when CAI closed the case involving her and her sister.

Dear Ms. CJ,

Thank you for everything. Thank you for our Christmas presents and inviting us to parties. You really helped me, Alissa, and Ms. Thorne out. I'm very sad that you wouldn't be able to see us again. I do hope that we might bump into each other someday. You were very nice.

P.S.
Thank you!!!

Yours truly,
Monica

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

All rights reserved. Any use of materials herein in any form including, but not limited to photocopying, transcribing, excerpting or any print or electronic reproduction for any purpose for any reason without prior written consent of the publisher is strictly prohibited.

CHILD ADVOCATES, INC. IS A MEMBER OF THE TEXAS COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE ASSOCIATION AND THE NATIONAL COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE ASSOCIATION.

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
-PAID-
CHILD ADVOCATES, INC.
PERMIT NO.
06664
HOUSTON, TX



childadvocates²⁵ years
SERVING ABUSED CHILDREN SINCE 1984

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.