



Court appointed advocate Duane King – named 2010 James A. Gwinn Outstanding Volunteer of the Year – with advocacy coordinators Amie Binkley (l) and Lucinda Thomas (r).

Advocate News

HOUSTON'S LEADING VOICE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

CHILD ADVOCATES, INC.

FALL 2010

2010 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year

CHILD ADVOCATES AWARDS HIGHEST HONOR TO COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE DUANE KING

Five-year-old “Michael’s” case is as complicated as they come.

After years of intense treatment for a mitochondrial disease, Michael came into CPS custody unable to walk and needing tubes to eat and to use the bathroom. His medical records were thick with test results, specialists’ reports and stacks and stacks of notes.

So when doctors began to suspect Michael may be a victim of Munchausen syndrome by proxy, it was clear he’d need a court appointed advocate with unequalled diligence, unlimited patience and uncompromising integrity.

He got that and more with Duane King, whose work on Michael’s case and many others over the past eight years earned him Child Advocates’ highest honor — the 2010 James A. Gwinn Award for Outstanding Advocacy — at last month’s Volunteer Appreciation Event.

JAG Award recipients are selected by Child Advocates staff members based on their willingness to serve on difficult cases, thoroughness, diligence, integrity, professionalism, commitment to Child Advocates, ability to communicate and facilitate communication, consistency and dependability.

“Duane exceeds every expectation I have for a court appointed advocate,” says his Advocacy Coordinator, Amie Binkley. “Each time I think he couldn’t possibly be more awesome – he gets more awesome.”

An attorney with Shell and a natural investigator, Duane has an incredible propensity for facts and information. What sets him apart, however, is his ability to not only see all of the pieces and how they fit together, but to organize them in a way that others can see it just as easily.

Take, for example, the timeline he created for Michael’s case.

Almost every case involves a timeline of some kind. They can be very effective tools for organizing information that relates to a child’s situation in an easy-to-understand fashion, especially in court. Some volunteers present a Word document; the ambitious ones often wow us with a PowerPoint. We’ve even seen them drawn out with Sharpie marker on a poster board.

Duane’s timeline for Michael’s case is written out on a roll of five-foot-tall butcher paper. When unfurled it stretches more

(continued on next page)

“In a moment he is contemplative and analytical and in the next, he is on the floor totally engrossed in a rousing game of Candy Land with this little boy.”

In Harris County alone, more than 5,000 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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2010 Volunteer Awards **CONTINUED**

than 30 feet long. He spent hundreds of hours combing through the child’s medical records to create this invaluable visual aid.

“He is unbelievably detailed about every aspect of his child’s life and he focuses on using those details to meet the child’s every need,” says Lucinda Thomas, the Advocacy Coordinator who “borrowed” Duane from Amie for this difficult case.

Munchausen syndrome by proxy is a condition in which a parent deliberately makes his or her child sick or convinces others the child is sick when he really isn’t. While Michael’s case is ongoing, he has made great strides since coming into CPS custody. He no longer has the feeding tubes or ileostomy bag he used to need to eliminate waste. He is also free of all medications and his mitochondrial disease diagnosis has been disproven.

In his eight years as a court appointed advocate, Duane has never shied away from a complicated case. He has actually become a bit of an unofficial difficult-case-specialist! His thoroughness, diligence, integrity and professionalism have become well-known among our staff, CPS caseworkers, attorneys and judges alike and 21 children involved on his nine cases to date can attest to his honest communication style, consistency and dependability.

“Duane is one of the most caring and intentional people I have ever had the privilege of working with and learning from,” adds Lucinda. “In a moment he is contemplative and analytical and in the next, he is on the floor totally engrossed in a rousing game of Candy Land with this little boy.”

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. Congratulations Duane!

COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE KATHY SASSER 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 have been court appointed advocates 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.

Kathy Sasser – after working on her first case for a long 16 months before finally closing it in October – was named *Rookie of the Year* for 2010. During the course of her case, she clocked 928 hours of service – an average of 58 hours per month! Since then, we’ve heard about her exemplary work from pretty much everyone involved:



From her advocacy coordinator: “I had a feeling the day I met her that she was going to be a great Child Advocate. What I didn’t know was how much she would move me with her dedicated passion and how diligently she would work to get the job done at any cost.”

From an attorney ad litem who worked on her case: “She is the BOMB! Nominate her for Rookie of the Year, MVP, the Hobie Baker Award, Roberto Clemente Award, an Emmy and a Grammy.”

From a foster mom: “She did such a great job – no one would have thought it was her first case. Many of my friends who also foster wanted to know why their foster children did not have her in their corner.”

From the county attorney: “Her thoroughness and attention to detail really helped fill in the gaps left by CPS. I’d love to have her back on one of my cases at any time!”

And from the CPS caseworker: “I just wanted to let you know that your testimony was excellent and that you are truly an awesome advocate. I am so grateful that you were on the case from the beginning.”

So on behalf of our board, staff and all of those singing her praises, especially the five children she served – Paul, Darrell, Chyna, Marcus and Sunshyne – Child Advocates is proud to say congratulations Kathy!

From the CEO

Hello all,

I was beyond thrilled – and hope you were too – when Child Advocates was selected as Houston's Best Charity for 2010 by the Houston Press! On behalf of the children we serve, the volunteers who make sure they enjoy a future without abuse and the entire staff of Child Advocates, thank you for your continued support of our life-changing work.

With the end of the year approaching, I'm pleased to say that we're on track to once again set new records in the number of volunteers trained and for active court appointed advocates on cases. As a result of our steady progress over the past several years, we'll be adding two new staff members to our program team to meet the goals we've set for 2011.

It was wonderful to see so many court appointed advocates at the Volunteer Appreciation Event in October. A huge congratulations to Duane King and Kathy Sasser on their awards for outstanding advocacy – I'm tremendously proud to be associated with both of these individuals. I want to once again thank Comcast for sponsoring this annual event, which offers us the opportunity to honor the 700+ volunteers who give of themselves every day for our kids. Each of our advocates deserves a standing ovation for the time and effort they put into their cases.

Another big thanks goes to outgoing Board of Directors chair Kenny Baldwin. It was no easy feat to fill the shoes of 2008-09 chair Barbara Scott, however he certainly rose to the challenge. Kenny is the kind of leader who doesn't take things at face value – he is always questioning the status quo and encouraging others to think beyond our current situation. Fortunately, he won't be going far, as he will lead our Nominating/Governance Committee next year. Thank you for your leadership, Kenny!

On the other side of that coin, I want to introduce our 2011 Board Chair David Quackenbush. David has been involved with CAI for many years – most recently serving as IT Committee chair and as a member of the Development Committee. He has an excellent understanding of our mission and the work we do, and I'm looking so forward to working with him.

As we enter the holiday season, I want to thank you for all you do for CAI and our kids during this time of year. It means so much that you make time for our organization when I know how many things you have on your plates.

Wishing you warm and happy holidays,

Souya Gilman

2010 Heroes Society

As the recession pushes struggling Texas families to the breaking point, Child Advocates needs more help than ever to ensure that Houston's abused and neglected children have a voice in the child welfare system. We hope you will support this critical work by joining the 2010 Heroes Society, Child Advocates' annual campaign.

By making an unrestricted contribution to this campaign, Heroes Society members help us serve more children, grow our program and build our legacy for the future. We hope you will join this campaign with a contribution at any level as a sign of your commitment to breaking the cycle of child abuse in Harris County.

This year we are expanding our sponsorship opportunity to provide updates from a sponsored child's volunteer for interested Heroes Society members. Here are a few of the children you can sponsor:

VALERIE

Eleven-year-old Valerie has a history of depression and has been diagnosed with bi-polar disorder. Yet when she threatened suicide, her father ignored her and refused to take her for help. He has said repeatedly that he does not want Valerie in his home and will not take care of her. It was later discovered that he has another child in protective custody due to his refusal to accept parental responsibilities.



GENO

Seven-year-old Geno didn't feel good. After being sent to the office with a disciplinary note, the school nurse determined he had a 101-degree fever and a red, sore throat. Upon returning to school later that week, Geno had bruising and broken blood vessels on his back, neck and chest. When asked about his injuries, he said his stepfather, who was angered by the disciplinary note and the fact he'd been sent home sick, "spanked him on the bottom, threw him down on the floor and stepped on him."



MARIA

When 5-month-old Maria arrived at the emergency room, her parents said she'd accidentally fallen off the bed. Doctors discovered Maria had both old and new brain hematomas and retinal hemorrhaging in three levels of her eyes, indicating that these injuries – as well as the most recent one – were non-accidental and likely the result of abuse and neglect.



To sponsor a child like Valerie, Geno or Maria, go to <http://www.childadvocates.org/give/heroes.htm> and click on the link in the paragraph next to that child's photo. For more information, please contact Marla at 713.529.1396 ext. 234.

Focus on the Friends

FRIENDS OF CHILD ADVOCATES

More than 60 of the Houston fashion set's leading ladies convened at Neiman Marcus in October to kick off the 2010 Angels of Hope Luncheon and fete honoree Debbie Martinez for her years of dedication to Child Advocates.

Co-chairs Lesha Elsenbrook and Kim Tutcher welcomed underwriters and Friends of Child Advocates members including Lisa Astolfo Menick and Kerry Humphrey, both long-time friends of the honoree.



Child Advocates CEO Sonya Galvan, Angels of Hope Luncheon Co-chair Kim Tutcher, Honoree Debbie Martinez and Co-chair Lesha Elsenbrook.

While the featured fashion designer for the December 7 luncheon event, Elie Tahari, was unable to attend (he was making a personal appearance at the opening of his new location in Istanbul), he sent in his place a heartfelt video message, an

informal presentation of his Fall line and several stylists straight from his design house.

To sweeten the afternoon, Tahari presented a host of door prizes including a \$250 gift certificate toward a designer garment and three pairs of Elie Tahari show tickets for 2011 New York City Fashion Week! To join us at the Angels of Hope Luncheon contact Marla at marla.endieveri@childadvocates.org or 713-529-1396 x 234.

FRIENDS STRAW POLL

We recently asked our members why they love being a part of the Friends of Child Advocates. Here's what several of them had to say:

I feel like I'm making the world a better place, one child at a time ... It's an extraordinary association of individuals who all share my passion for helping make a difference in the lives of children ... It allows me to impact the lives of children and work with them in fun and meaningful ways ... I wasn't ready to be a court-appointed advocate, but I still can be involved ... I make a difference in a child's life ... I feel like I'm a part of something really important ... For the kids who can't help themselves ... It makes me feel like I'm doing something selfless to help innocent children ... It allows me to give my time to children who need it most; the reward of a smiling, happy child is the most precious gift. ... Because of the great people I get to work with (both volunteers and staff) who are passionate about the welfare of children ... A terrific opportunity to meet like minded individuals and participate in the many Child Advocates activities throughout the year ... It gives me a chance to help save a child's life.

You too can be a part of this special group of volunteers! Learn more or sign up at www.childadvocates.org/volunteer/friends.htm.

Snapshots



Best Buy employees present a donation to Tony Terwilliger, Director of the Houston Children's Festival benefiting Child Advocates.



A Cameron Childsprees volunteer plays personal shopper to a child during the event in August.



Owner Phil Stephenson, Olena Pastukh and Martin Pike at the grand opening of Phil's BBQ benefiting Child Advocates in June.

Voices

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



JACKIE RAINEY, CAA SINCE 2009

"When I see and hear all the terrible things done to children my heart goes out to them, but it's not enough just to feel bad, we have to get involved. It is my priveledge to help children in need and my reward is to see a child's face break out into a smile."

FRANK ROSIE, CAA SINCE 1998

"We all get caught up in the "stuff" that becomes our lives, and lose sight of two important things: we need to be thankful for all that we have and we need to give back. I am grateful for the dedication of Child Advocates to the children they serve, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve with them."



MARLA SMITH, CAA SINCE 2009

"Working with abused and neglected children makes me feel like I am making a difference. Children are the innocent victims so much of the time; I like to know that I am giving them something they may not get anywhere else, attention. It helps me to appreciate my children and family more."

JACK DARDEN, CAA SINCE 2001

"The best moments are those when you see the smiles on their faces as they forget about their circumstances and can just be KIDS. I do the adult thing and they get to be a kid. That is the best feeling."



LISA STRAUSER, CAA SINCE 2001

"Being a child advocate has brought to my attention the large number of neglected and abused children in our society and the continual "cycle" effect throughout so many families. Seeing each child be able to thrive touches my heart and soul."

CHARLIE STEEN, CAA SINCE 2009

"This work has allowed me to participate in the transformation of abused children from being frightened and sad, to living in a loving and healthy environment. Knowing that I played a significant role in that is very gratifying. I have seen the results firsthand, in the smiles and hugs that I receive from kids when I visit them in their new permanent home."



Donor Spotlight

HARRY W. BASS, JR. FOUNDATION

We are pleased to recognize the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation for its commitment to providing a voice for Harris County's abused and neglected children. The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation has supported Child Advocates since 2002. During that time, its generous contributions have provided court appointed volunteers for nearly 50 children. Petroleum entrepreneur Harry Bass, Sr. founded the Harry Bass Foundation in Dallas in 1945. His son, an avid coin collector who assembled one of the most complete collections of U.S. gold coins ever brought together by either an individual or a museum, formed a second foundation in 1991 to promote the study and collection of coins. The two organizations merged after Harry Bass, Jr.'s death to form one foundation dedicated to supporting the arts and culture in Dallas, science and health, human services, religion and education. We feel fortunate to merit your support and hope to continue this partnership in the years to come.

ANADARKO

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation has been a committed corporate partner in our mission of breaking the cycle of child abuse for more than 15 years. Their donations to the Angels of Hope luncheon, the Pull for Kids Classic and the Houston Children's Festival have allowed us to serve more than 40 abused and neglected children. Their support continues to increase with a \$10,000 pledge to our Angels of Hope Luncheon this December. We owe special thanks to Anadarko CEO James Hackett and his wife, Maureen, and Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Administrative Officer Robert Reeves, whose wife, Beth, is a lifetime member of the Friends of Child Advocates. Their top-down leadership approach to philanthropy in Houston is an inspiration and one of the many reasons Child Advocates appreciates its partnership with Anadarko.



MEMORIAL DRIVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Child Advocates is blessed to enjoy the support of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, whose generous contributions over the past two decades have allowed us to serve more than 60 abused and neglected children. MDPC offers incredible support to more than 100 charities in Houston and around the world through its Dollar-for-Dollar benevolence program. Since the church's founding in 1954, its members and leaders annually aim to match the money spent in the operation of the church and its programs with donations to those in need in the community and the world. We are grateful



to be included in this special program and especially thank Court Appointed Advocates Nancy Cofran, Bill Kennedy, John Krebs, and Smitty Snodgrass and Board Members David Baird and Ellie Sweeney for sharing our mission with their fellow MDPC members.

Thanks Donors

The donors listed contributed to Child Advocates, Inc. between the months of June and September 2010.

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Mr. Josh Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Alex Solorzano
Ms. Kristi Sorrels
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Stahnke
State of Vermont
Ms. Geneva D. Statin
Mr. Russell D. Strong
Ms. Linda A. Swiatek
Mr. and Mrs. John Sykes
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Taylor
TestAmerica Laboratories
Mr. Jeffrey Thibault
Mr. Justin Thomas
Ms. Marcella L. Thomas
Mrs. Franceen M. Thompson
Mr. Richard Trayford
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Traylor
Ms. Melina Trevino
TRUiST
Ms. Marilyn Tytler
United Way of Galveston
Mr. and Mrs. George Hohmann
Ms. Maria Isabel van Strien
Ms. Zoua Vang
Mr. Vinay S. Varma
Ms. Veronica Vela
Ms. Maria Villalon
Ms. Yolanda A. Villarreal
Ms. Rita Walker
Ms. Glenda F. Wehner
Wells Fargo - Community Support
Campaign
Ms. Cathy L. West
Ms. Kelly Westmoreland
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Williams
Mr. and Mrs. Ed
Woomer
Ms. Phyllis Zendejas
Ms. Kassi O. Zuerner



Doing Something

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TAMALE SALE

Court Appointed Advocate Bob Kossman cooked up a very special fundraiser for Child Advocates with his friends in the Knights of Columbus Council No. 8096 from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Bob and his team sold tamales after each of the church's three Masses one Sunday in August. The proceeds of the tamale sale – along with several generous additional donations – raised enough money to provide advocacy services for one child for a year! Thank you Bob and all the Knight members who donated their time and energy to this project.

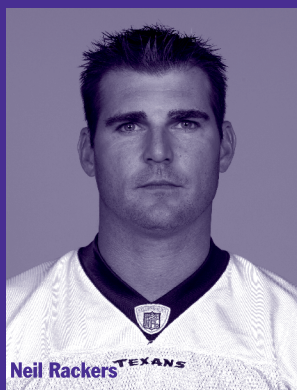


BIRTHDAY PARTY IN A BOX

Several lucky children will have a brighter birthday this year thanks to the creative employees at Prodigio Software in League City. As part of a team building exercise, the company's employees created birthday party kits including themed party hats, paper products and goody bags stuffed with trinkets and toys. Many of the children we serve have never experienced their very own birthday party, so providing these kits for their caregivers will help create special memories that will last a lifetime. We would love to provide these kits to court appointed advocates on a regular basis. If your group would like to collect and assemble birthday kits for the children we serve, please contact Kendall at kendall.pace@childadvocates.org or 713-529-1396 x265.

RACKERS BACKERS

Forty of the children we serve have recently become some of Texans kicker Neil Rackers' biggest fans. Each season, through the Texans All Community Team (TACT) Program, Texans players have the opportunity to purchase a certain number of tickets and donate them to the cause of his choice. We are so thrilled and honored that kicker Neil Rackers chose Child Advocates as one of his TACT recipients this season! Forty of our kids will attend a Texans home game (10 kids at each of four games), receive an official "Rackers Backers" t-shirt, cheer on Neil in the tunnel pre-game and get a food voucher to enjoy some munchies! Awesome!



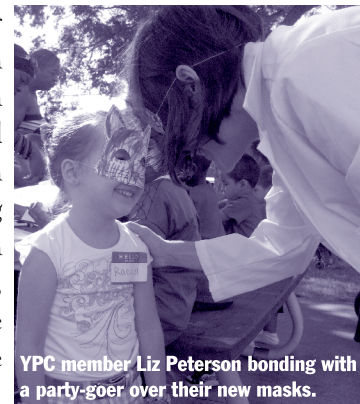
YPC Update

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FOR CHILDREN

CHILDRENS EVENTS

The Young Professionals for Children group has had one of our busiest years yet! We splashed into summer with a Water Mania party where the kids cooled off on the slip-and-slide, threw water balloons, made ice cream sundaes and participated in a ton of other fun water activities! Special thanks to YPC council member Calley Pace for organizing this great event!

In October, YPC held our annual favorite, the Pumpkin Party! We made Halloween masks, decorated cookies and cupcakes and played Halloween games from mummy-wrapping to candy-corn relay races! With over 150 children in attendance, our YPC member volunteers sure kept busy entertaining the little ghosts and goblins!



YPC member Liz Peterson bonding with a party-goer over their new masks.

FUNDRAISING and SOCIALS

Also in October, YPC held its first-ever Pub Crawl benefitting Child Advocates. More than 200 participants in the Saturday event worked their way from one end of Washington Avenue to the other – eight stops in all – raising over \$6,000! A huge thanks goes to our event sponsors, Candelari's Pizzeria, Yellow Cab, TBG Partners and Buster & Cogdell Builders.



Chris Transier, Brad Olsen and Brian Niemozak at the October pub crawl fundraiser.

Our next YPC Social is December 2nd at the most creative bar in Houston! For just \$15, join our private party at JOYSTIX, a bar with access to unlimited old-school games, like skeet-ball, air hockey, pac-man, and so many more. You'll have just as much fun as you did when you were a kid! Buy your ticket on our website at www.childadvocates.org, and get a free drink for the social on December 2nd! During normal hours, Joystix is packed with over 200 people. But with YPC, eliminate the crowd and have fun as we celebrate YPC's great year in 2010.

GET INVOLVED!

Interested in getting in on the fun? Become a new YPC member or renew your lapsed membership for only \$40. Go to www.childadvocates.org/YPC.htm to sign up online today!

Special Thanks

Kelly and Rick Burnett for providing dinner for the volunteers at the Childspree backpack stuffing.

Café Benedicte for donating the proceeds of their Labor Day Charity Brisket Competition and **Susan Patterson** for being such a great ambassador for CAI that Café Benedicte created this benefit for our kids.

Cameron for donating backpacks and school supplies for the Childspree.

Carolyn Faulk and the **Faulk Foundation** for donating 50 tickets to Toy Story 3.

Cierra Interiors for hosting the Magic of Cierra benefit.

Sandy Haginas for donating two tickets to five different Texans games with parking passes for our families.

Houston Texans for the 50 tickets to the Tampa Bay vs. Texans game for our children.

Karim Kafray for the donation of four tickets to a Texas A&M game.

Mission Burrito for hosting a special night with 10 percent of their total sales going to Child Advocates.

National Charity League – West Houston Chapter for making the birthday party frames for our kids.

Office Depot Foundation for donating 375 backpacks.

Phil's BBQ for donating 10 percent of total sales from their Grand Opening.

Shipley Donuts for donating and delivering donuts for the children and volunteers participating in the Childspree.

Junior League of Houston for donating school supplies for the Childspree.

Hana Siegelstein for donating children's clothes for Rachel and Gilbert's Closet.

Target for serving breakfast to all of our children and volunteers at the Childspree.

Melissa and Jeff Treadway for donating a 25-inch color TV.

VAM USA for allowing our advocacy coordinators and volunteers to park in their parking lot while they are visiting a nearby CPS office.

Dolly Dawson Thomas for donating a twin bed with trundle, mattresses and bedding.

Regina and Kevin Jones for donating Houston Texans tickets.

Happenings

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

DECEMBER

7 *Angels of Hope Luncheon and Fashion Presentation by Neiman Marcus* — event and raffle tickets still available, visit www.childadvocates.org/calendar/events/angelsofhope.htm for details.

8-14 *Santa's Wish List* — warehouse volunteer shifts available. Email specialprojects@childadvocates.org to inquire.

JANUARY

22 *Advocacy University begins* — sign up today to attend a 1-hour orientation session to find out how you can make a difference for an abused child. www.childadvocates.org/calendar/events/angelsofhope.htm.

30 *Chevron Houston Marathon* — RUN FOR A REASON or support someone who is doing so. www.childadvocates.org/calendar/events/marathon.htm.

FEBRUARY

19 *Advocacy University begins* — sign up today to attend a 1-hour orientation session to find out how you can make a difference for an abused child. www.childadvocates.org/calendar/events/angelsofhope.htm.

all month *Car Pros for Kids* — Make a donation to Child Advocates at a participating auto service provider and receive two free oil and filter changes! Details to be announced via website, mail and email.

MARCH

26 *Advocacy University begins* — sign up today to attend a 1-hour orientation session to find out how you can make a difference for an abused child. www.childadvocates.org/calendar/events/angelsofhope.htm.

Special Thanks CONTINUED

The following donors for generously providing raffle items for our Young Professionals for Children Pub Crawl in October:

NiaMoves Studio

Houston Aeros

Houston Astros

Suzanne Thomas & the Houston Texans

Saint Arnolds Brewery

Marie Scanlin & Cierra Interiors

Davis Baird & Bevco International

Board Voice

ANGIE SHERRELL

My involvement with CAI?

I became involved originally in 2001. I was in a place in my career and life where I had some time to give back. I met Ross LeFevre, a long-time CAI board member, who introduced me to the organization. I quickly knew I wanted to be involved. After all it was about kids, and I have always believed in the future and helping others to make that future a better place for us all.



I enrolled in AU to become a court appointed advocate, and quickly got my first case in 2001. It lasted 2.5 years and was an outstanding experience. My story has a very happy ending with the mom and child being reunited and both are doing very well to this day. The experience taught me a lot about myself and our services for abused and neglected children in Harris County. At that point, I knew I was there to make a difference and become part of the solution to “protect the vulnerable”. Since my first and only case, my career life took a new and different turn that didn’t allow me to take on another case. I was still very interested in how I could serve the organization, so I became an Advisory Board member in 2009 and a Board/Executive Board member in 2010.

Why do I do it?

My first response is “why the heck not?” The mission says it all – “mobilizing volunteers to break the cycle of child abuse.” It takes us all to end child abuse. These kids don’t have a voice and the number of cases each Child Protective Services case worker is assigned is nearly impossible to maintain.

When I am not volunteering for CAI, I am...

Working as VP and General Manager at GS Marketing, an automotive direct marketing firm focused on Toyota. You can also find me hanging out with friends and family (including my dog!), most likely outside at the lake or on the golf course.

My greatest CAI experience?

The awesome thing about being a part of CAI is that you have great experiences all the time. I just get so emotional when I see the number of kids we serve and the number of volunteers we train each year. It really blows me away that the people of Harris County are so generous with both their time and their money. It does take us all to end the epidemic.

Board of Directors

2010 BOARD CHAIR

Kenny Baldwin

June Lohman

Ron Orsini

Page Parkes-Eveleth

Joy Posoli

BOARD MEMBERS

David Baird

James Prentice

Hildegard Ballard

Mike Preston

James Brodnax

David Quackenbush

Rick Burnett

Brad Robbins

Mollie Castaneda

Barbara Scott

Jane Dabney

Cindy Sebald

Kim David

Angie Sherrell

David Davis

John Storms

Robert Davis

Ellie Sweeney

Eddy De Los Santos

Don Taylor

Bill Gardiner

Dolly Dawson Thomas

Terrence Gee

Suzanne Thomas

Quinton Harp

Nancy Thorington

Bob Krenzelo

Mike Van Hoozer

Ross LeFevre

Jessica Wagner

Nolan Lehmann

Milton West

COMING IN FEBRUARY

**ONE
DONATION.**

**TWO
FREE
OIL CHANGES.**

**Stay tuned for information on participating locations
in the coming weeks. \$30 donation minimum.**

CAR PROS FOR KIDS

Spotlight On ...

DIVERSITY

More than half the children we serve are boys ... yet only one in five of our volunteers are men.

Nearly half of the children we serve are African-American ... yet only 13 percent of our volunteers share that ethnicity.

More than a quarter of the children we serve are Hispanic ... yet only a tenth of our volunteers share their heritage.

While we treasure each court appointed advocate, we're making a special effort this year to diversify our volunteer base to better reflect the Houston community. With the help of a board subcommittee chaired by Eddy De Los Santos, staff member Claire Sabatier and numerous volunteers have been reaching out to men, African-Americans and Hispanics.

We hosted several special "friend-raiser" orientation sessions this summer to which our current male, Hispanic and African-American court appointed advocates were invited to bring a friend who shares their gender or race to learn more about our program.

Many of the boys we serve come from families with no father figures. For others, the only men they've ever known have neglected or abused them, their siblings or their mothers. Male volunteers serve as role models, demonstrating what it means to be a successful man. Teen boys especially thrive when paired with a male volunteer.

Brentwood Baptist Church has become a key partner in our effort to recruit African-American volunteers thanks to the efforts of CAI Board Member, court appointed advocate and church member



Brentwood members and court appointed advocates
Stephanie Simmons, Terrence Gee, advocacy coordinator
Amy Douzart and Doris Ratliff.

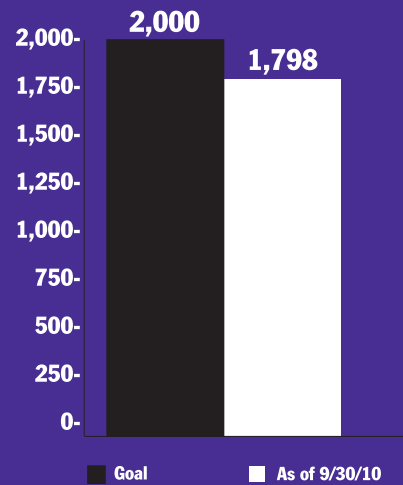
Terrence Gee and Brentwood's First Lady, Doris Ratliff, an advocate since 2009. Brentwood has hosted two orientation sessions and five members have been sworn in as new advocates already this year!

Advocacy Coordinator and Hispanic Community Specialist Maria Cano has been hard at work increasing the ranks of our Hispanic volunteers, especially those fluent in both English and Spanish. There is a shortage of Spanish-speaking CPS caseworkers, attorneys, therapists and other service providers, and while we prefer to assign a bilingual volunteer to every child with a relative or caregiver who speaks only Spanish, we frequently have a waiting list of these children.

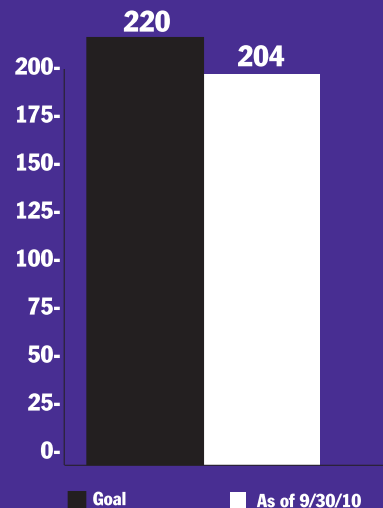
Maria has also helped cultivate a relationship with the Latin Women's Initiative, an organization of successful women seeking to empower Houston's Latino community. LWI's generous contributions have allowed us to provide advocates for 16 children since 2007.

Goal Review

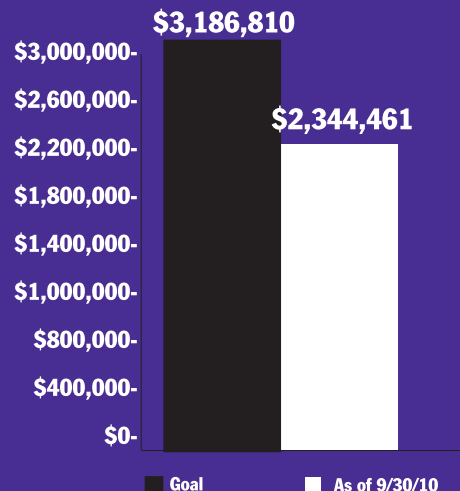
CHILDREN SERVED



VOLUNTEERS TRAINED



ACCRUAL BASIS BUDGET RAISED





childadvocates

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 GRANDMOTHER EXPRESSES HER GRATITUDE FOR COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE SHAVAUN BATISTE AND ADVOCACY COORDINATOR STACI HARNSBERRY JOHNSON.

This is just a short note to thank each of you for the care and concern that you put into this case. I am grateful that you were able to forgive me for my low tolerance at times, and my not understanding the role and choices that you had to make.

Your caring did not get in the way of your decision-making. It has been a very long emotional road, and still is not complete ... but GOD is showing me the light at the end of the tunnel.

I wish you both continued blessings and success, not only in your professional life, but in your personal life as well. I am proud to know you both – Black, beautiful women of strength, character, morals and intelligence. I can only hope that my granddaughters will gain from the experience of coming in contact with both of you. I can tell them about these amazing women who were part of our lives and how they were able to make a difference in the lives of so many children.

I am humbled by your works, your decisions and the difference that you made in my life as well as in the lives of Ashya, Ava and Alyssa. Thank you Staci and Shavaun!

Blessings and prosperity to you both,
Melaney LeBlanc

P.S. I've enclosed this recent picture of Ashya on her first "real" pony ride!

Shavaun Batiste has been a court appointed advocate volunteer since 2008, making a difference for three children.



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