



Jack at his fourth birthday party.

# Advocate News

HOUSTON'S LEADING VOICE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

CHILD ADVOCATES, INC.

SPRING 2010

## In the Best Interest of Jack

His mother was bipolar and suffered from multiple personality disorder. She had three other children – all of them placed in custody of their biological fathers. His father had a long history of alcoholism, charges of public lewdness and indecency with a child on his record and had his rights terminated on four of his five other children.

You could say that Jack began his life at a disadvantage.

At birth, he was diagnosed and treated for respiratory distress, poor feeding and gastroesophageal reflux – keeping him in the hospital for four months before he was well enough to go home. During the time Jack was there, the medical staff grew concerned about his mother's ability to properly care for him due to her often erratic behavior. The hospital social workers referred the case to Child Protective Services (CPS), who, after investigating, recommended Jack's removal from his parents due to the combination of his medical fragility and the instability of the home.

At just four months old, Jack was discharged from the hospital into the care of a foster family.

Duane King was assigned as the court appointed advocate volunteer when Jack was a year old. The mother and father were unable to demonstrate that they could complete the required services and provide a safe home, and CPS was recommending termination of their parental rights. Since they would not surrender their rights voluntarily, a jury trial was scheduled.

During preparation for the trial, Duane and the county attorney on the case located Rachael, Jack's father's first child (now an adult with her own family), to see if she would be willing to testify in the trial. Upon learning that she had a half-brother in these circumstances, she agreed not only to testify against her long-estranged father, but to take Jack into her family with the hope of legally adopting him if termination was granted.

Duane knew that caring for Jack would be a challenge, and he spent many hours detailing Jack's medical history and needs for Rachael as well as working with the foster mom to help prepare Jack for the transition.

About two weeks before Jack went to live with Rachael and her family, they came to Houston to meet him. It was also the first time they'd met Duane in person.

(continued on next page)

# “Duane was the only thing that was constant in Jack’s early years of life.”

*In Harris County alone, 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](http://www.childadvocates.org).*

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## In the Best Interest of Jack **CONTINUED**

“I noticed that Duane was a relatively quiet presence, but any time he contributed, he really knew what he was talking about,” remembers Rachael. “It gave me quite a bit of relief to know that Jack had such a strong ally going into the trial.”

Duane encouraged and supported Rachael and her husband by keeping in constant communication about the case and upcoming trial. He also set to work putting together extensive timelines based on the case files, his interviews with the parents and his research into their backgrounds.

“Duane pulled court files on custody cases involving the mother’s other children, sifted through stacks of medical and mental health paperwork on the mother, out-of-state CPS records as well as the current CPS and service provider records and was able to pull out the important bits of information. He also spoke with the fathers of the mom’s other children and helped get them to agree to come and testify against her – one even came from Virginia!” says Duane’s advocacy coordinator Amie Binkley.

At the five-day jury trial, Duane was called as the last witness for CPS.

“He did an amazing job of helping the jury understand the very complex history of the parents and how that history affected their ability to be appropriate parents to Jack,” says Binkley. “He concluded his testimony with, ‘I can’t see why I can believe or why the jury should believe that the outcome for Jack would be any different than the outcomes for these parents’ other children.’”



Duane King, court appointed advocate



Jack

In her closing argument, Jack’s attorney asked the jury to compare the kind of home and life he would have with his biological parents with the kind of home and life he would have with Rachael and her family. Put in those terms, it was easy to see how the jury found grounds for termination on both parents.

“The case that Duane built and laid out for the jury was the most critical aspect in Jack’s case,” says Rachael. “He made sure that there was no doubt in anyone’s mind that Jack should not go back to [his birth mother and father].”

Today, Jack is four years old and has been with his new family for more than two years. They keep in touch with Duane via email and telephone calls and he is occasionally able to visit them when on business in the Dallas area.

“One thing that lingers with Jack due to the turmoil of his first two years is a difficulty forming attachments to people,” says Jack’s mom, Rachael. “But he remembers Duane – you’ll see his little face light up in recognition when he sees him. Duane was the only thing that was constant in Jack’s early years of life.”

# From the CEO

Hello all,

I hope you're having a great 2010 so far – we certainly are. We're definitely breathing a sigh of relief after finalizing our 2009 year-end numbers. Despite a very tough year for so many, Child Advocates' supporters and volunteers came through for us in a big way.

We surpassed all three of our main organizational goals once again; serving 1,871 children (goal was 1,850), training 270 new court appointed advocate volunteers (goal was 200) and raising \$3.4M (goal was \$2.9M) – wow. We absolutely could not have had this kind of success without your continued support of our mission. Thank you.

While I'm very proud of these impressive accomplishments, I wanted to highlight two anecdotes that, for me, exemplify some of our most meaningful achievements last year:

## Marci and Marie

I hope you'll take a moment to read the Thrive section on the back of the newsletter. It's a letter from a young woman named Marie, who called our office in December looking for contact information on her former court appointed advocate volunteer. The volunteer she was looking for was Marci Weinstein – who worked on the case of Marie and her siblings in 1994. Fifteen years later, Marie was receiving her diploma from Sam Houston State University and wanted to let the woman "who saved her life" know of her success.

## Heather and Destiny

Board member Nancy Thorington shared this precious story with me after the holiday party: Nancy was working in the stocking booth helping 10-year-old Destiny glue the final sparkles onto her stocking masterpiece when Destiny said "Come here, I'd like you to meet my guardian angel." Destiny was referring to her court appointed advocate volunteer Heather Wardle.

In talking with our volunteers over the years, I have often heard them wonder if they truly make a difference. I think these two short stories (representing hundreds more moments just like these) answer that question without a doubt: you sure do.

I look forward to another great year with all of you. Please never hesitate to email or call with any feedback you have for me – especially as we continue to grow. It's so important to me that, despite how big we get, we still maintain the quality of our relationships with you all and our service to the abused and neglected children of Harris County.

Warm regards,

*Sonya Salvan*

# Elves in Our Midst

The 2009 Santa's Wish List program was a perfect ending to our anniversary year. With the generous support of our sponsors, the program ensured that more than 1,200 children received gifts at Christmas time.

There are five special women who have been integral in making the Santa's Wish List program what it is, and Child Advocates extends our most sincere appreciation to Santa's very own elves: Kathleen Forde, Andy Marlatt, Linda Murphy, Kathy Spencer and Marci Weinstein.

Marci has been helping out with Santa's Wish List since its infancy in 2003. She has become our official "drop-off elf" in recent years – being there to accompany the Special Projects

team when the sponsors come to drop off their gifts during the first several days in the warehouse.

In the years since then, Kathleen Forde and Linda Muphy have been roped in by their advocacy coordinators Kathy Nevarez and Suzanne Ronne, respectively, and have become an annual fixture as well. Kathleen then got Andy Marlatt and Kathy Spencer involved and – as a team – these five have become a true holiday force to be reckoned with! Ladies, we could not do it without you – thank you from the bottoms of our hearts.

Another big thank-you belongs to our largest program sponsors: BP (sponsored 200 children), the National Association of Professional Mortgage Women (sponsored 151 children), Plains Exploration Company and Vitol (each sponsored 100 children). To these sponsors and all of those listed in the Thanks Donors section on pages 6-7, hopefully the note below sums it all up for you. Thank you for making so many wishes come true!

*... you made it come true.*

*Thank you so much  
for my x-mas gifts. I  
got acsactly wat I wanted.  
I love all of the things I  
got this year. Shere-e*



# Focus on the Friends

## FRIENDS OF CHILD ADVOCATES

### 2009 ANGELS OF HOPE LUNCHEON

A festive crowd of more than 600 notable Houstonians packed the Westin Galleria's Grand Ballroom on December 8th for the 2009 Angels of Hope Luncheon and Fashion Presentation by Neiman Marcus. Chaired by seasoned fundraisers Kathy Galt and Pat Osborne, the luncheon honored Janice McNair for her many years of support of Child Advocates. Last year marked Child Advocates' 25th anniversary of serving as Houston's leading voice in the fight against child abuse and the Angels of Hope Luncheon certainly celebrated that milestone in high style.



Janice McNair, Kathy Galt, Pat Osborne and Friends of Child Advocates 2009 President Judy Farrell

The Friends of Child Advocates have produced their signature luncheon/fashion show for the past 17 years. Over the past 10 years, the Friends' partnership with Neiman Marcus has provided runway shows with top-

notch fashion designers all to benefit Harris County's foster children. This year was no different with the personal appearance of designer Edward Wilkerson presenting his Lafayette 148 Spring Collection and rewarding luncheon attendees with a leopard print tote bag as a party favor.

As only fitting in our 25th anniversary year, the Angels of Hope Luncheon raised more money than ever before. And for the first time, an individual who received help from Child Advocates spoke about her court appointed advocate and what it meant to her to attend the luncheon several years ago as a guest of Page Parkes-Eveleth and Momentum Audi's Jared Lang. Each year, Mrs. Parkes-Eveleth treats a group of teen girls currently being served by Child Advocates to a day of beauty and sophistication. The girls get their hair and make-up done, receive a new outfit and enjoy the gourmet meal and couture fashion show. This self-esteem-building project has been generously underwritten the last two years by Momentum Audi.

### FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL

The Friends of Child Advocates kicked off their 2010 membership drive with a lunchtime social on March 4. Member Jill Cokinos opened her beautiful home for the occasion, where she welcomed more than 45 members and guests – including 2010 President Joy Posoli – looking to get better acquainted with the Friends and learn about volunteer opportunities scheduled for the year. Long-time advocate and board member Nancy Thorington spoke at the event, sharing heartwarming stories from her 14 years working with abused and neglected children.

## Snapshots



U of H Cougar Shasta showed off her line dance prowess on the dance floor at the annual holiday party for the children we serve.



Development Director Karim Kafaray holds a donation given to CAI in honor of Bank of America Local Hero Award recipient, advocate Eddy De Los Santos.



A child served by Child Advocates watches his new bike (1 of 57) being built during the annual Hotel & Lodging Association of Greater Houston bike event.

# Voices

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



**HANK GARCIA**  
**CHILD ADVOCATE SINCE 2007**

"Child Advocates has filled me with gratitude – for the blessings in my life, for the opportunity to help children and their families get a second chance and for those whose leadership, time and generosity make possible organizations like CAI. Child Advocates has made me proud. Proud of our organization. Proud of the other resources our community

provides, like the CAC, early intervention, and programs for special needs children in our schools. My casework has also brought frustration, but that has made me all the more determined to reject the notion that we can't make a difference. We must, we can and we do."

**DAPHNE GLOVER**  
**CHILD ADVOCATE SINCE 2008**

"There's a Chinese proverb that says '*a child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark.*' When I was first sworn in as an advocate, I worried about what I could possibly offer a child in the system, but working on my first case gave me the answer – my time. Who could imagine that something so priceless wouldn't cost me a cent?!"



**AMIKO KAUDERER**  
**CHILD ADVOCATE SINCE 2009**

"Making a difference in an abused child's life is a journey. The aspired destiny is positive change for that child. With every step, it is impossible not to progress on one's own life's endeavors. For me, making that difference confirms I'm on the right path."

**ARNE LARSEN**  
**CHILD ADVOCATE SINCE 2009**

"I think most people, at some point in their lives, make an attempt to determine their purpose. For me, my life experiences have taught me that there is no experience more rewarding than making a positive difference in the lives of others. Making a positive difference in the lives of abused children has helped me determine purpose in my life."



# Donor Spotlight

## THE LYONS FOUNDATION

The Lyons Foundation has been one of Child Advocates' most valued partners for more than 20 years. Thanks to the foundation's generous contributions, hundreds of children have received lifesaving assistance from a court appointed advocate. The foundation was established by the late Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lyons, who were strong supporters of Catholic schools and charities. As the foundation grew, its trustees began extending support to other organizations. John Storms, a member of our board of directors, introduced foundation trustee Pete Seale to Child Advocates and the rest, they say, is history. In addition to approving grants from the foundation, Pete was instrumental in establishing our endowment, which has helped us serve thousands of children. Today, Jim Prentice, who is also a member of Child Advocate's board, John Storms and Pete Seale are trustees of The Lyons Foundation, along with Flo McGee, who joined the board three years ago. Thank you all for your support.

## GS MARKETING

GS Marketing deserves a round of applause for their support of Child Advocates over the years. From designing and printing our Car Pros for Kids collateral to donating their fabulous suite at the Toyota Center so we could treat our auto shop contacts to a Rockets game, they are a big force behind the success of this important fundraiser. They've also lent us the time and talents of Vice President and General Manager Angie Sherrell, a former court appointed advocate who joined the Board of Directors as chair of the Marketing Committee this year.

## JOEL AND SHERYL ANDROPHY



Joel and Sheryl Androphy with daughter Robyn, center.

It's hard to believe that just four years have passed since Sheryl Androphy joined Child Advocates as a court appointed advocate. Since then, she has served as an advocate for 11 children, including

one young girl whose testimony in a jury trial helped convict her stepfather who molested her. As if that were not enough, Sheryl and her husband, Joel, have also invested innumerable hours co-chairing the *Pull for Kids* auction committee for the past four years. Additionally, Sheryl is a dedicated member of our Advisory Board, our Development Committee and the Friends of Child Advocates governance council. The Androphys also have made many financial contributions to Child Advocates and have introduced their daughter, Robyn, to our cause. She recently joined the Young Professionals for Children and plans to volunteer at the *Pull for Kids* auction. Thank you Sheryl and Joel. Your commitment is an inspiration.

# Thanks Donors

The donors listed contributed to Child Advocates, Inc. between the months of October 2009 and January 2010. Child Advocates also extends our most sincere appreciation to the 756 individuals and companies that donated between \$1 and \$249 during this period (totaling more than \$61,000), whom we are unable to list due to space constraints.

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# Doing Something

## HOUSTON-AREA GIRL SCOUTS

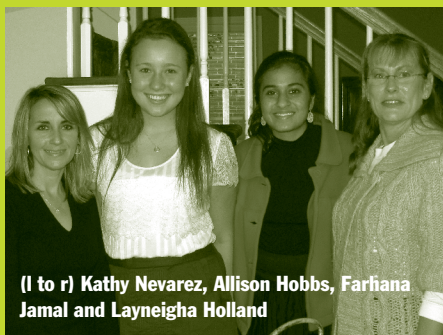


Girl Scouts encourages the building of girls' character and skills for success in the real world and helps develop qualities like leadership, strong values, social conscience and conviction. If recent activity at Child Advocates is a measure, Houston's Girl Scouts are surely succeeding! We recognize and thank **Girl Scout Troop #5045** for making 100 bags of hygiene items for our children; **Daisy**

**Troop #16339**, who along with their moms, made cards for our children; and **Girl Scout Troop #18104** for their continued support in donating stockings and stocking stuffers for our Santa's Wish List program.

## FARHANA JAMAL AND ALLISON HOBBS

For a class project, Lamar High School students **Farhana Jamal** and **Allison Hobbs** were charged with learning about a local children's charity and educating others on the group they chose. Farhana



is the daughter of 314th District Court Associate Judge Aneeta Jamal – a strong supporter of Child Advocates. In early December, the girls hosted a tea party for 15 friends (including preparing all of the food and decorating the table personally), during which two Child Advocates staff members gave a short presentation. Farhana and Allison raised \$165 from the party – but more importantly, raised awareness of our program among their peer group. Thanks ladies!

## SCHOOLHOUSE PARTNERS

Looking for a plumber or an electrician? Planning to remodel your kitchen or finally add on that extra bedroom? By calling SchoolHouse Partners you can find pre-screened service providers while supporting our mission at the same time. Twenty percent of what SchoolHouse Partners collects from invoices will be contributed to Child Advocates if you mention us when you call. This innovative business was founded by **Michael Heinzman** and **Carter Higley**, whose wife, **Jamil**, is a Junior League member who volunteered at the Cameron ChildSpree last August. We're so thankful that court appointed advocate **Jo Gillet** introduced this great group to CAI. [www.myschoolhousepartners.com](http://www.myschoolhousepartners.com)

# YPC Update

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FOR CHILDREN

### ROCKETS GAME

YPC has started 2010 like no other year. The first children's event of the year was an OVERWHELMING success. With OVER 600 in attendance, our kids and their



foster siblings had an unforgettable time! The kiddos even got to go down on the court after the game to shoot basketballs from the free throw line! Thanks to all our volunteers for helping!

### DATES FOR THE (WHOLE) YEAR (CAN YOU BELIEVE IT??)

Although not all details have been ironed out, mark your calendars for our 2010 children's events, socials and fundraisers. Email [kendall.pace@childadvocates.org](mailto:kendall.pace@childadvocates.org) for details or to volunteer:

**3/27 – children's event:** explore the Houston Zoo with our kids!

**4/23 – social/fundraiser:** our annual Astros game! Cheer on the 'Stros with your favorite YPCers. Look online to purchase tickets!

**5/13 – social:** join us after work; location TBA

**6/26 – children's event:** theme TBA

**8/12 – social/fundraiser:** last year's event was such a hit, we're doing it again! Join us for a drink or two at the Red Lion Pub.

**9/25 – fundraiser:** a Washington Avenue pub crawl to raise money for YPC! Prizes, costume contests and more!

**10/16 – children's event:** bob for apples, decorate witches hats, and play Halloween games at the YPC Halloween bash!

**11/11 – social:** renew your membership and kickoff 2011 before the holidays get the best of you!

### GET INVOLVED!

Know of a company, organization or group that may be interested in hearing about Child Advocates? Let us know by emailing [kendall.pace@childadvocates.org](mailto: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 \$40. Go to [www.childadvocates.org/YPC.htm](http://www.childadvocates.org/YPC.htm) and click "join YPC" to print the necessary forms!

### TWEET, TWEET

Follow us on Twitter @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

## GENERAL

- **Aaron's Inc.** for 100 tickets to Arabia Shriners's Circus
- **Jeff Birmingham / Alliance Graphics | Printing** for printing customized Forgotten Children thank-you notes
- **Hotel ZaZa** for providing a discounted rate for their 'Rock Star' concept suite to help us kick off the *Pull for Kids Classic*
- **Joy Posoli, Jessica Wood** and **Judy Farrell** for underwriting the cost of sending a child to cheerleading camp
- **Enterprise Holdings** for donating rental trucks for the holiday party, Santa's Wish List and Forgotten Children events
- **Joel and Sheryl Androphy, Johnny B. Walker** and **Lynda Transier** for donating theatre tickets for the families we serve
- **Hotel & Lodging Association of Greater Houston** for hosting their annual bike building event, providing bikes for 57 of our children
- **Andrews Kurth LLP** for donating 100 unlocked Blackberries with accessories to help our staff improve communications while away from the office
- **Bent Tree Designs** for donating a 9' Noble Fir for our office
- **Ralph Borchers** for donating a 42" plasma tv to a family on our caseload
- **Frank Thompson / Thompson Tumblers** for allowing five of our kids to partake in gymnastics classes

## ANGELS OF HOPE LUNCHEON

- **Pat Osborne** and **Kathy Galt** for co-chairing the event
- **Ellie Francisco / Francisco + co.** for underwriting the cost of the event raffle tickets
- **Page Parkes-Eveleth** for generously hosting a table for our teen girls and coordinating their 'makeovers'
- **Mary Bratton** for underwriting the cost of shoes and purses for the girls
- **Wendy Martin / Make-up by Wendy** for the girls' make up
- **Vickie Snow / Stage Stores** for the girls' new outfits
- **Judy Tuttle / Visible Changes-Galleria** for the girls' hairstyling
- **Jared Lang / Momentum Audi** for underwriting the luncheon table for 'our girls' and donating to the raffle
- **Hildegard Ballard / Houston City Personnel** for donating \$1,000 worth of flowers
- **Bob Wickman / Brunswick Press** for donating the printing for the luncheon invitations and programs
- **Kroger Food Stores** for their donation of centerpieces
- **Stacey Swift / Neiman Marcus-Galleria** for generously hosting the annual event and coordinating all appearances
- **Edward Wilkerson / Lafayette 148** for his personal appearance and incredible show
- **Noemi Cortez** for recommending that American Express Black reward its customers with tickets to the luncheon
- Our generous raffle donors **Denise Monteleone, Montblanc, Four Seasons-Jackson Hole** and **Ralph S. O'Connor**

## SANTA'S WISH LIST

- **Paul Hobby** and **Steve Gibson** for donating our Santa's Wish List warehouse space
- **United Access** for donating a lift for decorating
- **Tony Terwilliger / Spectrum** for donating the chairs and tables

## RACHEL & GILBERT'S CLOSET (SPECIAL NEEDS)

- **George Ramirez** for his donation of diapers, baby clothes and toys
- **Nancy McNeil** for donating a new diaper bag and baby accessories
- **Chastiti Horne** for donating a new bed, mattress and clothing
- **Dan Kullman** for his donation of a new car seat

# Happenings

FOR DETAILS ON THE THINGS LISTED HERE AND THE LATEST CALENDAR UPDATES, VISIT [WWW.CHILDADVOCATES.ORG/CALENDAR](http://WWW.CHILDADVOCATES.ORG/CALENDAR)

## APRIL

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*Friends Annual Easter Egg Hunt* – lunch and a traditional Easter egg hunt for 50 children and their families. For information contact [marla.endieveri@childadvocates.org](mailto:marla.endieveri@childadvocates.org) / 713-529-1396 x234.

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*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](http://www.childadvocates.org).

10-11

*Houston Children's Festival, presented by Baker Hughes* – sign up to volunteer at [www.childadvocates.org](http://www.childadvocates.org) or visit [www.houstonchildrensfestival.com](http://www.houstonchildrensfestival.com) to sponsor.

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*Cardinal Gas Storage Partners Golf Tournament* – visit [www.cardinalgasstorage.dojiggy.com](http://www.cardinalgasstorage.dojiggy.com) for details or contact [nicole.scanlin@childadvocates.org](mailto:nicole.scanlin@childadvocates.org) / 713-529-1396 x214.

## MAY

8

*18th Annual Pull for Kids Classic* – honoring Bernie and Ed Powell. Contact [nicole.scanlin@childadvocates.org](mailto:nicole.scanlin@childadvocates.org) / 713-529-1396 x214 for sponsorships, volunteering or more details.

## Special Thanks - continued from column at left

### CAR PROS FOR KIDS

- **Clear Channel Outdoor** for donating 25+ billboards
- **GS Marketing** for designing and printing all of the 2010 Car Pros for Kids materials and providing packaging and delivery to each shop
- **Sunny 99.1** for serving as our media sponsor
- Car Pros for Kids auto service providers for participating in the program: **Adolf Hoepfl & Son Garage, Aldine Automotive Inc., Beckwith's Car Care, 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, RMS Auto Care, Scott's Auto Repair & Collision Repair, Specialized Auto Repair, Sullivan's Advanced Auto Care, Village Automotive, Yale Automotive**

### FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL

- **Joy Posoli** for underwriting the cost of the invitations
- **Abuso Catering** for offering a discount on our luncheon spread
- **Jill Cokinos** for hosting the event in her home

### HOLIDAY PARTY

- **Enterprise Holdings** for sponsoring the party
- **The Westin Galleria** for hosting for the party for the second year
- **Cristina Anderson, Betty Newton** and **a bientot** for donating headbands for the girls who attended
- **Jennifer Nguyen** and **Lynn Phan** for donating nail polish to Ginger's Spa
- **Whataburger** and **the National Charity League-West Houston Chapter** for donating cookies

# Board Voice



CINDY SEBALD

**When I am not volunteering for CAI,** I am vice president, corporate human resources at El Paso Corporation. In my role I oversee a variety of functions in human resources and I work with company leadership to design and execute programs that support achievement of

company objectives, develop employee and leadership skills and capabilities and shape the culture of the company.

**CAI Board Role(s) and Committee Involvement:** I am currently in my second year on the Board of Child Advocates and serve as Chair of the HR committee. In this capacity I enjoy working with other board members and the leadership of Child Advocates in the people related programs of the organization. This allows me the unique opportunity of being involved in two areas about which I have a passion, protecting children and helping employees.

**I am involved with CAI because** El Paso has been a supporter of Child Advocates for many years. I expressed an interest in getting involved with an organization that helps children. After I met the folks that work at CAI, I was so very impressed with their leadership and enthusiasm. I also went to observe a court hearing with one of the Child Advocates employees. I began that day feeling overwhelmed and finished that day feeling hope. I was excited to work with an organization that makes the voice of the child its highest priority, particularly the abused and neglected children who need their help so desperately.

**My most favorite pastime is** spending time with my family; my husband Mark, son Tommy (20) and daughter Audrey (12). I also like to run and cook. These two go together ... I run to work off the calories from my cooking!



TERRENCE GEE

**CAI Board Role(s) and Committee Involvement:** Board of Directors member; 2010 Program Committee Chair; past Community Outreach Chair

**I am involved with CAI because** a friend and fellow Board member, Mike Van Hoozer, introduced

me to the organization in the late 90's. Once I had the opportunity to look into the mission of Child Advocates for myself, I was sold.

**When I am not volunteering for CAI,** you can find me working, playing sports and spending as much time as possible with my family. I was a partner at Accenture, a management consulting firm, and left there after 22 years to start a small venture firm. We've helped launch three fantastic local businesses in the last 18 months. I love running, fishing with my boys and watching college basketball (my daughter is becoming a fanatic just like her dad)!

**My greatest CAI experience** occurred recently when I was sworn in, along with my older brother, as a court appointed advocate volunteer through Child Advocates' Advocacy University training program.



Terrence lends a hand to a child in the holiday party stocking booth.

# Board of Directors

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Kenny Baldwin

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Ron Orsini  
Page Parkes-Eveleth

Joy Posoli  
James Prentice  
Mike Preston  
David Quackenbush  
Brad Robbins  
Barbara Scott  
Cindy Sebald  
Angie Sherrell

John Storms  
Ellie Sweeney  
Don Taylor  
Dolly Dawson Thomas  
Suzanne Thomas  
Nancy Thorington  
Mike Van Hoozer  
Jessica Wagner  
Milton West

# Spotlight On ...

## HOUSTON CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The Houston Children's Festival, presented by Baker Hughes, is right around the corner! This year's festival, April 10-11, promises a weekend full of family-friendly fun! The party's on from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. covering several city blocks surrounding City Hall downtown.

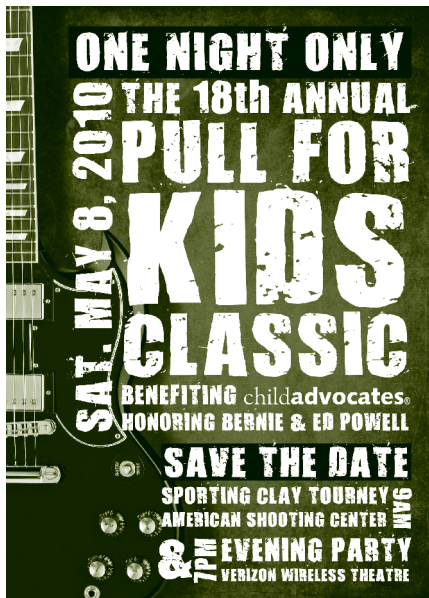


Featured attractions include eight Big Family Adventure Zones, six stages and more than 300 fun activities. Special appearances are also on tap by Chelsea Staub (Stella on Disney's JONAS) and Nathan Kress (Freddie on Nickelodeon's iCarly). Don't forget to stop by the CAI area in the H-E-B Healthy Kid's Kingdom!

For more information or advance tickets, be sure to check out [www.houstonchildrensfestival.com](http://www.houstonchildrensfestival.com).

## PULL FOR KIDS CLASSIC

Are you ready to *party like a rock star*? Join us Saturday, May 8 for the 18th annual *Pull for Kids Classic* as we honor Child Advocates hall-of-famers Bernie and Ed Powell. Bernie has been a court appointed advocate volunteer for 18 years – serving more than 165 children!



The festivities begin with a daytime sporting clays tournament for individual and corporate teams at American Shooting Centers, before moving on to Verizon Wireless Theater where we'll rock all evening with dinner, dancing and great auctions.

This event remains a Houston favorite, raising \$5.7 million since 1993 for Houston's abused and

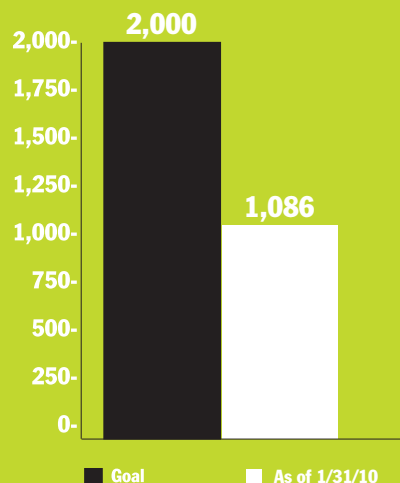
neglected children. This year we hope to raise \$550,000 – a huge help toward our goal of serving 2,000 children in 2010.

To event chairs Kim and Scott David, volunteer chair Lisa Strauser, team sales chair Craig Brast, auction chairs Sheryl and Joel Androphy, party chairs Lisa Erwin and Vanessa Sendukas and invite chair Jeff Birmingham – we couldn't do it without you!

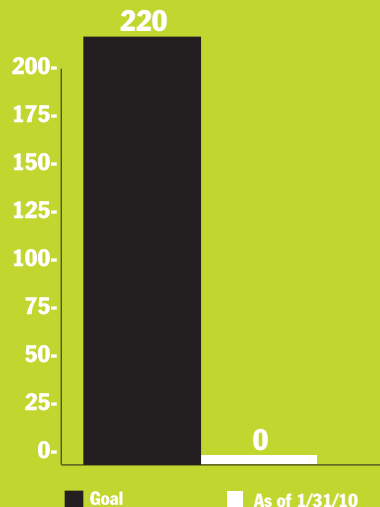
Get your ticket by visiting the *Pull for Kids* page on our website calendar, or contact [nicole.scanlin@childadvocates.org](mailto:nicole.scanlin@childadvocates.org).

# Goal Review

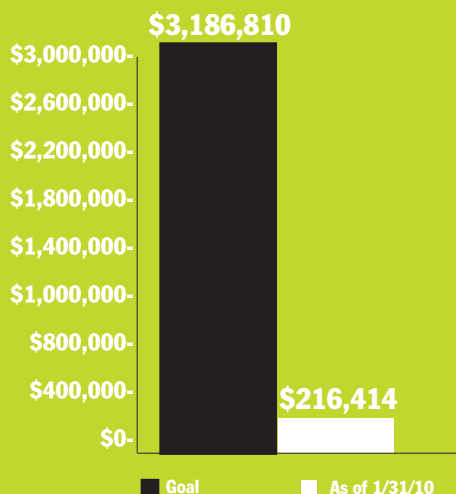
## CHILDREN SERVED



## 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 YOUNG WOMAN REFLECTS ON THE IMPACT HER COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE HAD ON HER LIFE

This letter is concerning a wonderful and inspirational person in my life. She has touched my life in a way I do not believe she is aware of. I was very young when I met this person but I am a firm believer that people are put into your life for special purposes.

My name is Marie Sonnier and I am twenty-four years old, I was a child in the custody of Child Protective Services and, out of the many people I came into contact with, she was always there for me and she was consistent with her visitations. I remember her bringing my sisters and I Cookie Bouquets for our birthdays, and every time I see one – even all these years later – I still think of her. She gave me a little green book, called “The Tap Dance Mystery,” when I was still in elementary school. I did not understand the importance of reading, so it took me a while to get to it, but the book impacted my life. The simple story inspired me not to get discouraged when things get hard and to keep going no matter how many times you may fall or how long it may take you. It was that inspiration that helped me go through high school and on to college. In college it was that book that helped me when I did get discouraged and overwhelmed. I graduated in December of 2009 with my Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology with a minor in Criminal Justice. I am now going back to school for my Masters Degree in Counseling. I work for a juvenile delinquency center, helping teenagers who are misguided to find positive direction in their lives.

Thank you, Marci Weinstein for your time and your persistence with me; you never know what impact you may have on a persons’ life and I wanted you to know that you had a gigantic impact on mine. Thank you again; you are a remarkable person.

*Marci Weinstein served as a court appointed advocate volunteer from 1991 to 2001. While she has retired from working cases, Marci continues to support Child Advocates in several capacities including volunteering her time each year during the Santa’s Wish List program and the Houston Children’s Festival.*

*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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