After more than a decade of abuse, neglect and heartache, Chelsey and Erik met their lifesaver, court appointed advocate Sheryl Androphy.

For 30 years, Child Advocates has invested in the lives of Houston’s abused and neglected children. Our volunteers have served hundreds of kids, and heard thousands of stories. They see a lot of struggle, but at the same time they get to see hope, all while pushing for victories in these little lives. When those victories happen, we celebrate, and honor the court appointed advocates who step in and become “lifesavers” for these children.

This year, at our 22nd annual Pull for Kids Classic, we were able to honor one particular advocate, Sheryl Androphy, and the impact she and her husband, Joel, were able to make in the life of a family.

Chelsey and Erik grew up in a home where cockroaches flourished and makeshift beds were made from piles of dirty laundry. Both, along with three younger siblings, were locked in their bedroom all day, only to smell the wafting stench of drugs from beneath the crack of their bedroom door. They suffered from years of being beaten, punched and called various degrading names. Chelsey was even the victim of sexual abuse, having been molested by her stepfather, and later raped in front of her siblings by her mother’s boyfriend.

Being the oldest, Chelsey took it upon herself to care for her younger siblings. “I was their mom. They looked up at me and they wanted me to answer their questions, and to tell them yes or no, right from wrong. Because I didn’t hit them or beat them. Pretty much, taking care of them was my life. I always wanted them to be happy. That was my one goal,” she said.

Chelsey was overwhelmed, and when her mother did nothing to stop the abuse, she went to the school nurse and told her what had been happening. Immediately, authorities removed all five children from the home and placed
them in care with their Aunt Dawn.

Erik often felt lost and wasn’t sure what to do. He came home from school one day, and everything was changing. He knew things weren’t good, but was unaware of the gravity of what his life looked like up until that point.

“He was talked down on, Erik, he was called so many names.” Chelsey said, “I didn’t know how to tell him, because I was called them too, ‘it’s wrong that they called you that. You didn’t deserve it. You didn’t do anything wrong, you were just born. That's not wrong, that’s actually great. It’s something you celebrate, it’s life. You’re supposed to be happy. It was so hard.”

Sheryl became the court appointed advocate for Chelsey and Erik, and their younger siblings. She dried tears, gave hugs and celebrated each little victory with them. She was their constant, when everything else in their life seemed to be shifting around them. To Sheryl, these kids were just as important as her own children and she quickly earned the ‘Aunt Sheryl’.

Chelsey remembers meeting Sheryl for the first time. “She was so nice, so proper, so sweet. She had this big smile on her face all the time, constantly. She always tried to make me comfortable. She would talk to me and she would ask me about what happened.” But Chelsey wasn’t ready to talk. She didn’t want to have to re-live what happened to her. Sheryl gave her time to process and offered her an ear to be heard.

Erik says, “She would talk to me like a friend, she wouldn’t talk to me like she was sitting there getting paid to talk to me. She’d talk to me like it was her choice to be there.”

Sheryl stood by proudly as Chelsey testified against one of her abusers in court.

Chelsey told us, “I thought I was the one that was in the wrong. I never knew that I was in the right. And Aunt Sheryl helped me realize that. After, I was happy and proud of myself. I had never been proud of myself! I thought I could do anything.”

Chelsey and Erik are now thriving. Their Aunt Dawn adopted them, and became the one they now call Mom. Chelsey is working toward becoming a dental assistant and is happily married with a baby boy of her own. Erik is a junior in high school with honors, taking college level courses.

We were able to share Chelsey and Erik’s story with our Child Advocates family and celebrate the victory that Sheryl helped bring them at our Pull for Kids evening party. Sheryl and Joel were completely unaware that this was the story we would tell, or that Chelsey and Erik would meet them on stage for hugs, a celebration and even a few happy tears. The emotions were overwhelming, and the room erupted in applause. Chelsey and Erik’s story was a victory, because their advocate made an overwhelming difference in their life, allowing them to be seen, heard and loved.
SUPERHEROES OF ALL AGES ARE GETTING SET TO TAKE OVER CITYCENTRE HOUSTON FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL SUPERHERO RUN POWERED BY MRE CONSULTING, LTD.

After an amazing 2013 inaugural Superhero Run, Child Advocates is thrilled to announce the second annual Superhero Run is set for October 18 at CITYCENTRE Houston. Child Advocates’ Superhero Run will be once again ‘powered by MRE Consulting, Ltd.’, we are so thankful for their continued support of this event.

Child Advocates’ Superhero Run is designed as a family fun event and includes 5K and 1K courses to run or walk in. So grab your cape and become a superhero for the day by wearing your favorite superhero costume to the run. Last year’s event brought nearly 1,000 superheroes out to help us in our fight against child abuse and we anticipate that this year’s event will be even bigger and better!

Our 2013 title sponsor, MRE Consulting, Ltd, is back on board for 2014 and with race chairs, Angie Henderson and Jeff Cotner leading the way, we are confident that this year we will meet our goal of raising over $90,000. Sponsorship opportunities are available, if this is something you or your company is interested in, please contact Kelly at kelly.goff@childadvocates.org or visit our website: www.childadvocates.org/hero for more information.

The Superhero Run not only helps us raise funds in support of our mission, but the event has also proven to raise morale, bringing hope and fun for all ages, as we face a tough fight for Houston’s children. Every kid needs a hero, but the abused and neglected children we see every day need superheroes — with your support you can be a superhero.

Registration for the run opens July 1!
To sign up and to get all the details, visit: www.childadvocates.org/hero. Your participation in this new event will help make a difference in the lives of some of Houston’s littlest victims.

From the CEO

Hi All,

School is out for summer, and Houston is already heating up. It’s such a fun time to be in the city, with all kinds of activities going on around us.

I’m still in awe from this year’s Pull for Kids Classic. We had such a great time seeing everyone participate in the sporting clays tournament in the morning, and then wow us with their 1920’s attire at the evening party. Our theme this year was “An Evening with Gatsby” and the whole day turned out to be a ‘roaring’ success, raising over $755,000 for our fight against child abuse. We could not do what we do without your overwhelming support!

Summertime is such a fun season for all of us here, as the kids we work with get a break from school and get to have a little fun! We have several activities for our kids in care, including a day full of water games hosted by our Young Professionals for Children group and sponsored by Tenaris. We love the chance to make summer an exciting and memorable time for them. Thank you to all who help us with that.

Before we know it though, the kids will be heading back to school and Cameron will once again be helping them get back to the books with a little less stress. We’ll have our annual Cameron Childspree in the middle of August. Kids will get to spend the morning shopping at Target for school supplies and clothes for the year. Many of these kids have never owned a new item in their whole life, so their excitement is contagious. We need lots of volunteers to shop alongside these kids, so be sure to check out our website to get involved.

The fall will be filled with lots of opportunities to get involved as well. Starting July 1 registration opens for our second annual Superhero Run. We will also be kicking off our 2014 Heroes giving campaign later in the summer.

We have so much to get excited about as we continue to rally together this summer in the fight for Houston’s littlest victims.

Sonya Galvan, CEO
“MY GREATEST EXPERIENCE WITH CHILD ADVOCATES HAS BEEN...”

“...watching the relationship develop between me and my court appointed children.

It is a slow process, but the day when the children showed joy when I knocked on their door or began to open up during a card game—there is truly no better feeling. Every case begins with the desire to make the right decisions for the children, but as each relationship grew and the trust deepened, I felt a sense of responsibility that goes beyond the court room. The satisfaction I receive in being their voice empowers me to do all I can to understand their lives and how I can make it better.”

Traci Jensen, Court Appointed Advocate Since 2013

“... when I pulled into the driveway for my home visit, heard the screen door slam and saw the three year-old twins I was working with run towards. They were calling my name and ran to give me a huge hug. That experience made everything worth it!”

Bob Kossman, Court Appointed Advocate Since 2010

“... being the voice of kids that wouldn't otherwise be heard I have the unique opportunity to stand up for what is best for the children, even if I stand alone. It has been one of my greatest challenges and biggest joy.”

Chieri Sanders, Court Appointed Advocate Since 2008
Focus on Friends
Friends of Child Advocates

ANGELS OF HOPE LUNCHEON
More than 600 fashionable ladies and gentleman joined chairs Lynda Lighthouse Transier, Joy Posoli and Nancy Thorington for the 2013 Angels of Hope Luncheon and Fashion Presentation by Neiman Marcus. Held at the beautiful Westin Galleria Hotel, the luncheon raised more than $400,000 – surpassing all previous records for Child Advocates. The event featured fashions from Roland Mouret’s 2014 resort collection and honored longtime volunteer and board member Hildegarde Ballard. Guest speaker Aundre Dean also gave the crowd insights to the life of a child in foster care and revealed how adoption changed his life.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, chairs Lynda, Joy, and Nancy were excited to announce and pass the torch to 2014 Angels of Hope Luncheon Chairs Stephanie Cockrell and Caroline Finkelstein. Save the date for this fabulous event on Tuesday, December 9, at an exciting new location, the Hilton Americas Houston, where we will honor longtime supporters Carl Stutts and Tessa Lesley.

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
The Friends of Child Advocates membership drive is well under way! On February 25, Friends’ President Tracy Eklund opened her beautiful home for our annual Membership Social. Attendees enjoyed a catered lunch from Swift + Company and learned more about the children we serve. Guest speaker, court appointed advocate Laura Torgerson, shared with those in attendance the many up and downs associated with being an advocate volunteer, while emphasizing the Friends’ significant role as a fundraising and volunteer arm of Child Advocates.

The Friends have many unique opportunities to volunteer at our fundraising and children’s events throughout the year, including our annual Easter Egg Hunt. This event included an Easter Egg Hunt, traditional egg dying, visits with the Easter Bunny and a picnic lunch for dozens of children and their foster families. A special thanks to Ms. Joanna Cramer for volunteering as the Easter Bunny for the third year in a row.

New members are also invited to serve on one of our standing committees that help plan events and other activities. These committees include: Membership, Fundraising Events, and Children’s Events.

If you have any questions or would like a friend to receive a membership brochure, please call Marla at 713-529-1396 x234 or marla.endieveri@childadvocates.org.

THE GREGORY FUND
Since 1987, The Gregory Fund, now administered through the Greater Houston Community Foundation, has provided the necessary financial resources to offer life changing services to over 165 abused and neglected children. Supporting Child Advocates since almost the beginning, The Gregory Fund also funds projects within Texas in the areas of arts and humanities, civic and public affairs, education, health, international and religious issues, science, and social services. We are grateful for The Gregory Fund’s many years of support and hope to continue this partnership for many more years to come!

DIANE RIFAI
As a court appointed advocate volunteer who has contributed almost 1,000 hours over nine cases, Diane Rifai knows firsthand the work of Child Advocates and the difference we make daily. She also understands how much is still needed to help Child Advocates reach our goals to serve more children in Harris County. Not only has Ms. Rifai been a compelling and articulate speaker about her volunteer experience at various Child Advocates events, she is also a generous and consistent donor. At the end of 2011, Diane chose to donate a fixed monthly sum to Child Advocates. Diane is enthusiastic and encourages others to do the same – “I do not have a six figure income or lots of money, but I know the power of regular monthly accrual of income... together we can continue to help Child Advocates grow and service the children in CPS care that need us so desperately.”

UNDERCOVER DONOR
Some donations are undeniably glamorous. The undercover donation is quieter. It’s gentle and humble. In fact, the only people who notice it directly are hidden away in the office where no one knows the impact it makes every month. Child Advocates’ Undercover Donor has been a generous supporter for almost 9 years, with consistent gifts every month totaling approximately $40,000 to date. Even during hard times, this donor continues to show his support! Year after year Child Advocates attempts to honor our Undercover Donor, but he persistently shies away from the recognition, genuinely giving to support the fight against child abuse.

Thank you Undercover Donor – you know who you are – for your true commitment to the children we serve!
The donors listed below contributed to Child Advocates, Inc. between October 1, 2013 & March 31, 2014. Since we are not a United Way agency, we rely on gifts made by individuals & non-governmental groups for more than 75% of our budget each year. Thank you for your help, it is truly appreciated.
Doing Something

SHARING THEIR PASSION FOR CHILD ADVOCATES WITH OTHERS

Child Advocate volunteers can be found in our community doing a variety of activities. One thing that you can always count on is that wherever they are, their passion for our mission is with them. This is certainly the case for advocates, Jeff Bean and Leticia Sanchez.

Jeff can often be found racing with Central Motorcycle Roadracing Association on the weekends. His passion for the children he serves led him to share his work at his racing events. Jeff took his support further by purchasing and donating ad space in the 2014 CMRA Rulebook.

Leticia, a flamenco dancer in her down time, saw an opportunity to share the work of Child Advocates. Thanks to her donated ad space, Child Advocates was in front of a sell-out crowd at the ‘Flamenco Beginnings’ show this spring.

These in-kind donations allowed Child Advocates to continue to grow and reach new potential volunteers. It is because of our advocates that we can help over 2,250 children this year. Thank you Jeff and Leticia for thinking of Child Advocates!
In Memory of…

FRANCES TOIG & MARK HEEG
Child Advocates recently lost two dedicated volunteers, Mrs. Frances (Fran) Maheris Toig and Mr. Mark Heeg, to long battles with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.

After a four and a half year battle with ALS, Ms. Toig passed away peacefully on Monday, March 24, 2014. She served twenty-six children over her six years as a court appointed advocate. Understanding that children in Child Protective Services care need additional services to thrive, Ms. Toig was working on establishing a scholarship fund for the children served by Child Advocates. Although she was unable to finish prior to her passing, her husband requests that any individuals wishing to make a memorial donation in her name can do so to the “Child Advocates Scholarship Fund.”

Mark Heeg, loving husband and father, passed away peacefully at home on April 4, 2014, after gracefully living the past two and half years with ALS. Mark was a longtime Child Advocate volunteer – a wonderful advocate that helped many of our children. He worked tirelessly on sixteen cases, contributing over 1,300 casework hours to the abused and neglected children we serve. Before his passing, Mark requested that donations be made to Child Advocates in lieu of flowers.

We will truly miss both of these beloved volunteers, who not only helped make a difference in countless children’s lives, but who also continually strived to make the world a better place.

YPC Update

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FOR CHILDREN
CHILDREN’S WATER DAY SPONSORED BY TENARIS

YPC is gearing up to help our kids stay cool this summer with their annual Water Day. We are thrilled to once again have Tenaris’ support for this event. YPC members and interns from Tenaris’ intern program will be on hand to help kids wander their way through the many water events and games. Special thanks to Amy’s Ice Cream for donating sweet treats for the kids.

2014 CHILI COOK-OFF FOR KIDS

Our cook-off committee is working hard to make this year’s Chili Cook-off for Kids the best yet. There are some exciting things in the works, including a new venue for this annual event. Currently we are looking for sponsors, if this interests you or your company please email stacy.senko@childadvocates.org.

GET INVOLVED WITH YPC!

Interested in being a member? Already a member and want to get more friends to join the fun? Contact Stacy at stacy.senko@childadvocates.org for more details.

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/caivpc

Happenings

JULY

1 Superhero Run Registration Opens – Register yourself and all of your superheroes for the 2nd annual Superhero Run powered by MRE Consulting, Ltd. Join us as superheroes take over CITYCENTRE Houston on October 18. Register at: www.childadvocates.org/hero

10 SAM & lilli Shopping Event – Come shop at SAM & lilli boutique from 6 - 8 PM. Bring a friend because 10% of the evening’s sales will be donated back to Child Advocates.

AUGUST

16 Cameron Childspree – We are heading back to Target to help over 625 children get ready to go back to school. Sign up to be a personal shopper by visiting: www.childadvocates.org/childspree.

15 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.

SEPTEMBER

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.

OCTOBER

18 Second Annual Superhero Run Powered by MRE Consulting, Ltd. – Grab your capes and head to CITYCENTRE Houston for our 2nd annual Superhero Run! Visit: www.childadvocates.org/hero for details.

18 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.

NOVEMBER

8 Child Advocates’ Chili Cook-off for Kids – Join YPC as they host the annual Chili Cook-off for Kids. We are at a new venue this year, so be on the lookout for all the details coming soon. Contact stacy.senko@childadvocates.org for more information.

DECEMBER

9 Angels of Hope Luncheon and Fashion Presentation – It’s the not to be missed, fashion event of the holiday season! This year we are at a new venue, the Hilton American-Houston. For more information visit: www.childadvocates.org/aoh

FOR MORE DETAILS & FOR ALL THE LATEST CALENDAR UPDATES, VISIT WWW.CHILDADVOCATES.ORG/CALENDAR
2013 - 2014 BOARD CHAIR
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Robert Krenzelok

BOArd Voice
JEFFERY LACK, BOARD MEMBER

WHEN NOT BUSY AS A BOARD MEMBER, MY DAYS ARE FILLED WITH... keeping up with my two amazing children and my beautiful wife Cinda. In my career world, I serve as the Chief Marketing Officer for Jiffy Lube International.

MY GREATEST EXPERIENCE WITH CHILD ADVOCATES HAS BEEN... seeing children being treated with respect and genuine love; not as another statistic or case file.

I GOT INVOLVED WITH CHILD ADVOCATES BECAUSE... of my wife, Cinda. She first came across Child Advocates through a volunteer project with the Junior League of Houston. From her exposure, she got us initially involved in Santa’s Wish List and that experience led her to become an advocate. It is because of her relationship with Child Advocates that my parents’ foundation made a donation to Child Advocates. Our involvement has only grown from there.

MY INVOLVEMENT WITH CHILD ADVOCATES INCLUDES... being a happy donor since 2003 and then joining the Advisory Board and Marketing Committee in 2012. In 2014, I joined the Board of Directors and I am currently serving as the Marketing Committee Chair.

WHEN I AM NOT WORKING OR VOLUNTEERING FOR CHILD ADVOCATES YOU CAN FIND ME... snow or water skiing. Traveling and skiing are some of my favorite past times. I’ll take any quality time with my family that I can get.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS
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Special Thanks

ANGELS OF HOPE LUNCHEON - Thank you to Neiman Marcus Houston for presenting the Roland Mouret Spring Collection Ensemble, Brunswick Press, Inc. for the collateral, H-E-B and Something Special in Flowers for the floral arrangements and to The Capital Grille, Chubb Group of Insurance Companies, Corner A. Williams & Associates, Corner Table, Ms. Lynda Lighthouse Transier, San Luis Resort, Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Schatzman, Ms. Suzanne Thomas and Mrs. Phyllis Williams for your many generous donations to this event.

CAR PROS FOR KIDS - Thanks to Auto Check One, Beckwith’s Car Care, Christian Brothers - Grand Eldridge, Christian Brothers - Grand Parkway, Cornerstone Automotive - Dairy Ashford, Cornerstone Automotive - Wilcrest, Freedom Automotive Services, Inc., Itzy’s Auto Repair Service, Mac Haik Chevrolet, Mac Haik Dodge Chrysler Jeep, Mac Haik Ford, Master Car Care, RMS Auto Care, Inc., Russell & Smith Ford, Russell & Smith Honda, Russell & Smith Mazda, Scott’s Auto Repair, Inc. and Specialized Auto Repair for participating in this year’s program. Thanks to gS Marketing and Seebridge Media for donating this year’s event collateral.

PULL FOR KIDS CLASSIC - Thank you ABC Home & Commercial Services, Academy Sports & Outdoors, Alliance Graphics, Comcast Cable, Demeris Barbeque, DEPO Texas, French Country Wine, H-E-B Foods, Houston Wine Merchant, Kagan Cellars, Pico’s Mex-Mex Restaurant, Randalls Food Markets, Inc., Silver Eagle Distributors, L.P., Spec’s Wine, Spirits, and Finer Foods, Star Motor Cars- Aston Martin, UBS Financial and Whataburger for your in-kinds donations to help make this event a success. We would like to send a special thank you to The Arbor Gate, BASF, Ms. Kathleen Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Marc Danile, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Farrell, Mrs. Brandi Maxwell, Mrs. Leslie Powell, Mrs. Rachel Reedy, Mrs. Chelsea Saxena, Mrs. Lisa Sechelski, Mr. Michael Tiffin, Ms. Gretchen Umbeck, Whole Foods Market and Xavier National Honor Society. Your gifts provided brighter days for our children.
Spotlight On ...

**JERSEY MIKE’S MONTH OF GIVING**

For several years Jersey Mike’s Subs has been supporting Child Advocates and this partnership seems to grow stronger and stronger every year. Of course, we were thrilled when we found out that they had again selected Child Advocates as their Houston-area beneficiary for their annual ‘Month of Giving’ program. During the month of March, Jersey Mike’s customers had various opportunities to donate to Child Advocates and receive a treat as a thank you. To help build momentum through the month, Jersey Mike’s assisted Child Advocates with various media spots on radio, television and print. These media spots not only promoted the ‘Month of Giving’ program but they were also geared to also help us further share our mission.

The month long program culminated on March 26 with their annual ‘Day of Giving’. That day 100% of the day’s sales from all ten Houston stores was donated back to Child Advocates. It is because of the support of our Child Advocates’ family and the generosity of Jersey Mike’s that we are happy to say that the expected gift amount is over $17,400.

Thank you to all who ate at Jersey Mike’s in March and an even bigger thank you to our friends at Jersey Mike’s for this amazing opportunity!

**2014 PULL FOR KIDS CLASSIC - ‘AN EVENING WITH GATSBY’**

The annual Pull for Kids Classic is celebrated its 22nd anniversary in style, with a 1920’s Gatsby inspired evening that included dinner, dancing and hundreds of live and silent auction items.

The fun-filled day and night honored Sheryl and Joel Androphy for their generous and long standing support of Child Advocates. Sheryl’s journey began nine years ago when she volunteered as a court appointed advocate. Since then, she has advocated for eleven children, all who have thrived with her support – in fact, she still remains in close contact with children from her very first case!

This year’s Pull was a ‘roaring’ success thanks to all the work of our Pull for Kids committee and chairs, Cherie and Alan Hassenflu. We are happy to report that year’s event brought in over $755,000 with a record breaking $153,000 coming in from the ‘Sponsor a Child’ portion of the evening. Many thanks to all who helped make this event such a great success.

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Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/ChildAdvocatesInc

Follow us on Twitter
@CAIHouston
KeShawna (with Child Advocates):
You’re a nice looking young man

Rayven, age 10:
Yeah, Ms. KeShawna all the girls tell me that!

"This is the best day ever! Can I do this every year?"
John, age 5 at Cameron Childspree

"Miss, can you do me a favor and be different than every person in my life and actually be there when I need you."
– Ziad, age 13

<< Drawing from Jennifer, age 6. When asked about it she said, "The two little hearts are me and my brother. The big heart with curly hair is you [the child's advocate]."