# celebrating 30 YEARS



In 1984, Child Advocates set upon a mission: to stand up and speak out for Harris County's abused and neglected children. Our goal was to become a beacon of hope, a source of stability, a way for abused children to change the course of their devastated lives, to find peace and happiness.

That first year, we were a small but determined group, serving just a few kids. And, now, as we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we reflect on how Child Advocates has grown. Not only in size and number of volunteers, but most importantly, in the number of children we serve.

To date, Child Advocates has made a deeply meaningful impact in the lives of over 21,000 children.

They say the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is designated by diamonds. This couldn't be more fitting. The children we serve are precious gems caught in unimaginably rough situations. Our volunteers are sparkling examples of how just one person can make a huge and lasting impact.

Here's to 30 more years of bringing clarity to lives filled with uncertainty and being the catalyst that helps a child mired in abuse to shine.

## child**advocates**

## PROGRAM

This is truly what Child Advocates is all about. By providing diligent search, educational advocacy, reunification services and support for the family, our court appointed advocate volunteers are able to guide abused and neglected children through a seemingly hopeless time in their lives and lead them to a brighter future of peace and stability where they may shine.

### COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE VOLUNTEERS

#### COURT SERVICES PROGRAM

#### PMC PROGRAM

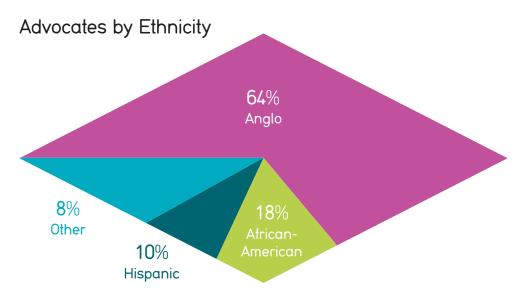
While the majority of our work focuses on younger children in temporary foster care, there are a great many older children relegated to long-term foster care, or Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC). These are kids the state has been unable to reunite with parents, find a suitable relative replacement or an adoptive home. With concentrated intervention into the lives of these kids, we believe we can help provide for greater stability and the possibility of more positive, permanent solutions before they "age out" of the system, thereby increasing their chance to have a more positive and productive life.

Since beginning in 1984, Child Advocates has trained over 4,500 volunteer men and women to become Court Appointed Advocates. These special people are literally on the front lines helping children who have been placed into protective custody due to terrible, often life threatening, abuse and neglect. In 2013, we welcomed 219 new volunteer advocates to continue this important work.

It's a vital, multi-faceted role that requires patience, compassion and determination. Our volunteer advocates not only work with caseworkers, ensure medical care, locate and interview parents and family members, they also make recommendations for the child's best interests in court. What's more, they are the heartfelt hugs, warm smiles, unwavering support, hope and positivity these children desperately need.

#### ADVOCACY COORDINATORS

And just as the children are never alone throughout their case, neither are our advocate volunteers. Upon completing Advocacy University, each advocate is paired with an Advocacy Coordinator. Our Coordinators provide guidance, support, information and whatever else is needed to ensure the advocate volunteers are properly equipped and emotionally empowered to do their best for the children.



### RECRUITMENT

Fighting to end the cycle of abuse is a daunting task, and we can't do it alone. Finding new volunteers is a constant endeavor, for they are the lifeblood of our mission. Through advertising, public service announcements, word-of-mouth and personal contacts we are on a never-ending search for those special people willing to be the voice of an abused child.

#### ORIENTATION

The journey of every Child Advocates volunteer begins with a one-hour orientation session. This is where the aspects of what it means to be a court appointed volunteer are detailed, as well as all of the other opportunities available to individuals willing to help.

In this session, volunteers hear from judges, veteran volunteers, staff members and others about how important their time, talents and caring are to the life of a child and to the mission of Child Advocates.

#### ADVOCACY UNIVERSITY

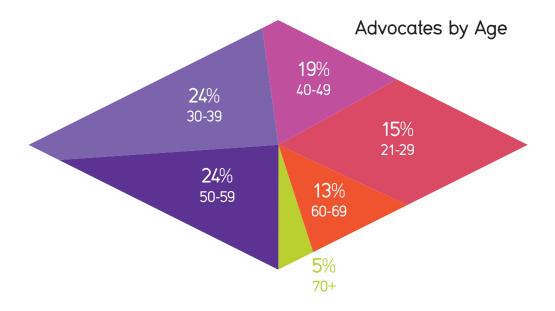
After orientation, our volunteers attend Advocacy University (AU). Here they delve deeper into their positions as a court appointed advocate, learning everything from the psychology of abuse to requirements for writing court documents. AU is a fully comprehensive 30-hour course held six to eight times a year and is the model for Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs throughout the country.

#### AU GRAD SCHOOL

Upon completion of AU, our volunteer advocates continue their education even after they have accrued actual case experience. AU Grad School further empowers volunteer advocates with training specific to their individual cases with topics that can range from working with people with bi-polar disorder to the inner workings of drug court in Harris County.

#### VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

Of course, none of the success of the last 30 years would be possible without our wonderful volunteer advocates. The Volunteer Appreciation Event is our way of giving thanks and recognizing the unsung heroes of our program who are vital in the fight against child abuse. It is at this event that we present the Rookie of the Year and James A. Gwinn Outstanding Court Appointed Advocate of the Year awards. In 2013 we honored one of our longest tenured and most beloved volunteers, Bernie Powell.



## CHILDREN'S EVENTS & PROGRAMS

#### CAMERON CHILDSPREE

Back-to-School shopping has never been more rewarding. Cameron Childspree is one of our most anticipated annual events. Thanks to the support of incredible sponsors and the hard work of hundreds of volunteers and "personal shoppers," we were able to help 625 kids in 2013 get much needed, clothing, shoes and supplies for the new school year.

#### HOLIDAY PARTY

The season of giving is never more evident than at our annual Holiday Party. That's when the hundreds (over 700 in 2013!) of kids served by Child Advocates and their foster siblings are treated to an afternoon of food, crafts, games and an abundance of Holiday cheer and happiness. Santa even makes an appearance for fun and photos. It's our way of ensuring, at least for one day, that all is merry and bright.

#### SANTA'S WISH LIST

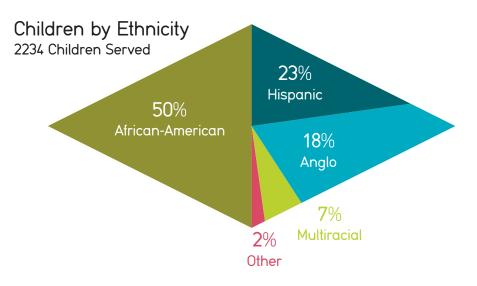
Nothing makes a child's eyes sparkle more than when they receive a gift they've been wishing for. That's what makes the Santa's Wish List program so special. Through donations, sponsorships, months of hard work and planning by hundreds of individual volunteers and corporate sponsors. we are able to provide the children we serve with many of the gifts on their holiday wish lists. It's a momentous undertaking that couldn't be more rewarding.

### BIRTHDAY PARTIES

If anyone deserves to have their cake and eat it too, it's the children we serve. Quarterly birthday parties are our way of giving these kids a special day of fun and happiness. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Junior League of Houston, the guarterly birthday parties feature lunch for the children and their foster siblings as well as engaging themes that make the day extra special.

#### RACHEL & GILBERT'S CLOSET: SPECIAL NEEDS ROOM

Named for two of the original group of children we served, Rachel & Gilbert's Closet is a wonderful repository for anything and everything our kids may need to make their lives more manageable. Everything from dance lessons, diapers and eyeglasses to backpacks, bunk beds, tutoring and prom dresses can be obtained through the Closet. Just one more way Child Advocates does whatever it can to ensure the children we serve have any and all of their needs met.

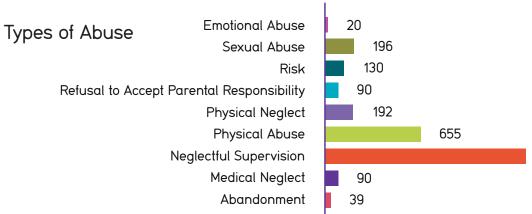


### **I IFEBOOKS**

Another fantastic Junior League project is the Lifebook Program a special scrapbook for teenaged children that chronicles their life from birth. Each Lifebook includes the reasons the child came under CPS care, birth-family photos, pictures of their foster families, a copy of their birth certificate, a family tree, important addresses, schools and other entities and information that have shaped the life of the child. Often the Lifebook is the only memory these children have of their biological families.

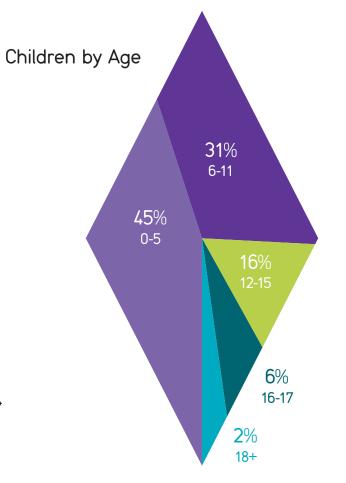
#### YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FOR CHILDREN

Another significant group of volunteers is YPC - young professionals dedicated to helping stop child abuse. Not only does YPC provide critical volunteer support for Child Advocates programs and events, they are essential to the cause by holding many fundraisers throughout the year. In addition, YPC spearheads several exciting events and outings for the children served by Child Advocates including Water Day, 'When I Grow Up Day', and a Halloween Party.



#### FRIENDS OF CHILD ADVOCATES

Vibrant, active and highly effective, this special group of volunteers continually goes above and beyond for Child Advocates. Specializing in fundraising. The Friends of Child Advocates proudly hold their signature holiday Angels of Hope Luncheon and Fashion Show, as well as volunteer for the Holiday Party, help coordinate Childspree and do anything else they can to help us break the cycle of violence and abuse.



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## FUNDRAISING EVENTS & CAMPAIGNS

#### CAR PROS FOR KIDS

This fundraising drive helps keep Child Advocates running right! Each February, Houston area participating auto service providers offer two free oil changes for a \$35 donation, with 100% of the proceeds directly benefiting Child Advocates.

### HOUSTON CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

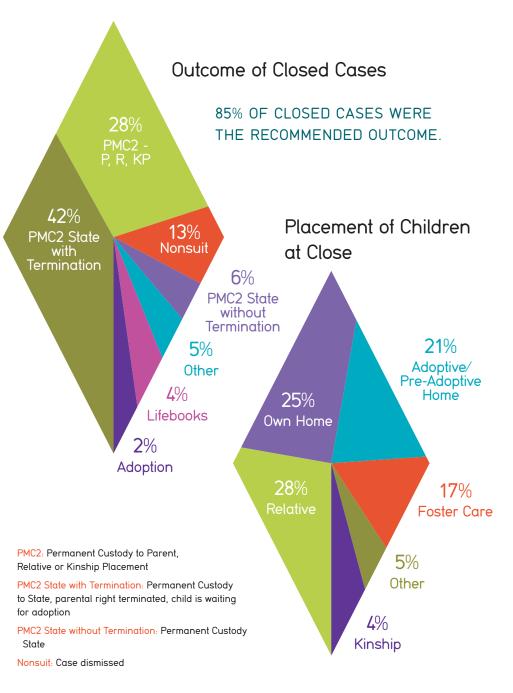
One of Houston's premier events is one of our primary fundraisers. The Houston Children's Festival attracts over 50,000 people annually with incredible games, rides, exhibits, activities, as well as appearances and entertainment from television and pop culture stars. The Houston Children's Festival celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2013 and we couldn't be more proud to be associated with such an amazing event.

### PULL FOR KIDS CLASSIC

Our largest fundraiser, The Pull for Kids Classic is a tremendously fun event that honors individuals and corporations who have made a significant impact in the lives of abused children. It begins with a sporting clays tournament and concludes with a lively party, complete with a live and silent auction, fabulous food and spectacular entertainment. The Pull for Kids event in 2013 brought in over \$770,000 and has, to date, raised nearly \$8 million.

#### SUPERHERO RUN

2013 saw the first ever Child Advocates Superhero Run. This family friendly fun run is all about saving the day and defeating child abuse.



In fact, it has become our newest annual event. Whether it's the 1k or the 5k, participants of all ages don their best superhero costumes and help run child abuse right out of town. In 2013, the run raised over \$90,000. An incredible feat for the event we're confident will only continue to grow in scope and popularity.

#### HEROES SOCIETY ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Each fall we reach out to our Heroes Society (donors who make an unrestricted commitment to Child Advocates) to help further our mission of being a voice for abused children in Harris County.

The campaign is intended to help us serve more children and to grow our program while further distinguishing Child Advocates from other organizations with 100% participation from volunteers, board members and staff. In addition, the campaign increases awareness about the importance of annual gifts to our mission and continues to build Child Advocates' legacy.

### ANGELS OF HOPE LUNCHEON & FASHION PRESENTATION

A "must attend" event for Houston's social crowd, The Angels of Hope Luncheon marks the beginning of the holiday social scene with a spectacular luncheon and fashion show produced by the Friends of Child Advocates and Neiman Marcus. The event is a wonderfully chic and tremendously effective fundraiser that honors local philanthropists and tenured supporters. The 2013 luncheon was bursting with a wonderful crowd of over 600 attendees, raised over \$350,000 and over \$4 million to date.



During this, our diamond anniversary, we humbly thank you for helping Child Advocates shine for the last 30 years. Your contributions have been invaluable in our mission to lift abused children out of lives of violence and turmoil. And though we celebrate three decades of service, the hard work of caring for Harris County's "diamonds in the rough" is only just beginning.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sheryl Androphy David Baird Hildegarde Ballard Jeff Ballew James Brodnax Rick Burnett Gill Cheesman Jane Dabney Kimberly David David Davis Robert Davis Eddy De Los Santos Tracy Eklund Terrence Gee Grace Holmes Dwayne Hyzak Jim Kimble Robert Krenzelok

Jeffrey Lack June Lohman Ron Orsini David Quackenbush Brad W. Robbins Frank Rynd Cynthia Sebald Angie Sherrell Mark Smith John Storms Ellie Sweeney Dolly Dawson Thomas Suzie Thomas Nancy Thorington Mike Van Hoozer Milton West David Winn

### 2013 YEAR END REVIEW

More than 70% of our annual budget comes from donations made by individuals, companies, organizations and foundations. Child Advocates is not a United Way agency and we rely heavily on private giving from the community.

#### 2013 REVENUE, GAINS AND PUBLIC SUPPORT\*

Contributions	\$ 1,654,630
Financial Assistance	798,710
Memberships	40,554
Special Events (net of \$231,644 in event expenses)	
Houston Children's Festival	178,261
Pull for Kids Classic	629,099
Angels of Hope Luncheon	328,477
Other Events	146,244
Other	9,887
Total Revenue, Gains and Public Support	\$ 3,785,862
EXPENSES*	

Community Service	\$ 2,652,237
Professional Education and Training	580,379
Management and General	403,054
Fundraising	377,443
Total Expenses	\$ 4,013,114
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ (227,252)

Ending Net Assets \$ 1,778,525

\*Revenue and expenses do not include in-kind contributions and expenses: Christmas gifts - \$150,000 and Volunteer services \$1,328,432. All data as of December 31, 2013 unaudited financial statements.

### \$3.8 MILLION RAISED

80 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR RAISED GOES DIRECTLY TO SERVING ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN 21% Financial assistance 29% Special events (net) **5**%







**CELEBRATING 30 YEARS** 

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