



the difference

CHILD ADVOCATES, INC. 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

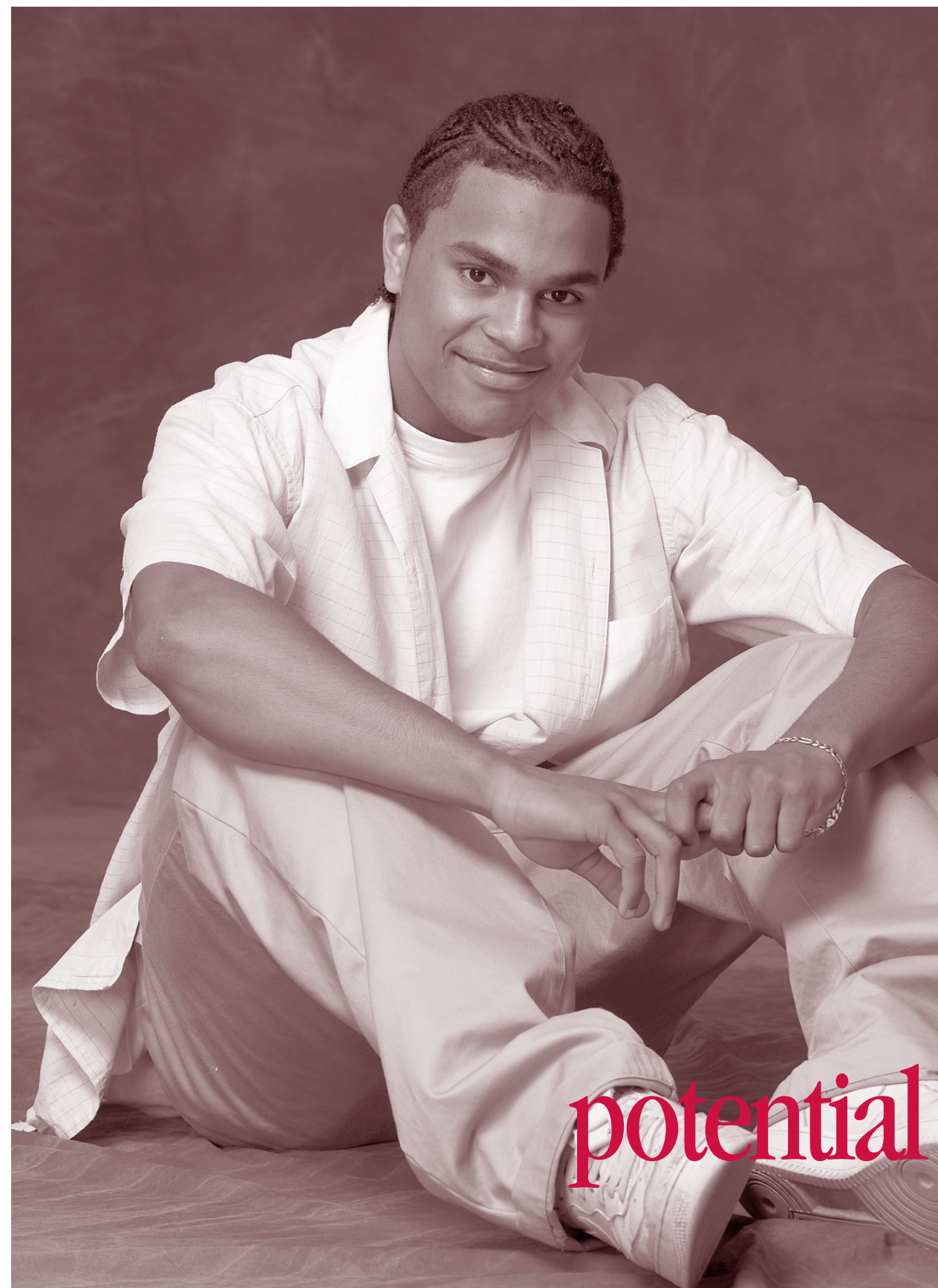
We're no strangers to being the difference.




In fact, we consider it our specialty. Our court appointed advocate volunteers were assigned to the cases of 1,752 abused and neglected children in 2006 — making a marked difference not only in the outcome of the cases, but ultimately in each one of those children's lives.

They were the difference between tearful good-byes and much-anticipated hellos; between four separate placements and inseparable siblings; between a mother who throws her hands up and one learning to be hands-on.

Although the size and shape of each difference may vary, one thing does not: our commitment to one day saying that our volunteers are able to be the difference for every child in Harris County who needs us.



potential



Mark's mother didn't know what else to do. At 14, he had completely shut her out and was skipping school to run around with known gang members. After he physically hit her during a confrontation, she checked him into a hospital psychological unit, only to have them call her a few days later to say he was being discharged.

Refusing to pick him up, she called Child Protective Services (CPS) for help. The agency took custody of Mark and placed him in a group foster home.

When Mark met Adrian, the court appointed advocate volunteer assigned to his case, he could best be described as angry. Mad at his parents and at CPS, he repeatedly threatened to run away from the placement, which he said he "hated."

Adrian's first move was to call Mark's mother to get her side of the story. After several frustrating months, both parents had become completely exasperated by CPS and had stopped working towards completing the required services, resulting in the agency no longer considering family reunification as a goal for the case.

But, according to Mark's mother, Adrian's phone call made all the difference. It was her first glimpse of hope — since Mark was taken into custody — that someone cared about her family.

On Adrian's urging, Mark's parents resumed their services. They willingly entered family therapy and began visiting Mark regularly. Adrian continued to visit Mark as well — sometimes several times each month — encouraging him to work hard at school and improve his behavior at the group home. He also worked closely with CPS to ensure that a homestudy was conducted to determine that Mark's parents' physical home was appropriate — as the goal for the case had been changed back to reunification.

Adrian testified to the judge that this family was ready for another chance, and 11 months from the day he'd struck his mother, Mark was returned home. Although the case is now closed, he keeps in touch with Adrian, who he "still can't believe is a volunteer," often sending pictures, copies of his report cards and newspaper clippings on his football and track success.

the difference between
gang member
and
exceeding his potential

statistics

2006

CHILD ADVOCATES, INC. 2006 STATS

- Provided advocacy for 1,752 abused and neglected children in Harris County
- Trained 172 new volunteers
- Worked on 889 cases – 488 volunteers collectively worked more than 48,000 hours
- Raised \$2.8 million
- The cost to Child Advocates to serve one child in 2006 was \$1,600

CHILD ADVOCATES, INC. GENERAL STATS

- Served more than 13,500 children since our inception in 1984
- Family judges agreed with the recommendations of the Child Advocates *guardian ad litem* 87% of the time
- Member of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (NCASAA), and is one of the largest of 900 member programs across the country
- Member of the Texas Court Appointed Special Advocate (TCASA) program

LOCAL FACTS ON CHILD ABUSE

- 6,883 confirmed victims of child abuse in Harris County in 2006*
- 4,799 children in foster care in Harris County in 2006*
- A CPS worker's caseload averages 50 cases*

NATIONAL FACTS ON CHILD ABUSE

- An average of 4 children die every day in our nation as a result of abuse and neglect**
- Children under the age of four account for 81% of those fatalities**
- Each year, more than 2.7 million children are reported as abused and/or neglected**
- An estimated \$93 billion accounts for the direct and indirect annual costs of child abuse***

* source: Harris County Department of Family and Protective Services, *2006 Data Book*

** source: National Child Abuse and Neglect Data Systems (NCANDS), *Child Maltreatment 2004*

*** source: www.cdc.gov, Child Maltreatment Fact Sheet





the difference between



Five-year-old Isaiah and three-year-old Mercedes' mother had left them in the care of a stranger for the last time. Her erratic behavior upon leaving them at a neighbor's door prompted the woman to call the police.

The responding officers noted the stench first. The windows were covered with plywood and the power was turned off. There were dirty diapers, soiled laundry, rotting food and piled trash strewn throughout the apartment. Most concerning, was that the children's mother didn't notice. She sat staring blankly, unable to focus and babbled about voices in her head calling her stupid and a bad mother. Her unprovoked emotional outbursts terrified the children.

With their fathers nowhere to be found — Isaiah's fled to Indonesia two years prior and Mercedes' had been deported to Mexico — the children were placed in a foster home. A few weeks later, in walked the man who would be their difference — their court appointed advocate volunteer, Mark.

The case had all the makings of long-term CPS involvement — termination seemed impossible with both dads missing and the caseworker giving up on tracking down their mother as she bounced between shelters and local hospital psychological wards. But Mark wouldn't accept a fate of endless foster care for the children. He worked diligently with the attorneys appointed for the fathers to locate both men and made it his mission to find the mother via hospital records and service providers.

Mark maintained close contact with the court appointed therapist, who had serious concern over the mother's ability to parent long-term. Without individualized and careful monitoring, she wouldn't stay on her medication and without her medication, she had migraines, psychotic episodes and fits of explosive rage. Mark sat down with the mother on every occasion he could and tried to explain the situation.

When it came down to the trial, Mom looked to Mark for guidance. Not to the CPS caseworker, who'd passed her off months earlier as crazy; not to her attorney, who she'd met only once, but Mark — who had shown her patience and compassion and kept her focused on doing the right thing for her children. She relinquished all parental rights to both children, in her own words: "because she wanted what was best for them."

Today, Isaiah and Mercedes are thriving in their adoptive family. Although the case is long-closed, Mark was recently invited to dinner when Isaiah asked "if Mr. Mark was coming to see him again." While

they may have been too young to really know the difference he was in their lives, seeing them interact with their loving, consistent new parents was reward enough.

volatility and stability



highlights

2006

- For the first time in over five years, we surpassed all three of our organizational goals: children served (100% of goal), dollars raised (106% of budgeted) and volunteers trained (101% of goal).
- The Swalm Foundation bestowed upon Child Advocates the largest gift on record for the history of the organization. The \$2,000,000 gift was made to the Child Advocates Endowment, where it will generate income on an annual basis to ensure the services of our court appointed advocate volunteers for years to come.
- Of the 488 court appointed advocate volunteers assigned to cases in 2006, 52% were what we consider tenured volunteers (those who have worked three or more cases to date). This means that more than half of our court appointed advocates brought significant prior casework experience to the table.
- Court appointed advocates Bernie Powell and Linda Murphy were recognized for their outstanding efforts in serving our children — Bernie was chosen as the *2006 Jane Quantan Piper Volunteer Advocate of the Year* by the Texas CASA Association in October and Linda was named the *2006 James A. Gwinn Outstanding Volunteer of the Year* by Child Advocates at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event.
- Chief Executive Officer Sonya Galvan celebrated ten years at the helm of Child Advocates — and 18 years total on staff.
- *Just for Now: Kids and the People of the Court* — an illustrated, hard-cover book for children ages 6 to 12 — is a reality. The purpose of the three-year book project was to create a tool that would help clarify the role of court appointed advocate volunteers and others in the court system for children in custody. 35,000 copies of the book have been printed and thousands were sent free of charge to all Texas foster children in that age range with an advocate. Orders are being received from all over the US.
- From August through October, we conducted our 2006 Heroes Society Campaign with a goal of 100% participation from the Child Advocates “family”: Board, staff and court appointed advocates. 38 percent of our court appointed advocates made unrestricted financial donations and 100% of our staff and Board of Directors made an unrestricted financial donation directly, or had a gift made in their honor.
- Our recruitment sources continued to grow in 2006. TimeWarner Cable allowed Child Advocates a rare treat in July when they produced a :30 television spot for the organization. While our direct marketing efforts (print, radio, television and Internet) still top the list of how potential volunteers hear about us, personal referrals come in at a close second.

At 13, Ashley knew the drill. While her mother bounced from man to man — several of whom sexually abused her and her seven younger sisters — she was the caregiver for the family. She ensured the little ones got to the bus stop, figured out what they'd have for dinner and tried to keep the laundry caught up so there were clean clothes for school.

Even when the house they were living in burned down and the entire family moved into a hotel, she continued to play the part of the parent. But when the police came to investigate a report of little girls wandering the premises, CPS was notified and all of them were taken into custody.

When Marsha, the court appointed advocate volunteer, was assigned to the case, she could tell right away that Ashley was struggling to fit in to her new role — child. After years of taking care of her sisters, she had no idea how to look at her life in terms of “what Ashley wanted.”

Marsha took a few minutes alone with Ashley at each visit, encouraging her to focus on herself. Weeks later, when Ashley casually mentioned modeling, Marsha jumped at the chance to fan the tiny flame. When she contacted a modeling and acting agency in the area and told them about Ashley, the agency enrolled Ashley in a class.

The change was gradual, but far beyond skin-deep. The coaching Ashley received not only left her with makeup application tricks and improved posture, it left her with two much greater gifts: a leap in her self-esteem and — for the first time in her life — the glimpse of an actual future.

Marsha provided solid testimony at the termination trial and strongly recommended Ashley remain with her foster mother, who was planning to adopt her. Although she knew better than to expect too many words from the shy teen, the wink Ashley sneaked her at their goodbye visit was all she needed to know that she had indeed been the difference in this young girl's life.

the difference
between
dreamless and
a dream come true





programs and services

FOR THE CHILDREN WE SERVE

CAMERON CHILDSPREE

Thanks to new sponsors Cameron, Target and the Hoglund Foundation, “shop ‘til you drop” took on a whole new meaning at our 2006 event. Three hundred children received a \$100 voucher and a personal shopper to help select back-to-school clothing, shoes and necessities.

COURT SERVICES PROGRAM

Child Advocates provides mission-critical support and supervision to court appointed advocate volunteers. The court services program includes diligent search, educational advocacy, reunification services and support to the family. Through the court program, volunteers guide abused and neglected children into safe, loving environments where they can thrive.

GILBERT AND RACHEL’S CLOSET - SPECIAL NEEDS ROOM

Diapers, school uniforms, prom dresses, backpacks, eyeglasses, dance or karate lessons, tutoring, bunk beds, baby formula—everyday items that may easily be taken for granted by some. Named after two of the first children served by Child Advocates, Gilbert and Rachel’s Closet opens the door to a host of items that make a huge difference in the lives of our children.

HOLIDAY PARTY

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year.” Nearly 800 children served by Child Advocates and their foster siblings were treated to several hours of holiday bliss at the annual Holiday Party, generously sponsored by Target. Dozens of volunteers helped produce contests, crafts, food and fun to help make this event memorable.

SANTA’S WISH LIST

Fueled by the spirit of good will of individuals and corporations, along with lots of hard work, planning and organization by Child Advocates staff members and volunteers, the Santa’s Wish List program ensured that nearly 1,000 children served by Child Advocates received gifts during the holiday season.

YPC CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES

Committed members of Child Advocates’ Young Professionals for Children group provide exciting afternoon activities to help enrich the lives of children served by Child Advocates. 2006 events included the *Rodeo Round-Up*, the *Roller Rink Revelry* and the annual *Great Pumpkin Party* with a pirate-themed twist.



community outreach

ADVOCACY UNIVERSITY (AU)

We like to think of it as “heroes in training.” Our volunteers learn about everything from the psychology of abuse to writing important court documents. Our 30-hour training program has become a model for CASA programs across the country. All seven of our AU training sessions in 2006 were generously sponsored by BP America.

AU GRAD SCHOOL

Knowledge never ends where we’re concerned. We empower our volunteers, even after they’ve completed training and have begun their roles as guardians *ad litem*. AU grad school covers a range of topics that speak directly to the experiences our volunteers encounter during the course of their volunteer work.

FRIENDS OF CHILD ADVOCATES

Whether they are producing their signature Angels of Hope Luncheon, recruiting new members to join the Friends, coordinating logistics for the annual ChildSpree or making the holidays memorable for girls who visit their “Ginger’s Spa” booth at the annual Holiday Party, the Friends of Child Advocates is a treasured group of volunteers who support Child Advocates’ mission.

ORIENTATION

Our one-hour orientations help individuals learn about different volunteer opportunities at Child Advocates, and determine how they best fit within our organization.

RECRUITMENT

We find our volunteers in both obvious and unique places. We recognize that volunteers are at the core of fulfilling our mission, and will do what we can to help get them involved.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

Generously sponsored by BP America, this much-anticipated annual event allows us to pay special tribute to our volunteers who are on the front lines everyday in the fight against child abuse.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FOR CHILDREN

Volunteer manpower at its best! A group of young professionals who are dedicated to breaking the cycle of child abuse produce enriching activities for the children served by Child Advocates, provides critical volunteer support for special events benefiting Child Advocates, and holds a fundraiser to help support the organization’s mission.

fundraising and special events

ANGELS OF HOPE LUNCHEON AND FASHION PRESENTATION

Each November, this annual luncheon and fashion presentation is the kickoff to Houston's holiday social season. Produced by the Friends of Child Advocates in conjunction with Neiman Marcus, our 2006 event honored philanthropic Houstonian, Rose Cullen. The runway show — a preview of Chanel's 2007 Cruise and Spring collections — put the luncheon on the Houston social crowd's "must-attend" list.

CAR PROS FOR KIDS

Participating auto service providers helped raise funds for Child Advocates during the month of February by offering two free oil changes to individuals who visited their shop and made a \$25 donation to Child Advocates. One hundred percent of the proceeds benefited Child Advocates.

GIVING

Child Advocates cannot operate without the support of individuals, corporations and foundations. Year after year, we rely upon the benevolence of the entire community to help us fulfill our mission. Child Advocates has a host of giving opportunities ranging from supporting us through our direct mail campaign to becoming a sponsor of one of our special events. Every contribution helps us continue to provide critical services for abused children — as we are not a United Way agency and over 75% of our funds are raised through philanthropic gifts each year.

H-E-B HOUSTON CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The annual Houston Children's Festival — deemed "the Mayor's official event" — offers several city blocks of entertainment, complete with games, activities, crafts, exhibits, rides and more to tens of thousands of children and their families. The 2006 Festival — sponsored by H-E-B and presented by Baker Hughes — featured miniature trained pony Hi Ho Silver and the Busy Bee Dog Show plus appearances by Sponge Bob Square Pants and Dora the Explorer!

PULL FOR KIDS CLASSIC

This annual event — the largest of our fundraisers — honors individuals and corporations who have had a pivotal impact in the lives of abused children. The 2006 Pull for Kids Classic, honored Bobbie and John Nau for their support of Child Advocates' mission. The event kicked-off on Saturday morning with a daytime sporting clays tournament and concluded on Saturday evening with a festive party in the Houston Texans' practice facility that offered food, fun and live musical entertainment for more than 700.

It may be
the difference between
low grades and
high expectations.



Or the
difference between **no future**
and **future architect.**

Regardless of the specifics, it comes down to the difference between the outcome for a child who does not have a court appointed advocate assigned to their case and the outcome for a child who does.

And for the more than 3,000 children we aren't currently able to serve — it's painfully clear how big that difference is.

CHILD ADVOCATES, INC. OF HARRIS
COUNTY 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.

childadvocates®

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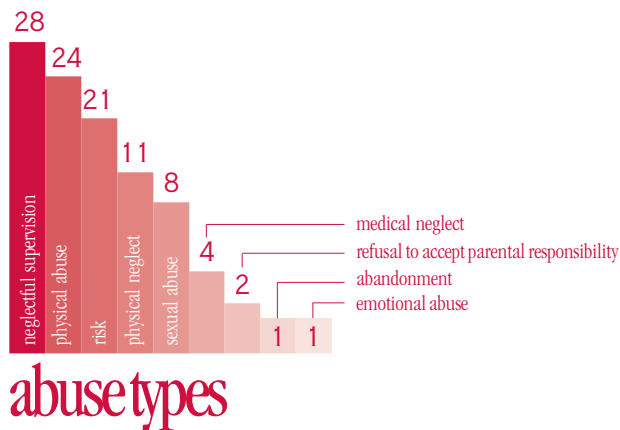
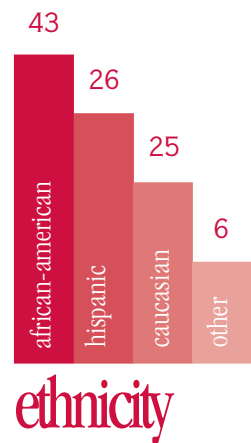
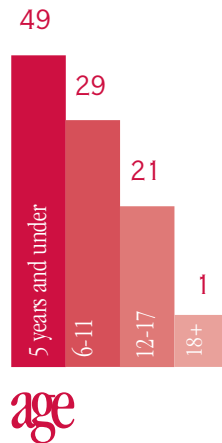
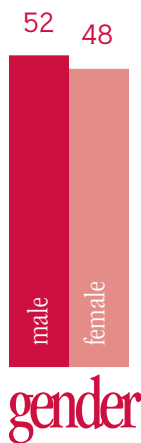
board of directors₂₀₀₆

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children served 2006



*ALL DATA AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2006.

**ALL FIGURES ARE IN PERCENTAGES.

financial information 2006

REVENUE, GAINS AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

Contributions	\$1,405,052
Financial Assistance	\$449,427
Memberships	\$20,542
Special Events (Net of \$144,933 in event expenses)	
Houston Children's Festival	\$206,973
Pull for Kids Classic	\$424,817
Angels of Hope Luncheon	\$306,150
Other Events	\$123,429
Interest	\$12,908
Other / In-kind	\$116,965

TOTAL REVENUE, GAINS AND PUBLIC SUPPORT **\$3,066,263**

EXPENSES

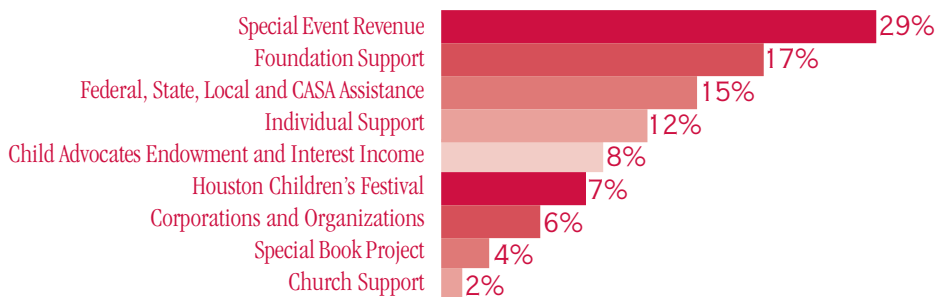
Community Services	\$1,678,735
Professional Education and Training	\$654,700
Management and General	\$292,658
Fundraising	\$280,041
Contribution to Child Advocates Endowment	\$150,000

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$3,056,133**

NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) **\$10,130**

ENDING NET ASSETS **\$812,000**

SOURCES OF REVENUE



*ALL DATA AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2006 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - PENDING FINAL AUDIT

**EXCLUDES CHILD ADVOCATES ENDOWMENT, INC.