

who?

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Each day in our nation, three children die as a result of abuse and neglect. Nearly half of them are under the age of one. Last year, in our city alone, child abuse soared to epidemic levels. The total number of children in CPS custody last year exceeded 4,200. With our 2003 resources, Child Advocates was able to provide critical advocacy services for fewer than half of those children—children who needed someone to speak up for their rights to live in a home that is safe, loving and permanent—

Our vision is to help every abused child in Harris County who needs us. Our challenge is to find the volunteers, resources, commitment and compassion that will get us there.

children who needed a voice.



who?

1,580 children

Imagine being a 10-year old girl who lives in shame and in fear of your mother's boyfriend who visits your room every night and forces you to have sex with him. Or a 9-year old boy who is forced into the role of parenting, feeding and providing for your four younger siblings day after day, because your mother has a drug addiction that keeps her physically and emotionally absent. Now, imagine being six years old and given five minutes and a brown grocery sack in which to collect all of your important things before you're taken by a CPS worker—a stranger to you—from the only home you've ever known. Thousands of children in our community live through scenarios just like these each day.

who?
will make a difference in their lives



who?

454 volunteers

Volunteers like Rick Neyrey, who is used to developing new business, closing deals and catching a hockey game every week. Or Quinton Harp, who owns a catering business with his wife, has a son in college and is active on a number of professional and organizational boards across Houston. Or Martha Martinez, who leads the marketing efforts of a nonprofit organization during the day and teaches kickboxing in the evening. Yet, they each consider serving as the voice for abused children by volunteering as court appointed advocates to be one of the most important roles they'll ever fill. During 2003, amidst busy careers, packed schedules and hectic lifestyles, Rick, Quinton, Martha and 451 other volunteers of varying professions, ages, races, ethnicities and social backgrounds gave abused children the most valuable, life-altering gift they could ever give –their time.

who?
will support their efforts

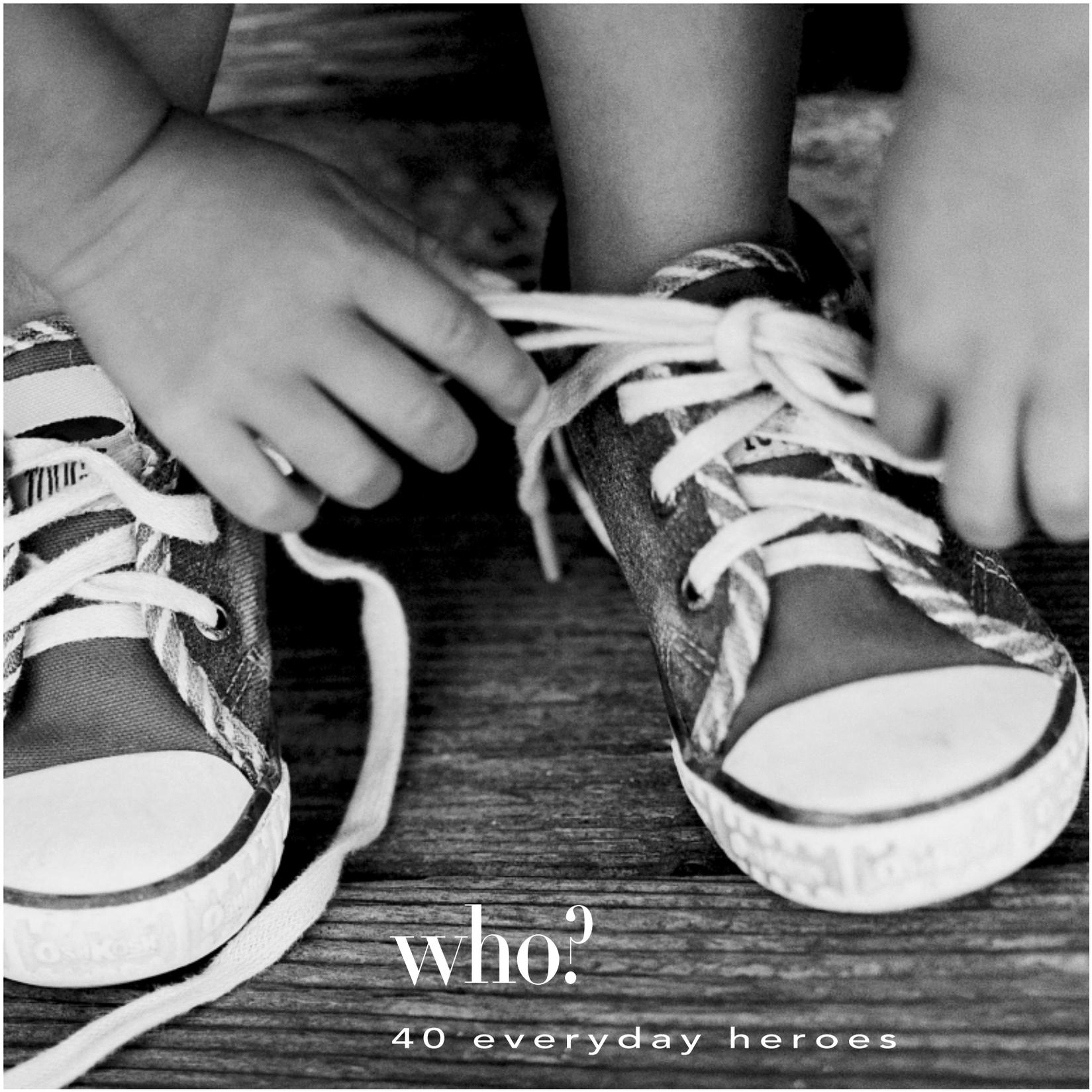


who?

800 supporters

Supporters like 14 year-old Marcus who heard about us and sent us his allowance money because he believes in our cause and wanted to help further our mission. Or Rita who has faithfully sent a check to Child Advocates for years because she wants to make a difference in the lives of abused children. Or 81-year-old Betty who gives what she can regularly, despite being a widow who lives on a fixed income, and apologizes because she can't give more. It's no secret that giving has been in a declining pattern since September 11, 2001 and the fall of major corporate giants who were traditionally stalwarts of support. It is through the collective, generous support of individuals like Marcus, Rita and Betty, coupled with the benevolence of foundations and corporations that fuel our organization with the financial resources needed to operate.

who?
will follow their lead



who?

40 everyday heroes

Our 18 social service related degrees, 22 years of marketing and training experience, \$2.8 million development dollars and our IT and finance expertise are measurable. Immeasurable, however, is the management of up to 20 volunteers at a time while still spending hours each week in court, driving hundreds of miles to and from home visits, assisting volunteers in writing countless court reports and reading dozens of cases. Immeasurable are the hours spent recruiting and training our volunteers and creating marketing and public relations campaigns and collateral materials to support our efforts. Immeasurable are the contacts made within our community and the events produced each year that help our organization generate revenue. And immeasurable are the phone calls answered, the information distributed, the IT problems solved, the invoices paid, the spreadsheets balanced and the employee benefits put into place. Immeasurable is the impact—whether direct or indirect—that 40 everyday heroes have on the lives of abused children.

who?
will help us fill these shoes



who?

Child Advocates, Inc.

life impacting advocacy services

court program. Our heart and soul. Providing mission-critical support and supervision to 454 court-appointed advocate volunteers in 2003, the court 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.

mervyn's childspree. "Shop til you drop" takes on a whole new meaning. Because of the generosity of our sponsors Baker Hughes, Mervyn's and the Friends of Child Advocates, more than 500 children are each paired with a volunteer at one of nine Mervyn's locations across Houston for a \$100 back-to-school shopping spree—the first-ever for many of our children.

adventure clubs. Bonding at its best. Planned and presented by Child Advocates' Young Professionals for Children group, these Saturday afternoon "adventures" provide not only fun, but even a little bit of education, self-esteem and insight, too.

special needs. Diapers, school uniforms, prom dresses, backpacks, eyeglasses, dance lessons, bunk beds, baby formula—everyday things that might be taken for granted by some. Collected and maintained by our special needs program, these seemingly little items make a huge difference in the lives of our children.

holiday party. Bringing a little bit of "happy" to the holidays. Contests, crafts, food and fun all centered around the holiday season, comes complete with multiple Santa's and over 800 children, thanks to the generosity of Holiday Party sponsor, ExxonMobil.

santa's wish list. Making 1,000 lists and checking them twice.... Corporate and individual sponsors are matched with a child who otherwise might not find any gifts under the tree during the holiday season.

community outreach initiatives

recruitment. Working for a corporation, doing some grocery shopping, surfing the Internet—we've found our volunteers in many different places. And we continue everyday to look for more of them—in every shape, size and color.

orientation. These one-hour information sessions separate the talkers from the walkers. Find out where we came from and where we're going along with how each volunteer will help us get there.

advocacy university. We'd like to think of it as *heroes in training*. Covering 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.

au grad school. If writing a thesis were a fraction as fun, we'd all have doctorates. These continuing education classes are our secret to keeping our volunteers sharp and effective.

volunteer appreciation event. Our volunteers are the life blood of our organization. Sponsored by bp, our annual volunteer appreciation is our way of saying "thank you" to the hundreds of heroes who are on the front lines everyday in the fight against child abuse.

young professionals for children. Our middle name is *manpower!* A group of young professionals dedicated to breaking the cycle of child abuse, YPC not only produces four exciting adventure clubs each year for the children served by Child Advocates, but also provides critical volunteer support for special events and fundraisers benefiting Child Advocates.

fundraising and special events

car pros for kids. Abused children benefit from the fruits of their labor. Each year, more than 20 local auto service providers offer two free oil changes to individuals who make a \$25 donation to Child Advocates during the month of February.

bp houston children's festival. Dubbed Houston's official family celebration, the bp Houston Children's Festival offers several city blocks of entertainment, complete with games, activities, crafts, exhibits, rides and more, and is one of Child Advocates' largest fundraisers.

pull for kids sporting clays classic. A Texas-sized celebration! Combine a fun sporting event, a great theme and a huge party and you have one of Child Advocates' biggest, most exciting fundraisers.

angels of hope luncheon and style show. Produced by the Friends of Child Advocates with a full-fledged fashion show presented by Neiman Marcus, this event has become the unofficial kick-off to the holiday social season.

friends of child advocates. Endless resources! Whether they are producing their signature Angels of Hope Luncheon, recruiting new "Friends" to support Child Advocates' mission or coordinating volunteers and logistics for the annual ChildSpree, the Friends of Child Advocates is one of Child Advocates' most treasured resources.

giving. We can't operate without it. It is through the collective generosity of individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations that we are able to fulfill our mission of providing the highest standard of advocacy for Houston's most severely abused children.



stats and facts

stats and facts

Child Advocates, Inc. 2003 Stats

- Provided advocacy for 1,580 abused children in Harris County
- Trained 121 new volunteers
- Had 454 volunteers working on 379 cases in 2003
- Raised a cash budget of \$2.4 million

Child Advocates, Inc. General Stats

- Has served more than 12,000 children since our inception in 1984
- Member of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (NCASA) programs, and is one of the largest of 950 member programs across the country
- Member of the Texas Court Appointed Special Advocate program
- Family judges agree with the recommendations of the Child Advocates guardian ad litem 85 percent of the time.
- It costs Child Advocates \$1,780 to serve one child.

Local Facts on Child Abuse

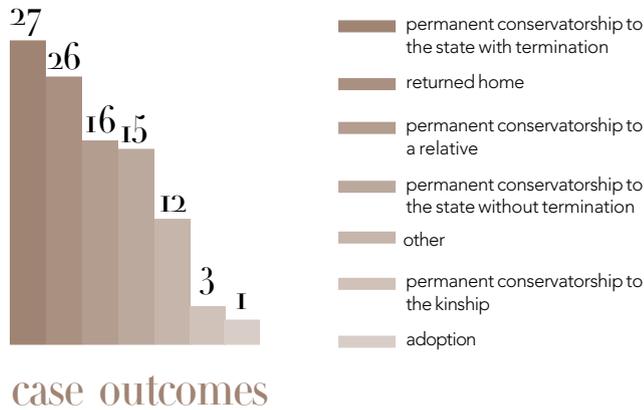
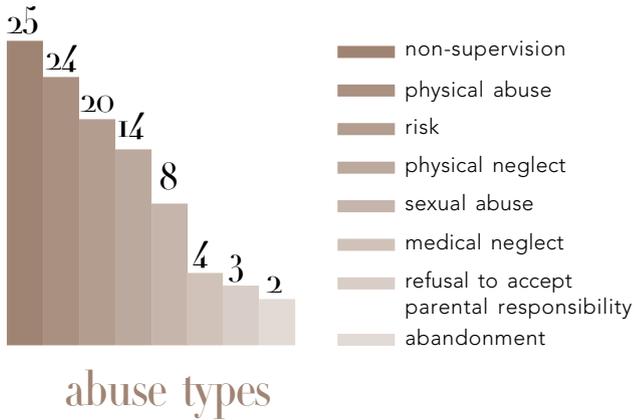
- 26,855 alleged victims of child abuse in Harris County
- 18.4 months is the average time children who are taken into CPS custody remain in their care
- A CPS worker's caseload may range from 25 - 50 cases

National Facts on Child Abuse

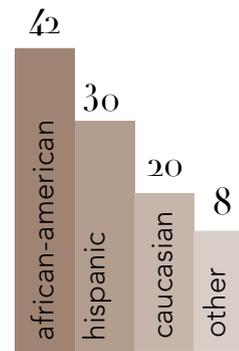
- An average of three child die every day in our nation as a result of abuse and neglect
- Children under the age of one account for more than 40 percent of those fatalities
- Each year, more than three million children are reported as abused and/or neglected
- An estimated \$94 billion accounts for the direct and indirect annual costs of child abuse

children served

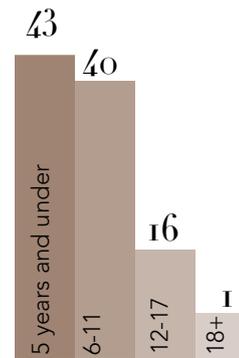
(Information as of December 31, 2003 (most recent audit) all figures are in percentages)



gender breakdown



ethnicity breakdown



age breakdown

financial information

Information as of December 31, 2003 (most recent audit)

Revenue, Gains and Public Support

Contributions	\$1,560,200
Memberships	13,185
Special Events	
Heroes for Children	350
Houston Children's Festival	209,331
Pull for Kids Sporting Clays Classic	233,374
Angels of Hope Luncheon	168,244
Other Events	311,029
Interest	209
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Total Revenue, Gains and Public Support	\$2,495,922

Expenses

Salary and Benefits	\$1,783,643
Contract Services	53,692
Operating Expenses	659,855
Volunteer Services	138,036
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Total Expenses	\$2,635,226

Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$512,789
Net Assets at End of Year	\$285,720

In 2003, the ratio of Child Advocates' program to administrative costs was 79% to 21%. This ratio does not include donated program services by trained court appointed volunteer advocates valued at approximately \$680,000 (unaudited). If included, the ratio of program to administrative costs would be 84% to 16%.

*Source: Financial statements and Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants. Child Advocates, Inc. December 31, 2003. Prepared by Harper & Pearson Company, P.C. dated 6/10/2004.

if not you, who?

The impact a volunteer court appointed advocate makes on a child's case is significant, to say the least. The difference a volunteer makes in a child's *life* is immeasurable. Child Advocates, Inc. has spent the last 18 years making that critical difference. Our goal is to continue these efforts, one child at a time, until we are able to serve each child in custody who needs a volunteer.

But we can't do it alone.

Child abuse is not a problem to be dealt with by a certain class or a certain race – it is the problem of society as a whole. Child Advocates, Inc. needs the support of the entire community in order to continue our mission. We don't know how long it will take and we don't know exactly who will help us get there – but one thing we know for sure is this—as a community, if we don't deal with child abuse now, we can rest assured that we will be dealing with its effects on our society later.

child**advocates**

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.