



Child Abuse Prevention Month

Our Mission:
We collaborate with community partners to respond to and prevent child abuse.

pinwheels for child abuse prevention



get your pinwheels to plant your pinwheel garden!



SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH PLANT A PINWHEEL FOR A CHILD

BY ROBERTA HUMPHRIES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 1983, Congress declared April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Since then, communities nationwide have seized the opportunity to raise awareness about issues surrounding child maltreatment and abuse, particularly during April. Planting a pinwheel garden is one effective way our community can raise awareness about this problem.

The pinwheel serves as the symbol for child abuse and neglect prevention, representing the stable, healthy childhood all children deserve. Placing pinwheels in yards or businesses helps spread awareness in our community, emphasizing that child welfare is a collective responsibility for everyone, contributing to children's healthy development and growth.

April provides an ideal time for our community to reflect on the children who have suffered and the losses incurred due to such suffering. In the last fiscal year, from July 2022 to June 2023, the Child Advocacy Center provided services to 811 children referred to us for abuse allegations. April also prompts us to look forward, envisioning a future where children no longer live in fear, but in safe and nurturing environments, free from abuse.

Our children represent our most precious resource, deserving to grow up in environments devoid of threats, dangers, and the harmful effects of abuse and neglect. Unfortunately, many children do not experience this reality. April serves as a reminder that regardless of individual challenges, prioritizing the welfare of all children must remain our foremost concern.

By planting a pinwheel garden, you demonstrate support and raise awareness, signaling that everyone shares a role in fostering safe communities for our children.

THE 8TH ANNUAL FAYETTEVILLE'S ULTIMATE LIP SYNC SHOWDOWN IS ACCEPTING ACTS & TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

PRESENTED BY RAINBOW PEDIATRICS OF FAYETTEVILLE



FOR MORE INFORMATION



CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER PINWHEEL GARDEN PLANTING

**THURS MARCH 28, 2024 @ 12 PM
222 ROWAN STREET**

Join us at the Child Advocacy Center as we plant blue pinwheels to represent the bright future that every child deserves and to kick-off April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Together we can sow seeds of hope and support for vulnerable children in our community.



YOU ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND PINWHEEL GARDEN PLANTINGS IN THE COMMUNITY AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- MARCH 25 @ 11:30 AM** CUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT • 1235 RAMSEY ST.
- MARCH 26 @ 1:00 PM** CAPE FEAR VALLEY HEALTH FRONT LAWN • 1638 OWEN DR.
- MARCH 27 @ 10:00 AM** FORT LIBERTY SOLDIER SUPPORT CENTER • 2843 NORMANDY DR. #4
- MARCH 27 @ 12:00 PM** TOWN OF EASTOVER TOWN HALL • 3863 DUNN RD
- MARCH 28 @ 10:00 AM** FTCC TONY RAND STUDENT CENTER • 2220 HULL RD
- MARCH 28 @ 2:00 PM** CUMBERLAND COUNTY SCHOOLS CENTRAL SERVICES • 2465 GILLESPIE ST
- APRIL 1 @ 12:00 PM** METHODIST UNIVERSITY PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT BUILDING • 5400 RAMSEY ST
- APRIL 2 @ 10:00 AM** CUMBERLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES • 1225 RAMSEY ST
- APRIL 2 @ 12:00 PM** TOWN OF HOPE MILLS TOWN HALL • 5770 ROCKFISH RD.
- APRIL 2 @ 2:00 PM** FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY MAIN ENTRANCE • 1200 MURCHISON RD
- APRIL 3 @ 12:00 PM** TOWN OF SPRING LAKE WALGREENS • 200 N. BRAGG BLVD.

event calendar

CHECK OUT OUR EVENT CALENDAR

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

BY FAITH BOEHMER, PREVENTION & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

During the month of March we would like to recognize four of our outstanding volunteers that have had a huge impact on our work at the Child Advocacy Center.



become a
volunteer



"WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO GIVE BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY IN WHATEVER WAY WE ARE ABLE TO."

VALERIE SHORTS is the 2023 Volunteer of the Year. She began volunteering with the Child Advocacy Center in the summer of 2022. She jumped in with both feet. She began serving on both of our major fundraisers for the center, Fayetteville Ultimate Lip Sync Showdown and Pinwheel Masquerade Ball & Auction. She also served on the SOAR (Strengths in Overcoming Adversity thru Resilience) Community Coalition and the Marketing Committee. She currently is serving as the 2024 Pinwheel Masquerade Ball & Auction Chair and on the Marketing Committee.



"KNOWING THAT THE SMALL THINGS THAT I CAN DO MAKE A LARGER IMPACT IN A CHILD'S LIFE."

KAREN TISDALE is the 2023 SHINE award winner. She has volunteered with the Child Advocacy Center since 2014. Karen joined the board of directors in 2014 and served for 5 years. She became a facilitator for Stewards of Children, a child sexual abuse prevention training and was able to train her staff at Brown & Associates in the prevention curriculum. Brown & Associates received the Partner in Prevention Seal to distinguish them as a business who has been trained and knows the next steps to take to report and how to prevent child abuse. This year Karen is chairing the Fayetteville Ultimate Lip Sync Showdown spring fundraiser for the CAC.



"I'VE WITNESSED SO MANY WONDERFUL PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER TO HELP PROTECT AND BE THE VOICE FOR THE CHILDREN."

CHRIS LEE joined the Board of Directors in January of 2021 and currently serves as the Treasurer for the Child Advocacy Center Board. He also serves on both major fundraising planning committees and at the events for the CAC—spring fundraiser, Fayetteville Ultimate Lip Sync Showdown and the fall fundraiser, Pinwheel Masquerade Ball and Auction. Chris enjoys his volunteer work as he collaborates with dedicated teams of volunteers who work tirelessly ensuring that every aspect of the event is completed to perfection. He sees that through collaboration that a stronger, more compassionate community is developing.



"WE HAVE A DUTY TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR OTHERS AND VOLUNTEERING IS AN ACTIVE RESPONSE TO THIS IMPORTANT CALLING."

Almost 25 years ago, **GEORGE HENDRICKS**, began his volunteering with the Child Advocacy Center. Two original founders of the CAC, Maxine Anders and Faye Huckabee, encouraged George to get involved. He began by leading a program entitled, Dads 101 and volunteering in other areas as well with the CAC. In January of 2022, he joined the Board of Directors. He currently serves on the Marketing Committee and the SOAR (Strengths in Overcoming Adversity thru Resilience) Community Coalition Committee.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

THE CAC IS VERY GRATEFUL TO OUR CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL BENEFACTORS WHO HAVE AGREED TO BE YEAR-LONG SPONSORS FOR CAC EVENTS.

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN:



**CAPE FEAR VALLEY
HEALTH**

STARS:

Truist
Lucy & Wes Jones
Systel Business Equipment
Dr. Robin and Debbie Jenkins
Mike & Ann Morketter/Labels Etc. Inc.
Snyder Memorial Baptist Church
Lafayette Baptist Church

HEROES:

Joyce and Howard Loughlin
ARRAY Publishing & Marketing, LLC
Leslie Dysinger Real Estate Team
Timothy D. Edwards
Brown & Associates Investment Services, Inc.
Beasley Media Group
Carter Bank & Trust

AND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OUR INDIVIDUAL DONORS AND SUPPORTERS WHO HELP US PROVIDE THE VERY BEST SERVICES TO THE CHILD VICTIMS OF ABUSE IN OUR COMMUNITY. WE COULD NOT DO THIS WORK WITHOUT YOUR GENEROSITY.



HATS OFF TO YOU... CAC VOLUNTEERS

BY ROBERTA HUMPHRIES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We had a Rockin' & Rollin' Groovy Time as we celebrated our outstanding multi-disciplinary team members and our dedicated and hard-working volunteers on March 12 at the Gilmore Recreation Center. The 50's theme party was complimented with food served by R-Burger and an ice cream sundae bar. Awards were presented to MDT members and volunteers for their contributions during 2023.

THE FOLLOWING MDT MEMBERS WERE RECOGNIZED:

MOST OBSERVED FORENSIC INTERVIEWS BY AGENCY:

Det. Jennifer Callen, CCSO; Det. Schaffer Wells, FPD; Karen Peterson, CCDSS; Det. Chelsey Hunt, SLPD; Det. Michael Wilson, HMPD; Special Agent Tyler Carpenter, CID

MOST ATTENDED CASE REVIEWS BY AN INVESTIGATOR:

Det. Shannon Odenwelder, CCSO; Cecilia Brito, CCDSS; Det. Jessica Jones, CCSO; Det. Daniel Edmonds, FPD

MOST ATTENDED CASE REVIEWS BY A PARTNER

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE: Alissa Brashear, CCDSS; Dr. Daniel Thomas-Taylor, SR-AHEC; Kelsey Gawinski, DA's Office; Sharon Glover, Alliance Behavioral Health

100% AGENCY ATTENDANCE AT CASE REVIEW

Cumberland County Department of Social Services

MOST OBSERVED FORENSIC INTERVIEWS OVERALL

Det. Schaffer Wells, Fayetteville Police Department

ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARD - FOR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT OF THE CAC AND THE MDT

Lt. Larry Sheets, Cumberland County Sheriff's Office

THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS WERE RECOGNIZED:

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY GROUP: Fort Liberty CID & Temple Baptist Church

FACILITATOR OF THE YEAR: Tanya Heckman & Benjamin Kowalezk

THERAPY DOG HANDLER: David Runkle and Quinn

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADER:

Cumberland County Commissioner Glenn B. Adams

SHINE AWARD: Karen Tisdale

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: Valerie Shorts

40+ HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE:

Anita Flowers, Beth Keever, Beth Lee, Candace Coleman, Cathy White, Cecile Griffin, Chris Lee, Debbie Jenkins, DeLisa Crosby, Genique Freeman, Jackie Davis, Jackie O'Donnell, Jeff Shorts, Jimmy Hendley, Jr., John Kinstrey, Juelle McDonald, Julie Lee Jacobs, Karen Tisdale, Lucy Jones, Mary McCoy, Nadine Miller-Bernard, Sharon Kinstrey, Sharon Mazingo, Stan Griffin, Tim Edwards, Valerie Shorts, Wendy Vonnegut

THE FOLLOWING COUNSELING VOLUNTEERS RECEIVED THE INFLUENCER OF CHANGE AWARD:

Jimmy Hendley, Jr.; Kristy Wood; LaTisha Culbreth-Robinson; Taneidra Nixon; Eunique Powell; Matilda Page

We applaud all our volunteers and MDT members for their passion and desire to help child victims of abuse in our community. Without each of their passions, willingness, care for the children and so much more the staff of the CAC would not be able to accomplish our mission to bring help, hope and healing to children and their families in our community impacted by child abuse. We thank them for their willing heart, their never-ending support, their love for children and desire to see this epidemic of child abuse end.

THANK YOU!



The Fayetteville Running Club donated \$4000 to WORTH Court and the Child Advocacy Center from the Human Trafficking 5 K Run held in January



Thank you to the Human Trafficking Planning Committee for all their work in providing month long activities in January to bring awareness about Human Trafficking to our community.



The Carolina Volleyball Club made a visit to the CAC and brought beautiful blankets for the children.



Employees from the WNC6 Amazon Warehouse in Fayetteville brought a van load of goodies to the CAC for the children and our office.



become
a sponsor



CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

222 Rowan Street

P.O. Box 488 · Fayetteville, NC 28302

Phone (910) 486-9700 · Fax: (910) 486-8677

www.CACFayNC.org

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WHAT WE DO

A Place of Healing and Hope: Joining hands with community agencies, the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) offers a safe and child-friendly place to interview and provide supportive services for child victims of abuse. The CAC also provides prevention education for parents, professionals, and agencies in our community. We look to a future where all children live in a safe and nurturing environment free from abuse.

During FY 2023, the Child Advocacy Center received 811 cases of reported child abuse. 491 forensic interviews were conducted at the Center. 638 families received Victim Family Advocacy Services, providing direct aid as well as assisting them in accessing needed resources. 127 children attended individual counseling and 21 children participated in group counseling. 1130 people received child abuse prevention and awareness education. Volunteers contributed 1968 hours of service to the CAC. For additional information, please visit CACFAYNC.org.

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

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Victim Family Advocate

Amirah Claiborne, **Victim Family Advocate/Case Manager**

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MDT facilitator and Victim Family Advocate

Renee Pridgen, **Program Assistant**

Dahlia Talley, **Victim Family Advocate**

Oretha Harris, **LCMHC-S, Psychotherapist (contracted)**