



HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

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



FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP!



WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

BY FAITH BOEHMER, PREVENTION & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

As we dismantle the glittering lights and carefully pack away cherished ornaments, ushering in the arrival of January, it's crucial to acknowledge that this month also marks Human Trafficking Awareness Month. One might wonder about the necessity of raising awareness in our community. Human trafficking isn't confined to distant realms; it permeates the very places we least expect, right here in our midst. Within our community, there exists a dedicated court known as W.O.R.T.H. Court—We Overcome Recidivism Through Healing. Initiated in the fall of 2019, it stands as the sole human trafficking court in North Carolina.

Defined by the Polaris Project, a non-governmental organization combating sex and labor trafficking in North America, trafficking is characterized as the “business of stealing freedom for profit.” Traffickers employ various methods, such as deception, fraud, physical force, or manipulation, to subject victims to sex trade or exploitative labor. This criminal industry, valued at billions of dollars, enslaves approximately 24.9 million people worldwide.

Recognizing key indicators can prove instrumental in identifying potential victims and, in turn, may save lives. Some of these indicators include:

- Disconnection from family, friends, or community organizations.
- Sudden cessation of a child’s attendance at school.
- Abrupt or drastic changes in behavior.
- Engagement of a juvenile in commercial sex acts.
- Signs of disorientation, confusion, or physical/mental abuse.
- Bruises in various stages of healing.
- Displays of fear, timidity, or submission.
- Indications of denial of basic needs—food, water, sleep, or medical care.
- Constant companionship with someone controlling the situation.
- Coached responses in conversation.
- Living in unsuitable conditions.
- Lack of personal possessions or stable living arrangements.
- Limited freedom of movement due to unreasonable security measures.

It's important to note that not all these indicators will be present in every human trafficking situation, and their presence or absence doesn't conclusively prove human trafficking.

Our community, represented by the CAC and other agencies, aims to foster awareness about human trafficking, educate on recognition, and encourage reporting. Empowering our community in these aspects strengthens our collective resolve and can potentially alter the course of someone's life.

To facilitate awareness, various events are scheduled locally in January 2024. We invite you to join us and take the opportunity to learn more about human trafficking—your involvement could make a significant impact.

JANUARY 11TH #WEARBLUEDAY

Sponsored by Blue Campaign, a division of Homeland Security, that is used to bring awareness. We invite the public to take pictures—individually, with family, with colleagues—and share on social media using the hashtag #WearBlueDay

JANUARY 18TH CHOSEN: DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING DOCUMENTARY

Methodist University Physician Assistant Auditorium
5107 College Center Drive • 6:30pm

JANUARY 23RD HUMAN TRAFFICKING SEMINAR

Familial Trafficking: Prevalence, Characteristics, and Challenges
Salem Methodist Church
2165 Middle Road • 8:00am

This session is the result of a national study on the prevalence and characteristics of domestic minor familial trafficking in America. 2021 study included a sample of over 3,500 child trafficking cases, as identified by justice professionals. Emphasis is on challenges associated with case, identification, investigation, and prosecution.

JANUARY 27TH STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING 5K RUN

Join us for a cause that transcends the finish line! Lace-up your running shoes and be part of the movement against human trafficking at the Stop Human Trafficking 5k in Fayetteville, North Carolina. This empowering event is more than just a race—it's a stride towards raising awareness and making a real impact in the fight against this pervasive issue.



For more information on the #WearBlueDay campaign and the Polaris Project, please visit www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign and www.polarisproject.org/humantrafficking. For information regarding any of the Human Trafficking Awareness events scheduled in January, please contact Faith Boehmer-Volunteer and Prevention Coordinator at faith@cacfaync.org or (910)486-9700.

event calendar

CHECK OUT OUR EVENT CALENDAR



THE PINWHEEL MASQUERADE BALL AND AUCTION EVENT



Thank you for sharing a night filled with food, auction items, dancing, and UNFORGETTABLE Masks! The CAC would like to thank each and every person involved with the Pinwheel Masquerade Ball and Auction event! As we “unmasked” child abuse on the evening of October 21st, YOU helped us to raise over \$40,000 in net proceeds that will directly benefit victims of child abuse in Cumberland County. The event committee, staff, and Board of Directors at the Child Advocacy Center are extremely gracious for your support, not only of this event, but by becoming part of “our village” to combat child abuse! THANK YOU!



Get ready for the 8th annual lip sync showdown at the Crown Center Ballroom in 2024, where all proceeds go straight to supporting Child Advocacy Center programs for local child abuse victims. This year, we're shaking things up! On April 20th, witness TWO thrilling lip sync battles for the FIRST time ever! Catch the matinee at 12:00 pm with participants under 18, and join the evening show at 7:00 pm for the 18+ crowd. Are you and your pals ready to snatch the Ultimate Lip Sync trophy? Whether you're into killer choreo or dazzling costumes, there are prizes for everyone! To jump on stage or snag a front-row seat, reach out to Karen Tisdale, our awesome event chair, at caclipsync@gmail.com. Get the lowdown on rules and judging criteria. See you under the spotlight or in the crowd! Stay tuned on our socials and website for the latest scoop and ticket release date. Let's make this lip sync battle the talk of the town!

TIME TO CELEBRATE

The following staff members are celebrating their “workiversary” at the Child Advocacy Center. Thank you ladies, for all that you do for the Child Advocacy Center on a daily basis!



AMY HANSEN, MA
LEAD FORENSIC INTERVIEWER,
MDT FACILITATOR AND
VICTIM ADVOCATE
NOVEMBER 14TH - ONE YEAR



AMIRAH CLAIBORNE,
CASE DATA MANAGER/
VICTIM FAMILY ADVOCATE
NOVEMBER 28TH
ONE YEAR



DAHLIA TALLEY,
VICTIM FAMILY
ADVOCATE
DECEMBER 5TH
ONE YEAR



FAITH BOEHMER,
PREVENTION AND
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
JANUARY 5TH
15 YEARS



The CAC extends sincere thanks to our Corporate and Individual Benefactors for committing to year-long sponsorship of CAC events in the 2023-2024 year. To join them in supporting the Child Advocacy Center, visit CACFAYNC.org. Click on “How to Help” at the top of the page and then navigate to the Sponsorship tab. Your contribution makes a meaningful impact!

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CAPE FEAR VALLEY HEALTH



UPCOMING EVENTS:



San Jose's
CROSS CREEK
SUBARU
Fayetteville, NC

SUBARU SHARE THE LOVE EVENT

November 16, 2023 - January 2, 2024

Looking for a new vehicle? Visit Cross Creek Subaru! From November 16, 2023, to January 2, 2024, when you purchase or lease a new Subaru, designate the Child Advocacy Center as your charity of choice, and Subaru of America will donate \$250 on your behalf. Cross Creek Subaru's support during the "Share the Love" event is invaluable. Choose the Child Advocacy Center to drive home in a Subaru and support a great cause!

WEAR BLUE DAY

January 11, 2024

Be sure to wear blue this day! Upload your photo on social media with **#WEARBLUEDAY**.

SCREENING OF CHOSEN: DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING

January 18, 2024

Methodist University • 6:30pm

HUMAN TRAFFICKING SEMINAR

January 23, 2024

Salem Methodist Church- 2165 Middle Road, Eastover, NC 28312

Join us as Jeanne Allert, the Executive Director of The Samaritan Women, shares an informative and educational presentation on familial trafficking: prevalence, characteristics, and challenges. This seminar dives into the results of a 2021 study that sampled over 3,500 child trafficking cases. Jeanne's work has been featured in numerous articles and in the 2015 documentary "In Plain Sight." Interested in attending this seminar? Want to obtain a vendor space for the event?- visit www.cacfaync.org now to claim your spot! Space is limited!

STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING 5K RUN

January 27, 2023

Methodist University

The Fayetteville Running Club is sponsoring the annual 5K run to raise awareness of Human Trafficking. This event is surely one that you don't want to miss!!! Space is limited, so be sure to register soon! Visit our website for more information as it is released.

FAYETTEVILLE'S ULTIMATE LIP SYNC SHOWDOWN

Date: Saturday April 20, 2024

Location: Crown Center Ballroom

Time: 12:00pm and 7:00pm

Stay tuned to our website for the latest information.



become a sponsor

WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS

LYNNELL BRANDS

FORENSIC INTERVIEWER/ VICTIM FAMILY ADVOCATE

Lynnelle Brands, a May 2023 graduate of Western Illinois University with a double major in Forensic Psychology and Law Enforcement/ Justice Administration, has recently joined the CAC team. During her time at WIU, she actively participated in the school's Hotline, offering guidance and resources to fellow students. With six years of experience working with children, Lynnelle began her journey with the CAC in October 2023, following a move to Fayetteville with her husband and daughter due to military obligations. Her commitment to supporting children and extending a helping hand to those in need is evident in her role as an advocating voice for families at the CAC, a responsibility she considers a privilege.



ELIZABETH DORN PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Elizabeth Dorn, an 8-year Army veteran, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Southern New Hampshire University. Originally from Massachusetts, she became a Cumberland County resident in 2018 due to her military service. With a background spanning law enforcement, human resources supervision, and administrative assistance, Elizabeth brings a wealth of experience to her role. Motivated by her son's influence, she has developed a deep passion for children's advocacy. Elizabeth is committed to ensuring that the children and families served by the CAC experience love and acceptance, embodying these principles in her dedicated efforts.



HEALING AND HOPE - THE CAC'S NEW PODCAST!

Introducing the Inaugural CAC Hope & Healing Podcast, hosted by the CAC's Prevention and Volunteer Coordinator, Faith Boehmer, proudly sponsored by Hardy Insurance Group. Our first featured guest is Laura Hardy, a CAC board member since 2019. This podcast delves into essential information about the CAC's mission, the range of services provided, available prevention education trainings, and the crucial importance of CACs, especially from the perspective of someone with lived experience. Stay tuned for more Healing & Hope Podcasts coming your way in 2024! Find our podcasts on our website, www.cacfaync.org, and across our social media platforms.



CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

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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, investigate and provide support 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.

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(contracted)