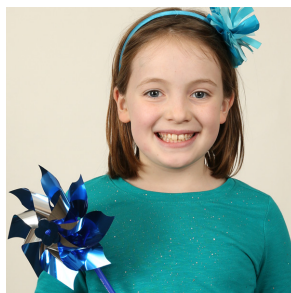


Joining Hands

PROTECT CHILDREN STOP ABUSE
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

A Place of Healing & Hope



UPCOMING EVENTS

Challenge Grant Campaign

Now - July 2021

The Child Advocacy Center has been given a challenge grant opportunity from Anonymous Trust/Simply East Fund. The challenge grant is for \$10,000. The purpose of this grant is to raise funds from new donors, increased gifts from individuals, corporations, foundations, and churches. The Challenge Grant



will run through July 31, 2021. You can participate as a new donor or an existing donor. Every dollar that is raised will be matched. New donor donations and existing donors, who increase their giving from the year before, will be matched dollar to dollar. **However, the challenge is that we must raise at least \$10,000 in order to receive the matching grant from Anonymous Trust.** This is another way you can be a part of supporting the work of the CAC in our community. Please visit CACFayNC.org to make a donation today.

Technology & Safety Webinar

June 22, 2021 2:00-3:30 PM

The CAC will be hosting a webinar on Technology & Safety for Youth and Parents presented by retired Lt. Joe Laramie, currently serving as Program Manager with the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College. To learn more about the webinar or to register, please visit the CAC website at CACFayNC.org.

Event information is updated regularly on the CAC website: CACFayNC.org

April: Child Abuse Prevention Month

Our community had over 13,300 pinwheels displayed in school yards, churches, homes, doctor, and dental offices and so many more places during April Child Abuse Prevention Month. Each of those pinwheels represent the bright future that every child deserves. We are thankful

for your partnership with us at the CAC. Together we can ensure that our children are given happy and productive communities to grow up in that will lead to healthy and happy adults.

June is National Internet Safety Month

The National CyberSecurity Alliance and several other organizations recognize June as National Internet Safety Month. This is a great time to bring awareness and identify how we can use the internet in safer ways, especially for children and teens. This past year, kids have been online more than ever; for education, entertainment, and to socialize with friends. To support you and your family, we have listed resources to help you and your children stay safer online during these unprecedented times.

Parents play a key role in helping their children stay safe on the internet. The first place to start is by having conversations with your children about the dangers that are on the internet. Having some guidelines in place can help minimize the opportunity of any dangers related to the internet. Start at a young age educating your children about the internet, both in the positive ways it impacts our community and the dangers that are there as well.



Continued on page 2



Save the Date!
October 2, 2021
Cape Fear Botanical Garden

Pinwheel Masquerade Ball & Auction

October 2, 2021 7:00-11:00 PM

The CAC is excited about the upcoming Pinwheel Masquerade Ball & Auction at the Cape Fear Botanical Gardens and we look forward to seeing you there! Visit the CAC Pinwheel Masquerade Ball Facebook page for the latest updates and to share some of your favorite photos from past years events.

Continued from Front Cover...

Below are some safety tips that you can implement in your home:

1. *Don't give out personal information such as your home address, school name or phone number.*
2. *Keep your location private.*
3. *Never send pictures to strangers.*
4. *Keep passwords private, except for parents or a trusted adult.*
5. *Do not download anything without permission. Downloads may contain a virus that could contaminate your device.*
6. *Tell an adult if you receive a mean or strange message.*
7. *Limit your friends to people you actually know.*
8. *Important numbers need to be kept private –such as bank cards, social security numbers, etc.*
9. *Help your children to set up strong passwords without any identifying information. The longer the password the harder to crack.*
10. *For the parent or caregiver, continue to monitor your child's online activity, frequent the online sites they visit and continue to have conversations about internet safety.*

The internet has moved from being a device in a common room of the home to something we carry in our hands on a regular basis. The internet has a vast amount of opportunities; we are able to connect with friends from years ago, share pictures and videos with each other, research topics quickly and much more. Just as it has the perks of providing information, there is also a side that can be very risky. Socializing and communicating with people on the internet can bring satisfaction, but we must keep our guard up.

Some simple reminders would be:

- ❖ **Inappropriate conduct:** Children often forget that they still are responsible for their actions.
- ❖ **Inappropriate contact:** All people on the internet are not looking out for our best interests. Some have bad intentions, bullying, hackers, predators, etc.
- ❖ **Inappropriate Content:** You can find materials that are not appropriate such as, pornography, hate speech and violence. Talking to your children about the how to communicate with people on and off the internet is essential. Encourage them to have healthy conversations with others.

The computer is a great communication tool, especially over the past year. To ensure your child is safe on the internet, stay engaged in their online worlds. Be in the know. Ask them who they are connected to online and then you familiarize yourself with those people or groups. Teach your kids to say NO! Both online and offline. Predators are on the internet looking to exploit children is a real danger. However, we need to remember that most of the child sexual offenses are committed by a member of the family or someone the family knows. Teaching our children to say NO! when they feel uncomfortable when someone says something or touches them in an inappropriate way.

The Department of Human Services has a campaign entitled, Stop. Think. Connect. This campaign guide addresses the basics of what you need to know, next steps to take to gain more information and how to have conversations with your children about how to navigate their lives online safely. To download a copy of the guide, please visit the following site:

https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Chatting%20with%20Kids%20Booklet_0.pdf

The digital world is growing and changing daily. Children are utilizing technology at a younger age and are learning how to maneuver the internet. As adults, we need to continue to be proactive in our knowledge of internet safety with our devices. We can proactively take steps to be informed. Perhaps you might ask a trusted tech savvy friend to help establish parental controls. This can help with having better control on how your child can access the internet. We need to not only protect our youth, but also empower them to make wise decisions when it comes to internet safety.

To learn more about protecting your children online you can visit the following websites:

www.OnGuardOnline.gov

www.cisa.gov/stopthinkconnect

www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/resources/internet-safety-month

Thank You!

The CAC is very grateful to our Corporate and Individual Benefactors who have agreed to be year-long sponsors for CAC events for the 2021 Year.

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN:



HERO

- Array Magazine
- Cape Fear Valley Health
- Joyce & Howard Loughlin

STARS

- Ann & Mike Morketter
- BB&T, now Truist
- Cape Fear Eye Associates
- Fayetteville Area Plumbing Contractors Association
- Player McLean, LLP
- Robin & Debbie Jenkins
- Lucy & Wes Jones
- Systel Business Equipment

Cross Creek Subaru presented a check to the Child Advocacy Center in the amount of \$35,196 from proceeds from the Subaru of America's 2020 Share the Love campaign. Cross Creek Subaru selected the Child Advocacy Center as their local charity of choice.

(Pictured Left to Right: John McHann, General Sales Manager Cross Creek Subaru, Lucy Jones, Roberta Humphries, Beth Lee and Nadine Miller-Bernard representing the Child Advocacy Center.)



Women's Giving Circle of Cumberland County:

The Child Advocacy Center is pleased to announce receipt of a grant from the Women's Giving Circle of Cumberland County, a fund of Cumberland Community Foundation, Inc. The grant will be utilized for mental health counseling services to include additional holistic approaches that focus on stress management and wellness of mind, body and spirit.

(Pictured Left to Right: Susan Barnes, Judy Klinck and Roberta Humphries)



A Special Thank You!

Thank you United Way of Cumberland County Youth Growth Stock Trust Grant so that the Child Advocacy Center will be able to provide activities and resources to the families that come for forensic interviews and to provide families the opportunity to engage their child in trauma focused counseling as recommended and needed.

Thank you Cumberland Community Foundation 40th Anniversary Grant for the generous donation that has helped the CAC provide healing and hope to children and families over the past year.

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.

Did you know the CAC has a weekly blog?

Be sure to check out our blog, updated each Wednesday.

Visit the website at CACFayNC.org and click on the Blog Posts link on the main page.



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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 2020, the Child Advocacy Center received 876 cases of reported child abuse, a 20% increase from the past year. 1,181 adults received child abuse prevention training through programs offered by the CAC, including *Stewards of Children, Recognizing & Reporting Child Abuse, Resilience and Chosen (Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Education)*. 494 forensic interviews were conducted at the center, a 22% increase from the past fiscal year. 474 families received Victim Family Advocate services, providing direct aid as well as assisting them in accessing needed resources, an 18% increase from the previous fiscal year. For additional information, please visit CACFayNC.org

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Oretha Harris, *LCMHC, Therapist*
Tammy Hyde, *Communications/Community Engagement Coordinator*
Lyniya Johnson, *Forensic Interviewer/ Victim Family Advocate*
Darian Korbecki, *Forensic Interviewer/Victim Family Advocate*
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