



Be Their Voice

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



To learn more about Human Trafficking please visit our website by scanning this QR code:



WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER



JANUARY IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

BY: FAITH BOEHMER, PREVENTION/VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

January brings with it the promise of a fresh start—new beginnings, renewed commitments, and perhaps even a few resolutions. No matter how you embrace the “newness” of the year, it’s also a time to reflect as a community and recognize critical issues.

Human trafficking is one such issue that demands our attention. According to the Polaris Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to combating and preventing sex and labor trafficking in North America, human trafficking is defined as: “The business of stealing freedom for profit. In some cases, traffickers trick, defraud, or physically force victims into selling sex. In others, victims are lied to, assaulted, threatened, or manipulated into working under inhumane, illegal, or otherwise unacceptable conditions. It is a multi-billion-dollar criminal industry that denies freedom to 24.9 million people around the world.”

Recognizing the signs of trafficking can be vital in helping potential victims and, in some cases, even saving lives. Here are some key indicators to watch for:

- Does the person appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or houses of worship?
- Has a child stopped attending school?
- Has the person had a sudden or dramatic change in behavior?
- Is a juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts?
- Is the person disoriented or confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?
- Does the person have bruises in various stages of healing?
- Is the person fearful, timid, or submissive?
- Does the person show signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care?
- Is the person often in the company of someone to whom he or she defers? Or someone who seems to be in control of the situation, e.g., where they go or who they talk to?
- Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?
- Is the person living in unsuitable conditions?
- Does the person lack personal possessions and appear not to have a stable living situation?
- Does the person have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave where they live? Are there unreasonable security measures?

The indicators above do not mean that all have to be present for it to be human trafficking. Every situation is different.

The CAC along with other agencies in our community want to ensure that we provide opportunities for the community to become aware of what human trafficking is, how to recognize and how to make a report. All of these together make us a stronger community and can very likely impact the direction a person who is being a victim of trafficking will go.

#WearBlueDay • January 11th

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

Community Wide Forum

January 15 • 6:30pm
Kiwanis Parks & Rec Center • 352 Devers Road

Join us for community wide discussion. About the issues of human trafficking in our community and beyond. Bill Wolfe will be leading the panel discussion. There will be representatives from the Child Advocacy Center, Worth Court and more.

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Stop Human Trafficking! Speak Up!

January 16 • 8am – 4:30pm
Temple Baptist Church • 3159 Sanderosa Road

Morning Session: Empathy in Action: Trauma-Informed Approaches to Human Trafficking: This course offers an in-depth exploration of trauma-informed approaches to addressing human trafficking. Recognizing that trafficking survivors often carry complex trauma, this training focuses on equipping professionals with the skills and knowledge needed to interact with survivors in a way that is sensitive to their experiences and promotes healing. Participants will learn how to apply trauma-informed principles across various settings, ensuring that their practices are respectful, empowering, and conducive to recovery. The course emphasizes the importance of understanding trauma’s impact on behavior, the need for safety and trust in interactions, and the role of cultural competence in providing effective care.

Afternoon session: Shield of Trust: Trauma-Informed Approaches to Suspected Human Trafficking in Military Communities: This comprehensive course is designed to address the unique challenges of applying trauma-informed approaches within military communities, particularly when responding to suspected human trafficking. Participants will explore the intersection of military culture and trauma, learning how to engage effectively with both potential victims and the broader military community. The course will emphasize the importance of safety, trust, and cultural competence, providing participants with the skills needed to recognize, respond to, and support individuals affected by trafficking in these sensitive environments.

**CEU Credit will be given

Faith Community in Action!

January 16 • 6:30pm • Kiwanis Parks & Rec Center
352 Devers Road

Join Bill Wolfe and Brittany Dunn as they lead leaders in the faith community around how the faith community responds to human trafficking. Learn what signs to look for. Understand how your faith community can actively pray for this injustice.

Stop Human Trafficking 5K Run

January 25 • 9am • Methodist University

The Fayetteville Running Club is leading the charge for the 3rd year in a row in the 5K race to stop human trafficking.



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR...

As hard as it may be to believe, we are getting closer and closer to saying “Goodbye” to 2024 and the successes and challenges that came with it! Since coming to the CAC in June of 2024, I have been busy learning as much as I can about the daily functions of the CAC as well as the Cumberland County community as a whole. What I have learned is that I am surrounded by a dedicated and caring staff who want nothing more than to serve the kids and families who walk thru the doors of the CAC! Likewise, the CAC Board of Directors has expressed openly to me a desire for the CAC to continue to grow in scope of services we offer while growing community awareness and support of the CAC and it’s mission.

Partnering with our many community partners is inspiring work as I am able to see firsthand the level of commitment we have from our partners. As we eagerly jump into the new year, let’s welcome “2025” with a renewed interest in and commitment to doing everything we can at your Child Advocacy Center to give a voice to those who are silenced, coordinate a multi-disciplinary response to child maltreatment allegations, promote healing through trauma-focused behavior therapy, spread child abuse awareness and advocate for our most vulnerable population – our kids.

With much gratitude and anticipation,



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:



- HEROES:** Beasley Broadcasting
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Snyder Memorial Baptist Church
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Truist
Warren Jacobs and Julie Lee-Jacobs



THE PINWHEEL MASQUERADE BALL AND AUCTION

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) extends heartfelt thanks to every individual and business involved in the 2024 Pinwheel Masquerade Ball and Auction. Held on October 12th at The Carolina Barn in Spring Lake, the event was a tremendous success.

The beautiful weather was only outshone by the incredible guests who dressed up, donned masks, and joined us in the mission to “unmask” the dangers of child abuse in our community. Together, YOU helped raise over \$36,700 in net proceeds to directly benefit victims of child abuse in Cumberland County.

We are deeply grateful to the event committee, led by the dedicated Valerie Shorts, as well as the CAC staff and Board of Directors, for their tireless efforts in making this event possible. Your ongoing support, partnership, and collaboration are vital to our mission to combat child abuse. *Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the children we serve!*



2025 marks year #9 for the friendly lip sync competition at the Crown Center Ballroom, where all of the proceeds directly benefit programs provided by the Child Advocacy Center to victims of child abuse here in our community. The 2025 edition of this event promises to be bigger and better than ever so please mark the date on your calendar – May 17, 2025.

There will be two shows again this year. The matinee show is scheduled for 1:00 PM and will feature groups or individual participants under the age of 18. An evening performance is scheduled for 7:00 PM with participants for the 18 and older crowd. Are you and your friends interested in taking the stage and bringing home the Ultimate Lip Sync trophy? Or, maybe choreography and costumes are more your preference? Either way, there are awards to be given and fun to be had by all!!

Keep an eye out for updates and information blasts from our social media and website. *For more information, please contact Karen Tisdale – the event chairperson – at CACLipSync@gmail.com.*

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 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 2024, the Child Advocacy Center received 772 cases of reported child abuse. 444 forensic interviews were conducted at the center. 433 families received Victim Family Advocate services, providing direct aid as well as assisting them in accessing needed resources. 105 children attended individual counseling, and 39 children participated in group counseling. 1090 people received child abuse prevention and awareness education. Volunteers contributed 1945 hours of service to the CAC. For additional information, please visit CACFAYNC.org.

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(contracted)