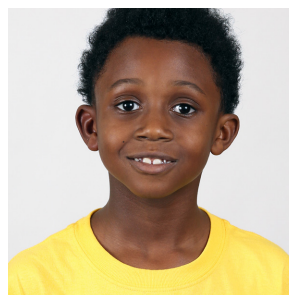


# Joining Hands

PROTECT CHILDREN STOP ABUSE  
**CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER**

*A Place of Healing & Hope*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Pinwheel Planting April 1

Join us for a hybrid in person and virtual Pinwheel Planting at the Child Advocacy Center at 12 noon on Thursday, April 1st. To learn more about how you can participate, please check our website for additional information and updates.

### Challenge Grant Campaign April – 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 begin on April 1, 2021 and will go 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.

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

## Spring is Here and so is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Spring is here! As you look around you see flowers blooming, trees are budding, birds are singing, and the freshness of Spring is in the air. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. For the past 11 years our community has honored children by planting blue pinwheels in honor of child abuse prevention. The pinwheel represents the bright future that every child deserves.

The Child Advocacy Center received a total of 876 reports of child abuse during FY 19/20, a 20% increase over FY 18/19. Currently we are continuing to see those numbers increase as well. Below is a table comparing data from July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019 with July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020:

Reports Received for Suspected Abuse			
Type of Report	July 1, 2019 – Dec. 31, 2019	July 1, 2020 – Dec. 31, 2020	Increase
Total Reports	404	521	29%
Sexual Abuse	215	276	28%
Physical Abuse	173	264	53%
Neglect	105	175	67%
Witness to Violence	19	68	257%
Drug Endangerment	10	32	220%

*\*more than 1 type of abuse can be reported for a single case*

This has been a difficult year on so many levels due to the pandemic. Covid-19 has brought about so many changes, as well as uncertainty. These challenges have brought about more time at home, more time on electronic devices and less time being able to safely socialize with friends in general. Children in our community have not been inside a classroom since March 13, 2020.

Jeanne Allert, CEO and Founder of The Samaritan Women, in Baltimore Maryland presented a webinar

about Victimology: Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, and shared that professionals are already discussing the impact the pandemic may have on children and families once children begin to re-engage in a more traditional school schedule. Educators account for 50% of reports of child abuse.

This year, 2021, we want more than ever to have a significant presence with pinwheels heavily displayed throughout our community. We want to cohesively and prominently show that our community supports children. April is an ideal time for our community to reflect and to recognize the children who have been victimized through the pain of abuse—physical, emotional and/or sexual.

April is also a time to look forward – a time to be a part of ensuring that every child has a bright future. All children deserve to grow up in loving, stable, and stimulating environments, in their home, church, school and in the community. Most of all, we want childhoods to be a time when children no longer live in fear.

Our vision is a community where children feel safe, nurtured, and loved. April is a time to remind us that no matter the challenges, to include a global pandemic, we face as individuals, caring for all our children must always be our priority.

You can join us in promoting healthy childhoods for our children. You can purchase a pinwheel garden kit (24 pinwheels and a yard sign) for \$40 or a Pinwheel Vase (eight pinwheels in a vase with ribbon) for \$15. Visit our website CACFayNC.org to place your order. Once you

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plant your garden of pinwheels or display your pinwheel vase, tag us on your social media, include the following hashtags – #passthepinwheel, #cacfayncpinwheels2021, #pinwheelsforprevention

During the month of April, the CAC will be hosting “Read-Along Story Times” on Tuesday of each week. We will be reading books that talk about body safety, boundaries and how to say no when the child feels uncomfortable. You can view these on the CAC’s Facebook & Instagram pages or on our website CACFayNC.org. These are great opportunities to talk with your child about appropriate touching and setting boundaries. Research has shown,

it is better to start teaching children about body safety when they are young and to continue throughout their childhood. It is never too late to begin.

This April and throughout the year, let’s all join together to provide help, hope and healing to children who have been victimized by abuse. Join us in creating a community (and beyond) where children feel safe to run and play, where all children feel love and accepted versus living in fear. We hope to see blue pinwheels spinning in the sun and throughout our community this April reminding us all that EACH child deserves a happy childhood.

For more information about April and Child Abuse Prevention, including how to become involved in prevention, follow us on our social media outlets of Facebook and Instagram and/or visit our website [www.CACFayNC.org](http://www.CACFayNC.org). Happy Pinwheel Planting!



## Cape Fear Valley Health Announces New Adolescent Psychiatric Unit



A warm and soothing environment where pediatric patients and their parents can feel comfortable and safe. Comprehensive and critical inpatient treatment available without the necessity of an hour-long, or longer, drive. Skilled professionals on hand around the clock to help families in crisis.

That’s the vision for Cape Fear Valley Behavioral Health Care’s new 16-bed inpatient adolescent psychiatric unit. The Dorothea Dix Adolescent Care Unit at Cape Fear Valley Health, which will serve children ages 12-18, is expected to be completed by fall of 2021.

And if it were already open?

“It would be full,” said John Bigger, Corporate Director of Cape Fear Valley Health’s Behavioral Health and Sleep Center. “And our anticipation is, once we open, it will be full.”

The idea of the center is a longtime mutual goal of Bigger and Ken Fleishman, M.D. Dr. Fleishman is one of four board-certified child psychiatrists with Cape Fear Valley Health. They recognized the need for inpatient treatment for adolescents in Cumberland County, but also knew the cost could be prohibitive.

Never has the need been greater, agreed Fleishman and colleague Sree Jadapalle, M.D., who is also a child

psychiatrist with Cape Fear Valley Health. COVID-19 has wreaked havoc globally, but the effect is magnified in children and families who were already fragile.

“Currently, with all the crisis going on with online schooling and everyone cooped up in the houses, we’re having six to eight children come into the emergency room per day,” Dr. Jadapalle said.

Children in crisis and their families typically must wait in the emergency room until a bed is available at one of the other adolescent psychiatric treatment facilities in North Carolina, the closest of which is 60 miles away. That wait can take from two to five days.

And even when space becomes available, distance can strain the hope of an effective treatment plan, which almost always involves therapy for the entire family, Fleishman said.

“When a child comes to the hospital, it’s a crisis in the family,” Fleishman said. “And so, at that point, you have the opportunity to make changes in how the family operates normally. And we just have to take advantage of that. While medication may be part of it, the bulk of it is understanding what’s happening and helping the family manage it. How can you turn the situation into an experience of change so that things can move forward?”

Bigger agreed.

“If you’ve got to take your child 60 miles away and you’ve got other children in the home, or a spouse that’s deployed, how are you going to do visitation and participate in the treatment program?” Bigger added. “Having something local just really helps meet that need for the whole family. We’ll be able to keep it right here in the community and help as many as we can.”

The center will have longtime benefits as well.

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“One of the things that is going to be tremendously helpful is that we will be working with our psychiatric residents who will be able to learn about child psychiatry,” Bigger said. “Our goal is that they will become trained in child psychiatry and stay in this community when they complete their residency.”

This project is another way Cape Fear Valley Health is broadening its scope on its mission to best serve the community.

“It’s a very exciting time because of the tremendous need in the community for this service,” Bigger said. “We’re excited to be able to meet that need.”

## Happenings at the Child Advocacy Center



Rayquelle Bost

Rayquelle Bost, Forensic Interviewer/Victim Family Advocate recently moved to New York to be with her husband who is currently serving in the U.S. Army. Rayquelle has been with the Child Advocacy Center for the past five years and will be greatly missed. While this is bittersweet for the CAC, we wish Rayquelle all the best on her new journey in New York!



Lyniya Johnson

Lyniya Johnson has joined the Child Advocacy Center as Forensic Interviewer/Victim Family Advocate. She has worked in Child Protective Services as a Family Service Worker with DHS to investigate child abuse and neglect cases, as well as case manager to ensure families were connected to appropriate services such as parenting classes and anger management classes. Ms. Johnson also served as an Arkansas State Police CACD Investigator, which was the Crimes against Children Division that investigated the most heinous crimes against children. Additionally, she has been a Managed Care Clinical Coordinator to assist those on Medicaid to have a better quality of life by providing daily care coordination services for the medical and mental health needs for Anthem/Beacon Health Options. Ms. Johnson has a Masters Degree in Human Services with a concentration in Family Interventions.



Monica Clyne

Monica Clyne has joined the Child Advocacy Center as Forensic Interviewer/Victim Family Advocate. She has worked within the Massachusetts State Department of Corrections in their Forensic Mental Health Department and as a Child Protective Social Worker for the Department of Social Services. Ms. Clyne is in her final semester of obtaining her Master of Arts in Forensic Mental Health Counseling from John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

# 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

## A Special Thank You!

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.

Cape Fear Valley Health, currently a Hero Sponsor, has also signed on as a Champion for Children Sponsor for the 2021 year. We are incredibly thankful for Cape Fear Valley Health, especially given the many challenges over the past year. If you would like to become a Corporate Benefactor of the Child Advocacy Center, please visit [CACFayNC.org](http://CACFayNC.org) and click on the Sponsorship Opportunities link on the upper left side of the page.

*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.*

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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

## 2021 Board of Directors and Staff

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Faith Boehmer, *Prevention/Volunteer Coordinator*

Monica Clyne, *Forensic Interviewer/Victim Family Advocate*

LaTisha Culbreth-Robinson, *Program Assistant*

LaToya Guillory, *Victim Family Advocate/Case Data Manager*

Oretha Harris, *LPC, Psychotherapist (contracted)*

Tammy Hyde, *Communications/Community Engagement Coordinator*

Lyniya Johnson, *Forensic Interviewer/Victim Family Advocate*

Darian Korbecki, *Forensic Interviewer/Victim Family Advocate*

Renee Pridgen, *Program Assistant*