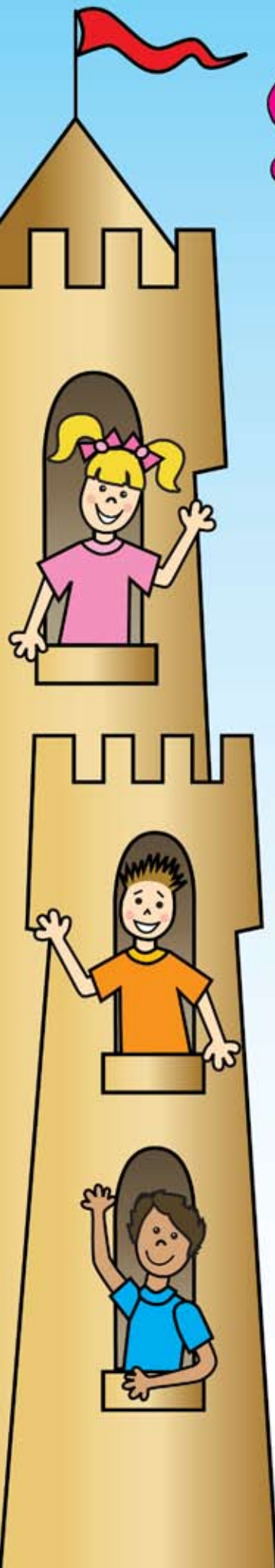


# THE SANDCASTLE

A Publication of The Children's Advocacy Center of Collier County

239-263-8383 • www.CACcollier.org



## CAC Enters its 25th Year of Service

Back in 1986, the Children's Advocacy Center opened its doors to serve the needs of Collier County. That very first year, the compassionate staff members and volunteers of the Child Protection Team came to the aid of 167 child victims.

Over the years, not only has the population of our community grown, but so have the needs of our children. Thousands, not hundreds, of children receive services annually, and the agency has expanded to offer seven programs which not only help children heal from the physical and psychological wounds they've suffered, but help parents improve their skills, provide supervised visitation and offer additional programs which promote child safety.

Twenty-five years later, the mission of CAC remains the same - to provide a safe, comforting place for the youngest victims of abuse and help those children regain their childhood.

Throughout the year, look for some exciting activities to not only celebrate our 25th anniversary and honor the accomplishments that have been achieved, but to highlight our services, mission and successes within the Collier County community.

As we celebrate this milestone, we give thanks to all our donors, staff members, board members, and volunteers who make the CAC possible. We look ahead to all that is to come during our next quarter century.



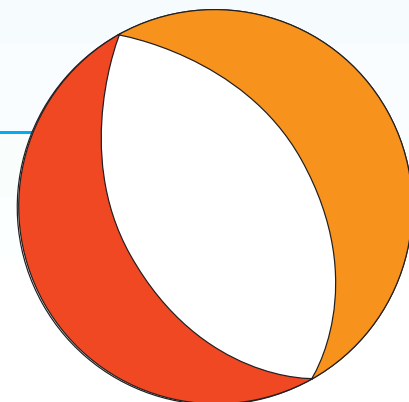
*Heidi Dudich, Becky White, Dr. Barbara Rumberger, Mark Morris, Dale Lively, Marnie Carrick, Jackie Stephens attend the CAC Gala in 1997.*



*Norman Bruner, Debbi and Jim Wallace enjoy the 2001 CAC Gala.*

## Save the Date: Beach Ball

Join us as we celebrate our 25th anniversary of protecting children in Collier County as we kick off our shoes and enjoy the Beach Ball. The event will be held on Saturday February 25, 2012 on the Ocean Lawn of the Naples Beach Hotel. For more information call 239-263-8383 ext. 232.



## Life's Little Lessons

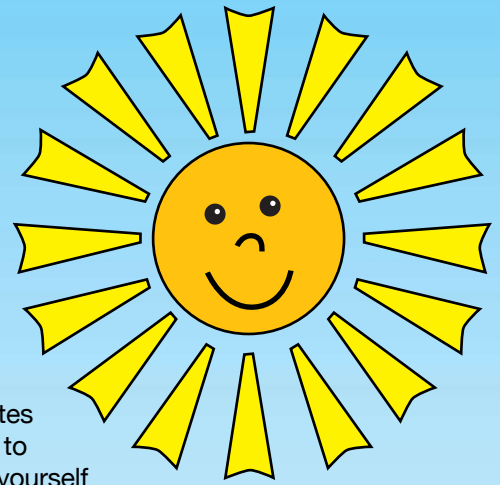
The school year is a new beginning not just for children, but for parents, grandparents, relatives, coaches, and anyone who plays a role in the life of a child. In her book, "Teacher Says" author Evelyn Porreca Vuko offers a few suggestions that will make a world of difference.

- Be a teacher. You don't need to be a trained educator or a parent to be a teacher. Adults who are caring and conscientious are the most powerful change-makers in a kid's life.
- Be the boss. You can be a friend and still be an authority figure to a child. Boundaries make kids feel safe and secure, so don't be afraid to set limits and stick to them. If you give in or negotiate with kids all the time your role with them will be undermined. Be as good as your word.
- Be a caped crusader. Look out for injustice, unkindness, prejudice or poor manners which can become a part of daily life for you and your kids. When you can, rectify the situation, or discuss an incident at a more appropriate time, in private.

■ Give yourself a time-out. It's ok to give yourself a breather when life puts a strain on your patience and positive outlook. Take a few deep breaths, leave the room, or give yourself a few minutes of solitude. Be sure to take some time for yourself every day.

■ Learn how to calm yourself. There's a lot to be learned by finding ways to calm yourself when the going gets tough. Breathe deeply, take a long walk or find another method to center yourself – and practice your method in front of your kids. It teaches them that calming oneself is critical to being healthy and successful.

■ Be mannerly. Good manners are powerful lessons that teach kids the importance of being kind and considerate. Set a good example for kids by holding the door open for the people behind you, avoid interrupting others and write thank-you notes.



## Tina Streeter Promoted to Development Director

Child Protection Team member, Tina Streeter, will serve CAC in a new capacity as development director.

Streeter has worked for the agency for six years. As part of the CPT, she was responsible for interviewing children after allegations of physical or sexual abuse, assisting with forensic medical exams and testifying in court as a child advocate. Streeter is also a member of the Florida Department of Health's state-wide quality assurance team which ensures all state Child Protection Teams follow state guidelines.

"We're so happy to have Tina join us in this capacity," said Jackie Stephens, Chief Executive Officer. "Tina's experience with the CPT will be invaluable in sharing CAC's mission with the community and donors."

"I'm looking forward to raising community awareness about the invaluable services CAC provides," added Streeter.

Prior to her work at Children's Advocacy Center of Collier County, Streeter served as a DRILL instructor for its juvenile boy's boot camp.

Streeter earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Master's degree in Education from the University of North Carolina while serving on active duty with the U.S. Army.



*Tina Streeter  
Development Director*

# Our Thanks To All Who Provide Support

Our work at the CAC would not be possible without support from such dedicated and generous donors. A special thank you for your commitment to our community's children!

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## Annual Meeting Honors Board Members, Staff

Three new members of the Board of Directors were welcomed during CAC's Annual Meeting, held on June 29th at Vineyards Country Club. Kerry Geroy of Capital Bank; Daphne Pfaff, a retired community volunteer; Michele Thoman, chief nursing officer for NCH Health Systems joined current members Daniel A. Summers, A.I.A. (president); Jack Ullrich. (Vice President); Mokey Shea (Treasurer); Sonia M. Diaz, Esq. (Secretary); Jim Bloom; George Drobinski, M.S., L.M.H.C.; James L. Goehler; Terry L. Kelly; Thomas B. Smith; and Carrie E. Williams.

In recognition of the 25th anniversary of the CAC all board members were awarded plaques in appreciation of their service and dedication to protecting children in

our community.

The Annual Meeting was also a chance to honor Dale Lively, M.Ed., Clinical Supervisor of the Child Protection Team, for her 20 years of service at the agency.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to be a part of such a cohesive team," said Lively.

"Dale has been instrumental in bringing together all the professionals responsible for the protection of children in our community. She has made a difference in the lives of thousands of children and families in Collier County and I am so proud of her," added Chief Executive Officer Jackie Stephens.

Stephens also received an award for her 25 years of service to Child Protection Teams in Florida, 19 of them here in Collier County.

## Back to School Basics

Your mother was right when she told you breakfast is the most important meal of the day. But in busy families, breakfast sometimes gets ignored - by parents and kids alike. Research shows that eating breakfast promotes growth, leads to a healthier diet and maximizes school performance. With a few simple steps and a little pre-planning, parents can make sure the morning meal becomes part of a daily routine. Consider these eight tips from the American Dietetic Association:

- 1 Finish homework and pack school bags at night.
- 2 Decide what your children will wear to school before going to bed. Locate lost shoes for the next day.
- 3 Get up 15 minutes earlier.

4 Give up morning television and computer games.

5 Have healthy foods on hand. Shop for breakfast foods with your kids taking into account their personal preferences.

6 Set out cereal the night before. For a younger child, fill a zip-lock bag with her portion; she adds milk in the morning.

7 Allow older children to use the microwave oven. Most breakfast foods can be prepared in five minutes, or less.

8 Let kids eat in the car, or while walking to school.



## Local Quilters Donate Handiwork

The Naples Quilters Guild makes regular donations of beautiful quilts for the children at the CAC. In addition, the SEW Studio hosted a group of local women to create quilts for the center. We recognize these quilts are made out of love and the children who receive them know there are people who care about them.

“We often have children who have suffered a traumatic experience, whether it be physical or sexual assault; our staff gives these children a blanket and teddy bear to comfort them,” explained Development Director Tina Streeter. We are so grateful for the community support. For some children, the quilt is one of the few possessions they can call their own.”

Additional donations to Children’s Advocacy Center of Collier are welcome. The Center is always in need of new and unused clothing for boys and girls (all sizes), undergarments, teddy bears and games.



*Advocates Meghan Greene and Larry Scott*

## Tommy Bahama Coconut Classic

The Children’s Advocacy Center will once again be a recipient of funds raised at the annual Tommy Bahama Coconut Classic. The tournament will be held on Monday, October 17th at Tiburon Golf Course.

For more information or to register for the event, please call 239.643.7920 or email: [NaplesEvents@TommyBahama.com](mailto:NaplesEvents@TommyBahama.com)





The Children's Advocacy Center of Collier County (CAC) is a child-centered, family-friendly setting for victims of abuse and neglect. We recognize that families in crisis require the expertise of many professionals whose goal is to ensure every child's safety.

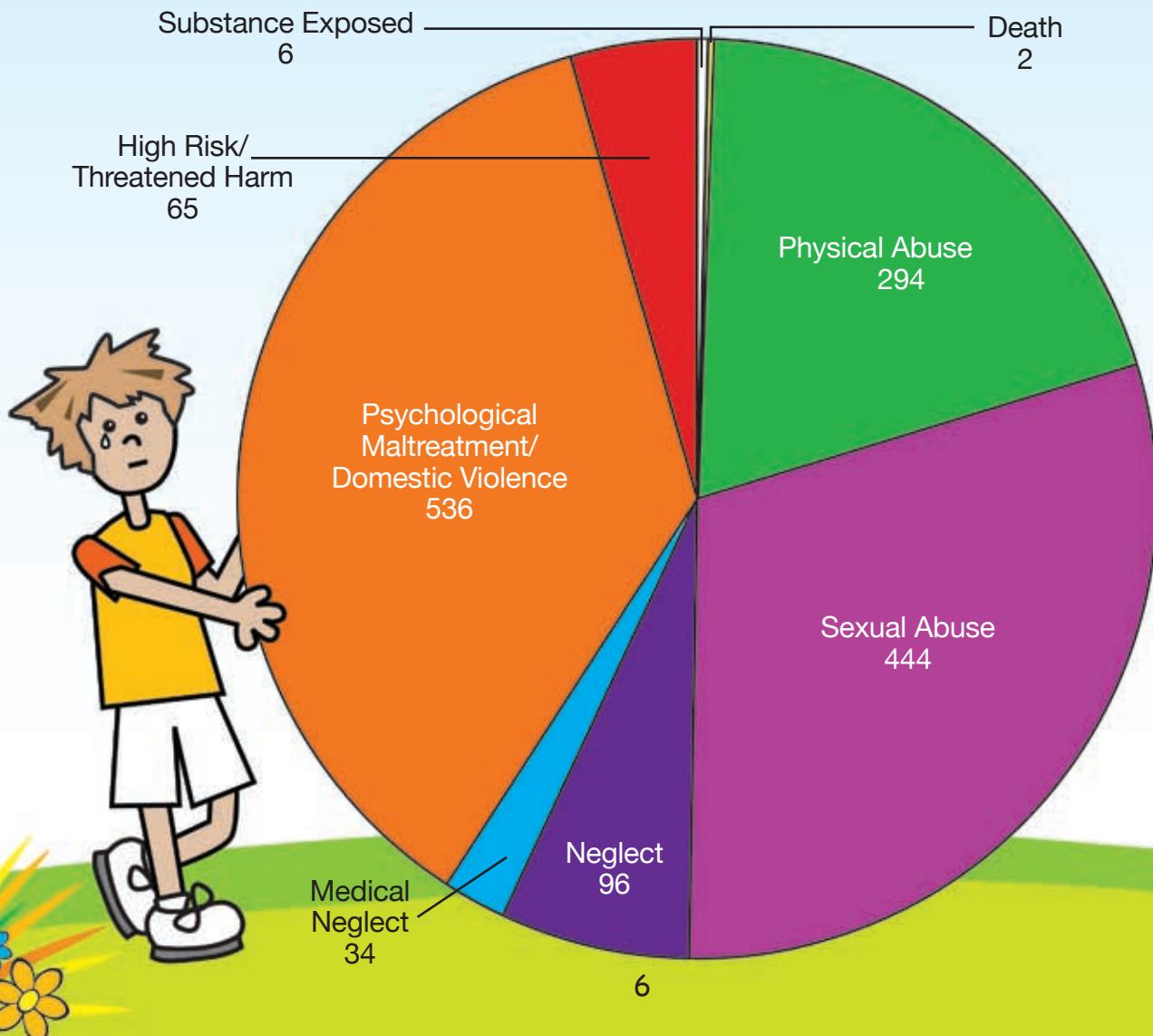
The CAC works in close collaboration with local law enforcement, the Florida Department of Children and Families, the State Attorney's Office, Victim Advocates and Mental Health Partners to provide quality care for child victims of abuse. The CAC provides highly skilled professionals who treat each child with dignity and compassion.

Although our clients encompass every socio-economic and ethnic background, they share a common experience – the lasting emotional scars of sexual and physical abuse and neglect. Through our programs, the CAC is able to address the immediate as well as long-term needs of any child who has been harmed, while assisting them with the healing process.

**Main Office**

1036 Sixth Avenue North, Naples, FL 34102 • 239.263.8383 • [www.CACcollier.org](http://www.CACcollier.org)

### TYPE OF ABUSE



# Program Summary

## Child Protection Team

The Child Protection Team (CPT) is an independent, community-based program that provides the needed expertise to evaluate suspected cases of child abuse and neglect, identify risk factors and make appropriate recommendations for intervention and treatment to protect children. CPT works closely with the Department of Children and Families and the Collier County Sheriff's Office. **479 new referrals**

## Family Safety Program

The Family Safety Program (FSP) was created to promote safety within a family that has already experienced abuse or violence. This court ordered program serves victims of family violence by facilitating safe visitations and custody exchanges. The CAC provides a monitored environment where children and families may interact safely and appropriately. **490 new referrals**

## Advocacy

Child Advocates ensure that children referred to the CAC receive the support and services they need as well as assistance in accessing appropriate community services. Advocates provide explanations and direction during this time of crisis and healing. This service is essential to empowering victims and their families. **378 new referrals**

## Sexual Abuse Treatment Program

The Sexual Abuse Treatment Program (SATP) provides evidence-based therapy to children who have been sexually abused. Individual and family counseling are available to victims, their siblings and non-offending caretakers regardless of ability to pay. Therapy is provided by a licensed mental health professional. This program is a collaborative effort with Catholic Charities of Collier County. **284 new referrals**

## Parenting Education Program

The Parenting Education Program is for families who have case plans in dependency court. This nine week, court ordered parenting class provides intensive education to focus on the specific needs for each family. **129 new referrals**

## Partners in Parenting

Partners in Parenting uses the Nurturing Parent program to teach alternative discipline methods and coping strategies. Group classes are offered throughout the community, free of charge. This program is a collaboration with The Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida provided through a grant from NCEF. **1,067 new referrals**

## Child Passenger Safety Program

The CAC is an official Child Restraint Inspection and Fitting Station. This free program provides car seat education, consultation and installation instructions. **48 car seat inspections**



This chart reflects the new referrals to each program within the CAC. Some clients are referred to multiple programs.



## Holiday Ornaments Benefit CAC

It's never too soon to start your Holiday shopping. This season, make sure a keepsake Children's Advocacy Center Ornament is on your list!

Each solid, brass-plated treasure is adorned with a sandcastle, seashells, pail and shovel in vivid color with the CAC logo on back. Measuring 2.5" x 3", each ornament is dated with "2011."

For the first time, CAC is making these beautiful ornaments available to the public for a \$25 donation. More than 50% from each purchase will fund our ongoing efforts to help Collier County children in need.

So grab an ornament to adorn your Christmas tree, buy several to give as gifts or consider a bulk order as a way to reward your workers. We expect these ornaments to sell out quickly, so be sure to order yours today! Fill out the form below and mail it with your check, or head to [www.caccollier.org](http://www.caccollier.org) to make your purchase.

------(Cut Here)-----

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF ORNAMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25 EACH)

TOTAL COST: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to: Children's Advocacy Center of Collier County, then mail the above form with your payment to:

### Children's Advocacy Center of Collier County

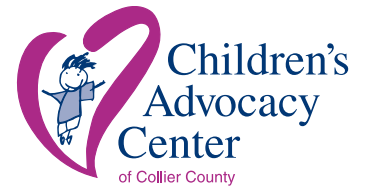
1036 Sixth Avenue North  
Naples, FL 34102

## Be a Holiday Helper!

Each December, the Children's Advocacy Center of Collier County opens its doors to our families who need help making the holidays a little brighter for their children. Thanks to the help of volunteers, the CAC is able to fill our lobby with toys, games and clothes to share with the parents and caregivers of children who have been abused.

Here's how you can help:

- While you're doing your holiday shopping, pick up an extra toy, game or outfit to share with a child in need.
- Share this information with family and friends and invite them to join our Holiday Helpers.
- Be a volunteer when families come to shop at our special Santa's Workshop.



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### Main Office

1036 Sixth Avenue North  
Naples, FL 34102

239-263-8383

[wwwCACcollier.org](http://www.CACcollier.org)

### Our Mission

The mission of the Children's Advocacy Center of Collier County is to minimize trauma to abused children and enhance families' capabilities to provide a safe environment. This is achieved through a cooperative, multidisciplinary team approach to the identification, intervention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

