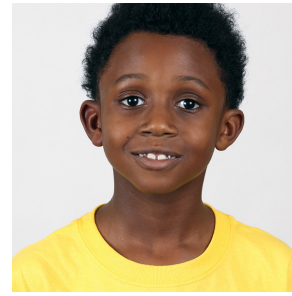


Joining Hands

PROTECT CHILDREN STOP ABUSE
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

A Place of Healing & Hope



UPCOMING EVENTS

Pinwheel Masquerade Ball & Auction

**October 2, 2021
from 7-11pm**

Join us for our Annual Pinwheel Masquerade Ball & Auction to Unmask Child Abuse. This elegant night at the Cape Fear Botanical Garden features culinary delicacies, live and silent auctions and a celebratory atmosphere you won't soon forget! Tickets are available on-line at the CAC website, CACFayNC.org, or you may purchase at the CAC office.

Biscuitville Breakfast After Dark Fundraiser

**October 12, 2021
from 5-8pm**

Stop by the Biscuitville on Grove Street and when you place an order and mention you would like to support the Child Advocacy Center when you make a purchase. 20% of the sales during the time frame when you mention the Child Advocacy Center will be donated to the CAC.

19 Days of Child Abuse Prevention November 1-19, 2021

Take a 'Bite' Out of Child Abuse Luncheon

November 4, 2021

YOU...Behind the Mask Contest October 1-22, 2021

**Giving Tuesday
November 30, 2021**

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

The Butterfly Tree

By: Oretta Harris, LCMHC, CAC Therapist

In girls' group, we decorated flowers as a representation of ourselves. In an individual session, an eight-year-old girl identified feelings through a YouTube interactive video about FEELINGS. On April 27, 2021, a little girl told her brother to be quiet because she was singing with her therapist and that was a part of what they did when she is in the office for counseling. A few weeks ago, a fourteen-year-old male won a game of Connect Four by demonstrating impulse control and healthy problem-solving skills. Two years ago, a group of boys created rap songs to express their thoughts about what makes them happy. Finally, close to three years ago, a young boy who was deaf and diagnosed with autism walked into my office and drawing became our way to communicate.

The use of creative arts in counseling has been practiced and encouraged for years as a supportive tool in treatment. In 2016, I recall asking Roberta, our executive director, for funding to purchase creative art supplies: games, gel pens, canvas, paints, workbooks, and journals. In 2018, the first boys' group primary focus was the incorporation of creative music to encourage boys to identify and express their thoughts and feelings. The idea was inspired by J. Cole, a rapper with roots in Fayetteville, who reportedly kept notebooks of original song lyrics he composed throughout life about life that led to some of his success.



As a therapist, I frequently use creative arts such as paper crafts as one outlet to assist preschool aged youth with recalling age-appropriate boundaries and structure. I recall when Ellie the Elephant was created to assist youth in remembering rules to help reduce negative behaviors and consequences. Ellie was made using construction paper, tape, and scissors and on the back of her were the important rules the child needed to remember because as we all know ELEPHANTS NEVER FORGET.

Continued on page 2

19 Days of Prevention 2021

By: Faith, Boehmer, CAC Prevention & Volunteer Coordinator

The Cumberland County Community Coalition for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse in conjunction with the Child Advocacy Center will participate in the 19 Days of Child Abuse Prevention Campaign from November 1-19. Each year our goal of the campaign is to increase commitment, activities, and education and to mobilize communities throughout the world around child abuse prevention. The 19 Days Campaign serves as a reminder to all of us that there is something each of us can do to make a difference in our community to prevent child abuse. According to the Monique Burr Foundation there are benefits of providing consistent prevention education implementation such as lowering dropout rates, improved school attendance and increased test scores and grade point averages.

Our main focus this year is to educate our youngest citizens, preschoolers, with a new curriculum we will be using with our body safety books. The curriculum comes from Monique Burr Foundation out of Florida.

The curriculum is called "Child Safety Matters." The lesson will include an introduction to MBF's five safety rules:

- ◆ **Know What's Up**
- ◆ **Spot Red Flags**
- ◆ **Make a Move**
- ◆ **Talk it Up**
- ◆ **No Blame—No Shame**

This lesson will help teach students developmentally appropriate strategies to promote their own personal safety. Students will learn how to report unsafe situations and to understand about talking to trusted adults.

Volunteer readers from the community will go out and share with the students. Many of these readers will represent agencies throughout the community such as Cumberland County Sheriff's Office, Fayetteville Police Department, CAC Staff, and board members.

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Save the Date!

October 2, 2021

Cape Fear Botanical Garden

The Pinwheel Masquerade Ball and Auction

Tickets are on sale now for the 7th Annual Child Advocacy Center's **Pinwheel Masquerade Ball and Auction to Unmask Child Abuse**. The event is scheduled for Saturday, October 2, from 7 – 11 p.m. at the Cape Fear Botanical Gardens. Don a mask and enjoy a gala evening of delightful dancing and fabulous food and drinks from our culinary sponsors. Entertainment will include a DJ, dance demonstrations, photo booth fun, live and silent auctions for amazing prize packages, and mask contests. Standard pricing after September 17 is \$100 per person or \$175 per couple, and reserved tables of 8 are \$1200. Tickets and tables can be purchased in person at the Child Advocacy Center, or order online at CACFayNC.org.

This year's event is co-chaired by Jackie Davis and Julie Lee-Jacobs. Committee members include Jennifer Britt, Tim Edwards, Beth Lee, Chris Lee, Juelle McDonald, Robin Hurmence, Lucy Jones, Mary McCoy, Sharon Mazingo, Jennifer Taft and Christina Quantock. This energetic and dedicated committee has been working diligently to ensure that this is a not-to-be-missed event.

We are very appreciative of our sponsors for this event. Their support enables us to provide hope, help and healing to victims of child abuse.

Platinum Sponsors: 5-Star Entertainment; Debbie Bender Designs; Healy Wholesale; A New Leaf Therapeutic Services PLLC **Gold Sponsors:** Up & Coming Weekly; Saam's Party Tents, Inc. **Silver Sponsors:** The Law Office of Robin Weaver Hurmence

Blue Sponsors: Berkshire Hathaway All American Homes; Callahan & Rice Insurance Group; Clerk of Superior Court-Lisa Scales; District Attorney Billy West; Gift of Dance & Photography; Firehouse Subs Glensford Drive; Healing Minds Therapeutic Services PLLC; James H. Cooke, Jr., Attorney at Law; TRP Sumner, PLLC; Valley Auto World; Valley Radiology; Valley Regional Imaging; Williams Printing & Office Supply

Inside Photo Booth Sponsor: Timothy D. Edwards, Attorney at Law; **Outside Photo Booth Sponsor:** Hardin Law Firm PLLC; **Auction Paddle Sponsor:** Beaver Courie Law Firm; **Champagne Tag Sponsor:** Hatley Law Firm; **Signature Drink Sponsor:** Movement Mortgage; **Coffee & Water Bar Sponsor:** Le Bleu Central Distributions; **Mask Contest Sponsor:** Keller Williams Realty; **Trip Sponsor:** AmFund

Culinary Sponsors: Aisha's; The BarBQue Guy; Burney's of Fayetteville; Carrabba's Italian Grill; Dorothy's Catering 2; Metro Diner; Elite Catering; Southern Coals; Bees and Boards Charcuterie Company; Nona Sushi Asia; Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux; Blue Pineapple Bakery; Harris Teeter; Luigi's Italian Chophouse & Bar; Superior Bakery and The Sweet Palette. Thank you also to our **Corporate and Individual Benefactors** who are listed in this newsletter and whose support of this event is so valued.



Mark your calendar, get your mask, purchase your tickets and get ready for a night you won't forget!

Continued from Front Cover...

The Butterfly Tree Continued

Ellie is only one of a few creations used to empower and encourage our youth. One of the most powerful visuals and use of creative arts in our office is the Butterfly Tree. The Butterfly Tree is another simple use of creative art but a powerful statement. It represents many of the youth who have successfully completed the trauma focused therapy at the Child Advocacy Center. The Butterflies became a symbol of healing after another form of creative arts Bibliotherapy. Bibliotherapy is the use of literature to help cope with mental health, emotional concerns, or adjustments in life. After reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, for the first time in years, the beloved child story had a different meaning and perspective to me, and I began to incorporate the timeless child's story into the counseling process. Creating a butterfly for the butterfly tree, at the end of treatment, has become a source of pride and strength for many of our youth.

As I reflect over the many ways, creative arts have been incorporated in the healing process of many, I would be reluctant to not mention Journaling. In 2018, myself, the administrative assistant and one of our youth were each given a journal as a writing tool to assist the

youth in having a safe place to express her emotions about her home life. What I did not expect was for my journal to become a safe place for my own healing over the next year. A journal that began as a tool for a young teen girl became my peace as well.

Creative arts are broad and the use of them in counseling is countless and for six years it has remained a staple in the treatment of our youth. With Covid-19, the use of tele mental health has increased as we have at least one client a week who receives therapy via a safe telecommunication method. My last example of creative arts in counseling is the use of filters and backgrounds during tele mental health sessions. For one client, the tradition of making silly faces near the end of the session, using computerized filters, has become a way of grounding and bringing closure to the session. As I hope this blog has demonstrated, creative arts have been a vital part of the work we do. It has been used to engage, encourage, support, and maintain. The key is being open to understanding sometimes the best way to hear or see a child is to create a safe and open space of creativity and fun for we are working with children after all.

19 Days of Prevention 2021 Continued

On Thursday, November 4, 2021, we will be hosting a prevention luncheon, "Take a 'Bite' Out of Child Abuse." Our guest speaker is C. David Moody Jr from Atlanta, Georgia. He is owner of C.D. Moody Construction Company, Inc. He is featured in the child sexual abuse training "Stewards of Children" from Darkness to Light. He is the co-author of "Fighting Through the Fear—My Journey of Healing from Childhood Sexual Abuse." With Charles W. Cherry II. Cost for the luncheon will be \$12. Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite as well as going to our website at CACFayNC.org

In addition, we will be sponsoring along with The Arts Council of Fayetteville a *Call for Art*. The theme will be "YOU...Behind the Mask." Students that reside in Cumberland County may enter. Guidelines can be found on the CAC website (CACFayNC.org). Entries will need to be dropped off no later than October 22, 2021, at either the Child Advocacy Center (222 Rowan Street) or The Arts Council (301 Hay Street) by 5:00 pm. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each of the age group categories. The winners will be announced and recognized at the Prevention Luncheon on November 4, 2021.

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 2021-2022 Year. If you would like to become a Corporate Benefactor of the Child Advocacy Center, please visit CACFayNC.org and click on How To Help at the Top of the Page and then the Sponsorship tab.

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN:



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- Cape Fear Eye Associates
- CityView
- Fayetteville Area Plumbing Contractors Association
- Player McLean, LLP
- Robin & Debbie Jenkins
- Lucy & Wes Jones
- Systel Business Equipment

A Special Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Challenge Campaign! Thankfully we were able to receive the matching challenge grant for \$10,000 from Anonymous Trust/Simply East Fund as we were able to meet our challenge goal.



A big thank you goes out to the BarBQue Guy, Scott Boehmer and Lafayette Baptist Church for hosting and preparing a wonderful BBQ meal. Special thanks to the LBC ladies for the yummy desserts! The luncheon was to celebrate the relationship the Child Advocacy Center has with the MDT partners through Law Enforcement, DSS Social Workers, Volunteers and many others. We appreciate all the hours you put into making this a great day!

The CAC is incredibly thankful to everyone who donated to Lanning's Lemonade & Colton's Cookies for their annual lemonade and cookie stand. A special thank you to Lanning and Colton and their family for making this possible. Thank you for joining hands with the CAC in protecting children!



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 2021, the Child Advocacy Center received 959 cases of reported child abuse, a 9.5 increase from the previous year. 514 forensic interviews were conducted at the center, a 4% increase from the past fiscal year. 568 families received Victim Family Advocate services, providing direct aid as well as assisting them in accessing needed resources. For additional information, please visit CACFayNC.org

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