SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

SPRING IS IN THE AIR AND BLUE PINWHEELS WILL BE EVERYWHERE!

BY FAITH BOEHMER, PREVENTION & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Soon Spring will be here! Buds of flowers will be popping up all over our community and so will beautiful blue pinwheels. The pinwheel (a happy childhood symbol) represents the bright future all children deserve. **April is Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness month** and since 2010, the Child Advocacy Center has led an effort to cover our community in blue pinwheels spinning all throughout our community. 2023 will not be any different. There will be Pinwheel Gardens at the CAC, Festival Park, FTCC, Methodist University, Spring Lake, Fayetteville Cumberland Parks and Recreation Centers and many more locations.

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

Read Along Story Time - Tune in on our social media channels or visit our website at www.cacfaync.org to catch these interactive and engaging story sessions. By teaching kids about body safety at a young age and continuing the conversation throughout their childhood, we can help empower them to make informed decisions and stay safe. Don't miss out on this important opportunity to start the conversation with your child. It's never too late to start!

JOIN US EVERY TUESDAY IN APRIL FOR STORY TIME
SHARING BOOKS THAT EDUCATE CHILDREN ABOUT BODY SAFETY, PERSONAL BOUNDARIES, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF SPEAKING UP WHEN THEY FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE.

**Read Along Story Time**
These story times will be available online via the CAC website.

PINWHEEL GARDEN PLANTING
AT FESTIVAL PARK - 335 RAY AVE.
MARCH 31, 2023 @ 12:30PM
WE WILL BE PLANTING PINWHEELS IN HONOR OF THE 808 CHILDREN REFERRED TO THE CAC FOR ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE DURING FY22.

APRIL 7, 2023 IS NATIONAL #WEARBLUEDAY
TAKE A PICTURE OF YOURSELF, YOUR OFFICE, ETC. AND POST TO SOCIAL MEDIA USING THE HASHTAG #WEARBLUEDAY #CACFAYNC. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOUR BLUE.

2023 CHILD ABUSE SUMMIT APRIL 20 8AM - 4:30 PM
JOHN D. FULLER SR. RECREATIONAL/ATHLETIC COMPLEX
PLEINARY SPEAKER: SASHA NEULINGER
SHOWING OF THE DOCUMENTARY “REWIND” OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. NO CHARGE.
MUST REGISTER THROUGH SOUTHERN REGIONAL AHEC

FAYETTEVILLE'S ULTIMATE LIP SYNC SHOWDOWN
SATURDAY MAY 6, 2023
CROWN CENTER BALLROOM @ 6 PM
thank you benefactors!

CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN:
Blue Ridge Power
CAPE FEAR VALLEY HEALTH

HERO FOR CHILDREN:
Joyce and Howard Loughlin • ARRAY Publishing & Marketing LLC
Mike and Ann Morketter • Timothy D. Edwards, Family Law Attorney
Valley Auto World, Inc. • Beasley Media

STAR FOR CHILDREN:
Truist • Lucy and Wes Jones • Systel Business Equipment
Dr. Robin and Debbie Jenkins • Kenneth Barefoot
CityView Media • Brown & Associates Investment Services Inc.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING GRANTORS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THE CAC THIS YEAR:
Community Grants Fund of Cumberland Community Foundation, Inc. • Youth Growth Stock Trust
Carter Bank and Trust • Florence Rogers Charitable Trust • Cumberland County
City of Fayetteville • Anonymous Trust/Simply East Fund • Leon Levine Foundation
Tracy Family Foundation • Cumberland Community Foundation Giving Tuesday

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 through monetary donations and the donations of goods and services. We could not do this work without your generosity.

Fayetteville’s Ultimate Lip Sync Showdown
Saturday May 6, 2023
Crown Center Ballroom @ 6PM

Tickets are on sale now for Fayetteville’s Ultimate Lip Sync Showdown to be held at the Crown Center Ballroom on Saturday, May 6, 2023. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with show time starting at 6 PM. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Child Advocacy Center.

Tim Edwards and Jenny deViere return as co-chairs for the event again this year and the committee is hard at work planning another tremendous show. Local “celebrities” will battle it out for the title of Fayetteville’s Ultimate Lip Sync Star! Audience participation will determine the winner of the People’s Choice award.

Ticket prices are $75 per person for standard table seating and $100 per person for VIP table seating. (Facility and online order fees not included.) Tickets are available online or in person at the Crown Center box office. For more information, visit www.CACFayNC.org. All tickets include hors d’oeuvres and desserts. Cash bar will be available. “Party festive” is the suggested attire. This event is recommended for adult attendees.
HONORING OUR VOLUNTEERS & MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM MEMBERS

BY ROBERTA HUMPHRIES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On February 16 the Child Advocacy Center honored its volunteers and Multi-Disciplinary Team members with a special recognition dinner - Taco’ Bout Appreciation" held at the Kiwanis Recreation Center. Bees and Boards Charcuterie Co. provided a taco buffet. Awards were presented in recognition of service and participation during 2022.

THE FOLLOWING MDT MEMBERS WERE RECOGNIZED:

MOST OBSERVED FORENSIC INTERVIEWS BY AGENCY:
- DET. SHANNON ODENWELDER, CCSO
- JESSICA CARTER, CCDSS
- DET. EDWARD FREDA, FPD
- DET. MICHAEL WILSON, HMPD
- DET. CHELSEY HUNT, SLPD

MOST ATTENDED CASE REVIEWS BY AN INVESTIGATOR:
- AVRIL BRISSETT, CCDSS
- DET. DANIEL EDMONDS, FPD
- DET. SHANNON ODENWELDER, CCSO

MOST ATTENDED CASE REVIEWS BY PARTNER AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE:
- ALISSA BRASHEAR, CCDSS
- DR. DANIELLE THOMAS-TAYLOR, SRAHEC
- SGT. RANESSA WALLACE, FPD
- REBECCA AUL, CUMBERLAND COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

100% AGENCY ATTENDANCE AT CASE REVIEW:
CUMBERLAND COUNTY DSS
CUMBERLAND COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

2022 was another great year of working with a variety of volunteers that assisted the CAC in being able to be successful in so many ways. The following volunteers were recognized:

40+ HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE CERTIFICATES PRESENTED TO:

- SAMMY SOZA
- KRISTY WOOD
- CECILE GRIFFIN
- STAN GRIFFIN
- JACKIE DAVIS
- JACKIE O’DONNELL
- JOHN KINSTREY
- JULIE LEE-JACOBS
- SHARON KINSTREY
- SHARON MOZINGO
- BETH KEEVER
- BETH LEE
- DEBBIE JENKINS
- JIMMY HENDLEY JR
- LUCY JONES
- NADINE MILLER BERNARD
- ROBIN HURMENCE
- WENDY VONNEGUT
- CATHY WHITE
- VALERIE SHORTS
- ALEX DESOTA

THE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Johnny Leonard, Behavioral Health Therapist and owner of Healing Minds Therapeutic Services, PLLC.

Michelle Smith, RN – Patient Care Manager PEDS/PICU at Cape Fear Valley Health

Sarah See – Professor at Methodist University

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY GROUP:
ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

SHINE AWARD:
THE HONORABLE (RET.) A. ELIZABETH KEEVER

FACILITATOR OF THE YEAR:
SHANTEL CASIANO

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:
JACKIE DAVIS

THERAPY/COUNSELING AWARDS PRESENTED TO:

DIFFERENCE MAKER:
JIMMY HENDLEY, JR.

CHANGE AGENT:
KRISTY WOOD

CHANGE AGENT:
SAMMY SOZA

CHANGE AGENT:
TANEIDRA NIXON
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 2022, the Child Advocacy Center received 808 cases of reported child abuse. 467 forensic interviews were conducted at the Center. 612 families received Victim Family Advocacy Services, providing direct aid as well as assisting them in accessing needed resources. 127 children attended individual counseling and 20 children participated in group counseling. 1470 people received child abuse prevention and awareness education. Volunteers contributed 1464 hours of service to the CAC. For additional information, please visit CACFAYNC.org.

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

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