

June Is Internet Safety Month

Don't Be Quick to Click!

Protect Children Online

Our Mission:

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



SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER TEN YEARS OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

BY JOHN WEBSTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



After recently recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month, it's the perfect time to highlight the outstanding therapeutic services available here at the CAC!

Since launching on-site counseling in September 2014, the CAC has continually expanded its services for youth following forensic interviews. Starting with 15 counseling slots across three days a week, the CAC partnered with Cape Fear Valley Hospital Community Mental Health to bring in skilled therapists.

In 2015, Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TFCBT) became our core treatment approach. A year later, therapist Oretha Harris joined full-time, and the first girls' group was formed. Today, two girls' groups meet every other Wednesday, facilitated by Oretha Harris and Latisha Culbreth-Robinson.

The first boys' group launched in 2018, now led by co-facilitators Sammy Soza and Josh Main, meeting every other Monday.

When COVID hit in 2020, the CAC quickly shifted to virtual therapy, reducing no-shows and offering greater flexibility. Counseling continues both in-person and online.

With a 2019 grant, we expanded free services and increased availability. By June 2020, we reached our goal of full-time counseling. Ms. Harris remains a vital presence, with Sammy Soza joining as a part-time counselor in 2025.

Currently, the CAC offers five trauma-focused therapies:

- TFCBT (Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy)
- EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing)
- WET (Written Exposure Therapy)
- AF-CBT (Alternatives for Families CBT)
- VOICES (our group therapy model)

We remain committed to innovation and growth in supporting youth through trauma recovery. The Butterfly Tree in our office honors those who've completed therapy and reminds us of the healing work we're privileged to do.

A big thank you to our incredible therapeutic team!

ONLINE SAFETY TIPS

- Only post online what you are comfortable with anyone seeing.
- Nude or sexually explicit photos should never be posted.
- Don't have sexual conversations online.
- Use privacy settings.
- Don't disclose your password.
- Only friend people you really know.
- Send group messages with care – send to only those that really need to see the message.
- If something online bothers you or makes you afraid tell me about it.

SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Know your child's passwords.
- Check out your child's social networking pages from time to time.
- Go over their friend list with them.
- Communicate your expectations and how they apply in an online context – what is off limits and what do you consider unacceptable behavior.
- Consider parental controls.
- Set limits on how long, how often and when they can be online.



Internet Safety Tips for Families – Learn More!



The advocate office (CAC) helped guide my daughter through her hills and valley to push through a dense forest! They (therapists) showed her how to take back her power with how to use the tools given! My daughter has grown into a teenager who is comfortable in her skin and that is because of the village of gems in the advocate office here in Fayetteville, NC.

- From a non-offending parent



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 10TH ANNUAL PINWHEEL MASQUERADE BALL TO UNMASK CHILD ABUSE!

**DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025
TIME: 6PM - 10PM @ THE CAROLINA BARN - SPRING LAKE**

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE. MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT BY BECOMING A SPONSOR!



FAYETTEVILLE'S ULTIMATE LIP SYNC SHOWDOWN

BY JOHN WEBSTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2025 Fayetteville Ultimate Lip Sync Showdown was held on Saturday May 17, 2025, at the Crown Center Ballroom. Karen Tisdale chaired the Lip Sync committee consisting of Lauren Averitt, Jenny Bell, Faith Boehmer (CAC Staff), Candace Coleman, DeLisla Crosby, Tim Edwards, Anita Flowers, Roberta Humphries (CAC Staff), Chris Lee, Melissa Nelson, Ashley Owen and John Webster. Alicia Winstead served as auditor. A variety of acts were performed both at the Youth Matinee and the Evening Show. The evening was filled with lots of music and energy. **Net proceeds from the event were \$42,527.69.**



Freddie Mercury



Das Sound Machine



Steph & The Dancing Without
Sin 2 Cool Crew



Sequins & Swagger



The Lady Shufflers



Fayetteville Academy



The Miracles
(Cape Fear Regional Theatre)



Golden Stars Performance Troupe
(E.E. Smith High School)



EVENING SHOW-

PRE-SHOW FUNDRAISING 1ST PLACE:

FREDDIE MERCURY

PRE-SHOW FUNDRAISING 2ND PLACE:

DAS SOUND MACHINE

PRE-SHOW FUNDRAISING 3RD PLACE:

STEPH & THE DANCING WITHOUT

SIN 2 COOL CREW

PEOPLE'S CHOICE 1ST PLACE:

DAS SOUND MACHINE

PEOPLE'S CHOICE 2ND PLACE:

SEQUINS & SWAGGER

PEOPLE'S CHOICE 3RD PLACE:

THE LADY SHUFFLERS

NON-FINALIST BEST COSTUMES:

SEQUINS & SWAGGER

NON-FINALIST BEST CHOREOGRAPHY:

THE LADY SHUFFLERS

NON-FINALIST BEST STAGE

PRESENCE & CREATIVITY:

SEQUINS & SWAGGER

ULTIMATE LIP SYNC STAR 1ST PLACE:

STEPH & THE DANCING WITHOUT

SIN 2 COOL CREW

ULTIMATE LIP SYNC STAR 2ND PLACE:

FREDDIE MERCURY

ULTIMATE LIP SYNC STAR 3RD PLACE:

DAS SOUND MACHINE

A Special Thank You to our 2025 Fayetteville Ultimate Lip Sync Showdown Sponsors

MATINEE SHOW-

PRE-SHOW FUNDRAISING 1ST PLACE:

THE MIRACLES (CAPE FEAR REGIONAL THEATRE)

PRE-SHOW FUNDRAISING 2ND PLACE:

FAYETTEVILLE ACADEMY

PRE-SHOW FUNDRAISING 3RD PLACE:

THE TWINKLE TOES

PEOPLE'S CHOICE 1ST PLACE:

THE MIRACLES (CAPE FEAR REGIONAL THEATRE)

PEOPLE'S CHOICE 2ND PLACE:

THE TERRY SANFORD HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE

DEPARTMENT

PEOPLE'S CHOICE 3RD PLACE:

FAYETTEVILLE ACADEMY

NON-FINALIST BEST COSTUMES:

THE TWINKLE TOES

NON-FINALIST BEST CHOREOGRAPHY:

DOUBLE TROUBLE

NON-FINALIST BEST COSTUMES:

THE TWINKLE TOES

NON-FINALIST BEST COSTUMES:

THE TERRY SANFORD HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE

DEPARTMENT

NON-FINALIST BEST STAGE PRESENCE &

CREATIVITY: SCREWLESS

ULTIMATE LIP SYNC STAR 1ST PLACE:

FAYETTEVILLE ACADEMY

ULTIMATE LIP SYNC STAR 2ND PLACE:

THE MIRACLES

ULTIMATE LIP SYNC STAR 3RD PLACE:

THE GOLDEN STARS PERFORMANCE TROUPE OF

E.E. SMITH HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENTING:



ROCK STARS:



CELEBRITIES: Crown Complex, James H. Cooke, Jr., Attorney, Up & Coming Weekly

GROUPIES: Cape Fear Air Electric Plumbing, Cumulus Media Group, District Attorney Billy West, Dr. Casey Dobson & Sherry Miller, Highland Pediatric Dental, Miranda Law, PLLC, The Henderson Law Firm, The Law Firm of Rand & Gregory, Travel with Panache, Watson Family Dentistry

HYPE: Kimrey Law, PLLC & Haymount Homes, LLC

AUTOGRAPH: Timothy D. Edwards, Family Law Attorney

DESSERT SPONSORS: Bee Sweet Burney's Sweet & More, Cinnaholic Fayetteville, Duck Donuts, GlamShop Sweets & Cus-toms, Harris Teeter Raeford Road, Superior Bakery, Sweet Carolina Delights LLC

SPECIAL THANKS: Ann's Flower Shop, Beard, Bare, and Bokey, Casey Benander, Chick Fil A Raeford Road, Firehouse Subs Glensford Road, Brad Laub, Minuteman Press, Rubiera Studios, US Logoworks, Williams Printing



AMERICAS HOME PLACE DONATES HANDCRAFTED LITTLE LIBRARY

Americas Home Place surprised us with a handcrafted Dr. Seuss book house for our family waiting room. We are so grateful for their partnership with us.

HONORING CUMBERLAND COUNTY'S CHAMPIONS

BY: FAITH BOEHMER, PREVENTION & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

The Annual Child Abuse Summit 2025 "Be Their Voice: Help Them Soar!" was held on Tuesday April 16 at Lafayette Baptist Church with 339 people in attendance. This is a collaborative effort with the Child Advocacy Center, Southern Regional AHEC, and Army Community Services to provide a regional educational opportunity for professionals in our community to hear from national and local experts in their field and to highlight April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. This year's national guest speaker was Judge Robert Lung who shared his lived experiences of child abuse and being sex trafficked. Each year Champions for Children are recognized at the summit for demonstrating exceptional commitment to the prevention of child abuse and neglect or the promotion of protection of the children in our county.

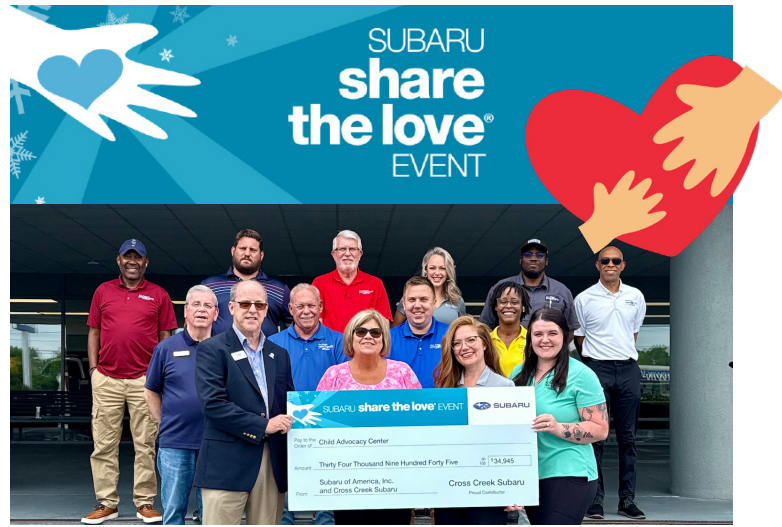
THE WINNERS OF THE 2024 CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN AWARDS FOR THEIR WORK DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2024 WERE:

GROUP/AGENCY AWARD – Fortitude Counseling Associates, Fortitude Counseling Associates have consistently demonstrated a collaborative approach by working with various stakeholders, including child welfare agencies, educators, mental health professionals, and community organizations. The agency, FCA, makes a profound impact on the lives of children by ensuring they have access to safe environments, emotional support, and the necessary resources to overcome adversity.

FRANK PIERCE VOLUNTEER AWARD – James Clark James Clark is a remarkable advocate in Cumberland County. He demonstrates an unwavering commitment to the fight against child abuse and neglect. As a Guardian ad Litem, he consistently goes above and beyond, ensuring that the voices of vulnerable children are heard. Mr. Clark has the ability to build trust and rapport with the children he sees, ensuring their needs and well-being remain a top priority. He truly is creating an impact, fostering stability and securing brighter futures for the youth of our community.

ROBERTA J. HUMPHRIES PROFESSIONAL AWARD – Detective Ashlynn Duncan

Detective Ashlynn Duncan with the Fayetteville Police Department, Special Victims Unit stands out for her remarkable dedication in her relentless pursuit of justice for victims of child sex abuse and child physical abuse. Det. Duncan makes a difference in the lives of children by her being authentic, a dedicated champion for children, making a significant difference in their lives by thoroughly investigating those who are victims of abuse and often lacking the confidence and courage to speak out. She displays strong leadership, deep compassion and much more. She is making a difference for children in our community.



CROSS CREEK SUBARU PRESENTS THE CAC WITH PROCEEDS FROM THEIR 2024 SHARE THE LOVE EVENT

Cross Creek Subaru presented a check to the Child Advocacy Center in the amount of \$34,945 from proceeds collected during the Subaru of America's 2024 Share the Love event. Cross Creek Subaru selected the Child Advocacy Center as their local charity of choice.

Pictured above: John Webster, ED, and Cross Creek Subaru Staff



HAYMOUNT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

had John Webster, ED, out to speak in the spring. Later in the year presented a monetary gift to CAC.

Pictured: Faith Boehmer, Laura Doherty

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
Brown & Associates Investment Services
Timothy D. Edwards, Family Law Attorney
Dr. Howard and Joyce Loughlin
Dr. Robin and Debbie Jenkins
Dr. Wes and Lucy Jones
Leslie Dysinger Real Estate

STARS: Pattie Collie
Lafayette Baptist Church
Lucy & Wes Jones
Mike & Ann Morketter/Labels Etc. Inc.
Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church
Systel Business Equipment

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.



CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER
222 Rowan Street
P.O. Box 488 · Fayetteville, NC 28302
Phone (910) 486-9700 · Fax: (910) 486-8677
www.CACFayNC.org

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 13
FAYETTEVILLE, NC



**Keep
Connected**

CHECK US OUT
ON SOCIAL MEDIA



[FACEBOOK.COM/CACFAYNC](https://facebook.com/cacfaync)



SIGN UP FOR OUR
E-NEWSLETTER TO
GET THE LATEST INFO



[INSTAGRAM.COM/CACFAYNC](https://instagram.com/cacfaync)



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 Advocacy 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.

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Honorable Caitlin Evans

CHAIRPERSON

Juelle McDonald, Ed.D

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Julie Lee-Jacobs, Psy.D

SECRETARY

Chris Lee

TREASURER

Rebecca Aul, J.D.

DeLisa Crosby, Ph.D.

Tim Edwards, J.D.

Genique Freeman, MBA, PCC, BCC

Jimmy Hendley, Jr.

George Elton Hendricks, Ph.D.

The Honorable Claire Hill

Robin Hurmence, J.D.

Debbie Jenkins, DCSW

Lucy Jones

The Honorable (Ret.) Elizabeth Keever

Beth Lee

Johnny Leonard, MA, LCMHS, LCAS

Mark Maynor

Nadine Miller-Bernard, M.Ed., Ed.S.

Mike Morketter

Cheryl Perry, M.D.

Sarah See

Danielle Thomas-Taylor, M.D., M.P.H.

Wendy Vonnegut, J.D.

STAFF

John Webster, **Executive Director**

Faith Boehmer, **Prevention/Volunteer Coordinator**

Amy Hansen, **Lead Forensic Interviewer/**

MDT Facilitator/Victim Family Advocate

Elizabeth Dorn, **Victim Family Advocate/Case Manager**

Roberta Humphries, **Financial Manager**

Renee Pridgen, **Program Assistant**

Dahlia Talley, **Victim Family Advocate**

Vacant **Forensic Interviewer/Victim Family Advocate**

Oretha Harris, LCMHC-S, **Psychotherapist (contracted)**

Sammy Soza, LCMHC-A **(contracted)**