

BE THEIR VOICE

**BREAKING THE SILENCE
TO STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

BE THEIR VOICE: BREAKING THE SILENCE TO STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BY: FAITH BOEHMER, PREVENTION/VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Human trafficking in America is a growing business. The Blue Campaign, which falls under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, reports that 77% of all victims are subjected to forced labor, while 23% are victims of sex trafficking. Within sex trafficking cases, 78% of victims are women and girls, and 22% are men and boys.

The Blue Campaign also notes that there are no fully reliable estimates that accurately reflect the scope of human trafficking in the United States. However, cases have been reported in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, on Tribal lands, and within U.S. territories.

"Every two minutes, a child is sold into trafficking," according to an April 2024 article published by Safe House Project, an anti-human trafficking organization. The report further states that more than 300,000 American children have fallen victim to the heinous crime of commercial sexual exploitation. On average, these victims are held in captivity for 23.4 months before they escape, are released, or tragically lose their lives.

According to the Blue Campaign, sex trafficking is defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.

Safe House Project states that there are more people living in slavery today than at any other point in history. We join with other like-minded organizations to bring greater awareness and education to this issue. Through these efforts, we aim to help survivors access safe housing, emergency services, and long-term support.

If you or your organization would like to learn more about human trafficking or these events, please contact Faith Boehmer, Prevention Coordinator, at faith@cacfaync.org Resources: U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2025-trafficking-in-persons-report/> Department of Homeland Security Human Trafficking Facts: <https://www.dhs.gov/human-trafficking-quick-facts/>

During the month of January, the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) partners with a variety of community agencies to provide education and awareness around human trafficking. Below are the events sponsored by our Domestic Minor Human Trafficking Planning Committee:

#WearBlueDay • January 11th

A national day to wear blue in honor of those with lived experience of labor and sex trafficking. **#WearBlueDay**

Human Trafficking Conference • January 15

Featuring a keynote presentation by John-Michael Lander in the morning, followed by an afternoon panel discussion. Hosted at Temple Baptist Church from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

To learn more about Human Trafficking please visit our website by scanning below:



**CHILD ADVOCACY
CENTER**

A Place of Healing & Hope

Lunch & Learn • January 20

Guest speakers Abbie and Michael Arena, founders and leaders of two local human trafficking nonprofit organizations. Held at the Kiwanis Recreation Center, 352 Devers St., from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. *Participants are encouraged to bring their lunch.*

4th Annual Be Their Voice 5K Run • January 24

Hosted at Methodist University.

Race begins at 9:00 a.m.

Registration is now open.

Please scan the QR code to register.



**Fayetteville's
Ultimate
Lip Sync
SHOWDOWN**

Save the Date! Matinee Show @ 1pm
Evening Show @ 7pm Crown Center Ballroom

all proceeds ★
benefit the child
advocacy center

Saturday, May 2

THE FAYETTEVILLE ACADEMY- PREMIER SPONSOR OF FAYETTEVILLE ULTIMATE LIP SYNC SHOWDOWN

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) would like to recognize The Fayetteville Academy for its tireless support of our mission, as well as the meaningful work the Academy continues to do on its campus and throughout the community.

Founded in 1970, The Fayetteville Academy remains the only Pre-K through 12th grade independent, non-sectarian school in Cumberland County. This distinction is still true today. The Academy currently enrolls approximately 435 students and maintains an impressive 11 to 1 student-to-teacher ratio. It is widely known for its exceptional college preparatory education, strong academic foundation, vibrant fine arts and athletics programs, and its commitment to STEAM learning.



The Fayetteville Academy has a long history of supporting the Child Advocacy Center. One of the most impactful examples of this partnership occurs each May when the Academy proudly serves as the lead sponsor of Fayetteville's Ultimate Lip Sync Showdown. All proceeds from the event directly benefit the CAC. In addition to their generous financial support, the Academy also contributes an incredibly talented group of students who perform in the show every year. Their participation brings energy, heart, and excitement to the event.

The staff and Board of Directors of the Child Advocacy Center extend our deepest appreciation to The Fayetteville Academy for its ongoing commitment to helping protect and uplift the children of Cumberland County. It is both encouraging and inspiring to partner with organizations that actively work to strengthen and support the well-being of our community's children. Their continued involvement helps ensure that the CAC can keep serving the children and families who need us most. *Thank you to The Fayetteville Academy, and our best wishes for many more years of academic excellence and community leadership.*



Now- January 2, 2026 Looking for a new vehicle? Visit Cross Creek Subaru! During this event, when you purchase or lease a new Subaru, designate the Child Advocacy Center as your charity of choice, and Subaru of America will donate \$325 on your behalf. Cross Creek Subaru's support during the "Share the Love" event is invaluable. Choose to support the Child Advocacy Center while driving home in a brand new Subaru!

BODY SAFETY WORKSHOPS



Throughout November, our caring volunteers spent time in Pre-K classrooms reading age-appropriate body safety stories and gently sharing important lessons about body safety. Titles included *My Body Belongs to Me* by Cornelia Spelman and *Some Parts Are Not for Sharing* by Julie Federico, helping empower children with language to understand boundaries and safety.

PINWHEEL MASQUERADE BALL & AUCTION TOTAL RAISED: \$27,733.67



Pictured (L-R): Mark Pezzella, Sharon Mozingo, Anita Flowers, Melissa Nelson, Julie Lee-Jacobs (Co-Chair), Beth Lee, John Webster (Executive Director), Eugene Pinckney, Faith Boehmer (Staff), Valerie Shorts (Co-Chair), Jeff Shorts. Not pictured: Genique Freeman, Mary McCoy, Juelle McDonald, and Lydia Nichols.

Thank you to the Pinwheel Masquerade Ball & Auction Committee for their dedication, thoughtful planning, and hard work in hosting a beautiful event that brought our community together to raise awareness about the impact of child abuse and neglect.

A SUCCESSFUL DAY ON THE COURSE FOR A POWERFUL CAUSE



Our October 23, 2025 Golf Tournament raised \$14,258 thanks to the incredible support of our community.

Special thanks to our presenting sponsor, America's Home Place, for making this success possible!

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.



**become
a sponsor**



**become a
volunteer**

HARVEST AWARENESS: BRAVE AUTUMN: GROWING STRONG WITH LOVE & LIGHT

We were thrilled to receive 38 incredible submissions for this year's Art Contest. Our first-place winners received a \$100 Hobby Lobby gift card, while second- and third-place winners were awarded art supplies to continue growing their creative talents. We are proud to share the winning artists and their artwork below.

Elementary:



First Place
Victoria Rickard
5th Grader
Borean Baptist Academy



Second Place
Olivia Trigg
5th grader
Borean Baptist Academy



Third Place
Arianna Rivera
5th grader
Borean Baptist Academy

Middle:



First Place
Nadia Bryant
6th Grader
New Century International Middle School



Second Place
Avigail Crime
7th Grader
Borean Baptist Academy



Third Place
Ania Gabriell Beaty
7th Grader
Borean Baptist Academy

High:



First Place
Iris Niang
12th Grader
Borean Baptist Academy



Second Place
Brooke Mahon
11th Grade
Borean Baptist Academy



Third Place
Gayeon Kim
10th Grader
Borean Baptist Academy



THANK YOU PINWHEEL MASQUERADE BALL SPONSORS!



GOLD PINWHEEL: Horne Brothers Communications, Inc.

SILVER PINWHEEL:

Highland Pediatric Dental
Wiggs Auto, LLC

BLUE PINWHEEL:

Alliance Health • Bragg Mutual • Farm Bureau Insurance,
James Cooke Agency • Lee Hyundai of Fayetteville • Mi Casita
Robin Weaver Hurmence • Three Flowers Foundation

ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR: Anonymous Sponsors **AUCTION PADDLE SPONSOR:** Williams Printing

TASTER'S CHOICE: Bee Sweet • Burney's • Gaston's Brewery • Nona Sushi
Southern Coals • Superior Bakery • Sweet Palette

THANK YOU 2025 BENEFACTORS!

STEWARDS FOR CHILDREN:



CAPE FEAR VALLEY HEALTH



HERO: Leslie Dysinger – Team REMAX Choice • Timothy D Edwards, Family Law Attorney
Dr. Robin & Debbie Jenkins • Lucy & Wes Jones • Joyce & Howard Loughlin

STAR: Carter Bank & Trust • Warren Jacobs & Julie Lee-Jacobs • LaFayette Baptist Church
Mike & Ann Morketter • Pillar to Post Home Inspectors – The Holt Group • Systel Business
Equipment • Snyder Memorial Baptist Church • Truist

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WHAT WE DO

A Place of Healing and Hope: Joining hands with community partners, 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 2025, the Child Advocacy Center made a meaningful impact in our community by providing 538 forensic interviews and offering Victim Family Advocate services to 524 families, ensuring they received direct aid and access to critical resources. A total of 103 children participated in individual counseling and 33 children took part in group counseling sessions, while 956 community members attended child abuse prevention and awareness education programs. Volunteers gave an incredible 1,722 hours of service, and our therapy dogs and their handlers brought comfort through 47 visits. Together, these efforts reflect the CAC's ongoing commitment to protecting children, supporting families, and raising awareness. For more information, please visit CACFAYNC.org.

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

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