

THE TREEHOUSE

A Publication of The Children's Advocacy Center of Collier County
239-263-8383 • www.CACcollier.org

Summer 2009

Volunteers Of The Year

Paula and Jim Goehler have been supporters of the CAC for many years. Jim has served several terms on the board of directors and his guidance has been instrumental in determining the direction of the organization. Through his steady encouragement, Jim helped shape the organization we have today. Working alongside Jim is his wife Paula. She has mirrored his commitment on the board through her commitment to our various special events and projects. From the creative inspirations to the tireless behind the scenes work, Paula has put her stamp on our Galas and Golf Tournaments. She is the secret to our special event success. The Goehlers are invaluable.



And the Winner is ... the children served by the CAC.

The stars did shine at the 2009 Children's Advocacy Center's Annual Gala. Hollywood Stars Shine for Kids was another smashing success. From the red carpet to Joan Rivers, everyone enjoyed the evening. We want to offer a special thanks to our volunteers and sponsors for the event.

Best Leading Role

Daphne & David Pfaff

Best Picture

Williams Farm of Immokalee, Inc.

Best Costume

TIB Bank
Coleman, Hazzard & Taylor, P.A.
PalletOne

Best Film Editing

Catholic Charities of Southwest Florida
Southwest Florida Area Local
of the American Postal Union
Ms. Jennifer Wenke

Volunteer Superstars

Martha Federman
Diane Fischer
Gertrude Gilmore
Susan Golden
Bev Hiltabidle
Carolyn Kasischke
Mary Putnam
Cynthia Seymour
Jean Smirnov
Rick Virdinlia

Watch the mail for your 2010 CAC Gala Save the Date – The Beach Ball is bouncing on February 27. For more information regarding The Beach Ball, please contact the Development Department at 239.263.8383 ext. 33

From the Chief Executive Officer



Jacqueline Stephens
Chief Executive Officer

As the summer draws to a close, we feel grateful to have friends and supporters like you. Through your continued giving, we are able to offer many resources to children who have been abused. In times of stress and adversity, children are the ones who suffer the most. This is a trend we have seen at the CAC with 1,999 new referrals this past fiscal year. We hope that through awareness and education, we can motivate everyone to keep the safety and wellbeing of their children their highest priority.

The CAC usually enters a child's life during a moment of crisis and chaos. We strive to turn that circumstance into an opportunity for hope for the child. Your support makes that possible. You are the key to our success. Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacqueline Stephens'.

Who Is The New Girl?

Although she is a new staff member, she is not new to the Children's Advocacy Center. Native Neapolitan Marquelle LaRue recently joined the CAC as a Case Coordinator with the Child Protection Team. After graduating for Florida Gulf Coast University in 2004, Marquelle worked for the Florida Department of Children and Families as an investigator. During one of her first cases, she worked closely with the CAC's Child Protection Team. She decided then that this was where she truly wanted to make a difference. She returned to FGCU and earned her master's in forensic studies. She joined the CAC in March 2009. There are even rumors that she skipped into work the first day.

During her down time, Marquelle enjoys reading and spending time with her family, especially her young niece. Her most prized possessions are her three cats – Majhi, Merrique and Mischief. A great day for her is going to Barnes & Noble for a good book and a large coffee, or a canoe trip with family and friends.

CPT Case Coordinators ... what do they actually do?

A Child Protection Team Case Coordinators interview, assess and make recommendations regarding alleged cases of child abuse. That is the simple, technical description. But this is what they really do:

A case coordinator is on-call 24 hours a day. Whenever an abuse call comes in, someone is available to handle the case. This means helping the CPT pediatrician perform a medical exam, removing the child's clothing for evidence, holding the child's hand while a pelvic exam is performed and helping collect DNA evidence. All the while, she is explaining what is happening and reassuring the child that they are safe and the people surrounding them are there to help. Case coordinators try to make this stressful and scary experience more comfortable for the child.

The case coordinator also performs the forensic interview. She sits in an interview room with the child and listens to the often tragic stories,

asking the difficult questions while a Collier County Sheriff's Officer and a DCF protective investigator watch from

the monitoring room. Case coordinators are specially trained to question children. They understand the nuances of how children communicate both verbally and nonverbally. After gathering as much information as possible, they make recommendations to DCF and CCSO.

Our case coordinators have an amazing capacity for compassion and calm during very stressful situations.


CPT Annual Statistics

New Referrals	625
Forensic Interviews	248
Medical Evaluations	170



Marquelle LaRue
Case Coordinator

Tee It Up!



The 3rd Annual Golf Classic was so much more than just a golf tournament at The Quarry! Between the full field of golfers and the Sweet Carolina specialty drink hole, everyone had an exceptional day. The loop at hole 3 provided each golfer with a chance to relax with drinks and cigars while checking out the other teams.

We want to say a special thanks to our Tournament Sponsor Arthrex, Inc. Their teams definitely came to play golf! Our Major Sponsor, the Northside Naples Kiwanis Club came out in force to support the CAC. Thank you. To each and every sponsor, volunteer and player, the CAC wants to offer you special thanks for such a wonderful day. We hope it was as fun for you as it was for us.



Tournament Sponsor
Arthrex, Inc.

Major Sponsor
Northside Kiwanis Club

Platinum Sponsors
Fortune Electric
Mr. Mokey Shea
Nassau Pools Construction, Inc.

Gold Sponsors
BSSW Architects
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Tournament Underwriters
The Glenview at Pelican Bay
Lutgert Insurance
Mr. Mokey Shea
Pinnacle Flavored Vodkas

Volunteer Pros
Brenna Abbott
Diane Fisher
Lori Jaffe
Stephanie Kissinger
Rachael S. Loukonen
Mike McNeely
Caryn Rasnick
Bob & Carolyn Saunders
Jean Smirnov

Get your foursomes ready for the 4th Annual Golf Tournament as we return to The Quarry on Saturday, April 17, 2010.

For more information please contact the Development Department at 239.263.8383 ext. 33





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.

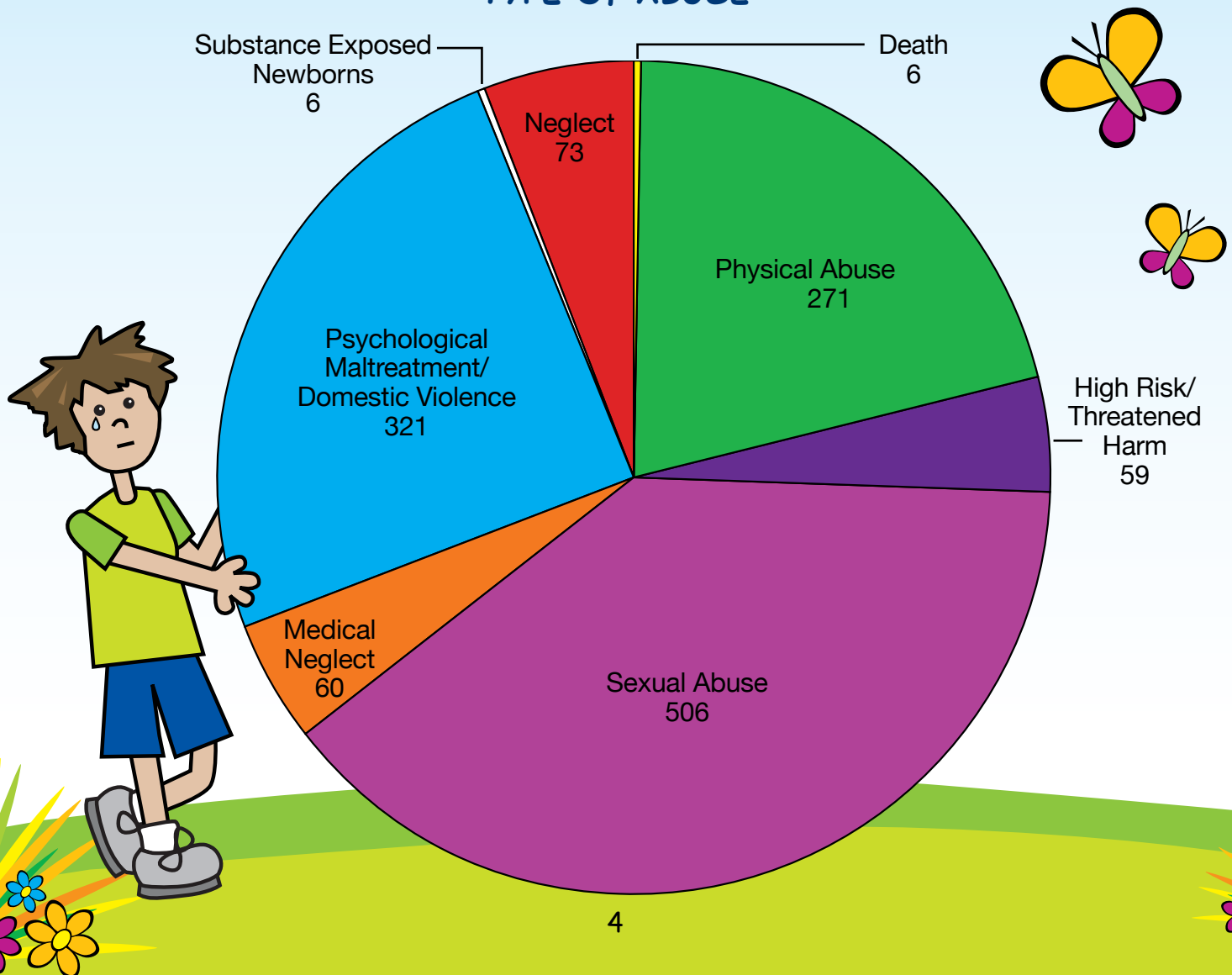
The CAC works in close collaboration with local law enforcement, the Florida Department of Children and Families, the State Attorney's Office, Victim Advocates and Mental Health Partners to provide quality care for child victims of abuse. The CAC provides highly skilled professionals who treat each child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

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. **625 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 supervised visitations and safe exchanges. The CAC provides a monitored environment where children and families may interact safely and appropriately. **274 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. **285 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. **101 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. **117 NEW REFERRALS**

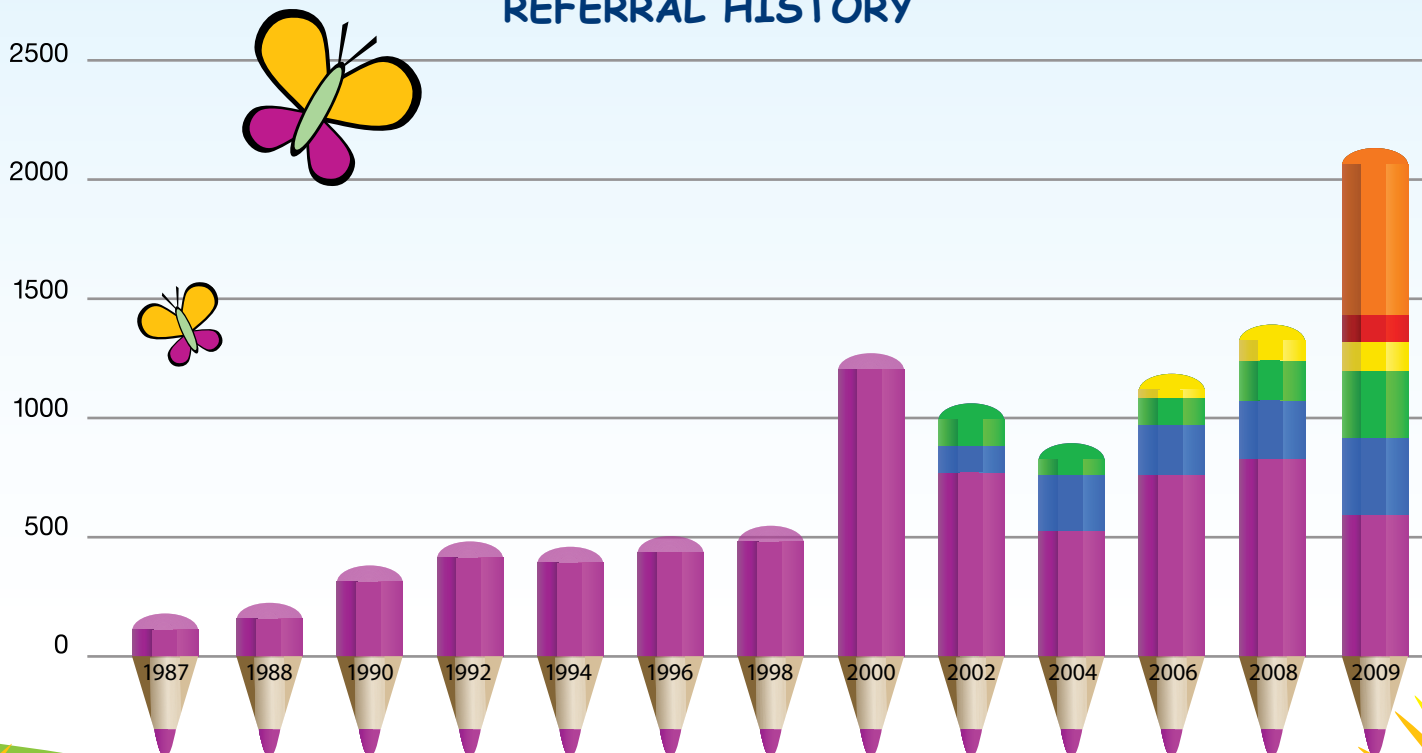
Partners in Parenting

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. **698 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. **69 CAR SEAT INSPECTIONS**

REFERRAL HISTORY



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



Ties To The Community



*Mrs. Camp's fifth grade students
at Pelican Marsh Elementary*

In late April, we received a phone call from a fifth grade student at Pelican Marsh Elementary. She wanted to invite someone from the CAC to her class for a check presentation. She went on to explain that Mrs. Camp's class had just completed a community service project "Ties to the Community". The class solicited ties from all over the world and then used them to make a quilt. They organized a raffle for the quilt and researched local children's charities to determine which would receive the proceeds. The class selected the CAC and we were presented with a \$600 check from Mrs. Camp's fifth grade class.

The most amazing thing about this project is that each student took such pride in what they were doing. Everyone worked together to organize the project, make squares for the quilt and sell raffle tickets. They even presented us with a statistics report on the quilt. The queen size quilt weighs 2.5 lbs and they used 1,500 yards of thread to make the quilt, that's .85 miles!

As a staff, we were touched by the hard work and the generous gift. The Children's Advocacy Center is grateful to have children helping children in our community.



Hear Our Good News!

Sometimes it is planned out. Sometimes people just show up at the door. But they all have one thing in common, they want to help the CAC. We would like to offer a special thanks to the following individuals, businesses and organizations who have given us so much over the last few months:

- **The 3G Coalition** volunteers who came to our golf tournament willing to do whatever needed to be done to make the event a success.
- **The Young Professionals of Naples** for making their social hour about more than networking – they brought enough stuffed animals, books and toys to fill our Treasure Chest for the month of May!
- **Mrs. Camp's Fifth Grade Class** for donating the proceeds from their raffle to the CAC.
- **Macy's** whose employees organized a teddy bear and clothing drive to replenish our Treasure Chest and Olivia's Closet for June.
- **Northside Naples Kiwanis Club** for continuing to answer our call for help to fill our Treasure Chest when it runs low.
- **Betty & John Shepard** who spend their free time sewing pillow bags – she sews and he stuffs. These bags are treasures that we can give to families as teaching tools for young children.
- **Lucy & Ella Hazlett** for celebrating Lucy's birthday a special way - encouraging guests to bring books to her party to donate to the children at CAC. Her birthday gifts replaced ALL of our worn and torn books!
- **Kristen Butler and Operation Angel Love** who answers our call for anything huggable when we need something for the Treasure Chest.
- **Elizabeth Van Hest and Dena Paniccia** for volunteering their time throughout the summer!



Betty Shepard

Our Thanks To All Who Provide Support

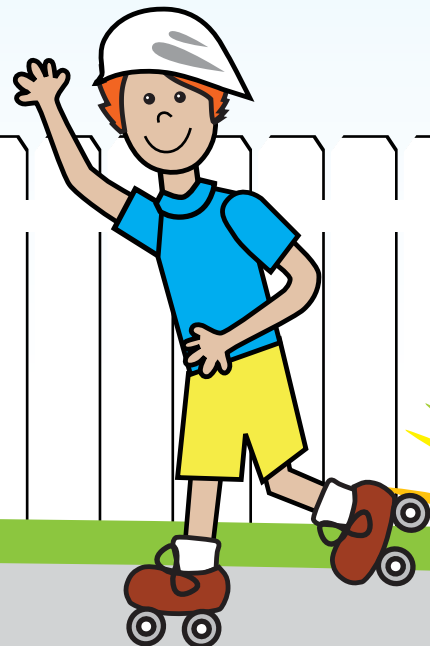
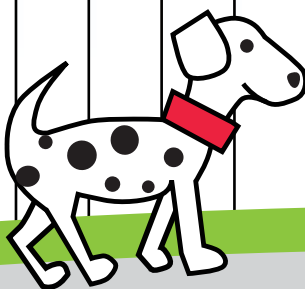
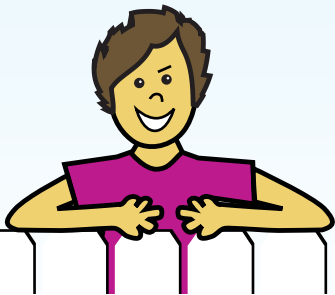
Our work at the CAC would not be possible without support from such dedicated and generous donors. A special thank you for your commitment to our community's children!

Arthrex, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Augustine
Mr. & Mrs. James Bates
Mr. Howard Bedford
Mr. Eric Benson
Blankets for Babies
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Blust
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Mr. Andy Bravo
Mr. & Mrs. John Brooks
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Mrs. Jamie Brown
BSSW Architects Inc.
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Mrs. Camp's 5th Grade Class
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Carroll
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Casey
Mr. Scott Casselberry
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Dr. & Mrs. Bernard Yormak



New Referrals Skyrocket for Sexual Abuse Treatment Program

It seems like every week there is a new report about abused children in our community. The CAC is thankful we have a resource to offer child victims – especially victims of sexual abuse. The Sexual Abuse Treatment Program (SATP) has seen a dramatic increase in services over the last few months. Referrals for the program have tripled and we are challenged each day to find space to provide therapy sessions.

This evidence-based program is vital to the successful outcomes of these victims. With referrals from the Child Protection Team, SATP is able to engage these children in meaningful therapy as soon as the abuse is discovered. It is hard to imagine the pain of their experiences as they skip down the halls, asking questions and waving to everyone they see on their way to therapy. But when you hear what they say, you realize all too quickly that these children are looking for a renewed sense of security and purpose with the support of the CAC.

These are the children your donations support.

SATP Annual Statistics

New Referrals	101
Therapy Sessions	939

Cheers for Volunteers

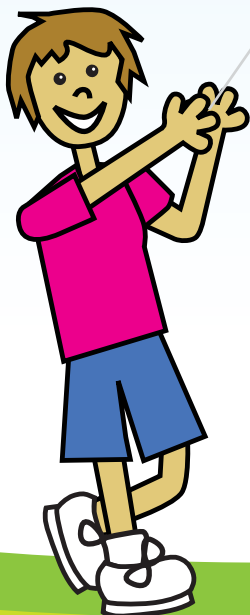
The increase in new referrals has the CAC looking for a few dedicated volunteers who are willing to lend a hand. We have daily office projects, specialty activities and occasionally reading to children in our lobby – just to name a few. If you want to help then please contact us today.

To find out more about our immediate needs, volunteer opportunities or to make a wish come true please contact the Development Office at 263.8383 ext. 33 or email JBrown@CACcollier.org.

Wish List

- Stuffed Animals for the Treasure Chest
- Diapers (Medium - 20 lbs)
- DVDs for children
- Baby Wipes
- Changing table pad with cover
- School Supplies (backpacks, crayons, notebooks, pencils)
- Therapy Journals/ composition notebooks
- Toon Design Feelings Chart
- New Clothes (tags still on) for Olivia's Closet
- Gameboy Games (for use at court)
- Canon All in One Printer – Pixma MP 980 for diagnostic medical photos for use in court
- VOLUNTEERS

Special need: Due to an increase in interviews and therapy session at the Center, we are in desperate need of extensive sound proofing for all interview and therapy areas. This is imperative to provide a secure and private area for these personal sessions. If you would like to help with this special need then please contact the CAC right away!



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Main Office

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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.

