



Court appointed advocate Gene Cashat with Giulianna and Giovanni

Advocate News

HOUSTON'S LEADING VOICE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

CHILD ADVOCATES, INC.

SPRING 2011

An Unwilling Hero

The curtains part in the front window and two little faces appear.

“Mr. Gene! Mr. Gene!” Their tiny voices and infectious energy spill over the threshold of the house even before we reach the front porch.

And this isn't a special occasion. Despite his unassuming personality and lack of mask or cape, every time Gene Cashat visits Giovanni (4) and Giulianna (2), he gets the same superhero reception.

The scene is quite a contrast from a year and a half prior. The siblings, who came into the care of Child Protective Services (CPS) based on risk after their mother was accused of committing a violent crime, had been placed temporarily with their maternal grandmother, Maria. Too little to understand the situation, they were simply a pair of toddlers missing their mom and the place they called home.

At an early court hearing, Gene was appointed as their court appointed advocate volunteer. His role was to act as an extra pair of eyes and ears for the family court judge – visiting the children in the grandmother's home, contacting caseworkers and counselors, interviewing their mother and other relatives, ensuring necessary medical care and, ultimately, making recommendations in court regarding the permanent placement of the children.

With the best interest of Giovanni and Giulianna as his focus, Gene set out to acquaint himself with all involved in the case. He visited Maria's home to meet her, her son George who also lived there and the children.

“Although we didn't totally understand how Child Advocates fit into everything at first, we immediately took to Gene,” says George. “He was so gentle with the kids and easy to talk to right off the bat.”

Gene also visited the children's mother, Sandra, who was living with her father while she worked toward accomplishing everything listed in her Family Plan of Service, put forth by CPS.

“I wasn't sure what was going to happen or when,” says Sandra. “The only thing I knew was that I was only allowed to see my children once every other week for an hour or two at a time – and that broke my heart.”

(continued on next page)

“He gave me a chance, he looked beyond the criminal case and he kept an open mind for the kids’ sake.”

In Harris County alone, 5,000 children languish in foster care because of life-threatening abuse and neglect. With our current resources, Child Advocates can provide a volunteer to less than half of them. If you would like to help us provide critical advocacy services for more children, please consider becoming a volunteer or making a financial donation online at www.childadvocates.org.

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An Unwilling Hero **CONTINUED**

The infrequent visits proved to be a source of stress for the children as well, particularly Giovanni, who often asked his grandmother why Mommy wasn't home and began biting his nails. Recognizing Giovanni's signs of stress, Gene coordinated with grandma, mom and the CPS caseworker in order to determine the best plan for him.

Since it was difficult for the caseworker to supervise visits outside of the CPS office, Gene volunteered to take on that role. He agreed to observe visits in Maria's home in the evenings and sometimes on Saturdays to accommodate Sandra's work schedule. When the children were evaluated by a therapist who advised that increased contact with their mother was critical, Gene paved the way once again. He was instrumental in getting the information to the judge, along with a positive report regarding Sandra's progress with her plan of service, prompting the judge to authorize an increase in both the number of visits and their length.

Through this extensive exposure to the family over the course of a year, Gene developed an intimate knowledge of the quality of their interactions and carefully documented the progression of the children's relationship with Sandra. He diligently reported this information to Child Advocates, the attorney for the children and the CPS caseworker.

Once Sandra successfully completed her plan of service, it was up to the judge to determine the children's permanent placement. Because of the crime she was accused of committing and the potential outcome of that case, the concern was two-fold. Was she a danger to her children? If not, should the children be permanently returned to her custody in light of her uncertain future with the criminal justice system? In order to make a ruling in the children's best interest, the judge was relying on the recommendations of those most closely involved in the case.

Because Gene had done such a thorough job of keeping all parties informed along the way, it was clear to everyone that Sandra posed no threat to her children. Ultimately, the judge agreed to give permanent custody of the children to their grandmother Maria, with Sandra living in her home as well. CPS has since closed the case and Gene stays in close contact with the family.

I'm welcomed warmly – my association with Gene being all they need to consider me immediately acceptable. Giovanni and Giuliaanna bring toy after toy to show “Mr. Gene” and clamor over each other to stand closest to him and tell him stories about what they've been up to.

Maria, Sandra and Uncle George all smile fondly watching them interact. When asked about the most important thing Gene did for their family, they aren't short on words.

“If it hadn't been for Gene and all the time he put in, I don't know if my sister would have gotten to come home at all, let alone so quickly,” says George. “The level of familiarity he had with our family made it possible.”

“He gave me a chance, he looked beyond the facts of the pending criminal case and he kept an open mind for the kids' sake,” says Sandra, her eyes filling with tears and her voice cracking with emotion. “He went in to that courtroom and stood before that judge and he said that I should be here, with them, where I belong.”

Giovanni and Giuliaanna don't even notice. They're busy competing for Gene's attention as he admires both a remote control monster truck and a plush Dora the Explorer doll.

Still no cape, but he is most certainly their superhero.

From the CEO

Hello all,

I hope you're having a great year so far – we certainly are. For the past few years, I've been so proud to report that we have surpassed all three of our main organizational goals – and 2010 was no exception! We served 2,018 children (our goal was 2,000), trained 228 new court appointed advocate volunteers (goal was 220) and raised \$3.5M (goal was \$3.2M). We certainly would not have achieved this kind of success without your continued support of our mission. Thank you.

I want to recognize and thank three board members who have played a big role in our growth over the years and are now passing the baton to the next generation by stepping down to the Advisory Board this year. We owe Nolan Lehmann, Jim Prentice and Barbara Scott an enormous debt of gratitude for nearly two decades of selfless service to Child Advocates.

Nolan, who joined the Board in 1995, has been a huge supporter of the *Pull for Kids Classic*. He served as the honoree in 2004 and raised big money as our auctioneer. Jim, who joined the Board in 1996, has served on the Development Committee and on committees supporting the Pull. Barbara chaired just about every event or committee we have, including serving two terms as chair of the Board. Child Advocates is a better place because of your commitment and dedication and I consider myself so fortunate to have worked with and learned from all three of you.

We have a great committee in place for the *Pull for Kids Classic* coming up May 7. They are certainly keeping themselves busy ironing out details for this year's sporting clays tournament and *Cirque du Magnifique*-themed party. There's excitement swirling regarding our new venue – not just new to us either, but entirely new to Houston – the Bayou City Event Center. Opening just this Spring, the facility will count the 2011 *Pull for Kids Classic* among one of its premiere events!

Our PFK auction mavens are promising some exciting changes and improvements this year as well. They have recently completed a survey to gain valuable insight into the kinds of items our attendees would like to see. The entire committee is working hard on overall improvements in the auction function, which has become an increasingly critical part of the event over the years.

Keep an eye on your mail, email and our website for details on sponsorship and volunteer opportunities in the coming weeks!

As the Spring unfolds, I look forward to seeing so many of you at the Houston Children's Festival or in the office. Thanks for all of your support and thanks for reading!

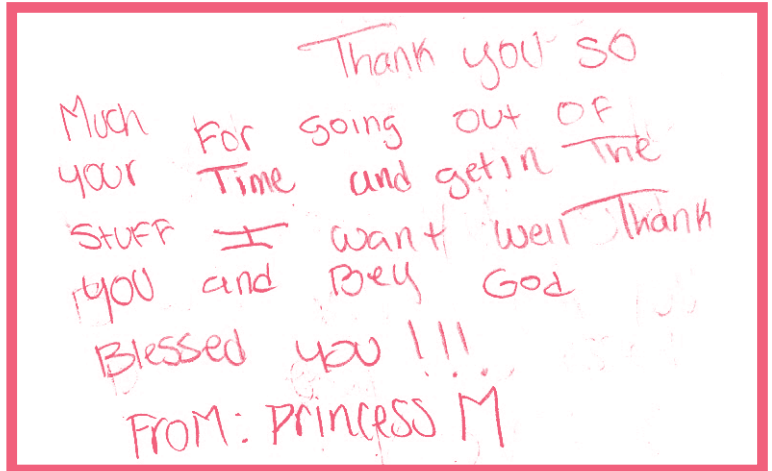
Warm regards,

Souya Gilman

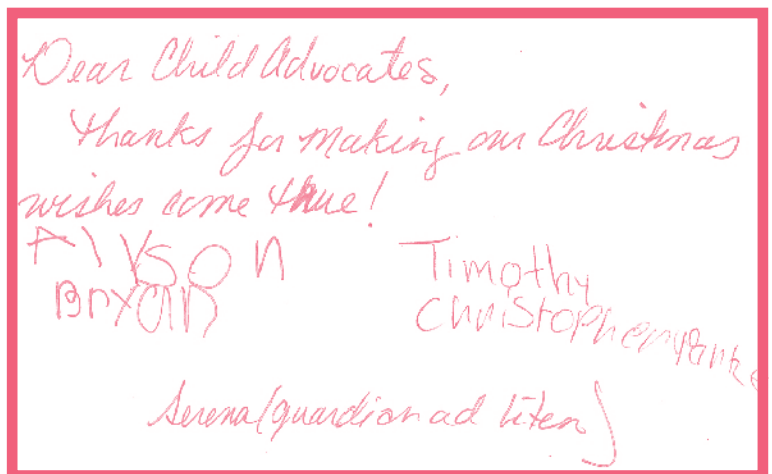
Santa's Wish List

The 2010 Santa's Wish List program was one for the record books. With the generous support of our 500+ corporate and individual sponsors, the program ensured that more than 1,400 children received gifts for Christmas.

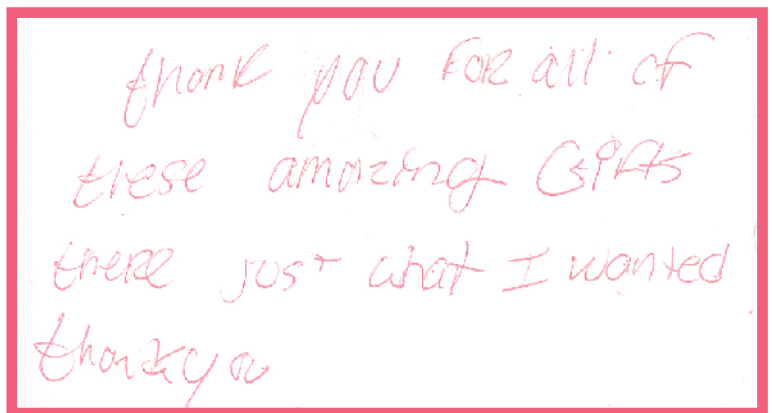
Below is a sampling of some of the wonderful thank-you notes that our sponsors received:



Thank you so
Much For going out of
your Time and getting the
stuff I want well Thank
you and Bey God
Blessed you !!!
FROM: PRINCESS M



Dear Child Advocates,
Thanks for making our Christmas
wishes come true!
ALYSON BRYSON
Timothy Christopher
Amena (guardian ad litem)



Thank you for all of
these amazing gifts
there just what I wanted
Thank you

To all of our sponsors and in-kind donors who helped make the program possible this year – we thank you from the bottoms of our hearts for making so many wishes come true!

Please see our list of donors and in-kind sponsors on pages 7 and 9.

Focus on the Friends

FRIENDS OF CHILD ADVOCATES

ANGELS OF HOPE LUNCHEON FEATURES TO-DIE-FOR TAHARI

More than 550 of Houston's most fashionable – and charitable – revelers packed into the Westin Galleria Grand Ballroom for the 2010 Angels of Hope Luncheon and Fashion Presentation by Neiman Marcus on December 7.

Chairs Lesha Elsenbrook and Kim Tutcher honored their friend Debbie Martinez for her longstanding support of Child Advocates. Together they raised enough money to serve 170 abused and neglected children.

The Friends have produced their signature luncheon and fashion show for almost two decades. Their partnership with Neiman Marcus has provided stunning runway shows with top-notch fashion designers year after year.

This year's featured designer, Elie Tahari, did not disappoint with his 2011 Resort and Spring Collections featuring a blitz of black and gold in an array of flattering silhouettes.

After the runway show, heard from Marie Sonnier, a young woman served by Child Advocates as a little girl. Marie credits her court appointed advocate, Marci Weinstein, with providing the lifelong inspiration and motivation she needed to succeed.



Luncheon guest speaker Marie Sonnier with her former court appointed advocate volunteer Marci Weinstein

Now a college graduate and a court appointed advocate volunteer herself, Marie urged audience members to continue helping Child Advocates grow so that more children could be blessed with a volunteer like Marci.

FRIENDS FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Calling all active Friends of Child Advocates members: Are you interested in helping out with our *Pull for Kids Classic*? Consider lending us your time and expertise on the 2011 auction committee.

Help auction chair Sheryl Androphy and our staff follow up on auction items we've asked for already and bring your new ideas to the table to make the auction even better. We'll also need help packaging items, creating baskets and bubble-wrapping fragile wares for safe transport as the event approaches!

Please contact Sheryl at 713-419-6816 or sheryla11@aol.com if you are interested in getting involved with the auction this year.

Snapshots



Rachel Rackers, Gay Mayeux, Rhonda Kubiak and Laurie Schaub at the Angels of Hope Luncheon and Fashion Presentation in December.



Judge Aneeta Jamal swears in our first Advocacy University class of 2011 in early February.



Young Professionals for Children chair Laura Englert helps some Holiday Party attendees with their "Countdown to Christmas" craft in November.

Voices

Court appointed advocate volunteers tell us how making a difference in an abused child's life has made a difference in their own.

ADELE COUNTRYMAN, CHILD ADVOCATE SINCE 2008



"My experience has brought me to a greater realization of the strength I have to handle situations, whether as an advocate or personally. I have the strength to ask questions, gather information, seek help, think, pray and take action on my concerns. Thus, I can provide help, love, care and empathy to others – bringing joy to my life!"

JACOB JOSEPH, CHILD ADVOCATE SINCE 2010

"I am grateful for the opportunity I have through CAI to be involved in the lives of some of the most vulnerable in our society. The resilience I see in the children never ceases to amaze me. The joy on their faces, in spite of challenges, inspires me to be a better advocate for them and to be a better person. Every time I serve them, I feel like I'm the one walking away feeling more refreshed!"



LATASHA BOWEN, CHILD ADVOCATE SINCE 2008



"I've had the opportunity to work with several children, one of whom has since become my goddaughter. Being the advocate of abused children has allowed me to see the long-term affects abuse can have on children and I'm making it my mission to change that, one child at a time."

JUAN VERNAL, CHILD ADVOCATE SINCE 2008

"The baby girl on my first case had a complex and intimidating medical history. I was scared when I met her, she was so fragile; then I saw her smile and play and felt her love. This was a child that nobody believed could be considering for adoption; even the judge had to visit her to believe the change. Her smile, her hugs and the words of the judge are treasures I will keep forever. I needed to make a difference, and I did. I love CAI."



JULIE PRUNTY, CHILD ADVOCATE SINCE 2008



"Being a child advocate has taken me out of my element, enlightened me about how drugs and alcohol have scarred our nation, clearly defined my blessings, and given me great pleasure in watching people reach milestones that I take for granted. It has also humbled me and rewarded me with new friends."

Donor Spotlight

RAY C. FISH FOUNDATION

Child Advocates and the Houston philanthropic community lost a special hero this fall with the passing of Barbara Daniel-Hetherington, president of the Ray C. Fish Foundation. The foundation's generous contributions to Child Advocates have provided lifesaving advocacy for more than 50 children over the past 20 years. The foundation was established by Mrs. Daniel-Hetherington's father, Ray C. Fish, a leading figure in the natural gas industry. He charged his daughter with carrying out the foundation's mission of benefitting current and future Texans. Under her leadership, the foundation made the founding gift for the Texas Heart Institute and helped KIPP Academy grow from one campus for disadvantaged students in Houston to nearly 100 in 20 states and the District of Columbia. We are grateful for the foundation's many years of support and extend our sympathy to her family on the loss of such an inspirational woman.

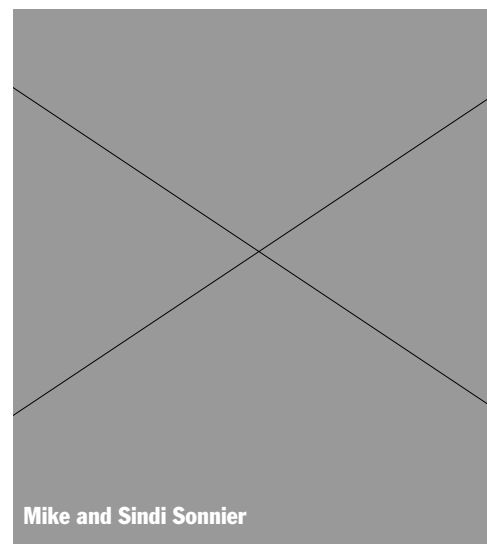
CARDINAL GAS STORAGE PARTNER

We are so excited about our new partnership with the great team at Cardinal Gas Storage Partners. Since joining forces with Child Advocates in 2009, Cardinal Gas has already made a huge difference. In addition to making monthly gifts, the company donated all the proceeds of its 2010 golf tournament to our organization. That alone was enough to serve 10 children for a year! As if those efforts weren't enough, the company's staff truly went above and beyond for Santa's Wish List, adopting a family with six small children. In addition to buying toys and clothing, they even included a grocery store gift card for Christmas dinner and gifts for the children's caregiver. And after dropping off these items at our Santa's Wish List Warehouse, the staff members stuck around to wrap presents and build bikes for other children we serve. Wow! Thank you for your dedication to our mission and your great generosity!



SINTHIA AND MICHAEL SONNIER

When it comes to Child Advocates, Sindi and Mike Sonnier's generosity seems to know no end. From Sindi devoting countless hours as a court appointed advocate to Mike filling a table with men (yes, all men!) at last December's Angels of Hope Luncheon and



Mike and Sindi Sonnier

Fashion Show, their dedication to our mission is truly amazing. Many of their contributions go even further thanks to matching gifts from Bank of America, Mike's employer. More than 35 children have been served by Child Advocates since 2006 as a result of their donations. Thank you Sindi and Mike! We're so glad you're part of the CAI family!

Thanks Donors

The donors listed contributed to Child Advocates, Inc. between the months of October 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010. Child Advocates also extends our most sincere appreciation to the 790 individuals and companies that donated between \$1 and \$250 during this period (totaling more than \$53,000), whom we are unable to list due to space constraints.

58+ CHILDREN FOR ONE YEAR

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Texas CASA, Inc.

29-57 CHILDREN FOR ONE YEAR

Child Advocates Endowment, Inc
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Doing Something

HOUSTON MARATHON

The rain couldn't put a damper on Team Child Advocates! An energetic group of volunteers and staff members took refuge under the new CAI tent to cheer on our runners at the annual Mile 5 "Hoopla Station." Donations are still coming in, however we are pleased to announce that 2011 was our most successful Houston Marathon yet! Our top fundraiser, Jeff Thomas, has raised over \$12,000 and a generous friend matched his efforts, bringing his total to over \$25,000! We are thrilled and grateful to be a part of the Run for a Reason program each year. Our heartfelt thanks goes to each of our fundraisers: Melanie Airey, Katy Bate, Sarah Bennett, Matt Brown, Brett Chisholm, Janet Clark, Tatiana Fernandez, Marcus Fleming, Doug Godlove, Sue Griffis, Jose Lopez, Cynthia Mabry, Sharon Maguire, Bridgett Matthes, Nathane McDaniel, Patti McGrail, Wendy Meggison, Ericka Moore, Susan Nguyen, Norma Peralta, Christina Propst, Stephanie Preto, David Quackenbush, Jason Ruen, Brian Shannon and Jeff Thomas!

QUEENS FOR A DAY

Each December, eight teen girls served by Child Advocates get a peek at the posh life as they enjoy a makeover before attending the Angels of Hope Luncheon. The fairy godmothers behind this transformation include Vicki Snow with Palais Royal, which provides outfits for each girl, and Judy Tuttle and the stylists at Visible Changes, who donate their hairstyling services. Both companies have participated since Page Parkes-Eveleth started the project in 2005!



Page Parkes-Eveleth
and Vicki Snow

Wendy Martin from Makeup by Wendy has beautified the girls for two years, while Mary Bratton has paid for the shoes and purses since 2008. The girls who participated this year were glowing all day! Thanks to everyone who made the occasion so memorable for them.

AN ADOPTIVE FAMILY GIVES BACK

Kevin weighed less than three pounds when he was born eight weeks premature in 2006. His mother's mental retardation prevented her from understanding basic tasks, let alone his complex needs. Kevin's child advocate, Kama Mangram, was a constant presence throughout many changes in his young life, including the termination of his parents' rights. His adoptive parents, Lee and Lucinda Kurtas, made a donation to Child Advocates in honor of his 4th birthday last fall. In a note, the Kurtases said they still remember how much Kama did for their family. Kama is now serving nine children on two cases. Thank you Kama for your diligent work. And thank you Kuras family for helping us to serve more children.

YPC Update

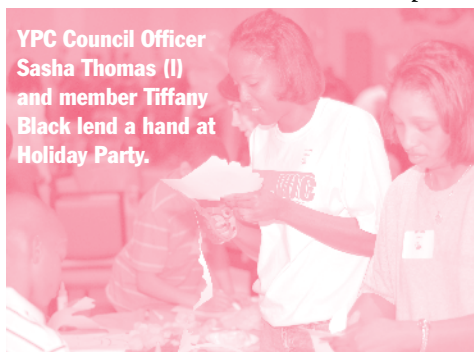
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FOR CHILDREN

MEMBERSHIP

The new year means it's time to renew! Good news: Membership can now be handled entirely online! (Even background checks don't have to be notarized!) Go to www.childadvocates.org/ypc.htm to join! A five-year membership is now available for \$100. Members must renew each year to participate in our great events, so join or renew today to receive all of our YPC news!

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Last year ended with YPC getting ready for the holidays at the Holiday Party sponsored by Enterprise. YPC's booth provided all the supplies the children needed to make a "Christmas countdown" calendar with the help of our volunteers. They cut



YPC Council Officer
Sasha Thomas (I)
and member Tiffany
Black lend a hand at
Holiday Party.

and colored a Santa, and went home with a bag full of cotton balls to paste one on his beard each day until Christmas. A huge thanks to Laura Englert and Liz Peterson for co-chairing this booth.

YPC has a big year in 2011! On March 5, we'll take 200 of our kids to cheer on the Houston Rockets! Afterwards, the kids will shoot hoops on the court just like their favorite players. Our next children's event is Sunday, May 1. Members – watch for information about how to volunteer!

FUNDRAISING AND SOCIALS

Our first social of the year was a smashing success at Cha Champagne and Wine Bar. Cha staff hosted a champagne and wine tasting just for YPC members! All YPCers had a great time catching up with old friends and making new ones. Thanks Maria Villalon and Marie Bucag for chairing this great social!

On April 29, YPC will hit the mezzanine section of Minute Maid Park to support the Astros. With all-you-can-eat pretzels, peanuts, hot dogs and nachos at the ballpark plus a pre-game happy hour, this will be one of your favorite YPC events! Mark your calendars and look for tickets on sale soon!

GET INVOLVED!

Know of a company, organization or group that may be interested in hearing about YPC? Let us know by emailing kendall.pace@childadvocates.org. We'd love to get your friends involved!

TWEET, TWEET

Follow us on Twitter @CAI_YPC to keep up with all we're doing! We also have a Facebook group, Child Advocates' Young Professionals for Children.

Special Thanks

GENERAL

- **Mr. and Mrs. Joel Androphy** and **Mr. Ken Joekel** for donating 125 tickets to “How the Grinch Stole Christmas”
- **Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Baldwin** for donating four club-level Texans tickets plus parking pass
- **Mr. Kevin Jones** and **Mrs. Regina Bynote Jones** for donating Houston Texans tickets
- **Mr. and Mrs. Scott C. David** for donating two luxury suite tickets for the Texans vs. Cowboys game
- The **Hotel & Lodging Association of Greater Houston** for hosting their annual bike-building event, which provided 54 bikes for our kids
- The **Houston Texans** for donating Texas Bowl Tickets, 40 tickets to Rice vs. SMU and 50 tickets to Rice vs. Houston
- **Mr. and Mrs. Ward Maloy** for donating a refurbished laptop
- **Shook, Hardy & Bacon** for donating 12 laptop computers
- **Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Villarreal** for donating a 19-inch monitor
- **Colton & Farb Gallery** for providing a discounted rate for the Pull for Kids kickoff party and **Spark Energy** for underwriting the cost of the event

RACHEL & GILBERT'S CLOSET (SPECIAL NEEDS)

- **Mr. and Ms. Jaen Lawrence** for donating a backpack, several photo albums and photo finishing
- **Miss Alice Murphey** for donating Teddy Bears from a Teddy Bear Tea Party
- **Sun and Ski Sports** for donating an adult bike, helmet, lock and water bottle for a mother on one of our cases
- **The Law Office of Karen A. Rundolf, PLLC** for the donation of miscellaneous toys

HOLIDAY PARTY

- **Enterprise Holdings** for generously sponsoring the party and for donating a rental truck for transporting items to and from the party location
- **The Westin Galleria** for hosting the party in their Grand Ballroom
- The **National Charity League – West Houston Chapter** for making and donating 800 sugar cookies
- **Whataburger** for donating cookies

SANTA'S WISH LIST

- **Enterprise Holdings** for donating a rental truck for transporting items to and from the warehouse
- **Mr. Steve Gibson** and **Mr. Paul Hobby** for their generous donation of warehouse space
- **Spectrum** for donating tables and chairs to be used at the warehouse
- **United Access** for donating the lift to decorate the warehouse

Happenings

FOR DETAILS ON THE THINGS LISTED HERE AND THE LATEST CALENDAR UPDATES, VISIT WWW.CHILDADVOCATES.ORG/CALENDAR

MARCH

26 *Advocacy University Begins* – sign up now for an orientation session to see how you can be the difference in the life of an abused child: www.childadvocates.org.

APRIL

9-10 *Houston Children's Festival, presented by Baker Hughes*– sign up to volunteer at www.childadvocates.org or visit www.houstonchildrensfestival.com to sponsor.

30 *Advocacy University Begins* – sign up now for an orientation session to see how you can be the difference in the life of an abused child: www.childadvocates.org.

MAY

1 *YPC Children's Event* – YPC members, contact kendall.pace@childadvocates.org / 713-529-1396 x265 for volunteering and details.

7 *19th Annual Pull for Kids Classic* – honoring Spark Energy. Contact kelly.goff@childadvocates.org / 713-529-1396 x214 for sponsorships, volunteering or more details.

Special Thanks - continued from column at left

ANGELS OF HOPE LUNCHEON

- **Elie Tahari** and **Neiman Marcus – Galleria** for hosting the Underwriter Kickoff Party and the incredible fashion show and for donating the key chain favors and trunk show door prizes
- **Ellie Francisco / francisco + co** for underwriting the cost of the event raffle tickets
- **Kroger Food Stores** for donating the beautiful centerpieces
- **Bob Wickman / Brunswick Press** for donating the printing for the luncheon invitations and programs
- **Jared Lang / Momentum Audi** for underwriting the luncheon table for our girls and donating to the raffle
- Our other generous raffle donors **Lydia Mondavi / 29 Cosmetics, Montblanc, Konstantino, Four Seasons – Punta Mita** and **Momentum Audi**

CAR PROS FOR KIDS

- **Clear Channel Outdoors** for donating 20 billboards around town to promote the campaign
- **GS Marketing** for designing and printing all of the 2011 Car Pros for Kids materials and providing packaging and delivery to each shop
- **Sunny 99.1** for serving as our media sponsor for the program

Board Voice



JIM KIMBLE

CAI Board Role(s) and Committee Involvement: I currently serve on the Board of Directors and as a member of the Finance Committee. I have also served on the Advisory Board.

In my professional life, I am the VP and Treasurer of PXP (Plains Exploration and Production Company). I am responsible for corporate finance, risk management and managing relationships with bankers, investors and rating agencies.

I am involved with CAI because CAI's mission is close to my heart. Children are the most vulnerable members of our community. I was blessed with wonderful grandparents. They taught me my values and were always there for my sister and me. They were constant caring and positive role models in my life. Every child should have the same opportunity to grow up with caring, dependable and supportive role models. Supporting CAI is my way of trying to help children that are not as blessed.

I would have to say that I receive far more from CAI than I contribute. It is extremely rewarding to be a part of an organization that is truly making a positive impact for children that need our help.

My favorite event is the Pull for Kids. It is not only a lot of fun but raises a significant amount of contributions for CAI. The event provides numerous opportunities for the sponsors to enjoy diverse activities from skeet shooting in the morning to the dinner, entertainment and auctions at night.

When I am not volunteering for CAI, I am spending as much time as possible with my family. Angela, my wife of 15 years, and I are raising two wonderful and loving young girls. We love to travel and want to show our girls the world and to expose them to as many diverse cultures and experiences as possible.

My greatest CAI experience? Every year I take my two daughters with me to shop for gifts for the Santa's Wish List program. They really enjoy shopping for the children. It has been one of the best opportunities to teach them about children that are less fortunate than them and the importance of giving back to our community.

Board of Directors

2011 BOARD CHAIR

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David Davis

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Bill Gardiner

Terrence Gee

Quinton Harp

SAVE THE DATE!

19TH ANNUAL PULL FOR KIDS CLASSIC

CIRQUE DU MAGNIFIQUE

HONORING



BENEFITING

childadvocates.

SATURDAY, MAY 7

SPORTING CLAYS TOURNAMENT

AMERICAN SHOOTING CENTER • 9 AM

EVENING PARTY

BAYOU CITY EVENT CENTER • 7 PM

Spotlight On ...

HOUSTON CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars for April 9-10 and plan to come out to the Houston Children's Festival, presented by Baker Hughes. Plans are underway for this year's festival, which will take place in downtown Houston in the area surrounding City Hall. A special guest appearance is scheduled with Bella Thorne, who stars as CeCe Jones on Disney's hit show, "Shake It Up!" The grounds will be jammed with music and entertainment, Family Adventure Zones and more than 300 activities. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.houstonchildrensfestival.com.



CAR PROS FOR KIDS

We just wrapped up another outstanding Car Pros for Kids campaign and want to take a moment to thank all of the automotive service providers who participated this year.

These generous business owners cover the entire cost of the oil changes while passing along 100 percent of the money raised to Child Advocates. More than 20 children will be paired with an advocate this year and thousands of people will be introduced to our mission thanks to the shops' amazing support. We can't thank Byron Rusk of RMS Auto Care enough for founding the program 18 years ago and working closely with our staff to make this year's campaign a huge success.

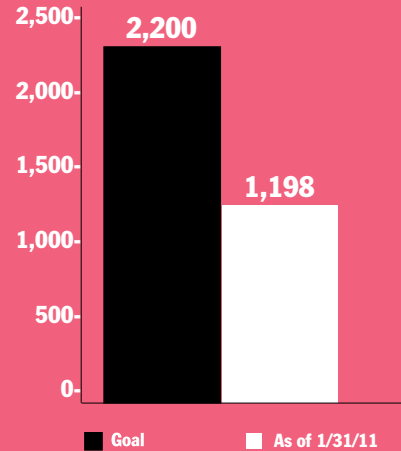
We hope you will thank the owners of the participating shops listed below by turning to them for all your car care needs.

HOORAY FOR OUR CAR PROS!

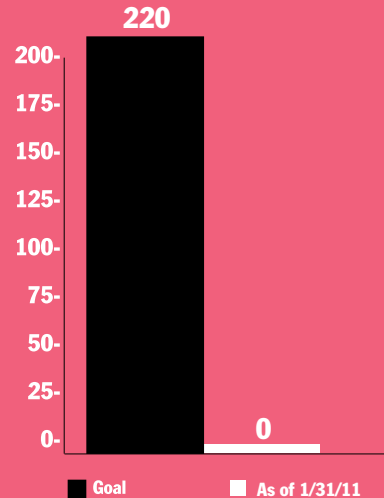
- Adolf Hoepfl & Son Garage • Advanced Auto Tech • Aldine Automotive Inc. • Beckwith's Car Care • Cornerstone Automotive – Wilcrest • Freedom Automotive Services • Itzy's Auto Service • Kacal's Auto and Truck • Mac Haik Dodge Chrysler Jeep • Mac Haik Ford • Mac Haik Chevrolet • Master Car Care • Meineke (Baytown) • Meineke Car Care (N. Shepherd) • Midas Tire and Auto (S. Dairy Ashford) • RMS Auto Care • Scott's Auto Repair, Inc. • Specialized Auto Repair • Sullivan's Advanced Auto Care • Village Automotive • Yale Automotive

Goal Review

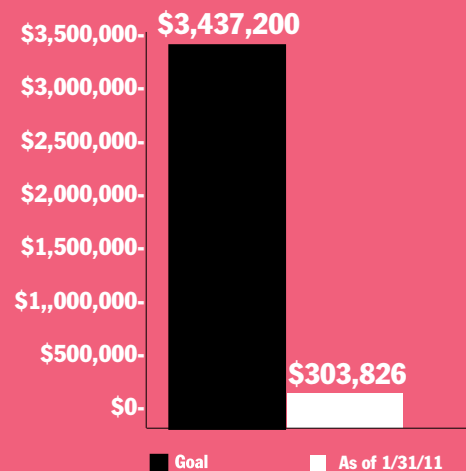
CHILDREN SERVED



VOLUNTEERS TRAINED



ACCRUAL BASIS BUDGET RAISED





childadvocates.

2401 PORTSMOUTH, SUITE 210
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77098
713-529-1396
www.childadvocates.org

OUR MISSION

Child Advocates, Inc. mobilizes court appointed volunteers to break the vicious cycle of child abuse. We speak up for abused children who are lost in the system and guide them into safe environments where they can thrive.

Thrive

AN ADOPTIVE MOM SHARES THE STORY OF HOW COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE KAREN KEY MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF HER SON CAMERON AND, IN TURN, IN HER OWN LIFE

As a “foster with hopes to adopt” family, our child was placed with us at the age of five weeks. Immediately after placement, Child Advocates became involved in the case.

The case was what you might say as “typical” for the first ten months, but then the “real” case began. Our Advocacy Coordinator Julie Hennington and court appointed advocate volunteer Karen Key never lost sight of what the focus and purpose of their involvement; it was about this precious child, not our family as a “foster, hoping to adopt family”, not the biological parents and their family, but about the best interest of this precious child, now and for his future!

Karen and Julie searched high and low for information in order to make the best recommendation to the courts for the benefit of the child.

Our family was blessed! Parental rights were terminated, and we were given the amazing blessing of adopting this precious child just before his second birthday! We feel it is because of the continuous dedication, efforts, and commitment of Karen and Julie that made this possible.

Before our case, I had never heard of Child Advocates, but after witnessing their determination and effort, our family and friends have become advocates of Child Advocates!

Dawn Shrewsbury

Karen Key has been a court appointed advocate volunteer since 2008 and has served three children.



Advocate News is published three times annually by Child Advocates, Inc.

Newsletter design by Child Advocates, Inc. Copyright 2011.

Published by Child Advocates, Inc. Houston, TX 77098

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