

A close-up photograph of two young children, a boy on the left and a girl on the right, both smiling broadly. The boy has dark hair with bangs and is wearing a dark blue shirt with white stripes on the shoulder. The girl has dark, curly hair and is wearing a dark blue shirt. They are positioned closely together, with the girl's hand near her chin. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

childadvocates®

Media Kit

over 20 years of being the voice for abused children

This year marks Child Advocates' 23rd year of being Houston's leading voice for our city's most severely abused and neglected children. Since our inception in 1984, Child Advocates has provided critical advocacy for more than 13,500 children.

OUR MISSION

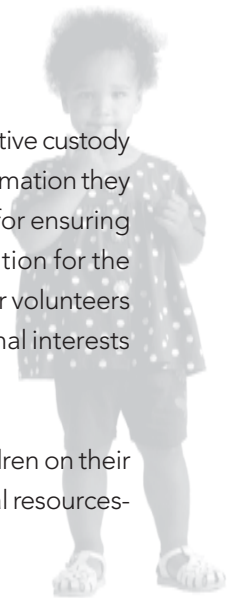
Child Advocates, Inc. mobilizes volunteers to break the vicious cycle of child abuse. We speak up for abused children who are lost in the system and guide them into safe environments where they can thrive.

WHAT WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY "CRITICAL ADVOCACY"?

Child Advocates provides trained volunteers to advocate for children who have come into protective custody as a result of life-threatening child abuse, neglect or abandonment. Volunteers learn all the information they can about a child's case, meet and establish a rapport with the child, develop a plan of action for ensuring that the best interests of the child are met and prepare an information-based recommendation for the judge hearing the child's case and as a guardian ad litem, attend court on the child's behalf. Our volunteers contact caseworkers, interview parents, ensure necessary medical care, look out for educational interests and make recommendations in court regarding the permanent placement of the child.

Along the way, our volunteers remember and celebrate special occasions with the child or children on their cases (ranging from birthdays and holidays to proms and graduations. Volunteers locate critical resources--from therapeutic services to educational resources-- for the children we serve.

Most importantly, they serve as a "constant" person for that child to count on during a very tumultuous time. Essentially, our volunteers do whatever it takes to ensure that the needs of the child are being met while that child is in care.



facts and stats

CHILD ADVOCATES, INC. 2006 STATISTICS

- Provided advocacy for 1,752 abused children in Harris County
- Trained 172 new volunteers
- Worked on 889 cases – 488 volunteers collectively worked more than 48,000 hours
- Raised \$2.8 million
- The cost to Child Advocates to serve one child in 2006 was \$1,600

CHILD ADVOCATES, INC. GENERAL STATISTICS

- Served more than 13,500 children since our inception in 1984
- Family judges agreed with the recommendations of the Child Advocates *guardian ad litem* 87% of the time
- Member of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (NCASAA), and is one of the largest of 900 member programs across the country
- Member of the Texas Court Appointed Special Advocate (TCASA) program

LOCAL FACTS ON CHILD ABUSE

- 6,883 confirmed victims of child abuse in Harris County in 2006
- 4,799 children in foster care in Harris County in 2006
- A CPS worker's caseload averages 50 cases

NATIONAL FACTS ON CHILD ABUSE

- An average of 4 children die every day in our nation as a result of abuse and neglect
- Children under the age of four account for more than 81% of those fatalities
- Each year, more than 2.7 million children are reported as abused and/or neglected
- An estimated \$93 billion accounts for the direct and indirect annual costs of child abuse



our annual events

CAR PROS FOR KIDS

Abused children benefit from the fruit of their labor. Each year, more than 20 local auto service providers offer two free oil changes to individuals who make a \$25 contribution to Child Advocates during the month of February.

HOUSTON CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Houston's official family celebration. The H-E-B Houston Children's Festival happens each year in March or April and offers several city blocks of entertainment, complete with games, activities, crafts, exhibits, rides and more.

PULL FOR KIDS CLASSIC

An annual Texas-sized celebration which combines a fun sporting event and a great party for more than 700 Child Advocates supporters and their guests.

ANGELS OF HOPE LUNCHEON AND FASHION PRESENTATION, PRESENTED BY NEIMAN MARCUS

Produced by the Friends of Child Advocates with a full fledged fashion presentation presented by Neiman Marcus, this event has become the unofficial kickoff to the holiday social season.



frequently asked questions

WHAT IS CHILD ADVOCATES, INC.?

Child Advocates Inc. (CAI) is a private nonprofit organization in Houston that mobilizes Court Appointed Advocate volunteers to break the 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. Volunteers serve children involved in the juvenile court system once appointed to a child's case by a juvenile court judge. This means that our volunteers have the legal status of "guardians ad litem", giving them the power to affect real change in the life of a child.

WHAT DOES A COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE DO?

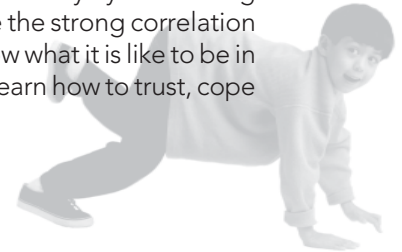
Once appointed by a juvenile court judge, our Court Appointed Advocate volunteers begin a process of information gathering with the goal of guiding abused children out of the foster care system, identifying the child's needs and ensuring rehabilitative services. They act as a communications link between the child and the juvenile courts. Volunteers gather all the pertinent information about their child's case and make recommendations to the judge based on that information.

WHAT MAKES CHILD ADVOCATES AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION TO THE EPIDEMIC OF CHILD ABUSE?

Child Advocates is an effective solution because one volunteer is focused on the well being of one child. Child abuse is the number one killer of children under four in the United States and the tragedy is that it is 100% preventable. Child Advocates works with one child at a time to stop the epidemic of abuse. This means the volunteer can ensure the child they serve doesn't fall through the cracks by looking after the child's physical, emotional, psychological and educational needs.

WHAT HAPPENS TO CHILDREN WHO FALL THROUGH THE CRACKS IN THE SYSTEM?

So often we end up seeing them on the five o'clock news, once they've been abused or acted out their pain on society by committing a crime. It is estimated that 85% of inmates were abused or neglected as children, making it difficult to ignore the strong correlation between untreated child abuse and dysfunctional adult behavior. These are the children who often do not know what it is like to be in a healthy and loving family. They don't receive help to deal with the trauma they have suffered and they don't learn how to trust, cope and grow beyond the circumstances of their childhood, often perpetuating the cycle of abuse.



frequently asked questions

DO VOLUNTEERS WORK ALONE?

Volunteers work in tandem with a staff Advocacy Coordinator who guides their casework and supports the efforts of the volunteer. Our staff members have expertise in working on behalf of abused children and are there to coach the volunteer through casework, court, working with the child and families and all other aspects of their volunteer role. The volunteer/staff member team approaches the child's case jointly, ensuring the best services are delivered to the child.

WHAT KINDS OF SERVICES DO CHILD ADVOCATES VOLUNTEERS LOCATE FOR CHILDREN?

Volunteers provide a continuum of services customized to meet each child's needs. They locate vital therapeutic and rehabilitative services for 100 percent of the children we serve to help children deal with the trauma of abuse. Services range from psychological treatment, to educational assistance, parent/family education, to the quality of life experiences like birthday parties, tickets to sporting events, and summer camp. In addition, our volunteers provide special needs items such as eyeglasses, clothing, beds, tutoring, school supplies, backpacks and other basic needs.

HOW MANY VOLUNTEERS ARE WORKING WITH CHILD ADVOCATES?

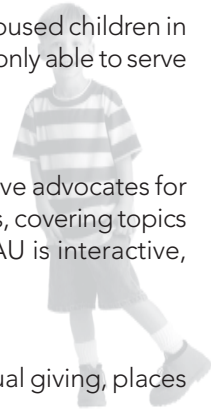
Last year, over 488 active court appointed volunteers who donated more than 48,000 hours to 1,752 severely abused children in Houston. Unfortunately, the number of abused children in need far outweighs our number of volunteers. We are only able to serve less than half of the abused children who need us.

WHAT IS ADVOCACY UNIVERSITY (AU)?

Advocacy University is our two-week long volunteer training program, which prepares volunteers to be effective advocates for abused children. There are five AU sessions offered each year. Classes are held on one Saturday and six evenings, covering topics such as child development, diversity, substance abuse, family violence, court systems, and sexual abuse. AU is interactive, educational, fun and a great way to meet other outstanding volunteers.

HOW DOES CHILD ADVOCATES RAISE FUNDS?

As a private, nonprofit organization, we raise all of our own funds through foundations, special events, individual giving, places of worship, associations, corporations and planned giving.



contact information

Working on a story and need quotes or information about child abuse, neglect or abandonment? Child Advocates has several key staff members who are experts on topics surrounding advocacy, child abuse, neglect and abandonment. Our marketing manager will be able to put you in contact with the staff member best able to address your needs.

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