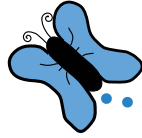


Summer 2013



HEROS for Our Children



A Note From Our CEO...

Did you know in 2012 the Center saw 729 child abuse victims in Okaloosa and Walton counties? Did you know 59% were girls and 41% boys? Did you know 74% were between the ages of 0-12 (263 of the children were under 6) and 23% were between the ages of 13-18? Of those numbers, 236 were cases of child sexual abuse and 166 cases of child physical abuse. Although the numbers were sobering, there is a ray of hope. We only see those reported cases of abuse. We know seeing more children equates to more cases of child abuse being reported.

We can only do the work we do each day because of our community, our community leaders, our agency partners, volunteers and people like you. In April 2012 we shared an incredible milestone. We opened our doors in Walton County. It is a quaint, wonderful child friendly building on Hwy 90 East in DeFuniak Springs. Initially, we began by providing therapeutic services to child abuse victims, but just recently began conducting interviews of the children. The long range plan is to build a stand-alone, co-located facility providing the same services as we do at the Niceville Center. I would like to personally thank Sheriff Adkinson for his leadership, support and commitment to children. He has been instrumental in helping us reach our goals.

In 2012, we continued to build our programs to better serve child victims and their families. We began working towards developing a therapeutic program for parents/caretakers of child abuse victims. We have had a wonderful staff of interns who have been working with us. The long term goal is to identify funding and implement a formalized program. By taking a more holistic approach, we can better help children and families heal from the hurt, resulting in healthier, happier families.

In 2012 news from the state level for the Florida Network of Children Advocacy Centers was more than impressive and impactful for children

in Florida. As President of the State Network, I worked alongside Network staff and great Center directors in Florida to educate our legislatures and leaders in Tallahassee about the work of Centers for children. It all began with a fish tank of 30,000 goldfish representing child victims served in Florida displayed at the Capitol during children's legislative week. We began our fight for those 30,000 children. Several months later without even asking, the Network was awarded an historic \$3.2 million dollars to fund the 28 centers across Florida. A very special thank you to Senator Don Gaetz and Representative Matt Gaetz for their instrumental role in making this a reality. They not only are committed to our children locally, they are committed to children throughout Florida. Our work will continue in 2013 to retain the funding and position ourselves as a leading loud voice and advocate for child abuse victims at the state level in Tallahassee.

In 2013 we know we will see another 729 child abuse victims, and sadly probably more. We know for certain the children and their families are counting on us to be there for them to help heal from the hurt.

We hope we can count on you to help. Although you will never see the faces of the children we see each and every day, I assure you they thank God for people like you every day.

In closing, I would like to dedicate this year to Kieran May, an incredible advocate for our children. In 2012, he lost his life to cancer but I am certain Heaven gained a guardian angel. I have no doubt he is watching over our children. In the end, we all should aspire to be like Kieran. He gave so much of himself to make lives better for children and his legacy will continue to live on in the work we do for each and every child every day. We miss you.

With kind regards,
Julie Hurst



"On behalf of the children we see each and every day thank you to Valerie and Mike Thompson for their continued support!"



Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center
401 McEwen Dr, Niceville, FL 32578 ph. (850) 833-9237
256 Hwy 90 E, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433 (850) 892-0280

To report suspected abuse or neglect
1-800-96-ABUSE



Attendees at a recent Vin'tij Chi Chi Miguel monthly wine dinner each brought toys and gift cards to donate to the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center.



Kiwanis of Freeport/South Walton presented a check to Jen Floro of the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center. Kiwanis is a global organization committed to changing the world one child and one community at a time.



Sarah Holt and Shelby Betron (outside L-R) from ReRuns for Wee Ones, (middle L-R) and Jen Floro and Katie Crowell of the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center celebrate their partnership. ReRuns for Wee Ones donates unconsigned items with consignor approval to the Center. They also provide gift cards to the Center so that families in need can shop for free for larger items such as strollers and cribs.

For our 2012 reported cases:

59%
GIRLS

41%
BOYS

74%
AGES 0-12

26%
AGES 13-17

79% identified themselves as white
11% identified themselves as African American
05% identified themselves as Hispanic
03% identified themselves as Multiracial
0% identified themselves as American Indian
<01% identified themselves as Asian
<01% identified themselves as Hawaiian
<01% identified themselves as Other
<01% did not specify a race

Jen Floro, Joel Gutierrez, Julie Hurst and JD the Can Man came together at the Harley Owners Group Heritage Cycle Toys 4 Tots Run. In it's 33rd year, the Run raises thousands of dollars and hundreds of toys for children served at the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center.



Jen Floro of the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center and Briane O'Dell of Monark Events celebrate at the Giving Trees event at the Emerald Grande. The Giving Trees featured trees decorated by local designers that were auctioned to the community to raise funds and awareness for the Horizons Foundation and the Center. This tree was donated by CCB Community Bank and decorated by Tracy Wood.



A recent donation of bikes and toys were brought to the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center before Christmas. The Center was able to provide Christmas to over 650 kids this year thanks to the many donations of items, time and gift wrap that were received from our community.



Girl Scout Troop 306 donated their time and resources to make 150 treat bags for kids seen at the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center.



A recent donation of toys, action figures and sporting equipment made to the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center by USAF AFMC 96 MDSS/SGSM.

681 children

THIS PAST CHRISTMAS

WERE TAKEN CARE OF THANKS TO PROGRAMS LIKE THIS:

adopt a Family program, Kids' Christmas party
Toy distribution with partner agencies, Fellow United Way agencies
and the Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation



The Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation paired with the Center and Bistro One 20's Chef Dan Pettis for a Happy Hour to promote April's Patron Dinners and wine auction weekend. Chef Dan was named the Best Chef on the Emerald Coast in 2012. For more information on DCWAF, please visit www.dcwaf.org

In 2012, we reached 729 kids

164
PHYSICALLY
ABUSED

227
SEXUALLY
ABUSED

269
SUFFERED
NEGLECT

69
DOMESTIC
CASES

CASES WHERE A CHILD WAS THREATENED.



The Niceville High School cheerleaders helped the Children's Advocacy Center decorate for its annual children's Christmas party.



We had great support from local high school students from the Choctaw High School Key Club that helped us prepare for our annual children's Christmas party.



Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center Kieran May Memorial Golf & Gala Weekend

Isabella, an 8 year old survivor of child abuse, spoke at the Gala and here was her message:

"Hi everybody,

In case you don't know me, my name is Isabella. Before I say anything I would like to thank Mrs. Julie Hurst for inviting me to the gala! A few years ago I had to go to the Center. The Center helped me a lot. Mrs. Vida was my counselor. She was a magnificent one. After they helped me I wanted to help them in return, so for the last 2 years I have helped raise money, and helped at fundraisers. I wish you could hear the stories of the children you are helping. But instead I am here on their behalf. I wanted to tell all of you that the children you are helping or was helping, all think you're..... ANGELS!!!!!! Imagine that hundreds of big and small children screaming thank you. And while there doing that in their heads they think you're the sweetest people ever. But of course everyone knows you are.

For everything you have done, Thank you!!!!!! Thank you for helping me, and all the other hundreds of kids in this area!!!!!! Have an outstanding evening!!!!!!"

The Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center recently held its annual Kieran May Memorial Golf Tournament and Night of a Thousand Stars gala. The event raised more than \$170,000 to support child abuse victims in the community. Geoff McBride, former "Voice" contestant and Joey Shaling entertained the 250 plus guests. A special thanks to Richard and Barbara Love for their incredible support.

Pictured left to right: Mike Thompson, Board Member, Julie Hurst, CEO, Geoff McBride, Jen Floro, Development Director and Richard Love.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Toshiba Electronics

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Silver Sands Premium Outlets

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Synergy Graphics/NWFnow.com

Carter and Company CPA

Coastal Accounting

Savvy Girl

Acme Oyster House

Mike & Valerie Thompson

Keller Williams- Jim & Wanda Pitts

Coastal Business Products

Joe & Betty Franey

Publix Super Market Charities

Monark Events

Golding Gulf Distributing

Kleinfeld Bridal

SolShine featuring Geoff McBride

McCaskill & Company

In the Bag Pockets

Emerald Grande

Sam Taylor Buick Cadillac

Charles & Shirley Simpson

Wayne & Amy Rogers

BRAT Foundation

Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa

AGM Sports Memorabilia

The McGovern Group- Merrill Lynch

Carrabba's Italian Grill

Newman-Dailey Resort Properties, Inc.

Kiwanis Club of Destin

Kiwanis Club of Freeport- South Walton

McVean Trading & Investments - Tom Stickney



Thank you to
Dr. and Mrs. Pedone for hosting one of the
Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation Patron dinners.

Thank you to
Clay Conley and Taylor Case
for sharing great food and wine!

DESTIN
CHARITY WINE AUCTION
FOUNDATION



Taylor Case
shares stories of "wine" with
Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation
patrons Joe Pedone and Peter Mohylsky.

A special thank you to Carli Gomez

for organizing
a book drive
for the Center.
Not only did
she collect
books, each one
was tied with

a pretty ribbon. *Pictured Left to right: Juan Gomez,
Carli Gomez, Julie Hurst, and Jennifer Auriemma (7th
grade teacher at Liza Jackson)*



Recently
Spencer Mailes
organized a
Diaper Dash
4k Fun Run as
part of his Eagle
Scout project.
The registration
"fee" was diapers
and/or wipes
for the Children's Advocacy Center! Over 81 people
participated and now the Center has many diapers for
our families. **Thank you very much Spencer!**



Check out our newly launched
website for more needs for both
Okaloosa and Walton county offices:
www.eccac.org

WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF:

Cookie Dough, Art Supplies, Juice Boxes,
Canned Sodas, Individually Wrapped
Snacks, Diapers, Wipes, Formula, Personal
Care Items, Hand Sanitizer, Facial Tissues,
Like-New Children's Clothing and Toys, Play
Pens/Cribs and Car Seats.

During this summer the Center is in need
of school supply items for all grades. These
items consist of: College Rule paper, Wide
Rule Paper, 3 ring Binders, Backpacks,
Pencils, Pens, Erasers, Pocket Folders,
Pencil Sharpeners, Colored Pencils, Crayons,
Markers and Pencil Bags.



a BIG THANKS...

to the community
for helping us take care of over
650 kids for Christmas

to Twin Cities Woman's Club
for wrapping the gifts for our Christmas Party

to the Emerald Grand
and the following sponsors
for the Giving Trees

to Grand Boulevard
for the 12 Days of Christmas Trees

EMERALD GRANDE[™]
at
HARBORWALK
VILLAGE

Act4Murder

DESTIN
FLOORING



monark



Cheryl Jones, Jones and Company
Victoria George



to the Harley owners group
Hog Chapter #0672
for another fantastic Toys 4 Tots Run



to the Chautauqua Quilters
for the bears they hand made for our kids

to the Flying Needles
Quilters
for the handmade stockings.

to Destiny Worship Center
for hosting the Christmas Party for
Walton County FFN, DCF, and CAC



Emeril Lagasse Foundation
inspire • mentor • enable



NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE[®]
ACCREDITED
MEMBER



VOLUNTEERS

Be a part of the team to restore the often lost childhoods of victims of child abuse...

We need volunteers for our Okaloosa and Walton County that can do front desk administrative assistance, greet families, answer telephone calls, light kitchen duties, and bake delicious chocolate chip cookies. If this sounds like something you might be interested in please contact Katie Crowell at katie@eccac.org or by calling (850) 833-9237, ext. 256.

Summer Safety Tips



a. Adult Supervision

Adults need to have visual contact with children around all forms of water (including pools, bathtubs, buckets, beaches and ponds) at all times.

b. Barriers

With the use of barriers, parents can add layers of protection. Barriers include fences, alarms, door locks that are out of the reach of children, self-latching hardware on doors and fences. Barriers on other forms of water include lids on buckets, locks on bathroom doors and toilet locks.



c. Classes

Adult CPR classes can help prepare you for an emergency and often make the difference between life and death when a child is in danger of drowning. Children (at the appropriate age) can take aquatic classes to help them gain swimming and water safety skills.



Thank you Rex and Cheryl
with Synergy for taking
care of our printing needs!

