



Mayor's Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month



Festival of Trees in Grand Boulevard

Join the community of Sandestin this holiday season in voting for your favorite Christmas tree in this year's Annual "Festival of Trees" in Grand Boulevard. Over 12 non-profit organizations participate in decorating their very own tree in hopes of winning Best of Show and other wonderful prizes to benefit their non-profit organizations. Last year, organizations such as Alaqua Animal Refuge, American Cancer Society, & Emerald Coast's Children's Advocacy Center decorated trees for their worthy causes. With judging based on multiple criteria, the public is encouraged to vote every day, once per day until December 22nd at 2pm. The 2012 Prizes for Festival of Trees include: Best of Show Tree \$2,000; Second Place \$1,000; People's Choice \$2,000. This cheerful holiday event opens Tuesday, November 20th at 5pm with music, hot chocolate, & cookies for everyone to enjoy! Bring your children to the Festival of Trees in Grand Boulevard each Saturday during the event for free photos with Santa!



The Know Me Love Me clothing launch party recently was held at Harbor Docks. The Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center benefitted from the event. Pictured are Tiffany Clemons, Lindsay Moore, Jen Flora, Mary Kathryn Wells and Jennifer Wilson. KMLM was founded by Allan Sansom and uses proceeds to support charitable organizations in Florida and fund mission trips around the world to help children.

For more information visit: www.knowmeloveme.com



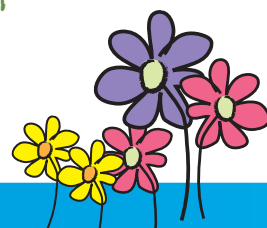
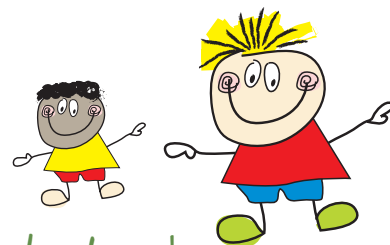
Valerie Tucker, a senior at Choctawhatchee High School, organized a Starving Artists' Dinner to benefit for the Children's Advocacy Center. Miya Mobley, one of the featured artists, donated her masterpiece to the event. Both of these amazing young ladies committed their time and talents to make a difference in the lives of abused children.



Sheriff Larry Ashley recently donated a seized motorcycle to the Children's Advocacy Center for the Skip York Memorial Poker Run. The Center provides services to child abuse victims in Okaloosa and Walton counties.



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



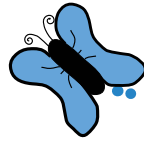
Emerald coast children's advocacy center
f Find us on Facebook: facebook.com/eccac

To report abuse
1-800-96-ABUSE

Fall 2012

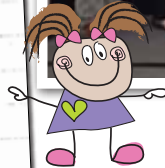


HEROS for Our Children



The Children's Advocacy Center and their Counselors has truly been a blessing to myself, my wife, and my family. When our family first came to the Children's Advocacy Center we were very thankful for the help our children were getting to process and work through their feelings and issues. But until my wife and I started seeing a counselor we felt alone to process and deal with things by ourselves. Trying to sort through everything on our own was extremely challenging and caused major problems in our relationship and family. With the counselors help we have been empowered and encouraged to work through our feelings about what happened as well as issues stemming from the incident and other issues we have been dealing with. We finally feel as though our whole family is getting the help we so desperately needed. The counselors have been invaluable to us. As parents walking through this we believe that our family to heal from we also needed someone to help us process all the feelings and fears that came with it. Having someone to help the parents in these situations is a great help to the goal of reunification process. We are so grateful for the help we got from the Children's Advocacy Center. The counselors and staff are a God sent.

Thank you and GOD BLESS



DESTIN
CHARITY WINE AUCTION
FOUNDATION

We would like to
THANK

the Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation for their ongoing commitment to the Center. Over the past four years DCWAF has donated over

\$325,000

to the Center and it's kids.



Like our new look?

We apologize for the long lapse between newsletters. Our new look was under construction!



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 abuse
1-800-96-ABUSE

MORGAN FREEMAN DINNER RAISES \$80,000

for Emerald Coast
children's advocacy center



the sumptuous dinner. Wine pairings were provided by Dan Kosta, partner of Kosta Browne Winery from the Russian River Valley, Sonoma County, California. Sysco generously donated the gourmet dinner and Freeman donated his time for his appearance for the Throwdown.

"We were quite mesmerized by Morgan Freeman and his generosity," commented hostess Lori Karian. "He literally spent time with everyone. Our guests thoroughly enjoyed the evening; in fact, they even started dancing during the appetizers while Morgan Freeman sang along with Geoff McBride. The most rewarding component of the evening is that everything benefited the needs of the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center."

For further information about the Throwdown, visit
www.ChiChiMiguelThrowdown.com

Sandestin, FL (July 3, 2012)...Forty-five guests from the local area and across the country, arrived at the home of Stephan and Lori Karian in Burnt Pine at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort. The exclusive dinner, held in June, was prepared by renowned area chefs with the guest of honor being none other than the academy award-winning actor, Morgan Freeman.

Wine aficionados Michael and Valerie Thompson, also Sandestin residents, began organizing and hosting parties in their home that over the years has officially become the Chi Chi Miguel Throwdown to benefit numerous Gulf Coast charities. This past April, the 6th Annual Chi Chi Miguel Throwdown was comprised of numerous events which began with Emeril Lagasse sharing his culinary expertise at Lovelace Interiors in Destin, Florida. Other events included a Sip 'n' Shop for the ladies at participating boutiques along Scenic Corridor 30-A, a golf tournament at Kelly Plantation, and the grand finale, an outdoor barbeque competition at the Thompsons' home. Five teams competed, including guest of honor Emeril Lagasse, with celebrity judges naming the best barbeque team and guests voting a People's Choice winner.

An integral part of the Throwdown is a prize bevy of unique live auction items including a Hawaiian vacation, Napa Valley tourings and tastings, George Rodrigue art, dinner with Morgan Freeman, and more. **The Throwdown hosted 125 exclusive guests who opened their hearts and their wallets to make the event a remarkable success, raising an astonishing \$528,444.**

That brings us back to the heart of the story. A dinner with Morgan Freeman was auctioned for \$80,000 with one hundred percent of the proceeds directly benefiting the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center. In late June, the Karians graciously hosted a stellar evening where guests enjoyed one-on-one visits with Morgan Freeman, entertainment by Geoff McBride who starred on NBC's The Voice, and a 5-course wine dinner. Well-known area chefs from Stinky's Fish Camp/Blue Mountain Catering Jim Richard, Todd Misener and Brannon Janca, together with David Cunningham of "V" Seagrove, prepared



THANK YOU to the following companies for helping with our

BACK TO THE BOOKS

We distributed over
125 backpacks stuffed
with school supplies



Junior League, Children's Volunteer Health Network, Bricks 4 Kids, Journey Fellowship, Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA), Beef O'Brady's, Fitness for Everybody, Bluenwater Fitness and the many volunteers and people who collected and donated supplies!



At the Children's Advocacy Center Night of a Thousand Stars event, the Honor Guard of Hurlburt Field presented the Center with a flag in honor of the children it serves and the work they do. It felt as though America gave its blessing to keep up the Center's fight each day for the child abuse victims in the community. God Bless the children and God Bless the troops.



Sheriff Mike Atkinson and Sheriff Larry Ashley recently made donations through their seizure and forfeiture funds to the Children's Advocacy Center. They both made one of the first pledges to the Center's "Buy a Star Be a Star for a Child" program.



Oscar Ferrell, Master of Okaloosa Masonic Lodge 312 and Ken Eichorn, Secretary, present Julie Hurst, CEO a donation in the amount of **\$200.00** to the Children's Advocacy Center.



Jen Floro with the Children's Advocacy Center had a networking opportunity to meet with Jeff Atwater, CFO of Florida during his recent visit to Destin.

Nancy Kline, Ambassador for Able Trust, presented a check to Julie Hurst of the Children's Advocacy Center. Their donation will help provide services to child abuse victims in Okaloosa and Walton counties.



Sheriff Larry Ashley recently made donation to the Mental Health Association and the Children's Advocacy Center. Both organizations provide critical services to those in need in our community.



Geoff McBride, a recent participant on The Voice, provided entertainment along with Joey Shaling for the evening with Morgan Freeman to benefit the Children's Advocacy Center. Geoff is working on his new CD Journey to the Soul. He plans on donating 1% of CD Sales to the Center. For more information, visit: www.indiegogo.com/geoffmcbridejourney. Thank you Geoff for bringing your voice to benefit child abuse victims in our community.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, November 2 - 4
Destin Charity Wine
Auction Foundation
Taste of the Beach
Sandestin
Tasteofthebeachfl.com

October 22- November 15
Food Drive

November 18
Emerald Coast HOG
Chapter #0672 Toys 4 Tots
Poker Run, 830 a.m.
Sam's Club Parking Lot

November 24
Winter Wonderland
at Watercolor

December 1
The Giving Trees,
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Emerald Grande

November 20 through
December 22, 2012
Festival of Trees
in Grand Boulevard

March 2-3, 2013
Kieran May Memorial Gdf
and Gala Weekend



Gator Thunder Charity Poker Run

Thank you so much for your support!



BARRACUDA
Motorsports



What a blast! See you next year.

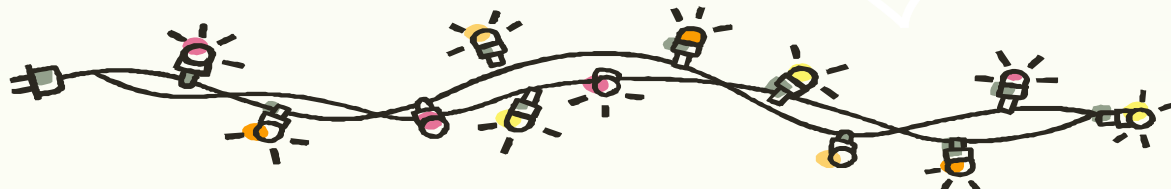
ReRuns 4 Wee Ones
Children and Maternity Consignment

Did you Know?

The consignors at ReRuns 4 Wee Ones
have the option of donating all of their
unsold items to the Center.

Thanks for choosing us Sarah!!





Each year, many families lack the resources to provide
Thanksgiving and Christmas for their children.
YOU can help the holidays shine brighter for them.

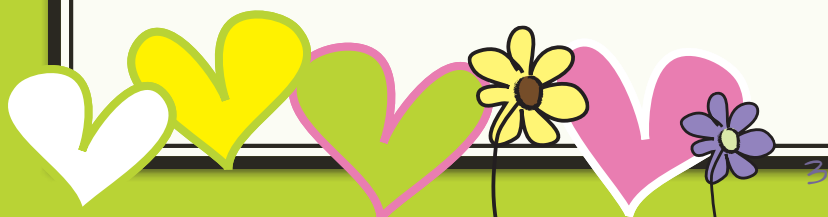


How **YOU** can Make a Difference for Our Families:

- * Purchase a \$50 gift card for a teen
- * Collect Pajamas from your neighbors
- * Organize a drive for food, diapers, Pull ups, wipes, socks or underwear
- * Volunteer your time to wrap gifts, decorate or help pick up and deliver gifts
- * Adopt one of our neediest families
- * Buy toys, books, CD's, clothes, board games, balls, toy cars, Barbies & dolls
- * Decorate our Centers
- * Bake cookies to give to our families
- * Ask your friends, co-workers and clients to do the same!

Contact Katie Crowell for more information or to let us know
how you plan on making a difference!

Katie@eccac.org or 850-833-9237 x256



Thank You for being a

HERO for Our Children!

In September, the Center lost an incredible advocate for our children but Heaven gained an incredible guardian angel to watch over them. Kieran, we miss you dearly.

Over the past 10 years, Kieran was committed to helping us make a difference in the lives of so many abused children. He chaired the Center's golf and gala event for three years and his leadership helped create the signature event it is today. In his honor, the Center will name the event after him and his legacy. Thank you to his wife Caroline and his son Patrick for sharing him with us.



The Fort Walton Beach Auxiliary Woman's Club recently made a donation to the Children's Advocacy Center, Children in Crisis, Sharing and Caring, and Shelter House. Each organization provides services to those in need in the community.



A group of Choctawhatchee High School students helped at the Starving Artists' event planned by high school senior Valerie Tucker to benefit the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center. The funds raised will help provide mental health services to child abuse victims in Okaloosa and Walton counties.



The Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center recently held its open house/ribbon cutting ceremony at its new facility in Defuniak Springs. The Center is now able to provide direct services to child abuse victims in Walton County.



Stevie Kay, all of four years old, sold some of her favorite toys at a yard sale to raise money for the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center. She raised \$48.00 and some change. She may be the Center's youngest donor! It is amazing to see kids helping kids. It is truly the most heartfelt gift they can give to one another.

NWF
now
.com



The Blue Knights recently held the Skip York Memorial Poker Run to benefit the Children's Advocacy Center. Their support along with Heritage Cycles and the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has helped raise over \$30,000 over the last three years for the Center and the children it serves.



**THANK
YOU**
*Bluewater
Elementary*



Bluewater Elementary School day campers recently held a lemonade stand and bake sale to raise money for the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center. Over the past three years these kids have raised over \$1,300 for the Center. Jen Floro was on hand to thank the kids for helping other kids



The Fort Walton Beach Snowbirds recently donated wonderful blankets, toys, and sweaters to the Children's Advocacy Center made with loving hands and warm hearts. The community is blessed to have so many "snowbirds" supporting local programs for children in need.



Emeril Lagasse Foundation
inspire • mentor • enable



**NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE®**
**ACCREDITED
MEMBER**