

# Children's Advocacy Center

The Voice of Justice, Hope, and Healing

Spring 2007 Newsletter

Serving Abused Children of St. Tammany and Washington Parishes

## Special Interest Articles

Mad Hatter Tea

April is Child Abuse  
Prevention Month

Tribute to Rob  
Callahan



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

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## 2007 Mad Hatter Tea

It's Mad Hatter Tea season again at the Children's Advocacy Center. This year's tea will be on Saturday, May 12th, from 2 – 4 p.m. at St. Timothy's United Methodist Church Gym on Asbury Drive in Mandeville.

Your favorite Alice in Wonderland characters will be there, along with the 10' stilt walkers, Grandma Gertie telling stories, Dr. Magic performing his feats, face painters, and special treats from our local law enforcement

friends. Patton's of Slidell will be catering our high tea, with food certain to please even the most discerning child's palate.

Tickets are \$15 each and seating is limited; for the past two years, it has been a sell-out before the day of the event. Purchase your tickets now by calling the CAC at 985-892-3885, extension 4.

While the day is a fun-filled one for everyone, the more serious side is the amount of money the CAC raises for its operating budget and

the public awareness that is generated for Hope House.

Many individuals and businesses have said "yes" to sponsorships. We thank them all for their generosity and commitment to our mission. We especially want to thank **Wow's Wingery and Cafe** as our "**Mad Hatter**" Sponsor, and **Woodside Energy, USA** and **Neeb-Kearney & Co., Inc.** for being our "**Alice in Wonderland**" Sponsors. Our other sponsors to date are listed in our "thank you" page inside.

## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and in support of the 2,700 children who will be abused in the next 24 hours (270 of them sexually abused), we ask that you join us at Hope House in our "**Blue Ribbon**" Campaign.

Please wear a blue ribbon as a symbol of the bruised bodies and battered spirits of the thousands of

children abused everyday. Wear a blue ribbon as a reminder that we **all** have a responsibility to keep kids safe.

Through a donation from the Mandeville Kiwanis Club, Hope House was able to purchase two thousand blue ribbons and blue ribbon pins. They have been distributed in businesses throughout

our community. We thank the Mandeville Kiwanis Club for helping us spread the message of "Child Abuse Prevention"!!!

Please join us .....wear a blue ribbon and be a "Hope House" hero to an abused child today!!!

*"The Board of Directors is committed to ensure continued interviewing and counseling services..."*

*"Capt. Callahan will forever remain a shining example of the extraordinary impact one caring individual can make..."*

## Board News...

"I am committed, as both a board member and a resident of this community, to volunteer my time and efforts to minimize the trauma children face from sexual abuse. The Board of Directors is committed to providing resources that will ensure continued interviewing and counseling services for the children and families who have been affected by sexual abuse."

*Karen Hymel  
CAC Board  
President*

## 2007 Board Members

Ysonde Boland  
Robert Couvillon  
Michelle Echols  
Pam B. Eiffert  
Rochelle Hartmann  
Jimmy Hingle  
Karen Hymel  
Scott Hymel

Curt Keay  
Chris Keller  
Dian Lusher  
Bill Richard  
Rachel Smith  
William P. Smith, Jr.  
Lindy Stonecypher  
Phoebe Whealdon

## Tribute to Captain Rob Callahan

Capt. Rob Callahan, a long-time supporter of children and a CAC/Hope House Board member, passed away on the morning of January 7, 2007. As an outstanding member of the Slidell Police Department for over twenty years, Rob earned many awards and well-deserved accolades.

In thanks for his years of service to not only his community, but to the children, staff and Board of Directors at Hope House, the

Capt. Robert V. Callahan, Jr. "**President's Award**" was recently established, and will be given annually to a Board member who has shown "outstanding service and dedication to Hope House."

The Board believes that Rob would have been pleased to know that the inaugural recipient of the "President's Award" is William P. Smith, Jr., the immediate Past-President of the CAC/Hope House

Board and close friend of Rob Callahan for many years.

Capt. Callahan will be missed, but will forever remain a shining example of the extraordinary impact one caring individual can make on a community.

*Dorothy Garcia,  
Executive Director*

## Training For and By the CAC Staff

In March, the National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC) in Huntsville, AL hosted its 23<sup>rd</sup> National Symposium on Child Abuse. This year four Hope House staff attended, giving us the opportunity to bring all the latest news, research, practices and technology back to our center. The training offered more than 150 state-of-the-art workshops, focusing on the various specializations that comprise a Children's Advocacy Center. Our staff completed specialized training in investigations, prosecution, mental health, victim advocacy, forensic interviewing, and administration.

We are fortunate to have the NCAC as our Regional Children's Advocacy Center. Regional CAC's provide assistance, training,

scholarships and consultation to individual CAC's. The NCAC is recognized world wide for its specialized services. Fortunately, they are a short drive or phone call away from us. To learn more, go to [www.nationalcac.org](http://www.nationalcac.org).

### On – Line Trainings

An additional service by the NCAC is its on-line trainings. Each month our CAC hosts training at Hope House. The trainings are also available free on-line. Some upcoming topics include: *Child Development 101*, *Providing Expert Testimony in Child Sexual Abuse Cases*, *Child Sexual Abuse; A Judicial Perspective*, *Law Enforcement's Response to Child Sexual Abuse*, *Developmental Perspectives on Child Sexual Behavior in Children and Adolescents*, *Profiling the Child Molester*, and *Interviewing Pre-schoolers*.

## CAC Presents at State Conference



**Lisa, Beverley, Bethany after their conference presentation**

On March 15, 2007, CAC employees, Bethany Case, MSW, GSW, Beverley Connor, MSW, LCSW, and Lisa Erichson, MSW, LCSW presented at the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers annual conference in Baton Rouge. The topic was "Children's Advocacy Center: Through the Eyes of a Child." The staff members offered a 3- hour interactive seminar demonstrating what each

child experiences after a disclosure of sexual abuse. The development of CACs and our multi-disciplinary team approach has reduced the repeated traumatization of children having to re-tell their story from approximately 17 times down to about eight. The audience members at the conference were assigned various roles (teacher, counselor, police, child protection worker, lawyer, judge, etc.) and one lucky member was chosen as the child. Each participant experienced step-by-step how difficult it must be for children to navigate the process and how scary this process can be for them. This exercise is

always well received; and, once again, the importance of having a CAC in our community was poignantly reinforced. After the demonstration, a complete review of the therapeutic services provided in the counseling center was offered, which enabled the professionals to understand how to implement individual, group, and caregiver services for families after the forensic interview and investigation portion is completed. We are very proud of our CAC and the Counseling Center and strive to continue to be a first class model for other CACs across the state.



**Max, David, and Tom - job completed**

## Time, Talent, and...

We appreciate all our donors, those who give of their treasure and those who give of their time and talent. Over the past six months, we have had several groups who have shared their talent and time with the CAC.

David Lindsey, Tom Sheldon, and Max Jacobs, of the **Northshore Kiwanis Club** came to Hope House

bearing yard tools and a willing spirit. They cut grass, trimmed, weeded, and planted flowers along our back fence and around our trees. That same day, **Lisa and Lamont Lewis** embarked on a sprucing up of our front room. Down came a very dated border and up went a lovely new paint job, with an original design mural on one of the walls is a part of the gift.



**Lisa & Lamont taking down the border**

## still more...

The **Covington Kiwanis Club** gave designated money for picnic tables, a swing, and a picket fence around the yard behind the counseling center. It's now a comfortable place for our families to wait for a loved one in counseling or for the counselors to have sessions outside.

**Lake 94.7** is providing airtime to non-profits to talk about their mission and services. Listen to the CAC the 2<sup>nd</sup>

Tuesday of each month at 7:30 a.m.

Once again, **Joyce O'Brien** and her daughter, **Terri Boswell** made their Christmas ornaments for the CAC to sell. They were a wonderful hit this year; we sold more than 50! Look for Joyce and Terri's talents again at the Mad Hatter Tea. They've made a special pin for the ladies attending.

## Past and Future Events ...

This past December, the **Northlake Republican Women** hosted its annual Teddy Bear Tea for the CAC... **Jerry Coogan and his friends** presented the CAC with a very generous donation and the Teddy

Bears found hugs and homes through the CAC.

Later that month, we sold 400 raffle tickets, with donations from the **Slidell Police** of a Reggie Bush signed football, a gift certificate from

**Lowe's Jewelry**, dinner for two with wine from **D. Lamarque's**, and a gift card from **Target**.

**Resource Bank** employees brought a generous check from money gathered for their "Blue Jeans Days".

**Woodside Energy, USA**, has bestowed \$5,000 upon the CAC to initiate our Hope House Expansion Fund. Look for future information from us as we plan our growth, both on location and at sites in both parishes.

## ...Treasure

### Our generous donors:

Petrucelli Law Office  
 Ellen Molina  
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 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Williams  
 Claire Dipio  
 Henry & Kimberly Oldham  
 Annette Richards  
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### Tip for Giving:

*Every evening, empty your pocket change into a jar. When the jar gets full, give the money to a favorite charity. You'll declutter your nightstand and purse while keeping in touch with the things you value.*



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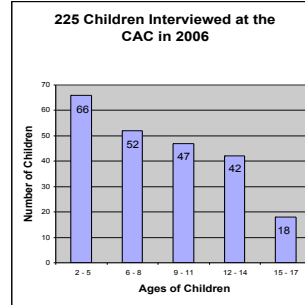
**Hope, Healing and Justice**

## Interviewing and Counseling

In 2006, the forensic interviewers at Hope House interviewed 225 children. Two hundred and thirty-two alleged perpetrators were named during those interviews. See table in 3<sup>rd</sup> column.

We recommend counseling to all our children and their families. The CAC is very fortunate to have a new counseling suite, with room for individual counseling and

group counseling. Many of the families choose to partake of counseling with our two well-qualified therapists. Individual and group sessions are available to them as they move toward hope and healing after their disclosure. When children are too young to express themselves verbally, Dr. Barbara Hebert counsels and works with them through play therapy.



## Staff

### CAC Staff Members

Dorothy Garcia,  
 Executive Director  
 JoBeth Rickels and  
 Bethany Case,  
 Forensic Interviewers  
 Liz Taurman, Resource  
 Development  
 Debe Jones: Office Mgr.

### CAC Support Staff

Beverley Connor, MSW,  
 LCSW, and  
 Lisa Erichson, MSW, LCSW  
 Therapists  
 Dr. Barbara Hebert,  
 Play Therapist



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER  
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