



ALL ABOUT ADVOCATES



Inside:

40th Anniversary
Annual Meeting 2023

All Around Advocates

Child Abuse Prevention
Month

Kids Helping Kids at
Cartersville Elementary



A Message from Rachel



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Dear Advocate's Friends and Champions,

2023 has already been off to an amazing start and we have so much to look forward to in the upcoming year. On March 9th, I had the honor of sharing the stage with Ms. Nancy Newman and Ms. Terry Nelson as we celebrated 40 years of Advocates for Children. The tenure of of Advocates was only made possible through the love and dedication of countless volunteers and supporters, like you, over the past four decades.

This spring we will also be sending Quacky and the Advocate's Duck Derby into retirement as we celebrate our final Duck Derby at Osborne Park in Euharlee on May 13th. While there are 20,000 ducks going into the river on May 13th, Duck Derby was never really about the ducks. Duck Derby was a way to bring families together to support the work of Advocates for Children and to make memories with their own children. Although Duck Derby is retiring, our mission to "strengthen our community through education, advocacy, and prevention, empowering families to be free from child abuse" will continue.

Warmest Regards,

Rachel Castillo
President/CEO

2022 Annual Report is
Available Online



40TH ANNIVERSARY & ANNUAL MEETING



Photo credit: Cartersville Daily Tribune

During our Annual Meeting on March 9th, we were honored to have the opportunity to recognize our Volunteers of the Year and celebrate four decades of Advocates for Children. In honor of our 40th anniversary, we invited one of Advocate's founders and our first Executive Director to take a stroll down memory lane and share stories of the first years of Advocates. Mrs. Nancy Newman, co-founder of Advocates for Children, and Mrs. Terry Nelson, the first Executive Director were joined on stage by their children to recall the first days of our organization.

Remarkably, Mrs. Newman was joined on the stage by her daughter Vicky Durham, who serves on our Capital Campaign Steering Committee, and Mrs. Nelson was joined by her son, Patrick Nelson, who has recently stepped into his new role as Chairman of the Advocate's Board of Trustees. It was wonderful to celebrate the legacy of these two women and to see how their families' commitment to children continues today.

Our Annual Meeting also gave us the opportunity to honor Mrs. Newman with the naming of our new home for youth experiencing homelessness, Newman House, in her honor. We were also grateful to have the chance to thank longtime supporters, Rob and Marian Hankinson by naming the new teen lounge in the Newman House, Hankinson Lounge.



2022 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

SEAN ELY

ELY CORPORATION
CORPORATE PARTNER OF THE YEAR

TERI ALLISON

CASA OF NW GEORGIA

LAUREN EVANS

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY

BILL ROURKE

FLOWERING BRANCH

INGEBORG DE BRAUWER

TOGETHER FOR FAMILIES

MARCIA GUSE

RAINBOWS

PHYLLIS HENRY

HOPE IN YOUR HOME

NANCY HAIGHT

RISE

AJ WILSON & NATALIE CARR

DEVELOPMENT



Photo credit: Cartersville Daily Tribune



APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

We Can All Play a Role in Ending Child Abuse in Our Community.

As we recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month, please consider providing a generous charitable donation to Advocates for Children so that we can continue to provide compassionate care and resources to children and families in our community. No other organization in Northwest Georgia provides the umbrella of services and comprehensive care to end child abuse and restore families. We are grateful your generous support which allows us to continue the important work of protecting children.

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

1. Make a secure online gift to Advocates.
2. Give all year long by setting up a recurring gift. (Example: $\$40 \times 12 = \480 donated in one year.)
3. Learn more about our Build Families. Protect Children Capital Campaign at www.advochild.org.
4. Honor a loved one with a gift in their name or memory.
5. Leave a bequest to Advocates in your will or estate plans. Send an email to carla@advochild.org to learn more.

Scan to Give Today



Pinwheel Planting at Harbin Clinic

Our sincere thanks to our friends and partners at Harbin Clinic for their continued support during Child Abuse Prevention Month and throughout the year.



SPOTLIGHT: CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) works to reduce additional trauma for children and families when they have experienced or been exposed to sexual abuse, physical abuse, violence, and/or crime. The CAC serves as the site for the forensic interview(s), which is always conducted by a trained forensic interviewer in a child-friendly, developmentally appropriate way. The CAC partners with Law Enforcement Officers, DFCS, mental health professionals, Sexual Assault Nurses and Victim Advocates, Victims Assistance Advocates, representatives from the District Attorney's Office, school social workers, and other community partners who work to support child victims AND their families.



CAC Forensic Interview Room



Last year, 409 children bravely shared their accounts of physical and sexual abuse during forensic interviews at our Children's Advocacy Center.



Montana Wilson,
CAC Director

1000TH INTERVIEW MILESTONE

In 2022, Montana Wilson, the Director of the Child Advocacy Center recognized a career milestone as a forensic interviewer by conducting her 1000th forensic interview at the CAC. We asked Montana to share her thoughts on this milestone and ways our community can come together to protect children from abuse and neglect.

How did it feel to recognize the milestone of your 1000th interview?
I was thankful to accomplish 1000 interviews! I am thankful for a great team, both at the CAC and with our community partners, and I am thankful that I have been able to use my skills and allow 1000+ children the chance to speak in a safe place.

What can our community do to help end child abuse?
Recognizing the signs of child abuse and neglect and knowing the steps to report are crucial for anyone who knows, watches, works with, or has children. It's important for the "grown-ups" in the room to advocate and stand up for children when there are suspicions or concerns. That's why recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month is so important... reminding the community that while child abuse isn't a myth, there are ways to protect the kids in your life. Kids only get ONE childhood, and it's our mission to make all childhoods great ones through the spreading of knowledge and education.



CARTERSVILLE ELEMENTARY KIDS HELPING KIDS 2023

For the second year in a row, we were overwhelmed by the kind and generous hearts of students, families, and teachers at Cartersville Elementary School (CES) during our 2023 Kids Helping Kids campaign. During the Kids Helping Kids Kick-off, featuring a visit from Quacky the Duck, our Vice President, Amanda Tant, had the opportunity to share the importance of speaking with a trusted adult if students ever feel uncomfortable or unsafe. After the kick-off, the CES students definitely put the "fun" in fundraising as they participated in the annual Pat-a-Pet, classroom competitions, and Movie Day.



The success of our campaign was only made possible through the continued support and generosity of Piedmont Cartersville who sponsored Kids Helping Kids, the team at Lara J Designs for your amazing graphics and shirt designs, and the wonderful CES teachers, Ms. Natalie Carr and Ms. AJ Wilson who organized the campaign. We can't wait to bring Kids Helping Kids back to CES next year!



Our sincere thanks to



The Kids Helping Kids Campaign has raised over \$45,000 in the past two years!





CASA Advocacy Day at the Georgia Dome



Our Song: A Tribute to Gospel Music



Destination Graduation: Bartow Teen Maze



ALL AROUND ADVOCATES



Together for Families Resource Fair



Community Day at Gerdau Steel



CASA of NWGA with Gordon Co. Commissioners



P.O. Box 446
CARTERSVILLE, GA 30120
WWW.ADVOCCHILD.ORG

BUILD FAMILIES. PROTECT CHILDREN.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR DUCK DERBY '23

Advocates for Children is excited to bring Quacky and 20,000 racing ducks back to Euharlee's Osborne Park for the 21st, and final, Duck Derby on Saturday, May 13th.



DUCK DERBY: QUACKY'S LAST RIDE

When? May 13, 2023

Free Family Fun Day from 10 AM - 3 PM

Ducks Race at 2:00 PM

Where? Osborne Park,

233 Covered Bridge Rd, Euharlee, GA

Visit www.duckrace.com/cartersville to learn more

SCAN TO
ADOPT DUCKS



BE A PART OF HISTORY AS QUACKY SWIMS INTO RETIREMENT!