



ALL ABOUT ADVOCATES





A Message from RACHEL

Gratitude for Advocate's Friends and Supporters

As I sit in the newly established Prevention and Advocacy Center, I am humbled by the outpouring of support from those who helped make this vision a reality for the children and families of northwest Georgia. During the grand opening ceremony, it was an honor to share the podium with so many incredible individuals who have been a part of Advocates for Children's amazing journey. Together, we have reached a significant milestone by bringing together all of our prevention and advocacy programs under one roof for the first time.

Our new Prevention and Advocacy Center has been a dream for decades, and it is the people who have championed that vision that deserve all the credit for this achievement. Their dedication and passion made it possible for us to welcome struggling children and families into our state-of-the-art facility, which includes our Children's Advocacy Center, family and therapy rooms on the first floor, and program team collaboration spaces on the second floor.

While we've celebrated this milestone, our work to unite our community in support of vulnerable children and families is just beginning. We are filled with hope for the future and deeply grateful for your unwavering commitment to those we serve.

Warmest Regards,

Rachel Castillo
President/CEO

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NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH PREVENTION MONTH



Did You Know?



An estimated 20% of youth in foster care will become homeless the moment they are emancipated at age 18.*



One in 30 youth in the United States ages 13 to 17 will experience homelessness each year. **

Newman House: A Brighter Future for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

As Advocates continues to grow, so does the need to help vulnerable children and families in our region. One of the most pressing issues is rural youth homelessness, which is why we are expanding our efforts. Advocates is the only agency in northwest Georgia that provides youth-specific housing, and we plan to meet the challenge head-on. Construction on Newman House – a drop-in center for runaway and homeless youth aged 14-24, emergency housing for children aged 7–17, and long-term housing for young adults aged 14-24 who are experiencing homelessness and their children – is set to begin early 2024. We aim to open Newman House to children and families in the fall of 2024.

Future Site of Newman House

Melissa Porter, the proprietor of Melissa's Hair Beauty & Health Salon in Cartersville, was honored with the 2022 Helping Hands Award during the National Safe Place Network's annual conference. By participating in Advocate's Safe Place program, Melissa and her team at the salon are working to safeguard children and youth in crisis within our community.

Advocates partners with 166 stationary and 11 mobile Safe Place sites across Northwest Georgia. Would you like to be a Safe Place partner? Contact Athena Tyree at athena@advochild.org.



Last year, our RISE program provided housing and support for 47 mothers and their collective 56 young children.



On Nov. 16th, join us and Wear Green for NRHY Month. Use the hashtag #AdvoShine on your photos to show support on social media.



*National Youth Foster Institute
** National Institutes of Health

Giving Others the Courage to RISE

In July, two clients of the RISE program were selected as members of the National Runaway Safe Line (NRS) NRS Youth Advisory Board at NRS' offices in Chicago. Our young clients spent two days meeting with federal officials, discussing strategic priorities for NRS' efforts to ensure greater awareness of and access to their 24/7 crisis services, and participated in a meeting with NRS' Board of Directors.

These two clients, who once were living in a van with their toddler son, now have a home, gainful employment, and the support of their RISE Case Manager. Our clients are on track to graduate from our program empowered to successfully live independently. They have chosen to already start sharing their stories and experiences to add to the national discussion about youth homelessness.



On September 13th, the weather was perfect for the ribbon cutting ceremony of Advocates for Children's Prevention and Advocacy Center in Cartersville. After 40 years of dreaming, all of our prevention and advocacy programs are finally united under one roof to better serve children and families in Northwest Georgia. This is a significant milestone for us, and we were thrilled to have many wonderful individuals who helped make our dream come true celebrate with us. With our new center, we look forward to serving our community in innovative and impactful ways.



NEWS WORTH NOTING

CASA MANAGER HONORED WITH STATE OF GEORGIA STAR AWARD

Emily Ciavarro, the manager of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), has been presented with the prestigious STAR Award at this year's Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) conference in Athens, Georgia. The CACJ awards outstanding accountability court professionals across the state for their dedication and exemplary work. Nominations are made by fellow team members, and one person from each team role is selected by CACJ to receive the coveted STAR Award. Ms. Ciavarro was the sole CASA Advocate to receive this honor, and her exceptional efforts were recognized by all members present at the CACJ Conference.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPOTLIGHT

DARNICE MOSS WITH GERDAU

Since her appointment to our Board of Trustees in 2020, Darnice Moss has played an integral role in our organization. Although we are saddened by the end of her term of service in December 2023, Darnice has worked tirelessly to support Advocates as the Chair of the Trustees Affair Committee. As the Human Resource Manager for Gerdau, she has contributed significantly to the success of the Allen K. Silkwood Golf Tournament and the Gerdau Clay Shoot. Not only have these events brought donations to our agency, but they have also strengthened our bond with the exceptional individuals at Gerdau.



1. **What drew you to volunteering your time with Advocates? What is your “why”?**

Children are near and dear to my heart. I like the fact that I am doing good for others and the community. As member of the Board of Trustees, it gives me the opportunity to bring joy, happiness, hope and help to those in need.

2. **What is your hope for the future of Advocates?** Advocates for Children's future is endless. My hope is for Advocates to continue to grow and support the children in our community since they are the future.

graze & raise

FALL BENEFIT FOR
ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023

6:00 PM

ROSELAWN CARRIAGE HOUSE AND GARDENS
CARTERSVILLE, GEORGIA

Join us for a fresh air autumn
affair featuring culinary
delicacies, live music, live
auction, raffles and football
viewing with a southern supper
sure to delight!

A limited number of tickets are available for purchase by visiting
advochild.org

40 YEARS ALL AROUND ADVOCATES



Flowering Branch Summer Vacation in
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee



United Way of Gordon Unity Run 2023



Volunteer Fair at Kennesaw State University



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BUILD FAMILIES. PROTECT CHILDREN.

GIVE THE GIFT OF HAPPY CHILDHOODS

This holiday season, what can you give the person who seems to have everything? Why don't you give them the **JOY** of knowing your donation in their name will help children and families in need!

Donate by mail or online and we will send a special card letting them know you've given the gift of happy childhoods in their honor.

**MAKE ADVOCATES A PART OF
YOUR GIVING TUESDAY PLANS**

