



# ADVOCATES

*Protecting Children. Empowering Youth. Uplifting Families.*

## New Gordon County Office *Expands Advocates' Reach*

In a strategic move to increase services throughout the 11-county service area, Advocates for Children is now serving more clients through a new location in Calhoun. This significant effort stems from two much-needed services designed to support the community's young adults needing housing and children in foster care needing Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers.

According to Calhoun City Schools, 215 students are unhoused. While 75% live "doubled up" with other families or friends, the conditions are problematic on many levels. Only 50% of them stay in school all year.

"Young people who do not have a permanent home can obtain and maintain housing, become self-sufficient and grow into independent and successful adults," explained Amanda Tant, Chief Program Officer at Advocates.

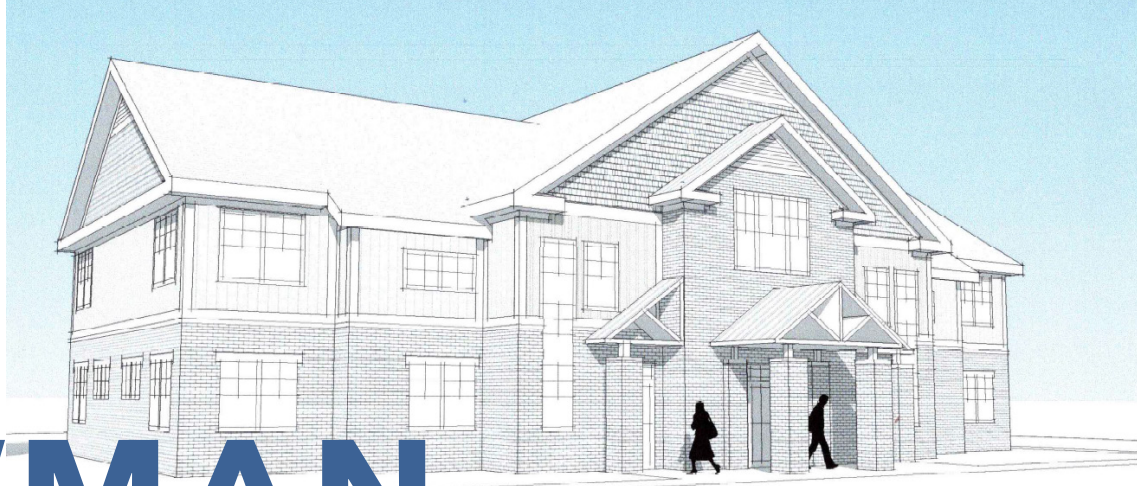
The second program, previously managed remotely, provides recruitment and training for CASA volunteers appointed by the juvenile court to advocate for children's best interests. "This important advocacy makes a life-changing difference for children and youth who have experienced abuse or neglect," said Rachel Holbert, Advocacy Coordinator of CASA of Northwest GA in Gordon. "Our goal is to advocate for a safe, permanent home for each child."

This third location follows the opening of a consolidated campus in Cartersville after 40 years of serving in various locations in Bartow and establishing a Family Resource Center in North Cobb. various locations in Bartow and establishing a Family Resource Center in North Cobb.



"Young people who do not have a permanent home can obtain and maintain housing, become self-sufficient and grow into independent and successful adults,"

- **Amanda Tant**



# NEWMAN *house*

Newman House is set to open in early 2025 following a recent Topping Out ceremony to celebrate the construction milestone of closing in the house. The custom facility will begin serving as an emergency shelter for foster care and a home for runaways and young adults facing homelessness or in need of transitional housing.

The celebration included friends and supporters in the community, Advocates for Children donors, board members and staff. Each was asked to write motivational, biblical, or hopeful messages on the bones of the building to serve as inspiration to future residents.

When completed Newman House will contain 14 bedrooms for children in need. Each room will contain a private bath, a mini kitchen, and a safe, secure, private and dignified space. In addition, the house will operate a commercial kitchen, with opportunities for community organizations and volunteers to serve meals, a commercial laundry, and common areas for collaboration and community. Newman House will operate with supervisory staff on duty 24/7.

Guests were welcomed at the event by Patrick Nelson, Board Chair; Rachel Castillo, President/CEO of Advocates; and by Nancy Newman, one of the founders of Advocates for Children.

When the Capital Campaign began, Rob Hankinson, the campaigns co-chair suggested naming the new building Newman House in honor of Nancy's many contributions. The board and leadership team fully agreed that this would be a fitting way to recognize her legacy.

Newman house will be located on the Advocates for Children campus at 827 Joe Frank Harris Pkwy, just behind the primary Prevention and Advocacy Center where residents will have access to the Advocate's programs.



Colt Pollock with Wells Fargo adds a message.

Castillo said, "We want the young people who will be living at Newman House to gain a sense of stability and belonging, but also the tools and guidance they will need to build a better future. Our hope is that they will gain the confidence, skills, and resilience to overcome past challenges and move forward as responsible, independent and successful adults."



# graze & raise '24

AT BARNESLEY RESORT

Graze and Raise, the annual Fall benefit that supports Advocates for Children, happened on September 21st at Barnsley Resort. It was the first time the event was held at Barnsley and the outdoor venue and surroundings received rave reviews.

More than 200 participants made it a night to remember with fellowship, amazing food, music, dancing and fun. Even more impressive was the \$160,000 total amount that the annual fundraiser generated for Advocates for Children.

More than 50 donated items for the Silent and Live Auctions also provided financial support for Advocates' work protecting children, empowering families and strengthening communities.

A new Advocates video was introduced during the evening which profiled our work with abused and neglected children, teens in distress, and families who benefit from the Family Resource Centers in Cartersville and Kennesaw. The video can be seen on the Advocates for Children home page at [advochild.org](http://advochild.org).



Following the premiere of the video, Board Chairman, Patrick Nelson asked the guests to participate in a Mission Moment to support specific programs administered by Advocates. Nelson commented, "it is a credit to this community that more than \$20,000 was contributed in less than 10 minutes."

The presenting sponsor was the legal firm, Trotter, Deems & King, LLC. Danny Deems served as Honorary Chairman and Carrie Trotter served on the planning committee. Platinum



## Donor Profile

# TDK

TROTTER DEEMS & KING LLC

HIGH IMPACT  
*giving*  
comes from  
sponsorships

Trotter, Deems and King is the perfect example of what it means to be a corporate partner with Advocates for Children. The well-established law firm is not only a generous donor, but also gives time and talent to make a difference in the community.

"As the Platinum Sponsor for Graze and Raise, the firm enjoys supporting such a meaningful cause and the important work being done for children, youth and families in their 11-county service area," said Danny Deems, a real estate attorney for more than three decades. "My wife, Tamara, and I appreciate the outstanding work Advocates does in helping to protect children, guide youth and help families in our area."

Carrie P. Trotter, also a partner in the law firm and an Advocates board member, agrees. "Advocates is not only the largest nonprofit serving children in Northwest Georgia, but also one of the most effective," according to Trotter, citing a recent detailed, spotless review and analysis of the organization by a respected accreditation agency. "They tirelessly work to protect children, youth and young adults while also helping families through eight comprehensive programs," she said. "We want to be part of the solution for the thousands of at-risk young people who need direct services, educational resources and referrals to have safe, healthy lives."

# You are invited

## GIVING TUESDAY | *December 3rd 2024*

**LEARN.** A workshop on charitable gift planning will take place from 4 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at Advocates for Children. Carrie Trotter, an estate planning and real estate attorney at Trotter, Deems and King will lead the presentation. Dinner will be provided by TDK.

**SERVE.** Workshop attendees will complete a volunteer project organizing children's clothing and baby supplies to be distributed to families during the winter season.

**GIVE.** Join millions of Georgians who make Giving Tuesday special by giving generously to nonprofits. Plan now to give to Advocates for Children during Giving Tuesday.

*Register: [carla@advochild.org](mailto:carla@advochild.org) or call 770-387-1143 ext. 204. (Space is limited.)*

# YOUTH hope MONTH

November is known for Thanksgiving, but it is also Youth Hope Month which calls attention to the plight of young people who have run away from their homes and are at risk of homelessness.

---

Advocates for Children partners with a national program called National Runaway Safeline to call attention to this growing problem. There are more than 4 million young people experiencing homelessness in the U.S each year. According to Tracy Arp, Shelter Manager and Runaway and Homeless Youth coordinator for Advocates, efforts in November will focus on education and prevention.

The Advocates team will be hosting workshops in schools and with community partners. Media and social media outreach will draw attention. And community events, including civic and church drives to collect clothing and toiletry supplies, will help young people in need. Advocates and other partners are even planning to “Shine a Light” on youth homelessness by flooding their buildings with green lights which is the symbol for Youth Hope Month.

Often the first steps to helping any youth in crisis begins with a national program called Safe Place. Black and yellow signs are displayed at schools, fire stations, fast food restaurants, and many QuikTrip locations. At risk youth at any of these locations can make a call direct to Advocates and start the process of receiving immediate help. QuikTrip has



been a significant partner with Advocates in this effort for several years.

Advocates for Children has developed several programs to address the need. The Flowering Branch Children’s Shelter has an excellent record of providing shelter for kids 6-17 with temporary or permanent homes, getting kids back in school and often reuniting them with their families.

Older youths have used the Advocates Runaway and Homeless Youth program to achieve stability, complete their education, and find employment leading to a future of independence and security. According to Catherine Davis, Program Manager for RISE, also known as Youth Independent Housing, “the success rate has been amazing. Eighty percent of the young people who complete the one- year program remain independent and successful.

Beginning in 2025, both programs will be operating within Newman House, a new housing structure which is nearing completion. It will contain 14 bedrooms, a commercial kitchen and laundry, community rooms and 24/7 staff supervision. Newman House will also feature a new Drop-In Center providing short term help for 18–24-year-olds facing housing insecurity. They will receive assistance with food, shelter, employment and housing connections.





P.O. BOX 446  
CARTERSVILLE, GA 30120

# Advocates for Children

[WWW.ADVOCHILD.ORG](http://WWW.ADVOCHILD.ORG)

Donate  
Online



## CASA Training Underway February Series Planned.

*“Children in foster care living in Bartow and Gordon Counties far outnumber the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers right now,” said Emily Ciavarrro, CASA Program Manager for Advocates for Children. “We must train more volunteers to help these children in foster care who need a guide through the system.”*

Advocates for Children, founded in 1983, has provided CASA training for more than 20 years. The growing number of children being abused or neglected is producing a staggering need for adults who can make a difference.

Advocates for Children operates the CASA program in conjunction with the Cherokee Judicial Circuit for Bartow and Gordon counties. Advocates has offices in both counties to make it convenient for the youth we serve in foster care, CASA volunteers and the courts. “We must ensure that children in foster care will be assigned a qualified CASA to monitor cases and give input on behalf of the children,” Ciavarrro stated.

“Being a CASA is not only a rewarding experience but also life-changing for children who need a caring adult to intervene on their behalf,” she continued. “Our CASA volunteers have been trained in our widely recognized program and provide an important source of support. CASA volunteers are a vital part of the process in moving these children to a safe and permanent home.”