FALL 2026 | ADVOCHILD.ORG

ADVOCATES

Protecting Children. Empowering Youth. Uplifting Families.

Home Wasn't Given to Charlotte, she built it.

Youth HOPE Month, observed each November, shines a light on young people experiencing homelessness and the support that can help them move toward stability, independence, and a brighter future.

At 24, Charlotte knows how much that support can change a life.

Charlotte came to Advocates for Children's Youth Independent Housing program through a referral from Good Neighbor Homeless Shelter. She was experiencing homelessness, navigating serious medical challenges, and facing one of the most difficult moments of her life: losing parental rights to her newborn son.

Youth Independent Housing gave Charlotte a stable place to call home, but Advocates' support went beyond housing. Staff worked alongside her as she learned to manage independent living, set goals, and build confidence in her future.

That support became especially important when Charlotte underwent major heart surgery to receive a left ventricular assist device (LVAD). Advocates staff stayed connected through calls, texts, and visits throughout her recovery.

"Support was something I didn't know existed," Charlotte shared. "They've always been there to help me figure life out, no matter what was thrown at me."

Today, Charlotte is building a life rooted in stability, independence, and purpose. She gives back to her community, serves on Advocates' Youth and Parent Advisory Committee, and is working toward becoming a peer support specialist.

Perhaps the clearest sign of how far she has come is at home. This year, Charlotte regained full custody of her son, now a year and a half old.

> "I never stopped trying," she said. "I'll never stop working to give him a better life."

As Northwest Georgia's largest organization supporting youth experiencing homelessness, Advocates helps young people like Charlotte find stable housing, develop independence, and build a foundation for the future. Charlotte's journey shows how that foundation can help rebuild not only a life, but a family.

A calling, not a career

Fifteen Years with Amanda Tant

Some people spend their lives searching for where they belong. Others recognize it the moment they find it.

For Amanda Tant, that place is Advocates for Children.

Fifteen years ago, Amanda joined the organization after hearing about its commitment to children and families. Although she began as Director of Supervised Visitation, it was her transition to the Children's Advocacy Center that changed everything.

"There, I truly found my niche," Amanda said. "I felt like I had found my home at Advocates."

As a forensic interviewer, Amanda sat with children on some of the hardest days of their lives, giving them a safe place to share their experience with dignity and compassion. Each interview became the first step toward healing and justice, confirming the purpose she had been searching for.

Over the years, Amanda has served in multiple leadership roles, helping guide the organization's remarkable growth. During her tenure, Advocates expanded into eleven counties, launched new prevention and housing programs, and opened a new main office and Newman House to meet the changing needs of children, youth, and families.

Amanda has personally conducted more than 1,500 forensic interviews, each representing a child whose voice deserved to be heard.

When asked what has sustained her through fifteen years, her answer is simple: the people.

Every day, she works alongside colleagues, volunteers, partners, and supporters who share one purpose: protecting children, empowering youth, and uplifting families.

For Amanda, Advocates for Children has never simply been a workplace. It has been a calling. And because she answered that call, countless children have found safety, healing, and hope.

Why your gift Matters.

Your gift gives a child safety, a young person stability, and a family the support they need to move forward.

Every day, Advocates for Children is protecting children, empowering youth, and uplifting families across Northwest Georgia. Your generosity makes this work possible—helping us respond when children and families need us most and invest in solutions that create lasting change.

ADVOCACY + JUSTICE

Children in foster care need someone whose only priority is their best interest. Through our ***Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)*** program, trained volunteers advocate for their safety, stability, and future—giving them a consistent voice when decisions about their lives are made.

HOUSING + STABILITY

For young people facing homelessness, a safe place to live can change their life's trajectory. Through ***Newman House and our housing programs***, youth gain more than a roof—they receive education, employment support, life skills, and the stability needed to build an independent future.

CHILD + FAMILY WELLBEING

Sometimes, keeping a family together means meeting a basic need at the right time. Our ***Family Resource Centers*** provide practical assistance, navigation, and connections to community resources that help address crises before they lead to unnecessary foster care placement.

As we move through the final months of the year, we invite you to continue standing with children, youth, and families in our community.

3 Ways you can help:

1. Join us at Graze & Raise on November 7 and celebrate the impact we can make together.
2. Make a charitable donation to help sustain the programs families depend on year-round.
3. Follow us on socials @advochild and share our message to help us reach new supporters.

Thank you

Fighting for Justice, One Child at a Time

For Whitney Law, protecting children has never been defined by a job title. It has been the purpose behind every step of her career.

That journey began long before she became Chief Assistant District Attorney for the Cherokee Judicial Circuit. As an Intervention Support Specialist at a neighboring Georgia Children's Advocacy Center, Whitney helped children and families navigate the aftermath of abuse, connecting them with resources and support during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. It was there she learned a lesson that continues to guide her today: "Children can be resilient on the worst day of their entire life."

Watching children begin their path toward healing also revealed where her own journey would lead. "I needed to do more," Whitney said. "I needed to go to bat for these kids in the courtroom."

She attended John Marshall Law School in Atlanta, was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 2013, and today leads the prosecution of child abuse cases as Chief Assistant District Attorney for the Cherokee Judicial Circuit.

Whitney remains an active member of the Children's Advocacy Center's multi-disciplinary team, where Advocates for Children, the District Attorney's Office, law enforcement, medical and mental health professionals, DFCS, Juvenile Court, CASA volunteers, and school systems work together to provide children with a coordinated response that promotes healing while strengthening the pursuit of justice.

Whitney understands that process because she has lived it from more than one perspective. Before presenting evidence in a courtroom, she was helping children feel safe enough to begin healing; today, she ensures those voices are heard. Her dedication to children and partnership with Advocates for Children earned her the Children's Advocacy Center's 2025 Volunteer of the Year Award.

Her career reflects what Advocates for Children strives to provide every child: compassionate support, a coordinated response, and the pursuit of justice. For Whitney, becoming a prosecutor was another way to carry that commitment forward, ensuring children are heard, believed, and fiercely advocated for.

graze & raise '26

CARTERSVILLE COUNTRY CLUB

November 7, 2026

Purchase Tickets

Builders of Hope

Rob & Marion Hankinson, our 2026 Graze & Raise Honorees

For nearly two decades, Rob and Marion Hankinson have stood beside Advocates for Children as donors, ambassadors, and, in Rob's case, as a member of our Board of Trustees. Their generosity—given personally and through their family business, Heatco—is woven into much of what we do today.

Rob's leadership was especially meaningful during our recent capital campaign. As a co-chair of the campaign committee, he worked quietly and steadfastly to help build the community support that made the campaign a success and Newman House a reality. Today, the upstairs gathering space for Newman House residents is aptly named the Hankinson Lounge, a lasting reflection of Rob and Marion's commitment to creating brighter futures for young people.

"Heatco started with a single employee in a rented one room office. Rob's dogged determination, belief in the American dream, and refusal to quit overcame countless obstacles along the way. Humble beginnings have always provided a gracious perspective on how blessed we truly have been over Heatco's 44 years. Our parents have always been of the mindset that when God blesses you with success, it is your responsibility to share that with others. We have been honored to support Advocates for nearly 20 years and invest in the legacy of hope they provide to the children and families of Bartow County. In giving we are not looking for thanks, but just thankful we are in a position to give."
— Steve & Phil Hankinson

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advochild.org/fostering-success-tax-credit

Advocates *for* Children

www.advochild.org

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