



# National Children's Advocacy Center

## Local Service. National Leadership.

### July 2009



#12031

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\* To Model, Promote, and Deliver Excellence in Child Abuse Response and Prevention through Service, Education, and Leadership\*

National Children's Advocacy Center 210 Pratt Avenue Huntsville, AL 35801 Phone: (256) 533-KIDS (5437) Website: [www.nationalcac.org](http://www.nationalcac.org)

### Happy Birthday from Chuck E. Cheese



Every other month, Chuck E. Cheese helps the NCAC throw birthday parties for the children in our Healthy Families program. Families whose children have birthdays over the two month

period are invited to come to the party. Chuck E. Cheese provides pizza, tokens, and birthday cake for the children. Of course, Chuck E. Cheese also joins in on the celebration.



The Huntsville Aerie No. 3263 Fraternal Order of Eagles, Eagle Riders, presented Meredith Payne, Development Coordinator with the NCAC, with a \$2,000 donation to support our local programs and services.

### Family and Victim Advocate Training

Approximately 20 times a year, the National Children's Advocacy Center Training department hosts training classes for child abuse professionals on the campus of the NCAC in Huntsville, Alabama. Professionals that work in the field of child abuse or maltreatment come from across the United States and sometimes from around the world to attend the trainings. Topics for the trainings are focused on the NCAC models of forensic interviewing, forensic evaluation and victim advocacy. During the week of June 23-25, the department welcomed 22 professionals who attended the training "Family and Victim Advocacy 101."

Family and Victim Advocacy training is designed for Family or Victim Advocates that work with children who are victims of crime and/or the child's non-offending caregivers. Historically, the criminal justice system was designed for adults and can be confusing and frightening for children. Family and Victim Advocates are uniquely positioned to provide information and support to children and families, who often have a host of concerns and needs during the legal process. The training concentrates on the knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed to successfully implement a Family and/or Victim Advocacy program in the communities that the trainees live and work.

Crystal Gregory, from Child Protect, a Child Advocacy Center in Montgomery Alabama, was one of the speakers who offered her professional insight in the field of child advocacy. One topic that she discussed with the attendees was some myths that caregivers and child abuse victims may have about the courtroom. Linda Cordisco Steele, Senior Trainer at the NCAC, also taught on topics related to children's experience in the judicial system. Other speakers and topics for the week included Jane Orton: *Crisis Intervention & the Supportive Relationship*, Karen Hangartner: *The Role of the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) and Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)*, Christina Paparella: *Medical Evaluation in the CAC*, Angel Jones and Charity Roe: *Law Enforcement and CPS Investigators*, Cassandra Leslie: *Caregivers Perspective; Non-Offending Caregiver Support Groups* and Michelle Marty: *Developing A Referral System*.



### 2009 Community Partners



If you suspect child abuse, call the National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-4ACHILD (800-422-4453)  
To report child abuse in Huntsville or Madison County, AL call: 256-535-4500