



The National Children's Advocacy Center

JULY 2007

* 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) Fax: (256) 327-3864



Mark Your Calendar

July Community Membership Drive:

If you are not yet a member, please consider joining us in the fight against child abuse and neglect for as little as \$25 a year.

2nd Annual HYP Gala Casino Fundraiser:

If you are a member of Huntsville Young Professionals you're invited to the NCAC on Friday, August 3 for a night of games, food and fun. A \$25 per person suggested donation will be accepted at the door and all proceeds will benefit the NCAC.

Sponsored by:



2007 September Celebration for the Kids is right around the Corner! Find out more about ticket prices, golf registration, and corporate sponsorship opportunities.



NCAC Community Services Building

2007 Community Partners



Therapy: Group and Resilience offered for children and teens



The NCAC offers clinical services to child abuse victims and their families. NCAC professionals work with law enforcement agencies and social service agencies to investigate alleged cases of abuse and when necessary prosecute cases in court. Highly trained mental health professionals provide individual therapy and teen group therapy to victims of abuse whether or not their case is prosecuted. Therapy is offered in a child friendly setting on the campus.

Abused children often feel different from other kids their age and often experience feelings of isolation. The Adolescent Group and the Resiliency Group are two important components of the treatment process and help to facilitate the healing of trauma through group therapy. These two healing groups allow the participants the opportunity to engage positively with other abused children who can empathize with each other's situation.

Participation in the Adolescent Group helps to decrease feelings of isolation, powerlessness, and self-blame. Participants also learn how to cope with anger, stress, anxiety, and depressive feelings. The Resiliency Group focuses on promoting health and resiliency in body, mind, and spirit. The Resiliency Group requires an appropriate and mature male as a co-facilitator. Currently, NCAC Executive Director Chris Newlin co-facilitates the group.

Listed below are some statements from the participants in the Resiliency Group:

Question: What did you learn?

Answer: "I learned to be more open and happy with myself. That is was not my fault, I learned how to cope with my anger. How to be safe and talk about it."

Question: What did group mean to you?

Answer: "It meant a lot to me and it has helped me out a lot! I loved to talk it was nice. It meant a lot."



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Teaming up with the University of Alabama

The senior students of Dr. Cheng's public relations class at the University of Alabama accepted the challenge of creating marketing awareness campaigns for the NCAC. The class was divided into five groups and each group had the entire spring semester to analyze the NCAC's current marketing techniques, evaluate public awareness of the NCAC, and improve upon or recreate the current marketing strategy of the Center. At the end of the semester each group assembled their research and materials and presented them to the Center's Development department. Development Director, Catherine Hereford expressed her gratitude to the students, "We are so excited to see the hard work that each group put into improving public awareness of the NCAC. We are so grateful for their enthusiasm and ideas." Learning more about the mission of the Center has also inspired a few of the students to continue volunteering their time to help at the NCAC.

Together we are making a difference!

Internet Safety Tips for Kids and Teens

- ✓ Never post your personal information, such as a cell phone number, address, or the name of your school.
- ✓ Be aware that information you give out through instant messages, e-mails, social networking sites and blogs could put you at risk of victimization.
- ✓ Never meet in person with anyone you first "met" online. Some people may not be who they say they are.
- ✓ Remember that posting information about your friends could put them at risk.
- ✓ Never respond to harassing or rude e-mails. Delete any unwanted messages or friends who continuously leave inappropriate comments.
- ✓ Never give out your password to anyone other than your parent or guardian.
- ✓ Only add people as friends to your site if you know them in real life.
- ✓ Think before posting your photos. Personal photos should not have revealing information, such as school names or location.
- ✓ Check the privacy settings of the social networking sites that you use.
- ✓ An interactive educational safety resource is available for children ages 5 to 17 at www.netismartz.org

Professional Spotlight

NCAC Welcomes New Additions to the Board of Directors

We are pleased to announce that at the May Board of Director's meeting, 2 new Directors were inducted. We are excited to have Dr. James Gilbert and Donny Maleknia join the NCAC team.



Dr. James Gilbert has recently relocated to Huntsville in order to accept the position of Medical Director of Pediatric Surgical Services at Huntsville Women and Children's Hospital. When asked why he wanted to join the NCAC in the endeavor to stop child abuse and neglect, Dr Gilbert said, "As a pediatric surgeon, the focus of my career also has been in the health and well being of children. Unfortunately, I am too often called to evaluate and treat children who are victims of abuse. I realize that I am seeing only a small slice of the total picture of the abuse cycle when I see children in the Emergency Department or Operating Room. I applaud the efforts of the NCAC as frontline advocates in supporting many innovative programs that promote the safety of children."



Donny Maleknia is the owner of Donny's Diamond Gallery in Huntsville. Donny and his wife Fatemeh have been in this community for 27 years and have been very generous to the NCAC. They donated a beautiful diamond necklace for The September Celebration auction last year and Donny's team excelled on the links at the Spike McRoy Kids Classic Golf Tournament. Donny said he feels driven to support the NCAC because, "A lot of children need help and in my home country of Iran, we did not have this type of opportunity to make a difference."

We are also pleased to have the new Huntsville Chief of Police, Henry Reyes, join us as a stakeholder who will serve on the board. Additionally, the NCAC Board of Directors has expanded its stakeholders to also include Dan Busken, Madison Chief of Police; Dr. Dee Fowler, Superintendent of Madison City Schools and City of Madison Mayor Sandy Kirkindall.

Please join us in welcoming these board members and stakeholders and applaud them in their decision to join us in the fight to stop child abuse...one child at a time.



Dr. Fowler



Chief Busken



Chief Ryes



Mayor Kirkindall

For more information about NCAC programs and services please visit www.nationalcac.org

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