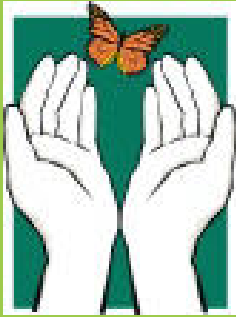


Summer 2010



The Children's Advocacy Center Of Paris

Drug Endangered Children Protocols Signed

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Lt. Andrew Acord, who is co-chair of the Dallas DEC Alliance, and Lt. Barbara Hobbs, Narcotics Division. They shared their experiences with the program serving a large metropolitan area.

In looking at the need for a DEC Alliance, the number of drug endangered children in Texas is staggering. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (April 2009), it is estimated that 802,000 or 11.9% of children in Texas live in homes where a parent abused alcohol or illicit drugs in the past year.

Closer to home, the National Institute of Mental Health and National Institutes of Health report that in both Lamar and Red River Counties approximately 1 in 17 (or 6%) of the population need but are not receiving treatment for alcohol use and 1 in 51 (or 2%) need but are not receiving treatment for illicit drug use. Those

On July 8, 2010, the Lamar and Red River County DEC Alliance was formed as protocols were signed into effect at a lunch meeting held at The Children's Advocacy Center. These protocols were the result of several months of discussion and training sessions to determine the need and benefit for drug endangered children (DEC) who are exposed to volatile drug environments in our community.

Participants at the signing event included agency representatives from the Paris Police Department, Lamar County Sheriff's Office, Reno Police Department, Lamar County/District Attorney's Office, Clarksville Police Department, Red River County Sheriff's Office, Bogata Police Department, Red River County Attorney's Office, and Child Protective Services.

Special guest speakers from the Dallas Police Department were



translate to large number of children who are at risk.

Children that live in households where there is illegal drug use, manufacturing, cultivation or distribution are at increased risk of physical abuse, neglect, medical neglect, exposure to illegal activities, and exposure to violence. Children who fail to be recognized as drug endangered are up to five times more likely to become the next generation of drug users.

Since The Children's Advocacy Center of Paris already has a multidisciplinary team in place that works together on cases involving severe physical and sexual abuse, the addition of the DEC component is a natural fit. In dealing with child abuse cases, it is common to find a variety of other problems involved in the victim's household including drug abuse and domestic violence. Children in these homes require a multitude of services from a variety of disciplines, and this is where the multidisciplinary approach works best to provide these services.

The formation of this new DEC Alliance was supported by Justin Mazzeo, Quality Assurance Coordinator with the Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children in Dallas (TADEC), who presented DEC awareness training for the local agencies. Also, Rita DeShannon, Family and Protective Services Division, Law Enforcement Liaison – Region 4, helped bring everyone together by organizing the training and providing benchmark information regarding other initiatives in Texas.

The Lamar and Red River County DEC Alliance stands ready to leverage their full scope of resources for the benefit of local communities' children to aid in breaking the cycle of drug abuse.



Win a one-of-a-kind .22 Mag Henry Golden Boy

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Sweetheart Soiree 2010 Vintage Romance



The Sweetheart Soiree with its “vintage romance” theme this year was a resounding success for the Children’s Advocacy Center of Paris.

Guests packed the Love Civic Center to the tune of approximately 500 and raised approximately \$35,000.

“Each year we learn more and more about our benefactors and what they desire at our event”, White said. “The CAC staff and board are extremely customer-oriented and want everyone to view our Sweetheart Soiree as a ‘can’t miss’ event in our fine city!”

“All feedback that I have personally received and heard from others was that it was a fun time with superb food and a fantastic band”, she said.

The highest earning auction item was a 55-inch TV and surround sound system provided by the CAC, which was won by Dale Trahan for \$5,100.

Laura LaToof won a Crawfish Boil provided by Crawford’s Hole in the Wall for \$3,100, donated by the CAC and Richard Drake. A custom grill and fire pit donated by North Texas Fab was won by Platinum Home Health for a total of \$1,600. Tickets to a Dallas Stars hockey game complete with limo transportation to and from the event donated by the Dallas Stars, Lady Limo and Stephen “Red” Holmes, was won by Judge Deane Loughmiller. A six-month supply of bread pudding from Crawford’s Hole in the Wall was won by Home Place Assisted Living. “I think all the auction items, live and silent, were really strong in both quality and quantity,” White said.

Cuvee, a Dallas-based band, kept guests rocking on the dance floor long into the night. Food catered by Crawford’s Hole in the Wall and drinks provided by Buffalo Joe’s rounded out the evening nicely.

“The band was superb and got better as the night went on” White said. “They provided the kind of variety in music we need. The food was outstanding as always, and Buffalo Joe’s did a great job on drinks as well.”

A special thank you to Chapman’s Florist and Full Blast Productions for making our evening so beautiful!



Thank you to all our Auction Donors!!

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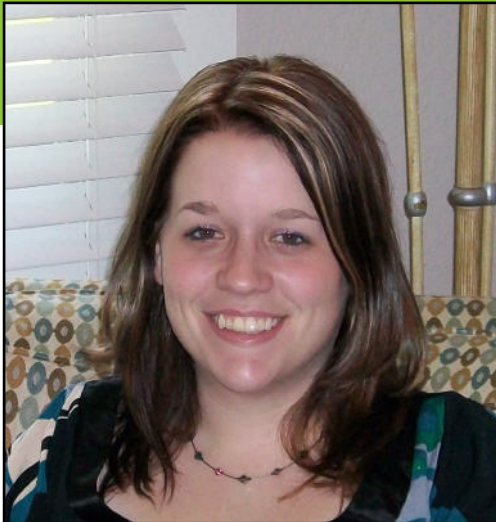


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Introducing our new Service Coordinator:



Kacie Sheridan

My name is Kacie Sheridan, and I am the new service coordinator at the Center. I graduated in December 2009 with my Bachelors in Social Work from Texas A&M University

I have lived in Paris for the past 3 years although I mostly grew up in the Sherman area. I have always had a connection to Paris because my parents grew up here, and we made many trips to visit family. I was employed at Sears, part-time, in the large appliances and celebrated my 5th anniversary with them this last July. I have since ended my work at Sears and gone on to work full time at the CAC. Last December I became engaged to Jacob (J.D.) Bone. He currently lives in Fort Worth and goes to The University of Texas at Arlington. He is studying computer science. We are planning an August wedding.

at Commerce. I am currently working on being licensed by the State of Texas. In my undergrad, I became very interested in the CAC, and even included the CAC in the projects I was assigned. Last summer I did my school intern at Legend Healthcare in Paris, Texas and in the fall semester, I did my intern at Lamar County Head Start. I plan on going back to Commerce to receive my Master's in Social Work starting in the fall semester.

I am very excited to be working at the Center. I have already learned so much about working with children and families as well as working with other components in the community. I consider myself very fortunate to be associated with the CAC and can't wait to see what the future will bring!

CAC Donations:

Many children that come to our facility, or are taken into CPS custody, receive clothing, school supplies, and/or personal hygiene items to help them through this difficult time in their lives. We are only able to accept new items so that these children can experience the joy of owning something that is new and not a hand-me-down. The CAC staff greatly appreciates the support of our friends in the Paris community!

Thank you to our faithful friends in the community!!

Melanie Moore's 1st grade class, Higgins Elementary
Dr. Amanda Green and son
Davis Green
Mary Snell
Kristen and Brenda Eudy
Jan Easthouse
April Farmer
Mandy Chapman
Kimberly Clark
TaMolly's Restaurant
Employees

Longview Rainbow Room
Campbell Soup Employees
Marine Toys for Tots
Chris and Sally Coker
Paris Newcomers Club
First Christian Church
Peggy Strain
Skeeter Davis
Treva Mahan
Red River Quilt Guild
Prairiland FCCLA
The Pajama Program

Eva Curvino
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Powderly United Methodist Church
JoAnn Boots
Judy Daniel
Gary and Amy Brown
Peggy Strain
Dr. Calabria, D.D.S.
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If we have inadvertently omitted your name, please accept our apologies and notify us at 903-784-5787



By the numbers

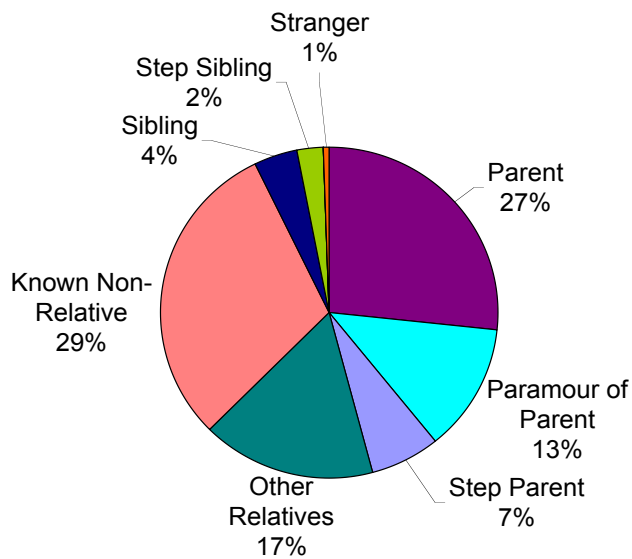
In 2009:

We interviewed 210 child victims
 Almost 70% were from Lamar Co.
 41 SANE exams were completed
 25 Perpetrators were convicted of child abuse

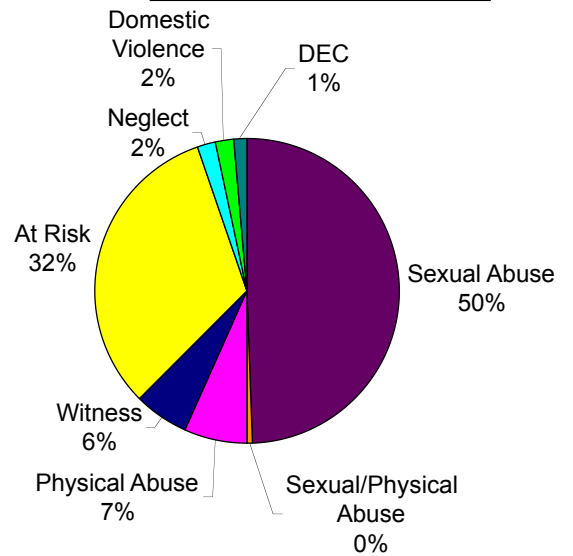
Of the total number of kids served:

82% were involved in sexual abuse cases
 99% knew their perpetrator
 31% were not old enough to attend Kindergarten

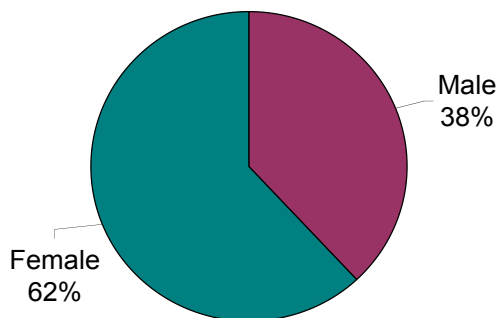
Alleged Perpetrator's Relationship to the Victim



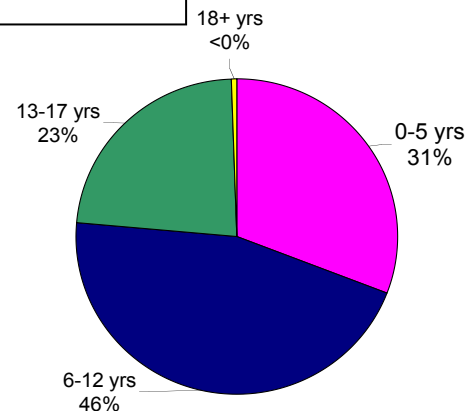
Type of Abuse



Gender of Victim



Age of Victim



Rebecca Goes to Washington

As part of a new DEC grant given to us by NCA, I was given a tremendous opportunity to attend the NCA Leadership Conference in Washington DC this past June. I had never been to our nation's capital before and was very excited to be able to go. The great thing about this conference was not just the caliber of speakers and classes, but also the networking opportunities of other CAC people around the nation. I meet folks from Hawaii, North Dakota, and Colorado and of course was able to visit with all our other CAC people from Texas! I was able to tour the Washington DC Children's Advocacy Center which was in a newly renovated school building which provided space for law enforcement and child protective services to have their offices in the CAC.

Author and child sexual abuse survivor, Erin Merryn, spoke in a plenary session about her abuse from two different perpetrators during her childhood and about how she is still in the process of overcoming the effects of her repeated abuse. Listening to Erin speak brought home to me how long the effects of child sexual abuse can last—even through adulthood.

The second part of this conference involved going to Capitol Hill and meeting with our nation's leaders to help raise awareness of child abuse and how Children's Advocacy Centers are helping make a difference. Of course, my first reaction to the news that we needed to call up our nation's leaders and make appointments to meet, was, "you've got to be kidding- why would our national leaders meet with little 'ol me?" But after I told myself that the worse they could do was say no, I dialed up their offices and made the appointments. I ended up with an appointment with Representative Ralph Hall and a group appointment with Senator John

Cornyn. So, with my appointments in hand, I headed up to "The Hill". For my appointment with Senator Cornyn, I was to go with the rest of my Texas CAC people to a meet and greet coffee hour. Before Senator Cornyn arrived, we were able to meet with his Aides and talk with them about the work CAC's in Texas are doing. Then Senator Cornyn arrived; we each met him and lined up for a group photo.

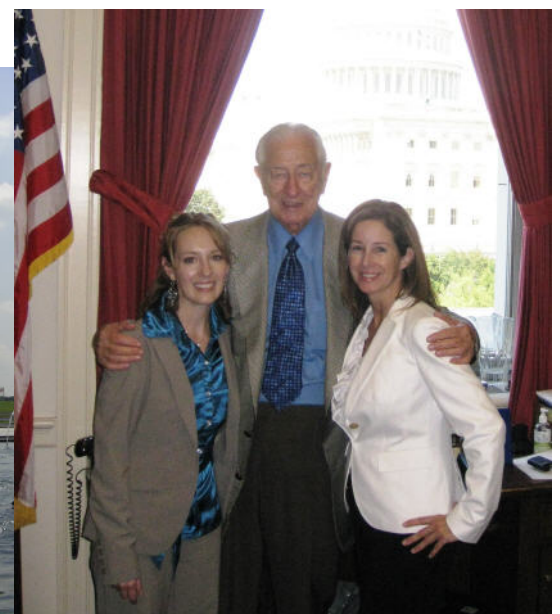


Now, my appointment with Congressman Hall was much different. I was able to meet with Congressman Hall in his office where we had a lovely visit. I was able to talk with him about my local CAC and the kids we serve in Lamar and Red River Counties. Of course, I couldn't leave without getting a photo to remember the day by.

So, after a whirl wind trip to our Nation's Capitol, I'm back in Paris, Texas with a renewed sense that what we do actually matters. I am reminded that we are not alone in fighting this fight. There are good people around this nation facing the same challenges and serving the same kinds of victims that we are. And somehow knowing that I'm not in this fight alone makes each day a little easier.



NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE



Volunteers & our community making a difference at the CAC



Thank you to the Southside Baptist Church volunteers for making our yard beautiful!



Above: volunteer Jeanine Butler following up with our families; Above to the right: volunteer Bobbie Garrison and Service Coordinator Rebecah Wells-Tyndell shows off clothing purchased for the Rainbow Room; To the Left: Retired Teachers Association Lacreia Risinger presents books to Kelly Harper with PCA, Mitzi White with the CAC and Sharon Eubanks with CASA





Find us on Facebook!!!

www.facebook.com/CACParis

Visit us at www.cacparis.org

In March of this year, the CAC launched a pilot program called the OMS (Outcome Measurement System) that is being tested by The Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas (CACTX). This system uses a series of separate questionnaires/surveys to canvas how well the local CAC is meeting the needs of the child victims and their caregivers in addition to the participants in the local multidisciplinary teams (MDT's).

After launching the pilot, our CAC staff evaluated the feedback from both groups in order to identify strengths and opportunities for improvement. The overall feedback from both groups has been overwhelmingly positive; however, there were some areas identified by the staff in the MDT survey results that might be enhanced even more through specialized training sessions. Targeted training was identified as a way to help each participant in the monthly MDT meetings assure even better results with more effective and efficient meetings.

Robin Kennedy, a local professional human resources consultant with My HR Department, met with the CAC staff to

develop four separate modules targeted to aid the staff and MDT participants in enhancing their monthly meetings. These sessions included: Problem Solving & Decision Making, Interaction Skills for Success, Facilitation Skills that Work, and Time Management. The local CAC Board of Directors were invited to participate as well.

The training has been extremely beneficial to the CAC as they strive to continuously improve the program.

Thanks to Robin and her willingness to devote her time and energy in support of making a positive difference in the lives of abused kids!



Thank you to:

Bella Cosmetology & Stella Arrasmith

For donating their time and talents to help us show our law enforcement and CPS appreciation!

The real definition of accident



by Allan Hubbard – Victim
Witness Coordinator,
Lamar County & District
Attorney

“It was an accident!” yelled one of my sons in his own defense just after knocking over a glass of milk at the supper table while involved in semi-horseplay with one of his brothers (and seeing the look on my face).

“No, it wasn’t,” I retorted. “It was negligence. You were jacking around doing something I told you not to and that you should’ve known could cause a problem.”

Some say I’m too harsh on my kids in handling such day-to-day spills. But we must take advantage of these teachable moments to help kids develop into adults who contemplate their actions ahead of time.

During the month of April we acknowledge the plight of victims of violent crime and their life and survivorship afterward. In doing so, we should also examine what preventative steps can be taken to reduce the number of victims in our midst.

It’s not enough to feel sorry for them. We must do all we can to avoid anyone else being injured due to negligence or recklessness.

Here’s the definition of accident: an unforeseen and unplanned event or circumstance; an unexpected happening causing loss or injury which is not due to any fault or misconduct.

Argue with me if you will, but I find a stark contrast by definition of its cousin, recklessness: marked by lack of proper caution; careless of consequences.

And one step beyond that is negligence: failing to exercise the care expected of a reasonably

prudent person in like circumstances; marked by carelessness.

Some people become victims of another’s actions which are legitimately accidental; a clear absence of malice coupled with no intentional wrongdoing. Painful as it is, many vehicular injuries are result of this. It is all too real for many of you who have lost a loved one in an automobile accident.

Some people become victims of another’s carelessness; someone fails to consider how their actions could harm someone else. Take a drunk driver. He or she doesn’t intend to maim or kill anyone, but by their actions of being intoxicated and choosing to drive they show a blatant disregard for the safety of others.

“You should’ve known better” comes to mind. Or perhaps a more affirmative: “You knew better than to do what you did.” Now someone is living with the consequences of your actions who had no part to play in them but to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, as we say.

While we all mistakes, I have little tolerance for negligence or recklessness. I have stupidly exhibited both numerous times in my life. Thankfully, no one was hurt.

But that doesn’t go for everyone.

Take John Patrick Barton, the 30-year-old repeat drunk driver who in early April killed a woman and her daughter, and injured other family members, in Denton County.

He had been recently released from prison for felony driving while intoxicated (it takes your third conviction to make a felony). Once free back in society, he continued to make wrong choices that finally led to the death of two innocent people.

That’s not an accident. That’s reckless. That’s negligent. Did he mean to kill them? No. But he should’ve known better. He did know better that

drinking alcohol and driving can hurt other people.

Blog postings and forums have laid the blame of Barton's crime at the feet of the criminal justice system. I have to partially agree. While Barton is ultimately at fault, in many instances there is too much discretion for judges, prosecutors and parole boards to allow a clogged system to necessitate a slap-on-the-hand or early release of such dangerous people.

Make no mistake: Barton and others like him are dangerous. "The system" and those who govern it chose not to spend money on his continued incarceration (he served 10 months of a three-year sentence and was on parole). By proxy, they were deciding just how much two other lives were worth.

Is the answer to fill thousands of prison cells for years and years with lots and lots of people who

have an addiction problem? Maybe not. But if the choice is whether I want them there or on the streets in my hometown where my oldest son will soon be driving and where our family van is frequently filled with the most precious cargo, the answer is clear.

It's choices we make that direct our paths and if the choices we repeatedly make are endangering the lives of other citizens we should be removed from the public. I make no apologies for that and neither should you.

Let's all do our part to avoid actions that are reckless or negligent. You know the good you ought to do. So do I. While it can sometimes be hard to hold our end of the bargain, let's be less selfish and think of others' safety in addition to our own.

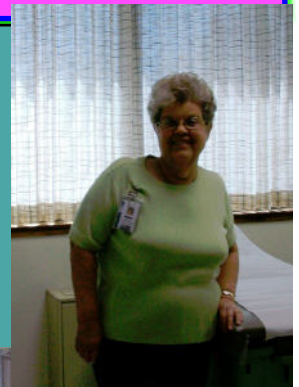
To **SUBSCRIBE** or **UNSUBSCRIBE** to this free newsletter, email us at cac@suddenlinkmail.com and type "subscribe" or "unsubscribe"

SANE room at ETMC now open!

For the past several months, Nikki Norton, SANE Coordinator, and the CAC staff have been working to establish a SANE exam room to serve Red River County victims at ETMC in Clarksville. This new service will be a tremendous benefit to sexual assault victims in Red River County as well as local law enforcement officers. In the past officers and victims have been required to travel to Paris Regional Medical Center to receive care and attention. This new service will enable local law enforcement to remain in Red River County, thereby better serving sexual assault victims and local citizens.

Special thanks to John Hart, Hospital Administrator; Irene Bryant; Jeff Nichols, ER Director; and Dr. Rabi Kumar, Medical Director, who is overseeing the SANE program at ETMC.

Since the SANE program began in 2005, a total of 350 sexual assault victims have benefited from the SANE program which averages almost 60 SANE exams per month.





THE MISSION OF THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF PARIS IS TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE HEALING OF CHILDREN WHO ARE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL AND/OR PHYSICAL ABUSE.

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Going Green

Thanks in advance for supporting our efforts to reduce expenses and be environmentally friendly.

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