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Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso

El Paso's **only** Children's Advocacy Center

On Thursday, April 16, 2015, the Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso will be celebrating our 19th Anniversary Annual Dinner and Silent Auction. Mayor Oscar Leeser will be providing the keynote presentation.

Oscar Leeser is the 53rd Mayor of the City of El Paso. He was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, where later his family relocated to the Sun City when he was nine years old. Since an early age, Mayor Leeser realized the importance and value of hard work; his first job came when he was 16 years old. His most notable career opportunity came in 2001, when he became president and dealer operator of Hyundai of El Paso. Through his leadership, Mayor Leeser turned a store that was only selling 15 cars a month into today's number one overall dealership in El Paso. He operates the number one Hyundai dealer in the South Central Region and ninth in the nation for Hyundai dealers. Mayor Leeser says his career is the definition of the



American dream, "through hard work all is possible." He currently serves as a member of the UMC El Paso Children's Hospital Foundation Board and also holds several professional positions as well. He is the President of the Hyundai South Central Region, a member of the National Dealer Council, serves on the National Parts and Service Committee, and the Hyundai Advertising Committee. In addition, Mayor Leeser actively supports many local charities and youth organizations.

The Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso helps El Paso County's child victims of severe physical and sexual abuse at no cost to the family. We provide immediate crisis counseling, victims' assistance benefits, information, referrals for medical treatment, and therapeutic treatment for all child victims and their non-offending family members. We are the only service provider in El Paso County who facilitates the investigation process for all law enforcement agencies and child protective services who work with victimized children.

Thank you Mayor Lesser for your support to the Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso!

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Spring 2014 Edition



A letter from the Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dear ACCEP Supporter:

In December, Oprah Winfrey had a candid conversation with Barbara Walters describing how she was sexually abused as a young girl. She stated she was a teenage mother, and her father believed her to be very promiscuous which brought shame on her family. She has come to terms that her innocence was taken by sexual abuse and control - and that being abused was absolutely not her fault. Unfortunately, sexually abused children often feel that being abused is their fault, and they actually deserve to be victimized.

The Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso has been assisting local children victimized by severe physical and sexual abuse for the past nineteen years. Over the last ten years, the Center has helped more than 10,000 child victims (3,000 child victims were under the age of five). Children come to the Advocacy Center due to reports they had been fondled, raped, exposed to pornography, or otherwise physically or sexually assaulted. Sadly, child sexual abuse can happen to a child at any age. Statistics demonstrate that one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually victimized before their eighteenth birthday. National estimates state that for every child victim who has the courage to disclose their abuse - ten more children continue to be victimized. These ten children will never tell anyone.

Ask yourself, how could any victim - let alone a very young child feel the responsibility of being sexually assaulted by anyone - and especially abused by a family member? I recently talked to young man age 26, who disclosed sexual abuse at the age of eight. He told his father he was being raped, only after his sister (age five at the time) told him that she was being touched and hurt by her uncle - the same uncle, and other family members who had been abusing him over the past four years. Talking to this young man, it was clear he survived being a child victim with the assistance of counseling and family support. He has successfully moved on in his life. During our conversation he did state that both of his sexually abusive uncles and his cousin spent time in prison for the crimes they committed against him. This young man believed during the four years of his sexual abuse, that he was a "dirty, bad, ugly, gross child" and it carried a heavy load. Children need to be reassured that the abuse is not their fault, and that you believe and will support them. As we celebrate nineteen years of helping El Paso's victimized children, please assist the Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso in continuing to provide healing services for child abuse victims. Please continue to help us, help them. Your support does make a difference!

**"Helping child victims when
they need it most!"**



Susan H. Oliva
Executive Director



Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso is to advocate for child victims of abuse and neglect in the El Paso area by providing education and a collaborative, comprehensive and efficient intervention process to seek justice and to maximize each child's chance for healing. With community support, this mission can be accomplished in a child and family sensitive environment through partnership of legal, law enforcement, child protective and health care resources.

Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso

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Meet Our Children

Lily ★

At ten years of age Lily was discovered cutting her arms by her mother. Lily refused to talk about it, so her mother sought assistance from her school's counselor. The counselor talked to Lily on several occasions, and during their last conversation she disclosed that she cut herself because she wanted to die. The counselor asked her what made her feel that way, and for the first time she disclosed that her best friend's father had raped her on a Saturday morning. She had arrived at her friend's house early (they were planning to attend a soccer game). Her friend and her mother went to store and were due back "shortly." Her best friend's father took those moments and used them to sexually assault her and threatened her not to tell anyone or he would hurt her family members. Lily came to the Advocacy Center accompanied by her counselor, and her mother. During Lily's forensic interview, she gave details of what happened on that Saturday morning and expressed extreme fear about the safety of her family. The perpetrator was arrested and indicted. With the Center's assistance, Lily has been receiving counseling for over a year. She has stopped cutting and talking about suicide.



**Names have been changed to protect the innocent.*

MIGUEL ★

Miguel was seven when he disclosed that his Aunt's boyfriend had been sexually assaulting him during his summer vacation. Miguel's forensic interview detailed the abuse and the multiple occasions in which the abuse occurred. During the police investigation it was discovered the boyfriend had a history of sexual assault of children and was a registered sex offender. Miguel and his family members received victims' assistance and crisis counseling at the Advocacy Center. The perpetrator was arrested and indicted. He is currently in prison for a parole violation, and is awaiting his new trial date for Miguel's sexual assault. Miguel and his family recently moved to a different state, but have assured Miguel that his perpetrator will not have the opportunity to assault another child. Miguel likes his new home, is actively receiving counseling and is enjoying his new school (Miguel recently made the A-B honor roll). Miguel will have to return to El Paso when his case goes to trial.

SANDEE ★

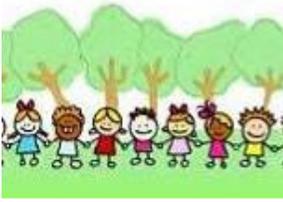
Sixth grader, Sandee, and her 8-year-old sister, Summer were placed in foster care due to Mom allowing her sixty-year-old neighbor to "babysit" her children while she went on alcohol and drug related binges. Sandee told her teacher about the touching and sexual contact done by her neighbor. The investigation showed Mom was also involved with selling drugs from her apartment while her girls were staying with the neighbor. Both Sandee and her sister Summer received a forensic interview at the Advocacy Center and gave details of being sexually assaulted multiple times by their neighbor. Mom is currently serving time in prison due to drug related charges, and the sexual assault charges are still pending against the neighbor (the trial date is scheduled this year). Sandee and Summer received a care package of clothes and toiletries before leaving the Advocacy Center and being placed by CPS in foster care. While in foster care the girls thrived, and they recently found a forever home and adoption by a loving family (who already had two children). With counseling and their new family's love and support they are healing. Sandee has told her new mom more than once that she was so appreciative her teacher believed her when she disclosed the neighbor's abuse. She said this was the first step in stopping the pain and gave her and her sister a chance for happier lives.

If you believe a child is being abused or neglected, it is your legal duty to report it.

Call the Texas Abuse Hotline: 1-800-252-5400 Or 911

FAILURE TO REPORT ABUSE IS A CRIME!

Essential Services Provided



Every year the Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso provides victims' assistance services (free of charge) to benefit children who are seen at the Center due to reports they have been fondled, raped, exposed to pornography or otherwise physically or sexually assaulted. The Center has assisted more than 10,000 local children during the past ten years.

VICTIMS' SERVICES PROVIDED

Crisis counseling: assistance provided for families who need immediate attention, immediate consultation, assistance in obtaining shelter for relocation, information regarding protective orders, and other immediate and necessary referrals to obtain services.

Justice advocacy: assistance provided for families seeking information and orientation on how the justice system works with or without the suspect's arrest, their victim impact statement, the VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) program and other information provided to receive further assistance.

Follow-up services: Contact is made to child victims' parents or guardian to provide proactive services and referrals for medical wellness checks and other services to help provide healing and assistance for child victims.

Assistance in filing claims: Assisting a victim's family through the Victims' Compensation Application process (completing the application and providing necessary copies) for submission to the Office of the Attorney General. This service also provides assistance in obtaining counseling and other necessary referrals to obtain free services.

Therapy: Child victims and their immediate (non-offending) family members are referred to a location friendly center or facility (close to their home) for counseling and/or play therapy.

Personal Advocacy: One-on-one interaction to assist in resolving a crisis, other immediate need, or referral to provide assistance for child victims and victims' family members.

Information referrals: Walk-in victims' family members needing updates on open cases, answering questions, or providing information in which to report abuse, and/or providing referrals for assistance.

Telephone contacts: Follow up contact made to victims reminding them of services available, and the importance of receiving counseling or medical wellness checks if applicable.

Transportation, care packages, meals, translation assistance, letters:

Victims are provided transportation for counseling and medical follow-up (if they do not have transportation) to receive these healing services. Care packages of food, clothing and toiletries are provided to families as needed. Meals are provided to child victims as necessary, as well as translation assistance, and letters provided for school or work by request.

Other services include: coordinated professional agency investigations, providing a child friendly environment, and forensic interviews. We also provide assistance for children who have witnessed a violent event, such as murder, stabbing, or other violent event.

MAKING
EVERLASTING
SMILES



Thank you Department of Homeland Security- without you, "our kids" Christmas would not be possible! The Advocacy Center would like to express our sincere gratitude for continuing to make the holidays brighter for over 150 children that have been victims of severe physical or sexual abuse and their families.





Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso helps area schools with new mandatory requirements.

To comply with new statutory requirements, Texas public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools are now required to train all currently employed and new employees on sexual abuse prevention and other maltreatment of children, and Texas reporting requirements for the 2014-2015 school year. CACs are one of two community organizations specifically mentioned in a letter sent by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) as a potential training resource. With 68 centers throughout Texas with expertise in recognizing, reporting, and preventing child abuse, CACs are uniquely situated to meet schools' training needs to satisfy the new statutory requirements, particularly providing expertise with sexual abuse prevention. Additionally, this provides a great opportunity for CACs to work directly with local school districts and to raise awareness about a CAC's role in the community and the dynamics of sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children. The Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso has provided training for over 4500 employees of Ysleta ISD, Clint ISD, and Socorro ISD on detecting and reporting child abuse.

See more at: www.cactx.org or www.adocacycenterrep.org

IT'S OK TO TELL!
If someone hurts you:

Say **NO** like you mean it

GO to a safe place

TELL a trusted adult

Call **1-800-252-5400**
for help or **911** for emergencies
For more information: www.texaschildren.org

Don't ever keep a secret that upsets you!



P.S. It's My Body! Happy Bear!

Aside from training area school teachers and staff, the Advocacy Center provides the P.S. It's My Body! Happy Bear! program to Pre K- 1st graders. The Happy Bear program teaches children how to recognize welcome and unwelcome touches, practicing resistance skills, and learning to report to a trusted adult. This school year, more than 3,000 children have enjoyed and learned from our presentation! If you would like more information please call the Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso at (915)545-5400.

THANK YOU EL PASO!

Over 6,000 participated in this year's Go Blue! Wear Jeans for Kids.
We thank you for increasing child abuse awareness.

- ❖ T&T Staff Management
- ❖ County Attorney's Office
- ❖ Dept. OF Homeland Security
- ❖ El Paso Sheriff's Office
- ❖ FBI El Paso
- ❖ Strickler & Prieto, LLP
- ❖ El Paso Police Department
- ❖ Mountain Star FCA
- ❖ AKJV Team
- ❖ One Source FCU
- ❖ R.M. Personnel
- ❖ Loma Verde Elementary
- ❖ Alicia R. Chacon Elementary
- ❖ Marian Manor Elementary
- ❖ Parkland Elementary
- ❖ Del Valle Elementary
- ❖ East Point Elementary
- ❖ Mission Valley Elementary
- ❖ Helen Ball Elementary

Together we make a difference in Children's lives!



Wish List



Thanks Agency Partners:

Child Protective Services County Attorney's Office
Child Care Licensing



District Attorney's Office El Paso Police Department



El Paso Sheriff's Office



- Packaged diapers-sizes 1,2,3,4,5,
- Comforting new toys- teddy bears, basketballs, Barbie Dolls
- New children's underwear and socks-all sizes
- Toiletries, canned goods, Capri Sun packaged drinks, toilet paper, paper towels, coloring books, crayons, office supplies
- Auction items for annual fundraiser- small working appliances, household items, clocks, jewelry items, art work, gift certificates for merchandise or services

More ways you can make a difference:

- Volunteering time & talents
- Donating needed supplies and items
- Contributing money to fund programs
- Becoming a monthly donor
- Honor or memorialize loved ones via the Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso

CONGRATULATIONS!

Ms. Cecilia Sambrano winner of 2 round trip Southwest Airline Tickets valued at \$800.00.

Ms. Sambrano won our grand prize raffle at last year's anniversary celebration.



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Junior Women's Club of El Paso

With your support you have demonstrated your deep commitment to our work. Generous gifts from donors like you provide the financial and moral support needed to continue our mission. We are fortunate in receiving consistent and generous donations from family foundations, board members, individuals, service groups and from all our professional partners. We would like to thank you, our supporters. We are extremely grateful for your contributions- we couldn't do it without you!