

PALUXY RIVER CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

- 2024 3RD QTR NEWSLETTER -



WELCOME

TO OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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PALUXY RIVER
CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

OUR MISSION

The mission of the organization is to promote the healing of child abuse victims-one child at a time. Bearing in mind the best interests of each child, the organization will work to reduce the trauma to child abuse victims and their non-offending family members. Further, by uniting the efforts of public agencies and enlisting community support, the organization will strive to improve the justice system's response to stop child abuse.

Granbury ☎ 817-573-0292

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

MARGARET COHENOUR

Welcome to the first edition of our Quarterly Newsletter. I'm excited for this opportunity to share with you more about the services your donations help us provide to the children in our community who need us.

Most people I talk to have heard of the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center and know that we do good work for children but then will continue on to ask what exactly do we do? People often confuse us with other organizations such as CASA, which is a great organization but very different from ours. The Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center (PRCAC) was established to create a safe, child friendly environment where a child who has been sexually or physically abused can tell their story one time. Prior to a Children's Advocacy Center, it was possible that children might have to tell their story multiple times to different institutions, which can be very traumatizing.

These newsletters will introduce you to the many programs we offer children and families in the community. In future editions of our newsletter, we will introduce you to our team of forensic interviewers, family advocates, education and outreach specialists, and clinical counselors. We are fortunate to have a committed, passionate team of professionals whose mission it is to provide healing services to children who have been sexually or physically abused.

Every child we see at the Center is a hero. In our facilities we have walls covered with hand prints of children we have interviewed and a rock garden full of hand painted rocks representing the children who have completed counseling. We would love to show you around or come share with your organization, club, or classroom. Feel free to call for an appointment. Thank you for supporting the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center, and I hope you enjoy getting to know us a little better!

Grateful,

Margaret Cohenour, Executive Director



SECOND QUARTER IN REVIEW



EVENTS



CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

The entire month of April is Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month and is a designated time to raise awareness about the importance of recognizing, reporting, and preventing child abuse. As the focus is spreading awareness and promoting prevention strategies, the Center had a month full of events supporting this initiative, the most noticeable of which follows.

TEXAS GO BLUE DAY

On April 5, 2024, thousands of Texans wore blue, the official color of child abuse prevention, to show their support for child abuse victims as well as show their support of action against child abuse.





PINWHEEL GARDEN PLANTINGS

During the last few days of March and the beginning of April, the PRCAC held a Pinwheel Garden Planting in each of the three counties we serve. Each pinwheel planted represented a CPS report made in that county in 2023. The number of pinwheels planted in each county are as follows:

March 27th - Somervell County - 129

March 28th - Erath County - 411

April 5th - Hood County - 780



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CATFISH COPS



Catfish Cops is a podcast hosted by Tony Godwin and Brandon Poor, both current Law Enforcement Detectives with large metropolitan police agencies in North Texas. With over 40 years of cumulative experience, the last 17 years of which were specifically in the area of online child exploitation, Tony and Brandon specialize in criminal investigations that deal primarily with Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC).

On April 11th, Brandon Poor of the Catfish Cops Podcast provided community members, parents, child-serving organizations, and MDT members with free training on internet safety. He stated in his presentation, "We cannot arrest our way out of this (internet crimes against children). Prevention, education, and awareness is the only way we can stop this crime." For privacy purposes, Brandon asked for his face to be covered.



STOP THE SILENCE RALLY

April 16th the Center participated in the Stop the Silence Rally in Stephenville. This is an annual awareness rally for crime victims including child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, and other violent crimes in our community. The hope is to stop the stigma of silence surrounding crime and link arms to show how our community supports survivors.



FUNDRAISING



SIP & C.A.C

During the month of April, the PRCAC held two Sip & Supports, one on the 10th at Hearsay Wine Bar in Stephenville and one on the 18th at D’Vine Wine in Granbury. There was live music, refreshments, and raffles, with 20% of the proceeds from both events donated to our Center! Our extreme gratitude goes out to these two establishments for their generosity to our organization.



HEROES WITH HANDBAGS



ERATH COUNTY

Our annual Heroes With Handbags bingo event held May 23rd at Tarleton University in Erath County was a



COMMUNITY EVENTS

CHARITIES ON THE RUNWAY
SALVATION ARMY AUXILIARY
TUESDAY, APRIL 9TH



HEALTHY KIDS DAY
HOOD COUNTY YMCA
SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Operation School Supplies

Supply Distribution & Community Resource Fair
August 6, 2024 12 pm - 6 pm
Stonewater Church - Granbury
911 East US Highway 377

SOLD OUT

Hood County Heroes With Handbags

August 22, 2024 12 pm - 6 pm
Lake Granbury Conference Center
621 E. Pearl Street, Granbury

SOLD OUT

Save the Date for our Gala 2025!

February 22, 2025
More details to come!



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STAND UP FOR OUR KIDS

NUMBERS SECOND QUARTER

TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED: **474**

FORENSIC INTERVIEWS: **118**

FAMILY ADVOCACY SERVICES: **296**

COUNSELING SESSIONS: **732**

PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS: **106**

CHILD ATTENDEES: **2,153**

ADULT ATTENDEES: **2,579**



Youth Survey responses to: “What did you like about the Center?”

“It was very relaxing and calm. I felt like it was calming while talking to the agent.” “How polite everyone is and how calming the room was.”

“Everyone was very nice.”

Initial Caregiver Survey responses to:

“What did you appreciate most about the center?”

“They explained every step. They made my kids feel welcome and safe.”

“Very open, honest with everything.”

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Going forward, each quarter we will highlight different staff members in an effort to help you become more familiar with our team and what we do. This quarter we are going to highlight one of our most beloved members that was pictured earlier in this newsletter - Happy Bear!



HAPPY BEAR

COMMUNITY EDUCATION SPECIALIST



Years with the Center: 15

Job responsibilities: Provide prevention education for students and presentations for the community.

Favorite thing about working with the Center: His favorite part of the job is giving safety presentations to children in Hood, Erath and Somervell counties. He loves working with the Education Team teaching children how important it is to tell a safe adult if they encounter an unsafe situation. Seeing all the smiles and inquisitive faces on the kids just makes him so "happy."

Hobbies: Beekeeping so he always has a supply of honey on hand. Collecting plush animals, especially Teddy Bears, to donate to the Advocacy Center for the kids who make an outcry of abuse, showing them they have a safe place to give their disclosure, and they are not the ones in the wrong. Happy Bear hopes they make a teddy bear that looks like him someday!

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HOW TO?

REPORT

Anyone 18 or older is a mandated reporter in the State of Texas.



To report suspected child abuse call **1-800-252-5400**.

To report suspected child abuse on-line go to **txabusehotline.org**

To report suspected child sex trafficking call **1-888-373-7888**.

If a child is in immediate danger call **911**.

VOLUNTEER

Our volunteers provide a variety of support for our agency including staffing our agency information booth at health fairs, assisting with Child Abuse Prevention Month activities, helping with fundraisers such as Heroes with Handbags, and providing support at other activities that support the agency. Events can be during the week, after hours, or on weekend depending on the specific activity. Interested individuals must submit a completed Volunteer Application Packet and agree to and pass a criminal background check. If interested, please call one of the numbers listed at the bottom of the page.

DONATE

By making a financial contribution that is a tax write-off, you help provide safety, justice, and healing for abused and neglected children in your community. There are several ways to donate. You may make cash donations, donate items from our Wish List, or even donate stock. For further information, feel free to contact the Center at 817-573-0292 or go to our website at:

<https://paluxyrivercac.org/donate/>

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To all of our Donors:

Because of your generosity, the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center has been able to continue to promote the healing of child abuse victims – one child at a time in Hood, Erath, and Somervell counties. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication throughout this last quarter and all year long! We couldn't achieve our goals without your commitment and belief in our cause. Your support makes a profound difference, and we deeply appreciate your continued partnership. Together we are making a meaningful impact.



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