



PALUXY RIVER
CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER



WELCOME

TO OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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.

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Granbury ☎ 817-573-0292

Stephenville ☎ 254-918-7452

✉ margaret@paluxyrivercac.org



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Building Hope

As we step into a new season, we're reminded of the incredible Power Of One moments that have shaped the past year. We are reminded of the impact one person, one act of service, and one donation can have in shaping brighter futures for the children in our communities. Here at Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center, we are profoundly grateful to be part of such strong, supportive communities that stand by our mission and believe in the work we do each day.

This season, our gratitude is threefold. First, we are deeply thankful for the privilege of being woven into the fabric of the communities we serve. Your ongoing support and belief in our mission continues to empower us to make a real difference.

Second, we celebrate the opportunity to grow as we prepare to expand our reach. This space represents hope and resilience and will allow us to serve more children and families who need a place to feel safe, heard, and valued. Stay tuned on how you can help us secure a permanent home for the PRCAC!

Finally, we are grateful for the future partnerships and growth this new chapter will create. We know that every helping hand, every resource, and every act of support - however small it may seem - carries the "Power of One." Together, these moments and acts will unite to build a stronger future for our children and our communities.

Thank you for standing with us and being part of this journey. With your support, we're able to turn hope into action, one child and one family at a time.

Margaret Cohenour, Executive Director



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FUNDRAISERS

HEROES WITH HANDBAGS Hood County



Our annual Hood County Heroes With Handbags bingo event was held August 22nd at the Lake Granbury Conference Center and was a great success! Twenty-one designer purses generously donated by our purse sponsors, local supporters, and employees were up for grabs. In addition to this stunning collection of bags being modeled by local first responders, there was a dinner provided by Hard Eight BBQ and several great raffle items.





NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY

COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS



North Texas Giving Day was September 19th and we are so grateful for those who participated in this campaign. We reached our goal and then some, raising a total of \$7027.24. Thank you for making a difference! You've helped us continue our mission of providing hope and healing to children in need.

A big thank you goes out to Paradise Bistro & Coffee Co. on the Square in Granbury for supporting this day of giving!



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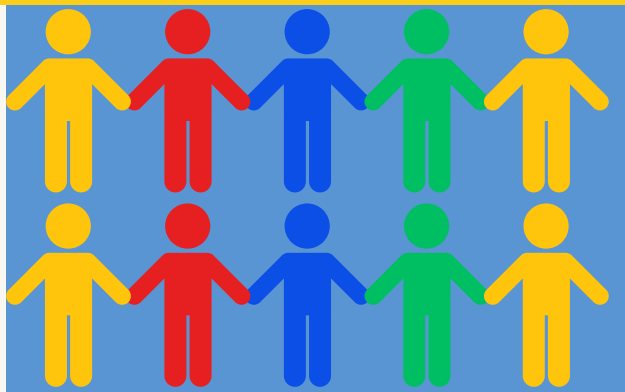
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COMMUNITY EVENTS



COUNSELOR ROUND TABLE

We had the opportunity to attend the Hood County School Counselor Roundtable put on by Cooks Children's Center for Community Health . Our Clinical Director, Shannon Engbrecht, gave a presentation on non-suicidal self-harm and coping skills. It was a great opportunity to touch base with our school counselors and equip them with much needed tools!



GLEN ROSE CHAMBER

We were lucky to host nextTalk at the Glen Rose Chamber of Commerce Lunch and Learn. Next Talk is an organization dedicated to keeping kids safe online and strengthening families through open communication. Their vision is to create a culture of honest conversation in our community to impact the world. It was a great opportunity to learn how we as a community can work together for the safety of our children.

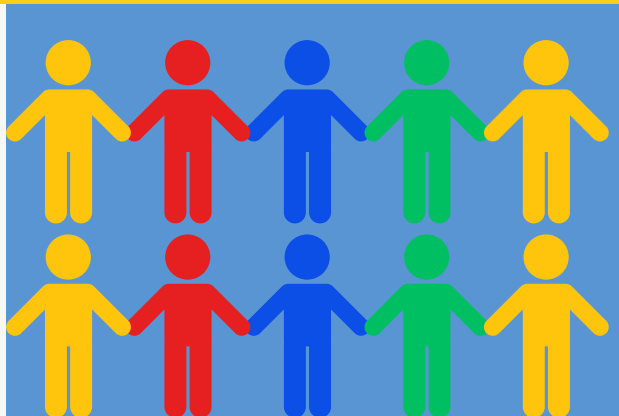


COMMUNITY EVENTS



MEET THE TEACHERS

At the beginning of each new school year we attend several Meet the Teacher events. These are a place where families can meet their children's new teachers, see the classroom, and ask questions. It is also a good place for us to introduce the community to our programs and provide our contact information.



SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

It's back-to-school season which means our Education and Outreach teams are busy attending back-to-school events! We are excited to be back in the schools educating teachers and students on ways to keep themselves and others safe! One program we provided was Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse training to Granbury ISD's Extended School Day Staff Meeting. This training is always available at no cost to organizations serving Hood, Erath, and Somervell counties.



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Upcoming Events

Please join us for

Hearts of Hope: A Red Affair Gala

Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 6:00 pm

La Bella Luna

7700 Glen Rose Hwy

Granbury, TX

Benefitting: Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center



Join us for a special evening at the Hearts of Hope: A Red Affair Gala benefiting the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center. The event will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at the beautiful La Bella Luna, located at 7700 Glen Rose Hwy, Granbury, TX 76048 beginning at 6:00 PM.

This elegant event will feature dinner, live entertainment, and live and silent auctions to raise funds to enable the Center to continue the work being done for the children and families in the communities we serve. Dress to impress in your finest red attire (optional) and help us make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

If you have questions about this event, contact Lauren Murfin at 817-573-0292 or lauren@paluxyrivercac.org.



To get your tickets now go:

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

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FY 2024

Service, Education, and Outreach Numbers

FORENSIC INTERVIEWS: **356**
FAMILY ADVOCACY SERVICES: **1,048**
COUNSELING SESSIONS: **2,891**

PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS: **479**
CHILD ATTENDEES: **17,279**
ADULT ATTENDEES: **12,261**



Youth Survey responses to:

“What did you like about the Center?”

“The people were really nice. I felt safe talking to them.”

“They made me feel like I was safe.”

Initial Caregiver Survey responses to:

“What did you appreciate most about the center?”

“I appreciate how kind everyone was during such a hard time.”

“The warm nature of the staff.”

Caregiver Follow-Up Survey

“Always welcoming and kind to us during the worst days of our life.”

“Reassuring to us and our child that we would make it through.”

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT



JESSICA LASKARIS

FINANCE & DATA DIRECTOR

Years with the Center:

4 1/2 Years



Job responsibilities: As Finance and Data Director, Jessica performs all financial tasks for the Center including payroll, accounts payable and receivable, budgeting, audit preparation, grants management, and financial report presentations to the Board of Directors. She also manages all of the service, education, and outreach data and submits data reports for all grants.

Favorite thing about working with the Center: As a mom, she is thankful this organization exists and is grateful to be working alongside women who truly care about helping children heal.

Hobbies: She loves spending time outdoors with her husband, Athan, 8-year-old son, and 5-year-old daughter - they just got a RV and 2 new puppies and are looking forward to some crazy adventures traveling and exploring new places together!

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We our Volunteers

1,698
Volunteer Hours
 logged
 in **2024!**

Volunteerism is one of the most important and beneficial actions that we can take as human beings. The ability of volunteers to provide their time and expertise can make an immense difference within the communities we serve. In fact, without volunteerism nonprofit organizations cannot fulfill their mission and achieve their goals. That is why it is amazing that in 2024, our wonderful volunteers logged 1,698 hours! These hours came from working at fundraisers and outreach events, helping with tasks around the center, and greeting families! We know we can always count on them for support!

Interested in learning more about how you can volunteer at our center? Contact Lauren at lauren@paluxyrivercac.org. We always need volunteers at our Granbury and Stephenville locations!



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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**.

HOW TO 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, and helping with fundraisers such as Heroes with Handbags. 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.

HOW TO DONATE

By making a financial contribution that is a tax deduction, 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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Thank you

To all 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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