



JANUARY-APRIL 2025

# PRCAC CONNECTION

Official Newsletter of the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center



## YOU'RE THE HERO!



Because of you, children who have suffered abuse are finding safety, healing, and hope. Your compassion makes you more than a donor...you are a HERO. By supporting our mission, you are standing up for the most vulnerable among us and showing these brave children that they are not alone. Your generosity helps provide critical

services like counseling, advocacy, and a safe space to begin rebuilding their lives.

Heroes don't always wear capes. Sometimes, they simply choose to care. You've chosen to act, to give, and to make a powerful difference. Thanks to you, these children are not just surviving—they are beginning to thrive. Thank you for being a hero in their story!



Granbury Office: 817-573-0292  
Stephenville Office: 254-918-7452

[margaret@paluxyrivercac.org](mailto:margaret@paluxyrivercac.org)  
[website: paluxyrivercac.org](http://website: paluxyrivercac.org)

## 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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# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARGARET COHENOUR



CACTX Capitol Day  
Advocating for Texas  
Children! Rep. Shelby  
Slawson & Senator Brian  
Birdwell and Staff are  
pictured here with our own  
Margaret Cohenour

Pictured below, we kicked  
off our Building Hope  
campaign in the most  
meaningful way—by  
planting pinwheels  
alongside our incredible  
community partners at our  
future home at 805 N Lipan  
Hwy! Exciting things are on  
the horizon—thank you for  
being part of this journey  
with us!



As we wrap up the first quarter of 2025, I want to start by saying thank you to everyone who helped make our Hearts of Hope: A Red Affair Gala such a beautiful and successful evening. We were overwhelmed by the incredible support from our community—your generosity, presence, and belief in our mission means the world to us. Because of you, we are one step closer to building a brighter, safer future for the children and families we serve.

Representing the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center is a true honor. On March 27th, I had the opportunity to travel to Austin for CAC Capitol Day, where I met with Representative Shelby Slawson of Stephenville and staff from Senator Birdwell's office. I also spent a full day and a half learning alongside an incredible group of Executive Directors from across Texas. I always return from these summits inspired, energized, and full of new ideas and strategies to better serve our community.

We've continued expanding our outreach across all three counties, providing vital education programs to schools, caregivers, and community partners. Our counseling department is thriving, staffed with licensed, master's level clinicians trained in trauma-focused therapies.

Our forensic interviewers and family advocates remain on the front line ready to respond when a child bravely makes an outcry, and families need support, resources, and compassion.

We're always eager to share more about our work. If you're interested in a presentation about our mission, our services, or education topics such as Happy Bear, Internet safety, recognizing and reporting abuse, or strategies for keeping children safe, please don't hesitate to reach out.

I'm also thrilled to announce that we've officially kicked off our Building



Hope campaign, our bold initiative to create a permanent home for the PRCAC. This new building will be a place of safety, healing, and hope for generations to come. We'd love for you to partner with us on this exciting new chapter in our story.

Together, we are building hope and changing lives.

Warmly,

Margaret Cohenour





# CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH

April is Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. It is a time to raise awareness and stand up for children’s safety and well-being. Paluxy River Children’s Advocacy Center works with communities in Erath, Hood, and Somerville counties to educate families, promote prevention, and advocate for children. Blue pinwheels and ribbons, seen around neighborhoods and public spaces, symbolize the innocence and hope every child deserves. This month the Center hosted several events in support of this important cause, highlighted below:



## TEXAS GO BLUE DAY



TEXAS GO BLUE DAY  
*April 4, 2025*

On April 4, 2025, 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.

“Safety and security don’t just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear.”

NELSON MANDELA



# PINWHEEL GARDEN PLANTINGS

During the first week of April, PRCAC held a Pinwheel Garden Planting in each of the three counties we serve. Each pinwheel represented a child abuse report made to CPS in that county in 2024, serving as a powerful visual reminder of the real impact of abuse in our communities.

**The number of pinwheels planted in each county were as follows:**

**Erath County: 331**

**Hood County: 665**

**Somervell County: 97**



## APRIL'S EVENTS - FUNDRAISERS

### FREDDY'S - APRIL 15

Thank you to everyone who came out to our lunch fundraiser at Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers! We loved seeing our community enjoying lunch and supporting our center!

### SIP and CAC Events - April 17

The PRCAC hosted two SIP & SUPPORT CAC events on April 17: one at Hearsay Wine Bar in Stephenville and the other at D'Vine Wine in Granbury. Guests enjoyed live music, refreshments and raffles, with 20% of the proceeds from both events generously donated to our Center. We are incredibly grateful to these two wonderful establishments for their support and generosity towards our mission!

Thank you to everyone who helped make these events a success!



# HEARTS OF HOPE - A RED AFFAIR ♥ 2025 GALA

We're proud to share the incredible success of our recent Gala Fundraiser, Hearts of Hope: A Red Affair, held at the beautiful La Bella Luna in Granbury, TX. This elegant evening featured a delicious dinner, live entertainment, a whiskey pull, and both live and silent auctions. With over 300 attendees—including community members, local leaders and generous donors, the event was a meaningful celebration of hope, resilience, and community support. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our guests and sponsors, we surpassed our fundraising goal to support therapy, a safe space, and educational resources for children healing from abuse.



Jenna Quinn

A standout moment of the night was our powerful keynote speaker, Jenna Quinn, who shared her personal story as a survivor of sexual abuse and her journey to becoming a nationally recognized advocate. Her work led to the creation of Jenna's Law, now enacted at the federal level, and her message left a lasting impact on everyone in the room.





# COMMUNITY Events



## February 24 Child Abuse Prevention Month Planning

All hands were on deck for Child Abuse Prevention Month planning! We are so grateful to have so many invested community members and organizations who help us make Child Abuse Prevention Month a success!



## March 1 Endless Discoveries in Glen Rose

We had an event for all things community and car seat safety! We are so grateful to have been part of this event.

## UPCOMING EVENTS - FUNDRAISERS

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO!](#)



### May 22 - Erath County - HWH

Join us for Heroes with Handbags: Boots & Bling Bingo. This will take place at the Barry B. Thompson Student Center (on the Tarleton State University campus), located at 1451 West Jones Street, Stephenville, TX 76401. Doors open at 5:00 PM for a buffet dinner, and bingo begins at 6:00 PM.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO!](#)



### June 19 - Hood County - HWH

Please join the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center and the Rainbow Room for Heroes with Handbags Designer Purse Bingo! This will take place at Salon El Ranchito, 5704 West Hwy 377, Tolar, TX 76476. Doors open at 5:00 PM, where you can enjoy a delicious Hard Eight dinner, followed by bingo starting at 6:00 PM.



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT



BOULDER DONATED BY:



## GENA HANKINS

OFFICE/HR MANAGER

Years with the Center: 4 years

**Job Responsibilities:** As the Office/HR Manager, Gena is the glue that holds the group together. She is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the office: ordering supplies, maintaining, and updating inventory of equipment, coordinating repairs, and onboarding new employees. She is also responsible for in-kind donations, thank you letters, entries into the donor management system, board paperwork and notebooks, running background checks on the board, employees, and contractors, the employee training log, and board and employee information on the website. She also assists with office policies.

**Favorite thing about working with the Center:** "It takes every employee working together to make the center run smooth, and while I may not be on the front line directly serving children, I know that what I do makes a difference. I am grateful to those who are interviewing, counseling, and educating children. They are heroes in my eyes!"

**Hobbies:** Gena likes reading, research, genealogy, writing, traveling, attending concerts, and spending time with family and friends. Her dream is to write a book.



## ASHTON MARTINEZ

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION

On February 28, our very own Ashton Martinez received the Outstanding Community Partner Award from the Cook Children's Center for Community Health. Ashton does a phenomenal job leading our Education Team and educating people of all ages about the work we do!

This award is given to those who work towards improving children's health in Hood County by leading initiatives, providing leadership, and supporting children and families. We are so grateful to have Ashton on our team!





# SERVICE - EDUCATION - OUTREACH NUMBERS

## 2025 JANUARY - MARCH NUMBERS

FORENSIC INTERVIEWS: **98**  
FAMILY ADVOCACY SERVICES: **285**  
COUNSELING SESSIONS: **636**  
  
PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS: **131**  
CHILD ATTENDEES: **5,142**  
ADULT ATTENDEES: **2,426**



BOULDER DONATED BY: 

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

*“The people here made me feel very comfortable and that they were treating me with respect. I like how it’s one on one and I didn’t have to talk to multiple people at once.”*  
*“That they are very nice and make me feel comfortable.”*

### Initial Caregiver Survey responses “What did you Appreciate the Most About the Center?”

*“Shelby Latham was very sweet and showed him around that helped him feel comfortable.”*  
*“Everyone is very welcoming here.”*



## A blue pinwheel with eight blades, mounted on a wooden stick, set against a solid blue background.





# VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SPOTLIGHT



## CYNTHIA PIGG

For the past six years, Cynthia Pigg has been our behind-the-scenes superstar at the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center. From decorating all of our fundraisers with creativity and care to fixing just about anything that needs attention, Cynthia has become lovingly known around here as Mrs. Fix-It! We often joke that Cynthia could put the toothpaste back in the tube—that's how talented and resourceful she is. Whether it's solving a last-minute mishap or transforming a space with her signature touch, Cynthia shows up with a smile, a solution, and a servant's heart.

Cynthia, we are so thankful for everything you do and the joy you bring to the PRCAC. Your dedication, eye for detail, and unstoppable can-do attitude make every event (and every day!) better.

Thank you for being part of our family! ❤️



## JANICE NEAL

For the past nine years, Janice Neal has been a shining light at the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center. From organizing our beloved Sip & CAC event each year to helping out wherever she's needed, Janice has become an irreplaceable part of our family.

Whether she's coordinating details behind the scenes or bringing

comfort to children with her sweet therapy dog, Winny, Janice gives her time, heart, and energy without hesitation. Her dedication, compassion, and consistency have made a lasting impact—not just on our staff, but on the children and families we serve.

Janice, we could not be more grateful for you. Thank you for nine years of unwavering support, love, and service. You are truly one of a kind! ❤️

## HOW TO CONTACT THE PRCAC

### Granbury Location

- 1540 Southtown Drive STE 102
- Granbury, TX 76048
- [817-573-0292](tel:817-573-0292)
- 817-573-0430
- [margaret@paluxyrivercac.org](mailto:margaret@paluxyrivercac.org)

### Stephenville Location

- 1359 W South Loop STE B
- Stephenville, TX 76401
- [254-918-7452](tel:254-918-7452)
- [margaret@paluxyrivercac.org](mailto:margaret@paluxyrivercac.org)