



MAY - JUNE 2025

PRCAC CONNECTION

Official Newsletter of the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center



IT TAKES A VILLAGE



There is a proverb that says, "It takes a village to raise a child." At Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center, we believe it takes a village to protect a child—especially those who have suffered abuse, neglect, or crisis.

These children aren't just stories on the news. They live in our communities, go to our schools, and need our support to heal and thrive.

That's where you come in.

When you give to PRCAC, you become part of a powerful network—standing beside a child in court, equipping advocates and therapists with the tools to make a lasting impact, and helping us with educating the community.

Because of donors like you, children find safety, hope, and their voice. But the need is still great—and the village must grow.

Your continued support helps us reach more children, train more advocates, and stand in the gap where no one else will. If you believe every child deserves to feel safe, heard, and loved, join us—again or for the first time.

Together, we can do what none of us can do alone.

It takes a village to protect a child. Thank you for being part of ours.

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

Welcome to our second newsletter of 2025! It's hard to believe that we're already halfway through the year—time is flying by, and the PRCAC has been busier than ever. After an incredibly full April filled with Child Abuse Prevention activities, we moved right into two major events—Heroes with Handbags in Erath County in May, followed by Heroes with Handbags in Hood County in June. Both of these events were incredibly successful, and we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the staff and volunteers who poured their time and energy into making them happen. Organizing these events is no small feat, but the rewards are immeasurable.

We were thrilled to see our largest attendance ever at the Hood County event—what a fantastic turnout! It was an inspiring and joyful day for everyone who attended, and we were especially grateful to have many guests join us for both events. A special thank you to our supporters from Somervell County who attended and helped make these events even more special. The generosity and dedication of our community are what make everything we do possible, and we can't thank you enough for your continued support.

As we look ahead, we're excited to share that we are making steady progress on our Building Campaign. We've raised a little more than half of the funds needed, and we are optimistic that we will reach our goal by the end of this year. We are just a few weeks away from submitting our final plans to the City for approval. Once we receive the necessary permits, we'll award the contract, and we are hopeful to break ground by late summer or early fall. The new building will help us better serve the children and families in our community, and we can't wait to see this vision come to life.

Your support is truly what makes all of this possible. Whether through your attendance at our events, your financial contributions, or simply spreading the word about the work we do, every bit of support makes a difference. We are so grateful to have you as part of our community, and we are inspired every day by your commitment to helping children heal and thrive.

Thank you again for being part of our journey. Together, we are creating lasting change and a brighter future for the children we serve.

Gratefully Yours,

Margaret Cohenour



STOP THE SILENCE RALLY



As April came to an end, hundreds of people showed up in downtown Stephenville for the annual “Stop the Silence” event on Tuesday, April 29, 2025. A variety of individuals, community groups and advocates gathered together with one message for victims of violent crimes – that they aren’t alone in the fight.

In observance of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week held April 6-12, Child Abuse Prevention Month and National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, are events that are powerful reminders of how just a few can help so many. We hope you will continue to stand with us in advocating for survivors all year long. We are truly grateful for the unwavering support of our community as we raise our voices for victims of crime.



OUR FUTURE - YOUNG LEADERS

At Paluxy River Child Advocacy Center, we believe real change starts with passionate young leaders, future advocates, counselors, and social workers. That’s why we visit colleges and universities to connect with students who are committed to protecting and empowering children.

By sharing our mission, the realities of this work, and ways to get involved, we hope to inspire the next generation to lead with empathy, courage, and purpose.

Are you part of a program shaping future child advocates? We’d love to visit your campus. Give us a call!

“Let us put our minds together and see what life can make for our children.”

SITTING BULL

HEROES WITH HANDBAGS EVENTS

The excitement was contagious. The energy in the room was electric, and the competition was fierce as local "heroes" strutted their stuff! From the moment guests walked in, it was clear: designer handbags were up for grabs, and they were nothing short of fabulous at this year's Heroes with Handbags bingo fundraisers in Erath and Hood Counties!

This event brought together a vibrant mix of friends, supporters, and community heroes for an unforgettable evening filled with games, laughter, and giving—all in support of children who have experienced abuse and neglect. The spirit of generosity and camaraderie was palpable, and it's moments like these that remind us of the strength and kindness within our communities.

Heroes with Handbags is a shining example of what we can achieve when we come together for a common cause. Whether you sponsored a table, donated a bag, bought a raffle ticket, or cheered from your seat—you played an essential role in making a difference. Every contribution, no matter the size, directly impacts the lives of children in need and helps provide them with the support and resources to heal and thrive.

Thank You for making both nights a "Night to Remember"! A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the attendees, sponsors, volunteers, and bingo players who made this event possible. Your dedication and support continues to inspire us, proving that when a community comes together, we can create real change—one child, **one handbag, and one bingo card at a time.**

Your involvement goes beyond just a fun night out—it's a commitment to helping children who need it the most. We are so grateful for each and every one of you who joined us in making this event such a success. To see photos from the event or learn more about how you can get involved, visit our website at paluxyrivercac.org or follow us on Facebook and Instagram!



SERVICE - EDUCATION - OUTREACH NUMBERS

2025 APRIL - MAY NUMBERS

FORENSIC INTERVIEWS: **61**

FAMILY ADVOCACY SERVICES: **183**

COUNSELING SESSIONS: **379**

PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS: **77**

CHILD ATTENDEES: **1,511**

ADULT ATTENDEES: **2,277**



Youth Survey Responses – “What did you like about the Center?”

“They listened and help me a lot.”

“I got to do my handprint, and I got snacks!!!”

Initial Caregiver Survey Responses – “What did you appreciate the most about the Center?”

“They were very helpful, friendly, and made sure that everything would be taken care of.”

“Their kindness and helping us through this tough situation.”

COUNSELING SERVICES



Did you Know?

When a child makes an outcry of abuse, or faces extenuating circumstances, they may be referred for counseling services. That's when our highly trained therapists step in to help guide them on the path towards healing.

Our counselors are certified in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Play Therapy, and evidence-based approaches designed specifically to support children who have experienced trauma.

With empathy, expertise, and unwavering dedication, our therapists help children process their experiences, build resilience, and begin to reclaim their sense of safety and hope.

We are so grateful for the compassionate professionals on our team who make healing possible one session, one child, one story at a time.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



CAROLYN KENDALL

COMMUNITY EDUCATION SPECIALIST

Years with the Center: 2 years (give or take)

Job Responsibilities: Carolyn's role as a CAC education specialist involves educating students, teachers, and anyone that works with youth the warning signs and red flags associated with predators that could harm them. Those lessons include not only how to keep themselves safe, but how to stand up for themselves and others.

Favorite thing about working with the Center: "The passion of those that I am fortunate enough to work with at the CAC has to be one of my favorite things about working here. I also love being able to help protect our youth."

Hobbies: I love to read psychological thrillers!!! (Maybe that's why I don't sleep!)

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SPOTLIGHT



HONEY

Did you know that spending time with animals can reduce stress, ease anxiety, and boost overall well-being?

At the PRCAC, we're lucky to have our four-legged volunteer, Honey, who brings joy, comfort, and plenty of smiles to our staff. Honey's calm presence is a gentle reminder that healing doesn't always come in words; sometimes it comes on four paws.

Thank you, Honey, for being part of our wellness and our work!

Did you Know?

Every child receives a sweet and salty snack and a drink when they come into our center. We go through A LOT of snacks and we are always so grateful when people help us refill our pantry!

TOP TIPS

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 online 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 weekends depending on the specific activity. Interested individuals must submit a completed Volunteer Application Packet, agree to and pass a criminal background check. If interested, please call one of the numbers listed on the back page.

HOW TO DONATE

By making a financial contribution that is a tax-deductible donation, 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: <http://paluxyrivercac.org/donate/>



Every handprint on this wall represents a brave child who has walked through our doors and taken a step towards healing.

At PRCAC, we provide a safe place for children to share their stories, begin trauma-informed therapy, and receive the support they need to reclaim their childhood.

These handprints are more than just paint; they are a symbol of strength, resilience, and hope.

Thank you for standing with us and helping make these journeys possible.



THINGS TO COME



PALUXY RIVER
CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

Building Hope: A New Home for Healing

Our Mission

At Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center (PRCAC), our mission is to promote the healing of child abuse victims—one child at a time.

Since our inception in 2006, PRCAC has been a beacon of hope for children in Hood, Erath, and Somervell counties. Our current facility has served us well, but as our community grows, so does the need for our services. The limitations of our existing space hinder our ability to expand programs, and accommodate more staff. This next step isn't just about having more room—it's about creating a purpose-driven environment designed to foster healing, support innovation, and deepen our connection to the communities we serve.

Join Us in Building Hope

We invite you to be a part of this transformative journey. Your support will help us create a space where children feel safe, heard, and supported. Together, we can build a brighter future for our community's most vulnerable members. Click here to [donate](#) today.

**"To build
is to
believe
in tomorrow."**

UNKNOWN

TO ALL OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Because of your generosity, compassion and belief in our mission, vulnerable children have found safety, support, and healing. You have stood in the gap when no one else would. You have spoken up for those who had no voice. You have helped build a community where children are seen, heard, and valued.

Your support has provided:

- Safe environments where children can begin to heal
- Advocates who fight every day for a child's best interests
- Essential resources for families and caregivers
- A network of professionals who are trained to recognize and respond to abuse

But most importantly, you've shown these children that they matter.

You are the heart of this village!

A handwritten-style 'Thank you' in black ink, followed by a simple pink heart outline.

"WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET. WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE."

— WINSTON CHURCHILL

WAYS TO HELP THE PRCAC



Select Paluxy River Children's
Advocacy Center
(Organization # RU791)

A percentage of your grocery
purchases will support our
mission at no additional cost
to you. For information:
<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>

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

Stephenville Location

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