

Hopeful Happenings

2022 Spring Newsletter
Serving Sarasota and DeSoto Counties



[First name],

Although Florida seems to be short on April showers, these past months have been giving CPC the much needed nutrients for the flowers of our future and in building the community we envision for our children.

As you may know, April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. While it is an extremely busy time at the Child Protection Center, it has always been a time of relentless hope. Every April, we see our remarkable community come together and offer their support in countless ways: raising awareness by going #BlueForKids on April 1st; participating in our annual gala Blue Ties & Butterflies or the bi-yearly Giving Challenge; inviting friends and family to tour CPC; collecting donated items for our clients; or simply taking the time to read our updates... No matter what form the support comes in, it is support that makes a profound difference and we are left feeling rejuvenated and immensely grateful.

Of course, this April looks rather different from previous years as we've immersed ourselves into the world of expansion! Our expansion in South County is going remarkably well- in fact, by the time this newsletter is in your hands, we will have already begun providing supervised family visitations in our new North Port building, with services for Therapy and the Child Protection Team beginning in May. We are truly over the moon about this facility, all that it represents, and the many lives that will be changed within its walls. We also have another exciting announcement of expansion that's been years in the making, which we can't wait to share with you in the next pages of this edition of 'Hopeful Happenings.'

As always, we hope that this newsletter finds you in good health and happy spirits, and that its contents will convey our gratitude to you, our dedicated advocates. We hope you'll share in our excitement and hope as you read through these updates and go forward feeling empowered and encouraged.

With our heartfelt thanks,

Doug and the CPC Team

"May we be the kind of gardener who seeks to plant seeds of hope inside someone else's heart."

-Eliza Todd, A Peace of Werk



MAJOR SUCCESS IN SOUTH COUNTY EXPANSION!

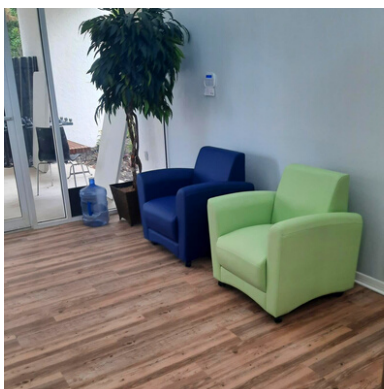


The below picture shows progress in the lobby. The walls have been freshly painted in a calming shade of blue and sturdy wood flooring has been installed. We love the big windows and natural light throughout the building!

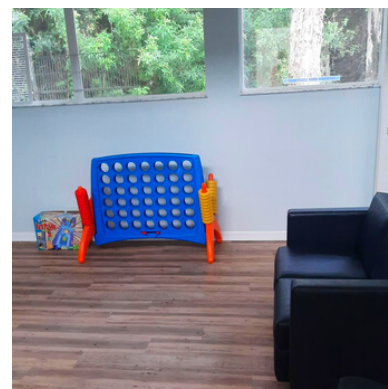


Below you can see one of the rooms being prepared for our Supervised Visitation Program, where children will interact and spend quality time with their parent in a safe and neutral environment. The giant Connect 4 is always a big hit with the kids!

The landscaping on the property has been beautifully redone, thanks to the long hours and hard work put in by Staley's Nursery.



Arguably the most important room in any building- the bathroom! New and spacious bathrooms have been installed and are ready to serve our clients, staff, and volunteers.



We are overjoyed to know that by the time this newsletter is delivered to your mailbox, we will have completed the first services in our new building in North Port! As you can see, this beautiful space has been lovingly refreshed and is ready to serve our clients as a place of hope and healing. Walls have been painted, carpeting has been torn up to make way for new flooring, the foliage and landscaping have been carefully tended to, metal detectors and access control doors have been installed, supplies for services have been moved in... All of this shows only a fraction of the incredible work and devotion being poured into this expansion by our staff, board, and supporters.

Even MORE wonderful news- we have officially received the very first physical donation towards our Capital Campaign from Tina and Mike Granthon! We hope you'll join in on these infectious smiles from CPC's Executive Director Doug Staley and Board Chair Tina Granthon as we celebrate this impactful moment in CPC's history. Tina and Mike- we hope you know how instrumental your support is in building a future of safety, healing, and peace for our children. We are truly grateful!



PROGRAM VICTORIES *from last quarter*

"Hey, I'm not 'asfared' anymore!" Said by a young boy after overcoming his fear of the medical exam by the Child Protection Team. He then jumped off the exam table and ran out to play with his brothers.

18 new clients started their journey with SVP from January to March. The program conducted a total of 127 visitations during those three months.

1,718 individuals from the community were successfully educated on Internet Safety by the Personal Safety and Community Awareness Program.

A pre-teen therapy client was so excited by her Pack of Healing, saying she "couldn't believe all of that stuff was for her." By the next session she said using the items helped her relax and feel calm at school, while the diffuser has helped with her usual night time flashbacks.

BLUE TIES and Butterflies

After two long years of COVID restrictions and virtual experiences, we were thrilled to have the opportunity to connect with you at Blue Ties & Butterflies in-person! We are absolutely awestruck by the tremendous show of support from everyone in attendance. Many lives were changed that night as our community came together to bring transformational healing to victims of child abuse. It was an evening we'll hold dear in our hearts for many years to come. We'll share some particularly special moments from the event below.

INTRODUCING HANNA'S HOPE: *CPC's new program!*

After years of dreaming, calculating costs, and formulating plans, we are delighted to announce that we are expanding our therapy program to include an initiative for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Our hope is to heal the inner child of adults who never received treatment so that they may experience the transformation from victim, to survivor, to one that thrives. This program is named *Hanna's Hope* in honor of Karen and Mike Valentino, who have long dreamt of creating a place of healing for survivors of abuse. Karen's sister Johanna, or Hanna, was a remarkably brave survivor of child sexual abuse who faced severe struggles in adulthood without access to any treatment programs. "Expanding our therapy to include adults who were victims as children just makes sense for us as an organization," said Doug Staley. "Regardless of when the abuse happens, CPC wants to help resolve the traumas of childhood sexual abuse and help them become thrivers." CPC is in the planning stages now and will begin providing individual, family, and group counseling soon. A community speakers' series will eventually be included in this initiative as well.



Sisters Johanna, Karen, & Lorri

WINGS OF HOPE *and Healing*



Pictured is a painting that was featured in the live auction at the event- *Wings of Hope and Healing*. Made with handprints of survivors, clients, families, and champions of CPC, their energy and strength are embedded into the wings of the butterfly- symbolizing how a child abuse victim transforms through the life-saving services offered at CPC.

This stunning piece was beautifully created by the talented Clara Reynardus de Villanueva. The painting was met with a show-stopping reception and sold for \$40,000 to Sarasota's champion for children, Graci McGillicuddy. Graci graciously donated the piece back to CPC's new building in North Port, where children and families will find hope and healing in its beauty.



April is National **CHILD ABUSE** PREVENTION MONTH



Know the stats

ONE IN TEN children will be sexually abused.



In Florida, a child is abused every 18 minutes.
That's 77 children every day.



90% of children who are victims of child sexual abuse know their abuser.



What should I do if I suspect abuse?

If you see something, if you hear something, if you suspect something- **report it.**

Florida Abuse Hotline:
1-800-96-ABUSE
(1-800-962-2873)

* Available 24/7 *

If a child is in immediate danger, call 911.

Reporting abusive content online

If you see videos or images of child sexual abuse online, you can report them to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) by calling 1-800-843-5678 or report through the CyberTipline at report.cybertip.org

PRACTICE PERSONAL SAFETY WITH YOUR CHILD

- 1 Talk to your child about personal safety often, just as you would for 'Stop, Drop, and Roll.'
- 2 Help your child develop an appropriate vocabulary for the parts of their body.
- 3 Help your child develop confidence and assertiveness skills. Give your child permission to be ugly and impolite if they are uncomfortable.
- 4 Never force your child to hug or kiss anyone, even relatives. Support when they say 'No.'
- 5 Help your child recognize when someone has set a boundary.

Instead of this...

"Grandma will be sad if you don't give her a hug goodbye."

Standing by if they're not listening to someone else's "No."

When we do this...

Give them the choice of how to connect- a hug, a wave, a fist bump, etc.

Point out and help your child recognize when others have set a boundary.

Try this

"It's time to say bye to Grandma. **Would you like to give her a hug or a wave?"**

"Does Bobby want to keep playing with your new toy? **I heard him say 'no.'"**

Kids learn this

I get to decide if I touch someone. **I don't have to do something** that makes me feel uncomfortable.

When someone else isn't having fun or doesn't like something I'm doing, I **listen and stop right away.**

Remember, communication is key to personal safety. What is mentionable is manageable!

We each have the power to make a *difference.*

BE THE ONE

to give our children a voice.
Thank you to everyone who donated
to the 2022 Giving Challenge!



If you missed this matched giving opportunity- it's not too late! You can still give our children a voice and make a matched donation at www.FlanzerTrust.org

EDUCATION

Schedule a **FREE** training with
CPC's Personal Safety Team.
Contact MichelleB@CPCSarasota.org



- Available for children or adults
- 20+ workshops offered, covering Abuse Prevention, Internet Safety, Anti-Bullying, etc.
- Great for youth groups, camps, staff at church/daycare, your family

AMAZON SMILE

Select the Child Protection Center
as your charity on AmazonSmile.

AmazonSmile donates a percentage of your purchase at no additional cost to you!



VOLUNTEERING

Train to supervise for the Children and
Families Supervised Visitation Program.
Contact DeeDraP@CPCSarasota.org



Our volunteers help families create lasting memories as they strengthen their bonds and relationships.

NEEDED ITEMS

Donate items from our wish list.
These are used by children in therapy
and during family visitations.

- Coloring books
- Kinetic sand
- Stress balls
- Legos
- Puzzles
- Books
- Essential oils and diffusers
- Children's weighted blankets
- Kitchen and food toys
- Lava stone aromatherapy bracelets
- Diapers/ wipes/ underwear

For more information on involvement opportunities with the Child Protection Center, please contact Sheila Miller at SheilaM@CPCSarasota.org or 941-365-1277 Ext. 111

THANKS FOR GOING
#BlueForKids
AND RAISING AWARENESS!

April 2022





CPC RECOGNIZED AMONG NONPROFITS

Best Children's
Nonprofit

SILVER

Best Local
Place to Work

SILVER

Best Nonprofit
Leader

HONORABLE
MENTION

Best Local
Nonprofit

HONORABLE
MENTION

"They helped me and my family work through dealing with sexual abuse at nine years old by a relative. I'm now 31 and living a happy and healthy life thanks to CPC!" -Timothy Tudor

In loving memory

We are honoring the memory of an incredible advocate for our children, Sherry Chapman.

Sherry held the mission of CPC in the highest regard. Her determination to protect children grew year after year as she envisioned bringing long-term financial stability to CPC, ensuring a future of safety for our children. In 2018, Sherry and her husband Doug took an immense step in fulfilling that dream by establishing the Sharyn Chapman Endowment for the Child Protection Center.

We take comfort in knowing that Sherry's light will continue to shine through each and every child who walks through CPC, whose lives are forever changed thanks to her courageous support, and through her beautiful family.

If you'd like to join us in honoring Sherry, her family encourages contributions to the Sharyn Chapman Endowment for CPC through the Gulf Coast Community Foundation (601 Tamiami Trail South, Venice, FL 34285) to make a lasting contribution to our community.



We are remembering the life of Oliver, a loving therapy dog in CPC's PAWS program. Oliver and his handler Gay Haines have brought unconditional love, support, and warmth to children who've faced unthinkable traumas. Some of our proudest moments were when Oliver gave strength to children in court to testify against those who've hurt them.

Oliver and Gay have been a part of the PAWS program since 2014, and we are forever grateful for his 8 years of hard work and adoration for children of all ages. He lived a fun, free-spirited, and vibrant life of 15 years and will be missed deeply.



To honor Oliver's legacy, please visit CPCSarasota.org/shop to purchase *The Love of Oliver* by Gay Haines (Oliver's handler). This book recounts many stories of Oliver's love and dedication to so many people in our community.

DOUBLED DONATIONS: *Doubled the healing*

One of the most effective ways to make a change within your community is through the financial support of local organizations such as the Child Protection Center. If you are in the position to give, we hope you'll join us in our mission to protect vulnerable children from abuse.

Thanks to the Flanzer Philanthropic Trust, we have a year-round opportunity to double our donations and bring double the healing to the children of Sarasota and DeSoto Counties. All donations made through the Flanzer Trust will be matched up to \$500 per month with a maximum match from Flanzer of \$3,000 per year. Whether you make a one-time gift or become a monthly donor, your support will have a profound impact on the children of CPC.

Over the course of a year...

\$30/month turns into **\$720**
\$100/month turns into **\$2,400**
\$250/month turns into **\$6,000**
It all adds up to protect a child.



1. Visit www.FlanzerTrust.org

2. Select 'Child Protection Center'

3. Change a child's life!

Gifts can also be sent by checks made payable to the Louis and Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust at

1843 Floyd Street, Sarasota, FL 34239

(write "Child Protection Center" on the memo line).

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Dr. Walter Lambert, Medical Director
Sheila Miller, Board Secretary

For more information on how you can make a difference with the Child Protection Center, please contact Sheila Miller at SheilaM@CPCSarasota.org or **941-365-1277 Ext. 111**

CPCSARASOTA.ORG

 [@ChildProtectionCenter](https://www.facebook.com/ChildProtectionCenter)

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