

# Hopeful Happenings

2023 Spring Newsletter  
Serving Sarasota and DeSoto Counties



[First name],

Another Spring has sprung, and what a beautiful time to draw inspiration from the world around us—seeing new gardens being planted, their roots reaching deep and their flowers blooming toward the sun as their gardeners diligently tend to and nourish them. In much the same way, our community of advocates has tended to CPC, working tirelessly to create the perfect garden for us to grow and thrive so that we may better serve the children of our community.

This is a particularly special edition of our newsletter as April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month as well as the one-year anniversary of services being provided in our new Campus of Healing. It is a time of learning, advocating, healing, and HOPE. Over these past weeks we've seen our community come together and take a collective stand against child abuse. Many of you have been raising awareness by going #BlueForKids throughout the month. Perhaps we saw you at our 10th Anniversary Celebration of Blue Ties & Butterflies. You might have invited friends and family to tour CPC, collected donated items for our clients, or you are simply taking the time to read our updates... No matter what form the support comes in, it is support that makes a tremendous difference and we couldn't be more grateful.

In this edition of 'Hopeful Happenings,' we'll share exciting news on our Grand Opening and the overall expansion of our organization, a few (well, more than a few!) anniversary celebrations, some particularly inspiring stories of our supporters, a fantastic overview of child abuse information and how-to's, and as many snippets of positivity that we could fit within these pages!

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

*"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."*

-Audrey Hepburn



# GRAND OPENING *and* FURTHER EXPANSION!



This past February, the staff of the Child Protection Center was thrilled to be joined by the community to celebrate the Grand Opening of its Campus of Healing in South County. It was a beautiful day made even more special with the announcement that CPC is expanding... again!!

Congressman Greg Steube joined the CPC team for the announcement, making his first public appearance while recovering from a serious accident. Thanks to Congressman Steube's leadership and support, the Child Protection Center has received a **3 MILLION DOLLAR** Federal Earmark in support of this expansion! These funds were deemed vital to meet the continuously rising demand for child abuse services in the area and North Port in particular, which is ranking as the 2nd fastest growing city in the United States.

With this tremendous news, CPC is launching a Capital Campaign to build an additional 6,000 sq. ft. building on our Campus of Healing property in North Port. "This is incredible news for the children in our community, but this is just the beginning," says Executive Director Douglas Staley. "Our community is stronger when we work together for the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse!"

This is a great opportunity to get involved on the ground floor, so to speak! Please contact Capital Campaign Manager Elizabeth Topp at [ElizabethT@CPCSarasota.org](mailto:ElizabethT@CPCSarasota.org) to see how you can make a difference.



Tina Granthon  
CPC Board Chair

Doug Staley  
CPC Executive Director

Graci McGillicuddy  
CPC Board Member

Greg Steube  
Congressman

Alisha Pettingell  
CPC Advisory Chair

Erick Quevedo  
CPT Lead Case  
Coordinator

# CPC RECOGNIZED AMONG NONPROFITS



BEST LOCAL NON-PROFIT



BEST NON-PROFIT LEADER



TOP TEN PLACE TO WORK



Thanks to the incredible support of our advocates, staff, and volunteers, CPC has been named the Best Local Children's Non-Profit in the Best of SRQ competition with SRQ Magazine!! We are so grateful to everyone who took the time to vote, bring more awareness to our mission, and give even more children the chance to heal. We could not do this without you! Our wonderful voters also helped us rank in three additional categories:

**GOLD:** Best Local Non-Profit

**SILVER:** Best Non-Profit Leader, Douglas Staley

**TOP 10:** Best Local Place to Work

## PROGRAM UPDATES *from last quarter*

The Personal Safety & Community Awareness Team (PSCA) is busy prepping for **expansion** and the kick-off of a **new initiative!**  
MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!

"Thank you for being **HERE FOR ME.** Knowing that you *have my back* makes me feel that I can go into the visit feeling and **knowing I am safe!**"  
-TEENAGE CHILD IN THE SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM

January of 2023 had a **72%** **INCREASE IN Medical Evaluations** and an increase of **148%** of Interviews conducted compared to January, 2022

"CPC's Program is a **POSTER CHILD** FOR ALL OTHER Sexual Abuse Treatment Programs."  
- State Clinical Coordinator on CPC's **Therapy Program**

# 2023: A Year of MILESTONES!



Oh what a night!! Our 10th Anniversary of Blue Ties & Butterflies will forever be a moment in history that we are proud of. Your belief in our mission while providing space for survivor stories makes transformational healing possible!

Since the inception of Blue Ties and Butterflies in 2013, you have helped change the trajectory for survivors in our community. With your help, we have been able to reach more people, talk about abuse free of shame, and raise critical funding to be able to help children find healing after abuse.

Interested in getting involved with our events? Contact [LouAnnL@CPCSarasota.org](mailto:LouAnnL@CPCSarasota.org) to inquire about serving on event committees and other event volunteer opportunities!



Honoring child abuse survivors and WARRIORS



Event chair Jen Douglas, joins Nikki Williams with Doug Staley toasting to 10 years



Applause and support for the mission moment speaker

## CELEBRATING STAFF 10th Anniversaries



**Heather Gardner**

*Operations Program Administrator*

"There are so many countless reasons 'why I CPC'. I CPC because I get to be part of preventing child abuse in our community. I CPC because I get to be part of intervening when abuse has occurred. I CPC because I get to be part of the treatment and healing for victims of abuse. I really can not think of a more important or impactful career, and I am privileged to say I have been able to do this for over a decade!"



**Heidi Ryan**

*Lead Therapist*

"I have worked at CPC for 10 years and in my time here I have provided therapeutic services to over 325 clients. **Walking alongside them on their journey of healing and seeing them graduate from the therapy program with abuse specific symptom reduction and thriving is what makes me CPC.**"



**Nancy Martin**

*Data Entry Specialist*

"It all started 10 years ago with a tiny ad in the paper saying an agency was looking for a part-time data entry clerk. I had no idea who I was calling until the receptionist answered the phone "Child Protection Center – how may I help you?" It was one of the best calls I ever made. Now, 10 years later and a full-time employee, I am extremely honored and proud to be a part of CPC's mission and vision. I can't think of a better place to work!"



**Michelle McSwain**

*PSCA Program Director*

"My 'why I CPC' has changed through each phase of my life. Year 1, 'I CPC' because I wanted to make a difference in the lives of children and families in the town I grew up in. Year 5, 'I CPC' because I found a work family who supported me through the growing of my own family. Year 10, 'I CPC' because each day I wake up knowing this mission makes a difference in the lives of children and families in the town my children are growing up in."

## PAWS Anniversaries



# HEROES of CPC!



Happy 50th Birthday to **SEAN**, who asked his friends to help him celebrate by making donations to the clients we serve at CPC!



CPC has our very own commercial!! This is made possible by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Rotary Club of Gulf Gate, and an anonymous donor.



IMG hosted a Wellness Week fundraiser and chose to honor CPC's PAWS program with a heartfelt donation. How PAWSitively terrific!



PAWS pup **OLIVE** was hard at work playing with the children during a Supervised Visitation. She's a Queen in our eyes each and every day!



We are very pleased to announce that our own **DANIELLE HUGHES** will be Co-Chairing the Sarasota County Sexual Assault Response Team next year.



**CAPTAIN** is new to the PAWS program but is already making a BIG impact! He assisted children in two trials, both resulting in guilty verdicts.



This absolutely beautiful dollhouse was lovingly built and gifted to CPC by **SUE OBENAUER** and **DONNA DEBERRY**. The two friends had a wish to do a philanthropic project for a local organization that works with children. "We are keenly aware not every kid has a happy childhood, so we were delighted when we were guided to CPC and felt right away it was the perfect choice for our dollhouse!" It took Sue and Donna 10 months to complete, from assembling, gluing hand-dyed shingles, painting, scouring the internet for the perfect furnishings, finding a doll family that would hold up to being frequently handled and disinfected, planning every detail (such as vintage FL postcards for the wall art)... It was truly a labor of the utmost love and compassion. "This dollhouse became a most beloved and important project for both of us. I asked my childhood friend, Susie Brennan, if she knew the best place that could utilize this dollhouse for the best outcome and we were given Mr. Staley's phone number. We are most grateful this little beach bungalow dollhouse has brought resolve and will help children and families in need!" *Thank you, Sue and Donna!!*

# 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 19 minutes.  
That's 75 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](http://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.*

## VOLUNTEERING

Contact [DeeDraP@CPCSarasota.org](mailto:DeeDraP@CPCSarasota.org) about volunteering for Supervised Visitations or [LouAnnL@CPCSarasota.org](mailto:LouAnnL@CPCSarasota.org) about our new Volunteer Day.



Volunteer Day is held on the 3rd Thursday of each month!

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Get involved in our Campus of Healing expansion! Contact [ElizabethT@CPCSarasota.org](mailto:ElizabethT@CPCSarasota.org).



## SEND A CARD

Spread awareness and raise funds with our new greeting cards! Available at [CPCSarasota.org/shop](http://CPCSarasota.org/shop)



## 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

## EDUCATION

Schedule a FREE training with CPC's Personal Safety Team. Contact [MichelleB@CPCSarasota.org](mailto: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

## JOIN THE TEAM

If you've been thinking about a career in Child Advocacy, the time to start is now! Contact [HGardner@CPCSarasota.org](mailto:HGardner@CPCSarasota.org)

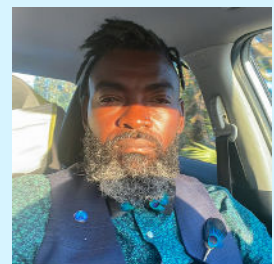
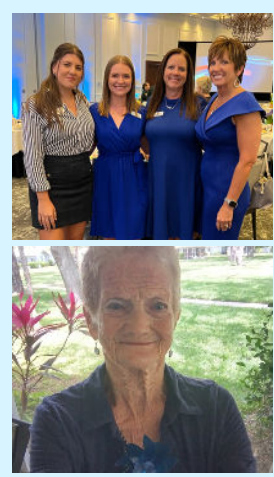


- Full Time Case Coordinator for the Supervised Visitation Program (SVP)
- Part Time Program Assistant for SVP in North Port
- Full Time Accountant

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

# THANKS FOR GOING #BlueForKids AND RAISING AWARENESS!

April 2023



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tammy Karp

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

[CPCSARASOTA.ORG](http://CPCSARASOTA.ORG)

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