

Hopeful Happenings

2024 Spring Newsletter
Serving Sarasota and DeSoto Counties



Our dear friends and advocates,

After a rather chilly Florida winter, we couldn't be more pleased to welcome Spring! This is always such a beautiful time of year here at the Child Protection Center, with this year feeling particularly so as we are greeted by a stunning butterfly garden and mural each morning as we head into our main offices. This space is too lovely not to share, so be sure to read about it within the newsletter and stop by to see it in person and snap a few photos! We see this gorgeous garden as a representation of how 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 newsletter would normally be printed towards the end of April, but with so many updates and opportunities approaching with Child Abuse Prevention Month (CAPM), we felt it was critical to get this edition of 'Hopeful Happenings' in your hands as quickly as possible. We are particularly excited to share our newly created CAPM Advocacy Toolkit, which will serve as a comprehensive guide of raising awareness, safety information, and resources. We are also eagerly preparing for an impactful evening with our Blue Ties & Butterflies gala on April 10th, the Giving Challenge from noon-to-noon on April 9th and 10th, going #BlueForKids on April 5th, and an entire month furthering our mission throughout the community and bringing more children to safety! While it certainly is a busy time of year, we wouldn't change it for the world, as this work touches the lives of countless children- and really, what could be more rewarding than protecting their childhoods.

As you read through the following pages, please know how appreciated you are. Your advocacy plants seeds of hope in the heart of our mission- the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse.

With our heartfelt thanks and best wishes,

Douglas and the CPC Team



"In the springtime, the heart regrows hope."

-Angie Weiland Crosby



Our butterfly garden has been *transformed!*

Years ago in a brainstorming session with CPC staff, the seed of a dream was planted- a dream for a beautiful butterfly mural overlooking a thriving butterfly garden to welcome our clients to CPC's Sarasota offices. The seed took root, and planning began in earnest in the Fall of 2022.

We'll interrupt our story here as some of you may be wondering- why a butterfly? The transformation of the butterfly symbolizes a child abuse victim's transformational journey from victim to survivor to one who thrives. CPC serves as the chrysalis that helps these children heal and develop as they work to set healthy boundaries, establish self-confidence, and remove shame and guilt. CPC provides that necessary safe place for our clients to share their experiences and rewrite their story.

Back to our dream! It's now late Summer of 2023, and the garden which had been first established years ago by the Leadership Class of Sarasota is in need of some tending. With a stroke of good fortune, CPC is informed that we've been selected as the recipient of a Done In A Day (DIAD) grant from **Junior League Sarasota (JLS)**, which will provide the volunteered time and labor to refresh the struggling garden. The dream begins to sprout as support flows in from the Antonucci Family (the generous master gardeners who have given their time, knowledge, and care to the butterfly garden for many years), various JLS members, Recovery Tree Service, Florida Native Plants Nursery, and Troy's Tropics. Fast forward to a beautiful day just a few weeks ago- the crisp air is filled with the smell of earth and flowers as JLS volunteers and members of CPC staff work together to breathe new life into the garden and establish vegetation that attracts butterflies.

The dream has now fully blossomed, and the reality is far more beautiful than we could have ever imagined! Several weeks ago, artist **Alissa "Liss" Silvers (Liss Design)** partnered with us to paint a vibrant butterfly mural on the wall overlooking the garden. You'll see that the body of the butterfly is a semi-colon, signifying to child abuse survivors that their story isn't over and there is more to come. This butterfly will not only inspire our clients, but help them feel supported through their healing transformation. What a true gift!!

These pictures simply don't do justice to this beautiful space- we encourage you to stop by and admire the garden in person or even bring a painted rock to add to our rock garden!

Moments of hope, inspiration, and JOY!



Not one, not two, but **THREE** of our prevention educators have welcomed or are about to welcome new additions to their families! We are wishing our **HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS** to the new parents and can't wait to meet these future Personal Safety Pro's!!



CPT knocked it out of the park on their recent Quality Assurance review! "It was clear from the review that your team remains a **PILLAR IN THE COMMUNITY** and is providing excellent services to the children and families you serve."
-Department of Health Program Office



Executive Director Douglas Staley, along with staff from PSCA and Therapy, provided their expertise for a **YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH PANEL DISCUSSION**. They presented alongside speakers from Florida Center for Early Living, Teen Court, and USF.



We had a full house of volunteers during our training session for the Children and Families Supervised Visitation Program. It was a beautiful sight to see so many kindhearted people come together with the same goal: to **PROTECT CHILDREN**.



Congratulations to CPC's therapy team, which has ranked as one of the **HIGHEST PERFORMING CLINICAL THERAPY PROGRAMS** for child sexual abuse survivors in the state of Florida for the third consecutive year! We couldn't be prouder of our staff!!

FORE the kids! We are so excited to announce that our inaugural Children's Cup Golf Tournament was an incredible morning on the green at Laurel Oak Country Club. With a little rain, a lot of sunshine, and incredible people, we exceeded our goal for CPC's Campus of Healing in North Port! To reserve your spot on the green or learn about sponsorship opportunities at our 2nd Annual Children's Cup Golf Tournament, contact Elizabeth K. Topp: ElizabethT@CPCSarasota.org or (941) 286-8844.



The Roberts Team, 4 KIDS playing amongst adults, were our big winners for the tournament! Seeing their smiles and excitement was the perfect symbol for the day- a celebration of joyful, safe childhoods!



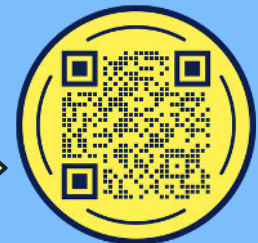
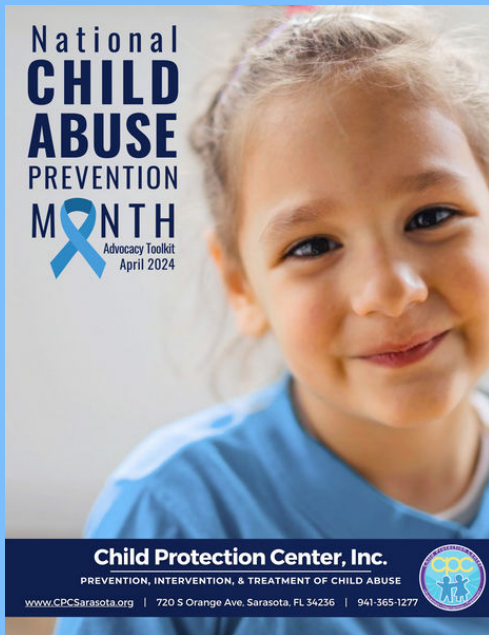
April is National CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



Introducing: an Advocacy Toolkit for Child Abuse Prevention Month

In our past two Spring newsletters, we've included basic information on abuse statistics and how to practice personal safety within your own families. This year, we are extremely pleased to have even more safety information, resources, and a variety of ways to make a difference- so much more, we couldn't fit them in our newsletter! Instead, we are introducing an Advocacy Toolkit that's filled to the brim with this essential content. Here's what you'll find inside:

- An overview of Child Abuse Prevention Month (CAPM)
- A multitude of creative ways to support CPC throughout the month
- Need-to-know statistics
- Signs of abuse, how to make a report, how to report abusive content online
- What to do if a child discloses abuse to you
- Practicing boundaries and personal safety with your child
- Breathing, grounding, and other coping resources from our Therapy team (options for all ages- good resource for anxiety!)
- Tools for caregivers and children to cope with/express anger safely



Advocacy toolkit, resources, & more!
Available at CPCSarasota.org/CAPM

SCAN THE QR CODE!

Friday, April 5th: Wear Blue Day

Spread awareness by going **#BlueForKids!** Take a picture, share it online with hashtags **'#BlueForKids'** and **'#WearBlueDay'** and tag CPC!



CPC Friendship Bracelets



For you and your kids! Wear your bracelet, snap a photo, share on social media and tag us!
Info on where to get your bracelets is in our **Advocacy Toolkit!**

BE THE ONE



Presented by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County
April 9-10, noon to noon
GivingChallenge.org
Your donation will be DOUBLED up to \$100!



Check out our Giving Challenge commercial!

Coffee for Kids

These businesses are spreading awareness!

- Michelle's Brown Bag Cafe
- Sun Soaked Coffee Co
- Cedar Fox Coffee
- Pastry Art Café
- BLVD Cafe
- Hashtag Café
- Sarasota Ford



Spread awareness by snapping a pic of your coffee sleeve, share it online, and tag CPC!

Pinwheel Garden

Blue pinwheels are the symbol for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Plant a pinwheel garden or pot at your home or business.

Check out our **Advocacy Toolkit** for a pinwheel coloring page and instructions on DIY pinwheels!



You can make a difference.

Did you know? Over 90% of child abuse is preventable through education.

With this in mind, we wanted to highlight a recent story that's been circulating in the news as we feel it is a strong example of how personal safety skills can be life-saving for our children.

The news story is of a disturbing court case concerning a father being "accused of spiking smoothies with sedatives and giving them to his daughter's pre-teen friends" at a sleepover. The man is charged with multiple felonies. Not finishing her smoothie, one of the girls (all age 12) became frightened after her friends fell into a heavy sleep and the unusual behavior of her friend's father. She sent the following text to her mom: "Mom please pick me up and say I had a family emergency. I don't feel safe. I might not respond but please come get me (crying emoji), Please. Please pick up. Please. PLEASE!!" All of the visiting friends were picked up in the night.

While the case is ongoing and evidence and judgement are still to be revealed and determined, we believe it's critical to acknowledge the actions taken by the child who remained awake. This young girl followed her gut feeling and knew she was safe to go to her own parent in the middle of the night for help. Her trust in herself and her mom allowed her to listen to her fear and take action to protect herself and her friends. **These are skills that can be lifesaving and they are skills that can be taught!** We encourage every parent and guardian to have frequent conversations with their children that let them know they will never get in trouble for asking to be picked up when they feel unsafe, no matter the time or place, as well as reminding them to trust their gut. Feeling unsure on how to get these conversations started? Our Personal Safety & Community Awareness team is here to help!

FREE PERSONAL SAFETY WORKSHOPS!

Contact MichelleB@CPCSarasota.org (941-365-1277 Ext. 106) to arrange a free workshop* through our Personal Safety & Community Awareness Program! This is a great option for:

- Staff at your church
- Your own children/family
- The parents at your next playdate
- After school activities, youth groups, & camps
- Anyone who wants to learn! Anyone & everyone can help keep children safe.

"Mom please pick me up and say I had a family emergency. I don't feel safe. I might not respond but please come get me 🥹 Please. Please pick up. Please. PLEASE!!"



**Over 20 topics available for children from Pre-K through High School as well as adults.*

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

** Available 24/7 **

When the Karp Family moved here from Atlanta in the early 90s, the Sarasota culture of philanthropy quickly became an aspect of residing here they adored. Family patriarch Arthur S. Karp started the foundation in 1992 as The Arthur S. Karp Family Foundation, after which the family began investing in numerous organizations. His wife Susan was introduced to us by another CPC champion, Graci McGillicuddy, and she immediately understood the importance of CPC's mission. The Child Protection Center was the first organization The Arthur S. Karp Family Foundation partnered with to change lives.

Second generation leaders Richard and Tammy Karp have continued the legacy and raised their girls with philanthropy as a core value. A truly special aspect of this family is their comprehensive philanthropy- the Karp Family gives their time, talents, connections, and love to each organization they choose to partner with in addition to their treasure. Taylor Karp-Teymuri, eldest of the third generation, holds a deep desire to give back and make an impact. Sarah Karp-Renkliyuz, sister of Taylor, enjoys the hands-on and service-based approach that Tammy and Richard showed her growing up; the importance of action and volunteerism are just as important as financial support. Together, the sisters are emerging recipients of this family legacy as Tammy passes the torch, like Susan once did for her.

What we do at the Child Protection Center is heavy, but we are privileged to bring hope and healing to children that have endured horrific trauma. The Karp girls acknowledge learning about our work so young was not always easy, but Richard and Tammy used philanthropy to educate them and expose the needs of the community. Sarah expressed how impactful her first tour of CPC was, noting our Pillar of Hope in addition to her admiration for the significance of the butterfly. "Our kids are in a cocoon not knowing where to go or find help, but CPC gives them the tools to become that butterfly and spread their wings to fly," she shares. Sarah and Taylor are also members of CPC's Butterfly Guild, a young professional advocacy group supporting our mission and connecting the next generation to philanthropy.

The Karp Family

Tammy reminds us, "It all began with Arthur, the importance of the work we do for the community and giving locally to grow, educate, and caring for individuals in need."

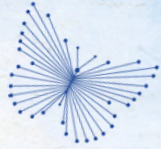
Holding onto this core component of the family legacy, all are eager for the fourth generation of Karp's with Ms. Celine, or Cece. The tiniest Karp philanthropist lights up every room she is in with her smile and the occasional 'cheers' as she clinks her bottle against your cup. Taylor has a different perspective of our work and its continued importance since becoming a mother, reminding all that early intervention and advocacy for our youth is incredibly important.

Two decades and counting, the family can be seen expressing their passion for our work in many ways as Tammy is a current Board Member and all three women volunteer on other committees. Our 11th Annual Blue Ties and Butterflies Gala on April 10, 2024 is chaired by Tammy, Taylor, and Sarah, an event Tammy and the family foundation have been a part of since its inauguration. "With every passing year our passion for CPC's mission increases and we plan to always support it. As CPC grows, we will grow with it," Taylor expresses. As an organization, we celebrate and cherish having advocates as passionate as the Karp's partner with us and invest in hope for our future.

DONOR PROFILE

Join us in bringing *transformational healing* to victims of child abuse

BLUE TIES and Butterflies



Michael's On East
1212 S. East Ave. Sarasota

Wednesday, April 10th
6:00 - 9:00 PM

Tickets: \$325
CPCSarasota.org

Blue Ties & Butterflies is a celebration of the transformational healing we bring to survivors of child abuse when our community comes together. We have a remarkable program lined up that will inspire attendees and show how their support is a beacon of light for our clients. Our advocates are quite literally life-savers through their generosity, and our wish is for everyone to end the evening filled with hope, pride, and the knowledge that they are bringing safety and comfort to our children.

Here are some highlights we can't wait to share with you: 🦋 Butterfly Necklace Chance Drawing

🦋 Rousing Mission Moment & Paddle Raise 🦋 Items Specially Crafted by CPC Clients

🦋 Invigorating Live Auction 🦋 Meet-&-Greet PAWS 🦋 NEW Dessert Reception

Butterfly Necklace Drawing



Enter to win this gorgeous
Ombre Sapphire Butterfly
Necklace!

14K White Gold
1.95ctw. in Sapphires
Retail Value of \$9,500

Only 300 Tickets Available! \$100 Per Entry

The drawing will take place April 10th at the Blue Ties & Butterflies gala
(need not be present to win)

Generously
presented by:

Classic Creations
in diamonds & gold



← Scan the QR code or visit
CPCSarasota.org/events
for event tickets and sponsorships
or to purchase necklace tickets



Save THE Dates

**CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION MONTH**
April 2024 

Fri | 4.5.2024

BLUE is the color for Child Abuse Prevention. Join us in spreading awareness on April 5th by going **#BlueForKids!** Share your commitment with family, friends, and coworkers and encourage them to wear blue, too.

Take a picture of yourself, your family, friends, or pets wearing blue, share it online with the hashtags **#BlueForKids** and **#WearBlueDay**, and tag CPC!



Wed | 4.10.2024 | 6PM
Michael's On East
1212 S. East Ave, Sarasota

**TICKETS &
SPONSORSHIPS:**
Available at
CPCSarasota.org

Bringing **transformational healing** to child abuse victims in Sarasota and DeSoto counties.



Happening April 9-10
NOON TO NOON
GivingChallenge.org

The Giving Challenge is an exciting 24-hour online giving event that connects about 700 nonprofit organizations with passionate donors and community members to support diverse causes and create **enduring impact** in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto counties.

Your donation to the clients of CPC will go further thanks to The Patterson Foundation, who will contribute a **1:1 match** for unique donations, up to \$100 per donor, per nonprofit organization!

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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 or **941-365-1277 Ext. 111**

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