

# Hopeful Happenings

2022 Summer Newsletter  
Serving Sarasota and DeSoto Counties



[First name],

Whether these summer months find you traveling to exotic lands, enjoying family time while your kids are on break, or simply doing your best to beat this Florida heat, we hope that summer has been treating you well!

Summer at the Child Protection Center means the end to our previous fiscal year and the start of a new one. Each summer, we reflect on the many ups and downs of the year before, of the strides made in building a safer community, of the many courageous children who've walked through our doors, and the beautiful family of supporters that's grown around our organization. This summer feels particularly special to us as we look back on the tremendous moments we've had in our South County expansion and the announcement of CPC's new program for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse, Hanna's Hope. These two monumental changes will bring life-saving services to more clients than ever before- a true reason to celebrate!

While the hard work is only just beginning, we want to take this time to remind each of you that change is not only possible, it is happening! Each year, more children are learning about personal safety through CPC's prevention program, the community at large is made more aware, our staff continues to grow as they work diligently to help children on their journey of healing.... These remarkable truths are only made possible because of the support you give by believing in our mission.

We'll end this intro to the summer edition of 'Hopeful Happenings' by saying how thankful we are that you're by our side as we enter into our 43rd year of service. Please read through for the many snippets of happy news, two Save the Dates, and a few ideas on how to put your advocacy into action in the time left in summer.

Cheers to a new year and all that's on the horizon!

Doug and the CPC Team



*"Hope changes everything. It changes winter into summer, darkness into dawn... Hope is the sun."*

-Daisaku Ikeda

# SUNNY MOMENTS from last quarter

"I felt so safe!"

Quotes from parents utilizing the Supervised Visitation Program:  
"Very appreciative of the service and support of a safe environment."  
"Your Program helps me sleep at night!"

The Personal Safety and Community Awareness Program (PSCA) was selected by the Florida Network of Child Advocacy Centers to present at this year's **Krimes Against Kids** conference, educating other professionals who work in the child welfare system across the country.

Quote from a sibling of a young child in services: "For the future kids that step foot in this room. Just know that your awesome [...] **Help others, not fight.** Remember, don't forget to wake up and smell the flowers/stop and appreciate life."

In a recent trial, CPC's PAWS program comforted child abuse victims as they prepared to **testify against their abuser** in court. We are thrilled to say that this case resulted in a **successful conviction!**

The waitlist of verified victims of child abuse in need of therapy, which at its peak had more than 70 names, **has been reduced to 2!**

## Happy news FROM NORTH PORT

As we forge on through the summer heat, the Child Protection Center's expansion in South County continues to go *swimmingly*! Just as you received our last newsletter at the end of April, our staff and volunteers conducted the very first services in the new building for the Supervised Visitation Program (SVP).

Feedback from parents utilizing SVP:

*"We are amazed at the generosity of people (the community) to provide such a beautiful place for us to see our children."*

In the short three months that have followed, therapy sessions and additional intervention services through the Child Protection Team have also been fully launched at this location. This is an enormous stepping stone for CPC and our community as it provides better access to our essential services for families in South County, ultimately ensuring that more children are brought to safety.

The photograph to the right shows a section of the freshly redone parking lot. The exterior lighting has also been revamped for the comfort and safety of our staff for when late night emergency services are needed.

See the Save the Date for our Open House on the back of this newsletter!



**New number to contact the Supervised Visitation Program: (941) 423-1921**



# Summertime AT CPC!

## CPC CELEBRATES 42 YEARS!

This past June closed our 42nd year of protecting children from abuse. So many things have been accomplished in this time thanks to you, our incredible community of support, and we know that even more progress lies ahead as we dive into the next 42 years!

If you'd like to honor CPC's birthday, consider bringing joy and encouraging normalcy for our clients by sending them a gift from our wish list. You can scan the QR code to the right with your phone camera to view the entire Amazon wish list, or drop off items listed below to our Sarasota office at 720 S Orange Ave.



- Pop-its
- Stress balls
- Essential oils
- New underwear, socks, diapers, & sports bras
- Puzzles
- Kinetic Sand
- Coloring books

Bring even MORE healing to children by shopping through AmazonSmile and selecting the Child Protection Center as your charity!



## NEW ARTWORK

CPC's lobby has a wonderful new splash of color thanks to local artist, **Louise Runion**, who generously donated this piece to brighten the space for children!

THANK YOU!!



## PAINT A ROCK



Looking for a fun activity to do with your kids? Paint a rock for our garden! CPC's rock garden is one of the first things clients see as they begin their journey of healing. Plant your rocks in front of our Sarasota office off of S Orange Ave.

## INTERNET SAFETY

Kids are at greater risk of online solicitation during summer when they have more access to devices.

In a recent study by Thorn:

1 in 6



9-12 year-olds have had romantic or sexual conversations with an online only contact.

1 in 3

#BFF

minors consider a connection they made online among their closest friends.



This is a perfect time to brush up on your family's internet safety skills! Book a FREE training with the Personal Safety Team.

Contact

**MichelleB@CPCSarasota.org**

or call

**(941) 365-1277 Ext. 106**

## PAWSOME NEWS!

We are wishing a very happy retirement to PAWS pups Fiona Marie and Raven after many wonderful years of giving their companionship and comfort to Sarasota's most vulnerable children. We would like to warmly thank their handlers, Diane Zellman and Eileen Fitzgerald, for dedicating years of their hearts and volunteering countless hours to be a source of light for children in times of darkness. You will be greatly missed!

Additionally, we are pawsitively delighted to share that we have a total of **5 new pups** joining the PAWS program! Meet each new member of this fluffy team below:



Hunk



Atticus



Sully



Olive



Captain

## GIVING CHALLENGE SUCCESSES



This 24-hour giving event in April was a major success for the Child Protection Center! We are continuously blown away by the fierce support of our community. Here's what you helped CPC accomplish:

- Raise \$33,254
- Win Donor Shout Out
- Win Best Nonprofit Partnership
- Win Best Photo
- Win Best 2020 Story

# Save THE Dates



## OPEN HOUSE *in* NORTH PORT!

Wed | 10.5.2022 | 2PM

Child Protection Center, 5600 Peace River Rd in North Port

Please join us for an afternoon of exploring our new North Port location! This open house will give you the chance to learn more about CPC and our exciting plans on the horizon, all while taking in the beautiful new campus where children and families find safety and healing.



## STAYING IN THE *Fall!*

Thurs | 11.3.2022 | 6PM

Suncoast Air Center, 400 Airport Ave E in Venice

*tickets:* \$75 | Purchase online  
[www.CPCSarasota.org](http://www.CPCSarasota.org)

*enjoy:* Games, food & cocktails from local restaurants, silent & live auctions, and the opportunity to bring hope & healing to victims of child abuse.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### CHAIR

Tina Granthon

Charlie Brooks  
Alina Cemitier  
Tony Dempsey  
Jen Douglas

Jennifer Fox  
Ed Griesse  
Tammy Karp

Doug Staley, Executive Director  
Suzanne Takerian, Chief Financial Officer

### VICE CHAIR

Jennifer Steube

Donna Koffman  
Mark Kowalski  
Graci McGillicuddy

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

Tom McLaughlin  
Freya Robbins  
Dan Starostecki

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)

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

 [@CPCSarasota](https://www.instagram.com/CPCSarasota)

 [@CPCSRO](https://twitter.com/CPCSRO)

### MAIN OFFICE: SARASOTA

720 South Orange Avenue  
Sarasota, Florida 34236

### NORTH PORT

5600 Peace River Rd  
North Port, Florida 34287

### ARCADIA

222 N. Roberts Avenue  
Arcadia, Florida 34266



Backed by  
National Children's Alliance®  
Accredited Member