

Hopeful Happenings

2023 Winter Newsletter
Serving Sarasota and DeSoto Counties



[First name],

Welcome to 2023! We hope the year ahead will be filled with happiness, laughter, and time spent with family and friends.

We are so grateful to have you by our side as we take on the new year and set our collective resolution of building a safer world for our children. At the start of each year here at the Child Protection Center, we look to the coming days and months with renewed energy, determination, and hope as we prepare to strengthen our fight against child abuse and ensure a future of safety for our youth. This is only possible because of the incredible support of our community! Today, we celebrate you and all that you've made possible.

The last six months of 2022 held significant difficulties. Our beautiful new property and building in North Port had notable damage from Hurricane Ian, resulting in endless estimates and repairs that have disrupted the timeline of our critically needed expansion. Throughout these disruptions, our Child Protection Team had an influx of child abuse intervention services- the number of medical assessments needed for alleged victims of child abuse was over 35% higher than the same time period in the previous two years.

In the face of these difficulties, our wonderful supporters, volunteers, and staff have risen to the challenge and made so much possible through their advocacy and generosity! Here are some major successes: our South County Grand Opening has been officially rescheduled for February 15th; we are in the process of hiring additional staff; both our prevention and therapy programs will be presenting at the Safe Children Coalition Conference; in March we'll be joining you for the 10th Anniversary Celebration of Blue Ties & Butterflies. We truly can't thank you enough for helping us create these opportunities and bring healing to the children of CPC!

Most sincerely,

Doug and the CPC Team

*"We can change the world one thought
at a time, one child at a time, one
family at a time..."*

-Bryant McGill



Updates of positivity and hope from the Child Protection Center.

Moments of

HOPE.....

INSPIRATION

.....& JOY



It was a joy to celebrate this beautiful event with so many supporters of our mission! We are particularly grateful to **Bill Spitler** for sharing his family's story and inspiring hope.

CPT (Child Protection Team)

Performed 83 medical examinations
(Oct-Dec)

Therapy

(Sexual Abuse Treatment Program + Kid Kindness Program)

Helped 40 new clients begin the journey on their path to healing
(Oct-Dec)



GIVING TUESDAY

Each year after Thanksgiving we celebrate Giving Tuesday, a global day of generosity. We ended the day with a tremendous **143%** of our fundraising goal! Incredible!!

Congratulations to our own Doug Staley, who was recently awarded the Paul Harris Fellow Award by the Gulf Gate Rotary! This award is given as a token of appreciation for a Rotarian member who's contributed significant time and funds to their local club. Go Doug!

CPC was thrilled to continue a favorite annual tradition: Turkey Day! CPC staff passed out 80 baskets of turkeys and groceries to our clients, free of charge. This Thanksgiving initiative is made possible thanks to the Gulf Gate Rotary's generosity of over 40 years!



PSCA (Personal Safety & Community Awareness Program)

Reached over 35,000 children, caregivers, and childcare professionals
(Oct-Dec)

On December 7th, Dr. John Fezza hosted a Botox and filler event for which 100% of the proceeds were donated to CPC. We are humbled to know our community is filled with people like Dr. Fezza and his team, who raised an impressive \$11,700! Thank you for being champions for children!



SVP (Supervised Visitation Program)

Conducted 102 visitations for children and their families
(Oct-Dec)

Each year we are blown away by the generosity of our advocates. CPC received HUNDREDS of toys, jackets, and therapeutic goodies for our clients this holiday season! Thank you for bringing smiles, comfort, and a little holiday magic to the children of CPC.



Remembering Cracker 🐾

Our hearts are filled with fondness and happy memories as we remember the life of Cracker, a sweet therapy dog in CPC's PAWS program. Cracker and his handler Sally Anne have been part of the PAWS program since 2019, bringing love and comfort to countless child abuse victims. Cracker's carefree spirit and loving eyes helped soothe the stress and anxieties of anyone he met. He was a crowd favorite and CPC staff always loved when he came by for a friendly visit. He will be deeply missed.



Join Our New Year Resolution: *Making a Difference*

Volunteer Day!

Held on the 3rd Thursday of Each Month.

Volunteer Day is a new initiative that we're excited to kick off! CPC is busier than ever and we need your help. Our goal is to further connect you to our mission, give you a behind-the-scenes look into what we do, and to tackle our ever-growing to-do-list. To get involved, contact Lou Ann at LouAnnL@CPCSarasota.org or 941-365-1277 Ext. 120

Leave a Legacy!

Join our Legacy Giving Program and leave a legacy of what the world could be for the children of tomorrow.

These planned gifts are often given through wills, living trusts, life insurance, and retirement plans. We encourage you to connect with a financial advisor to discuss what options best meet your goals and possible tax benefits.

To learn more about Legacy Giving, or to inform us of your intent to include the Child Protection Center in your estate plans, please contact Sheila Miller, VP of Philanthropy, at 941.365.1277, ext. 111, or SheilaM@CPCSarasota.org

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

-Nelson Henderson

Send a Greeting Card!

Spread awareness with our new greeting cards!

Our online shop has cards for birthdays, Valentine's Day, and a blank/general card. Get a pack of 10 cards for a suggested donation of \$15. All proceeds benefit CPC. Available at CPCSarasota.org/shop





Save THE Dates



**CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION MONTH**
April 2023

#BlueForKids

RESCHEDULED SOUTH COUNTY GRAND OPENING

Wed | 2.15.2023 | 2PM | South County

5600 Peace River Road
North Port, FL 34287

Hear a special presentation from
Congressman Greg Steube!

Tour our new facility in North Port.

Please RSVP by emailing ShelbyM@CPCSarasota.org
by Friday, February 10th.

Wed | 3.29.2023 | 6PM | Michael's On East
CPC's signature gala, Blue Ties & Butterflies, is
right around the corner! We are celebrating
our 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY of this spectacular
event. We can't wait to see you there!

tickets: \$250 | Purchase online
www.CPCSarasota.org/events

enjoy: Delicious cuisine & drink, a
thrilling live auction, and an
evening of changing lives.

The first **\$100,000** raised during the paddle
raise will be MATCHED! Thanks to Keith Monda &
Veronica Brady joined by Williams Family Foundation,
Bob & Lin Williams, Frederick Gardner Cottrell
Foundation, Brian & Sheila Jellison Family Foundation,
and Travis & Kathy Brown.

BLUE is the color for Child Abuse
Prevention. Join us in spreading
awareness the week of April 3rd-
7th by going **#BlueForKids!**

Share your commitment with
family, friends, and coworkers and
encourage them to wear blue, too.

Take a picture of yourself, your
group, class, or company wearing
blue and share it online with the
hashtag **'#BlueForKids'**

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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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