

Hopeful Happenings

2022 Winter Newsletter
Serving Sarasota and DeSoto Counties



[First name],

With the blink of an eye, the start to the new year has come and gone and we find ourselves smack dab in the middle of February- we can hardly believe it! We hope that 2022 has been treating you kindly and keeping you in good health, and that the year ahead will be full of promise and joy.

Here at the Child Protection Center, the past year has certainly kept us on our toes. There have been numerous difficult and frustrating moments as we grappled with drastically increasing rents in our South County locations, searching for qualified applicants to join our staff in order to meet the increased need for services, and the most disheartening- a waitlist that grew to a staggering 71 verified victims of child abuse in need of therapy. We would not be able to fight through these struggles without the immense support shown by you, our wonderfully determined, brave, and generous community.

Your belief in our mission has brought immeasurable hope to CPC- hope to our community in seeing a safer future for children, hope to our staff and volunteers in witnessing how we are changing the lives of so many, and hope to the children who have walked through our doors and found comfort, protection, and a life ahead that's free from abuse.

In this edition of our Hopeful Happenings newsletter, we have so many moments of positivity- plus one REALLY BIG announcement- that we're eager to share with you! We hope you enjoy reading through our updates and that you'll be as thrilled as we are to hear of what lies ahead for the Child Protection Center and the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse.

With our sincerest thanks and admiration,

Doug and the CPC Team

*"Hope is the one thing that can help us
get through the darkest of times."*

-Anonymous



WE'VE HAD SO MUCH TO *celebrate!*



Please join us in congratulating **KAREN VALENTINO** for being honored as a Good Hero by SRQ Magazine! These local heroes are recognized for their hearts of giving and making a significant impact with local nonprofit organizations. The impact Karen has had on CPC

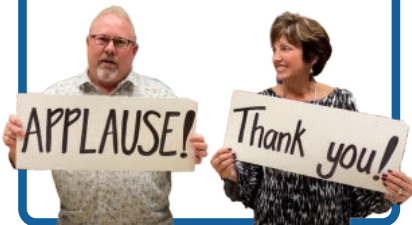
and the well-being of children has been nothing short of monumental, and we are thrilled to see the community honor her courage and generosity in this way.

We are privileged to have such a remarkable advocate as **DANIELLE HUGHES**, the Team Coordinator of CPC's Child Protection Team, who was featured as one of 2021's Women of Influence in Sarasota Magazine. Danielle has 15+ years of advocacy at CPC, is the founder of the PAWS pet therapy program, and serves on numerous teams/committees in Florida as a child abuse expert. This recognition is very well deserved!



This past November, we had another successful Turkey Day, passing out 80 baskets of turkeys and groceries to our clients! We are extremely grateful for the **GULF GATE ROTARY**'s generosity of over 40 years in this Thanksgiving initiative.

Following Thanksgiving, we celebrated **GIVING TUESDAY**, a global movement of generosity. Our amazing supporters blew away our fundraising goals, raising enough for 37 children to receive a medical assessment from the Child Protection Team.



We are applauding PAWS (Pet Advocates Working in the Suncoast) pup **RAVEN**, who received an honorable mention in the 2021 American Kennel Club Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence! Raven was recognized as a Therapy Dog for their work with CPC and the courts, helping child sexual abuse victims gather the strength and composure to testify against their abuser. Well done, Raven!



CPC has announced the appointment of **CHARLIE BROOKS** and **JENNIFER FOX** as new board members. "It is a privilege to welcome Jennifer and Charlie to our board," said Doug Staley. "They are firm believers in making a difference for children. This is a crucial point as we face the growing needs for child abuse services in Sarasota and DeSoto Counties, and we are very fortunate for Jennifer and Charlie's expertise and dedication to protecting the youth in our community."



SHEILA MILLER, CPC's VP of Philanthropy, was named the 'Empowering Woman of the Year' by the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce. Sheila was nominated by several staff at CPC, saying, "She inspires and leads in her relentless advocacy for children, in her devotion to and support of her staff, and we are fortunate enough to say in her immense strength as a friend." Congratulations, Sheila!

Our wonderful community turned into a village of Santa's elves, donating countless goodies to our clients for CPC's **HOLIDAY PARTY**. These items not only encourage bonding, normalcy, self care, and FUN, but also provide these children and families with the emotional support of knowing there is a community that cares for them. Thank you!!

LESLIE CHAPUT
& BOOK CLUB

GFWC WOMAN'S CLUB
OF SARASOTA



MELISSA AND JOANN
SIEB-MILLER OF
INTREPID SALON



BIG NEWS: CPC IS GROWING!

We have a thrilling announcement- *CPC is officially expanding!* In December, we closed on a new building and property in North Port with the goal of beginning services in this location before the summer (and even bigger plans for the future!).

In recent years, the need for this expansion in South County has become increasingly apparent. From the year 2000 through 2020, the population of North Port grew by 213%- almost ten times more than Sarasota and Venice in the same time frame. The area is also a popular space for families, with school aged children and adolescents making up 22% of the population. This drastic population growth has led to an increased need for CPC's child abuse services, which has been even further exacerbated by the pandemic.

As Graci McGillicuddy and Doug Staley like to say- "Our dream is to one day transform this building into a children's museum because child abuse will no longer exist." While we are making tremendous strides in the fight against child abuse, we must rise to face this need and ensure that each and every child has immediate access to these life-saving services.

This is a monumental moment in CPC's history, and we are so fortunate to have the partnership of advocates such as Graci and our Board of Directors in this campaign. Stay tuned for updates and opportunities to get involved and change lives for the children of our community through this expansion. Together, we truly are making a difference!



This New Year, resolve to protect a child.

With the new year came fantastic news- the Flanzer Philanthropic Trust has announced that they're continuing their matching program through 2022! This gives each of us an opportunity to succeed in a meaningful New Year's Resolution- to *protect a child*.

All donations made through the Flanzer Trust will be doubled 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).

PROGRAM UPDATES *from last quarter*

NUMBER OF
kindergarteners
WHO LEARNED
The Touching Rule:

311

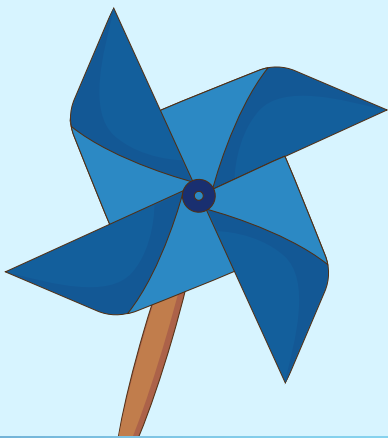
"CPC and the workers
here are wonderful!
*I have learned so
much from them.*
Words aren't enough!"

-PARENT UTILIZING THE
SUPERVISED VISITATION
PROGRAM

CPT's Team Coordinator,
DANIELLE HUGHES,
selected by the
Florida Department of Health
TO TRAIN
17 teams
across Florida
in Forensic Interviewing

Waitlist for children
to receive therapy was
GREATLY REDUCED FROM

71 to 39
thanks to our
DEDICATED THERAPISTS
and new additions to staff



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

April 2022



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. *Here's how you can help.*



Join us in going #BlueForKids

BLUE is the color for Child Abuse Prevention. Join us in spreading awareness online on April 1st by going #BlueForKids.

- Wear blue
- Take a pic or short video
- Use hashtag #BlueForKids
- Tag us on social media



Wed | 4.6.2022 | 6PM | Michael's On East

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

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



#BeTheOne for a child and join CPC for the Giving Challenge, an exciting 24-hour online giving event that connects 700+ local nonprofits with passionate donors to create enduring impact.

The Giving Challenge is hosted by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, with giving strengthened by The Patterson Foundation.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tony Dempsey

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Jennifer Fox
Tammy Karp

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Tom McLaughlin

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Dan Starostecki

Doug Staley, Executive Director

Dr. Walter Lambert, Medical Director

Suzanne Takerian, Chief Financial Officer

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

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 @CPCSRO

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Arcadia, Florida 34266



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