

Every 10 seconds a child is abused.
-National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse

Community Volunteer Program
Children's Advocacy Center
of Smith County

The Children's Advocacy Center of Smith County is dedicated to child victims of physical and sexual abuse and strives to reduce trauma through a unified effort that facilitates thorough investigations, effective prosecutions and the healing of the children and their families.

**Please join us in the fight
against child abuse.**

**Make a difference in the life of a
child in Smith County by:**

**Reporting suspected child abuse
to the CPS hotline at 1-800-252-5400 or
local law enforcement**

Volunteering

Making a financial donation

**Serving as a sponsor of one of the
center's special events**

Children's Advocacy Center of Smith County
Partners

Bullard Police Department

Child Protective Services

East Texas Medical Center

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Lindale Police Department

Overton Police Department

Smith County Criminal District Attorney's Office

Smith County Sheriff's Office

Texas Rangers

Trinity Mother Frances FamilyCare Center

Troup Police Department

Tyler Police Department

Whitehouse Police Department

Children's Advocacy Center
of Smith County



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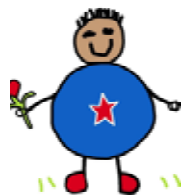
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*where the
smallest voice is heard...*



Thank you for inquiring about the **Children's Advocacy Center of Smith County (CAC)** as a place to volunteer your time. Volunteers are an essential part of the CAC's ability to provide services to the children of Smith County. We hope that your heart will be touched by your experiences with the CAC. The children of Smith County will certainly be touched by you.



Who can be a CAC volunteer? Anyone can volunteer his or her services at the CAC upon successful completion of the written volunteer application process. The process includes an application, personal references, a pledge of confidentiality, civil and criminal background checks and an interview. Adults ages 18 and older can have direct contact with the children.

What are the volunteer opportunities at the CAC? Because of the range of professionals working together at the CAC, we offer a wide assortment of volunteer opportunities. We are always open to suggestions from our volunteers on how to make our program better.

How much time is involved? Due to the sensitive issues that bring child victims to the CAC, each volunteer must attend a brief volunteer orientation. Once volunteers have been trained, they will work with the volunteer coordinator to develop a schedule, if applicable. We offer a variety of volunteer opportunities, some with very flexible schedules. Because the CAC relies on the volunteer program, we ask that anyone considering giving their time understand that it is a serious commitment.

Volunteer Needs:

- **Greet and offer hospitality to children and protective caregivers**
- **Offer a snack, drink and new stuffed animal to a child following an interview**
- **Assist protective caregivers with paperwork**
- **Assist child with arts and crafts**
- **Clerical support for therapists, law enforcement, Child Protective Services and CAC staff**
- **Plan or assist with a fund raising event**
- **Plan a children's party**
- **Public speaking**
- **Help prepare a child for court using *Kids Kourt* curriculum**
- **On-call projects**
- **Cleaning**



The children who come to the CAC like to play, laugh and have fun like all children do. The CAC is a safe environment and alleged perpetrators are not allowed on the premises. The CAC team, including volunteers, seek to create a caring and supportive atmosphere for all who enter. We value our volunteers as they make a huge difference in the lives of children who are victims of abuse. We work together to start a new, happier chapter in their lives.

It's A Problem That Affects Us All

At present, Smith County, like communities across the nation, is faced with a reality: many of our children are being abused. Each year, the Children's Advocacy Center of Smith County and its agency partners investigate over 500 cases of suspected physical and sexual child abuse and provide services for more than 600 children.



Who is involved?

The CAC offers a coordinated, multidisciplinary intervention system involving agencies and the community.

- Child Protective Services
- Smith County Criminal District Attorney's Office
- Smith County Sheriff's Office
- Law Enforcement
- Medical Personnel
- Therapists
- CAC Staff
- Community Volunteers

Why are they involved?

Child victims of abuse need the careful attention of professionals trained to address their special needs. In the past, each victim seeking help faced multiple contacts with different community professionals, creating a maze of confusion for the child and family. The Children's Advocacy Center has changed all that. We are a part of a nationwide effort to reduce the trauma of abuse so children are not re-victimized by the system designed to protect them. With the support of the community, the CAC enables the child to come to one place for safety, protection, and justice instead of going from agency to agency.