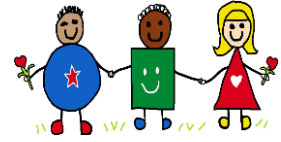




A Newsletter of the Children's Advocacy Center of Smith County  
*Walking hand in hand from outcry to final verdict and beyond....*



## The "Bad News" Bears

by Becky Cunio

What defines a "good team"? It may be easier to answer the question what defines a bad team. Most of us can readily identify that a successful team, of any kind, is a team with a positive record of advancement or a track record for winning. Initial thoughts for criteria on defining a "good team" usually consist of some evaluation on present day results. This may or may not account for some of the core fundamentals truly inherent in a successful team which includes things like persistence, perseverance, and attitude. Is it possible to develop and strengthen these team-winning characteristics in a group of *Bad News Bears*?

The Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) at the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Smith County recently formed a co-ed recreational softball team through the Tyler Parks and Recreation Department. This has proven to be a team strengthening experience, complete with all of the metaphors for teamwork and life that softball has to offer. The *Bears*, whose team name represents the mascot of the CAC community education curriculum, are now approaching their third consecutive season together. Although their record for winning at softball has been less than favorable, valuable lessons have been learned and a bond has unequivocally been strengthened.

***"All I know is when we win a game, it's a team win  
When we lose a game, it's a team loss."***

-Coach Morris Buttermaker, "The Bad News Bears" (1976)

The Multidisciplinary Team provides an essential function which carries out the mission of the Children's Advocacy Center. It is comprised of professionals from diverse disciplines with representation from law enforcement, Child Protective Services, prosecution, mental health services, medical professionals, victim advocacy services, and children's advocacy center staff.



*The Children's Advocacy Center's MDT softball team, the Bears*



*CPS Investigator, Drew Allen, about to swing for the bleachers*

The use of a professional team in addressing issues of child abuse and neglect date back at least to the 1970's in response to the failed efforts of individual agencies handling child protection matters. The importance of cooperation among these respective agencies is obvious. However, differences in perspectives regarding goals, procedures, and responsibilities sometimes make this very important task challenging. The MDT meets bi-weekly in a coordinated and collaborative manner to ensure an effective "winning" response to reports of child abuse and neglect.

*See "Bears" continued on Page 2*



## Carol's Edge

The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Smith County - A Model of Success

### So simple a concept...

The investigation and prosecution of the child sexual and physical abuse cases conducted by the CAC multidisciplinary team of law enforcement, Child Protective Services, district attorney prosecutors and medical personnel.

The delivery of essential direct services – forensic interview, mental health therapy, family advocacy, court education & accompaniment, Rainbow Room - provided by the CAC staff and community volunteers.

### That yields amazing results...

96% of the children experience a reduction in their trauma-related behavior

95% of the protective caregivers experience a decrease in stress

82% of the cases presented to the Smith County Grand Jury result in indictments

92% of the indictments result in guilty pleas versus convictions

80% success rate for facilitating healing for the child and protective caregiver

80% success rate that the multidisciplinary team approach results in more collaborative and efficient case investigations

### For the benefit of the children...

Restoring childhoods lost to child physical and sexual abuse allowing the children to grow up to realize their dreams and each reach their unique potential.

There is no greater legacy to leave to our future and we accomplish this not only through our mission and the teamwork of the CAC staff and multidisciplinary team but our community as well.

We are grateful and give thanks to a caring and giving community that has embraced the CAC since it opened its doors to the children in 1996 to the present.

Together...walking hand in hand with the children from the initial outcry of abuse to the final verdict and beyond...

Carol Langston  
Executive Director

*"Bears" continued from page 1*

***"This quitting thing; it's a hard habit to break once you start."***

-Coach Morris Buttermaker, "The Bad News Bears" (1976)

The *Bears* softball experience has been a unique approach to team building. Since the start of the softball team in the spring of 2010, The *Bears* team meets twice weekly for softball practice and their regularly scheduled game. As an outside activity, softball has proven itself an unlikely way to strengthen team identify, function, and communication. Research suggests that when there is a sense of shared values and commitment, there is an accompanying sense that the crushing emotional load associated with child abuse intervention is being shared. Undeniably, Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) members exert an inordinate amount of emotional energy into the management of high caseloads with typically limited resources. Softball has taught MDT members the importance of communicating encouragement to one another even in the face of adversity.

***"Come on, fellas. Rome wasn't built in a day."***

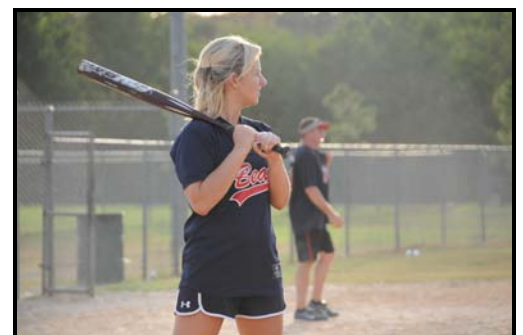
-Coach Morris Buttermaker, "The Bad News Bears" (1976)

The irony in the *Bears* perseverance as a softball team is a testament to the hard working nature and level of persistence it requires to function as a member of the MDT. While constructive criticism and feedback may be difficult to hear, it is essential that team members possess the ability to hold one another accountable in the best interests of the children and families that we serve. Coach Buttermaker's subtle words of encouragement to his team members in the 1976 film *The Bad News Bears* delivers a proverb which can equally be applied to the immense undertaking MDT members face in the challenges of their daily work. While the scope of work in the field of child protection may seem never ending, the importance of teamwork and encouragement are essential to provide aid to child victims in need.

Each multidisciplinary team member is responsible for their own individual softball registration and equipment fees. If you or your business would be interested in supporting this team building effort and relieving the team's financial costs with a sponsorship, please contact Becky at (903)533-1880.

*The CAC's "Handprints" newsletter is contributed to regularly by Becky Cunio. Becky is the CAC's Kids in Court Coordinator, a professionally trained Forensic Interviewer and a member of the CAC's Multidisciplinary Team.*

*Becky holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Houston and was a Child Protective Services Investigator before joining the CAC in 2008.*



***From January 1, 2011 to August 31, 2011, the CAC investigated 148 cases with 216 children and an additional 350 siblings and protective caregivers. 78 children and 62 caregivers received therapy services.***

The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) would like to welcome Chuy's Mexican Food Restaurant to Tyler and thank them for joining in the fight against child abuse in Smith County.

Since 1982, Chuy's has been putting emphasis on what matters – supporting their local communities. To show support of East Texas children, Chuy's partnered with the CAC and hosted several fundraising pre-opening events in May, including a "VIP" night. Chuy's donated all drink proceeds from the events and many individual donations were made by those attending, raising a total of \$6,317 for the CAC!



*Chuy's corporate marketing and local Tyler management staff touring the CAC prior to the restaurant opening*



*Tyler Chuy's Manager, Dayne Kelley, presenting check for \$6,317 to Carol Langston(R) and Jennifer Yoder (L) from the CAC*

Each year, in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, members of the Criminal Justice Student Association at Tyler Junior College spend numerous hours working tirelessly at the CAC. They work on the flowerbeds and yard, making the CAC a more inviting place for the children to visit.

By volunteering at the CAC, while working under the leadership of Jason Waller and Mary Pyle, these Tyler Junior College students uphold the third of TJC's 3 promises: Promise 1 - Quality Education, Promise 2 - A Vibrant Student Life, **Promise 3 - Community Service**. The photo to the left, taken in front of the CAC during April 2011, reflects the TJC Criminal Justice students upholding this 3<sup>rd</sup> promise.



**Watch Your Mailboxes.....**

**Turkey Cards  
begin arriving November 1<sup>st</sup>!**

# We are grateful many contributed

February 1, 2011 – August 31, 2011

Dr.'s Ann and Warren Abrameit  
Anonymous  
Joy Anguish  
Anonymous  
Bess and Jim Arnold  
Paul Arnold  
At Home Health Care Pediatrics  
Austin Bank  
Barbara and Billy Bass  
Lou Ann and Rep. Leo Berman  
Katherine G. Bertram  
Boone & Boone Construction, LTD  
Vicki and Lindsey Bradley, Jr.  
Eldor Brish  
Brookshire Grocery Company  
Melvina and Herb Buie  
V'Ann and Donn Byrne  
Andrea and David Case  
Shirley and Donald Chase  
Chick-fil-A  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Chuy's - Tyler  
Citizens 1st Bank  
Clark & Porter  
Anonymous  
Carol and Ted Conover  
Dr. Debbie Creath  
Joy Crutchfield  
Anonymous  
Dance-N-Drill  
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Dowdy, Jr.  
Karleen and Truman Draper  
Dykes Restaurant Supply, Inc  
Anonymous  
Paula and Oran Ferrell III  
Mia and Foy Forehand  
Pam and Ed Franzen  
Barbara and John Gabriel  
Robert "Ace" Gallop  
Jean and Richard Gammon  
Marilyn and John Glass Charitable Fund  
at ETCF  
Anonymous  
Greater Texas Community Partners  
Linda and Vernon Gross  
Debby and Eric Gunter  
Norma Edge Halfpenny  
Hall Buick GMC  
Cheri and Bob Henderson  
Heritage Land Bank  
Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church  
Lakeside Sunday School Class



Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church  
Ladies Bible Study  
Pat High  
Hoeffner Foundation  
Harold Hollins  
Hood Packaging Company  
Hossley & Embry  
Joy Hunt  
Mary and Bob Irwin  
Ali and Jason Isham  
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Brandy and Graham Jones  
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Anonymous  
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Lackner Family Donor Advised Fund  
Carol and Jack Langston  
Shellie Lohman  
Marianne Long  
Lowery Donor Advised Fund at ETCF  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Manley  
Cynthia and Jim McAndrew  
Liz and Roger McCown  
Brandon McDaniel  
Diane and Sam Mezayek  
Tiffany and Robert Monaghan  
Greta Moore-Dixon  
Jane and Patrick Moran  
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Ellen and John Musselman  
Linda and Tony Myers  
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Dr. Arnold and Martha Oates  
Louise and Joseph Z. Ornelas  
Amber and Rodney Owen  
Penco Oil Company  
Carol Pendleton  
Debbie and Robert Peveto  
Judy and Bill Putnam  
Shirley and Tom Pyle  
Ramey & Flock, PC  
Nicole and Jason Richards  
Gene Richardson Trust  
The Robert M. Rogers Foundation  
Rosebrook Land Services  
Donn and Barbara Rust  
Cecelia and Peter Sanfelippo  
Elizabeth and Paul Sharkey  
Gillian and James Sheridan  
Lynn and Kerry Sitton



Skillern's Business Systems, Inc.  
Jenny and Doug Sloan  
Betty Ann and Don Smith  
Suzy and Roy Smith  
Snelling Staffing Services  
Southside Bank  
Judy and Tom Sparrow  
Brent J. Spinks -Attorney at Law  
Stanger Surveying Tyler, LLC  
Anonymous  
Stephens & Stephens Orthodontics  
Frances and Thomas Swann  
Donor Advised Fund at ETCF  
T.B. Butler Foundation  
Texas Bank & Trust  
Texas Spine & Joint Hospital  
Suzie and Glenn Thames  
Threlkeld & Company Insurance  
Tiny Town Learning Center  
Trinity Mother Frances  
Hospitals and Clinics  
Anonymous  
Tyler Hematology – Oncology, PA  
Tyler ISD Foundation  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Tyler  
Cecil and Bernie Ward Family  
Donor Advised Fund at ETCF  
Agnes and Frank Ward  
Juanita and Dudley Wardlaw  
Dr. Joseph S. Wassef –  
Longview Neuro-Psychiatric Clinic  
Wharton Law Firm/Alan D. Wharton  
Sarah and Michael Wilson  
Amy and Tom Woldert  
Donor Advised Fund at ETCF  
Dana and Glenn Woodard  
XTO Energy  
Mr. Sheng and Dr. Pochin Yin  
*Honoring...*  
**Kathlyn Redmond** by  
Gollob, Morgan, Peddy & Co, PC  
*Remembering....*  
**Zoulee Allen** by  
Pam McKnight  
**S.A. Black** by  
JoAnn and Joe Bill Belue  
**Leon "Le" Grosdidier** by  
Communities Foundation of Texas  
Donor Advised Fund of Linda C. Buford  
**Marlin "Red" Miller** by  
Sue Hinson  
Carol and Jack Langston



*Larry Lott Interiors  
& XTO Energy*

*Present the 2nd Annual*

**Holiday Home Tour**

*December 4<sup>th</sup> 4:00PM – 8:00PM*

*Join us for another spectacular Holiday Home Tour. Enjoy the lush surroundings of some of Tyler's finest homes conveniently located in the Cascades, a prestigious country club/golf community. From European Eclectic to French Modern, these homes reflect the lifestyle suited for executive entertaining and family living. Enjoy a once in a lifetime look into some of Tyler's most impressive treasures.*



*2932 Stewart Way*



*4410 Cascades Shoreline*



*4510 Cascades Shoreline*



*4382 Hogan Drive*



*4379 Cascades Blvd*



*4390 Hogan Drive*

*Tickets may be purchased beginning November 1<sup>st</sup> at Larry Lott Interiors (Bergfeld Center), Belladonna Day Spa (5100 Old Bullard Rd.), or Crutcher & Hartley/Remax Properties (3225 University Blvd.). You may also purchase tickets, sponsor or get more information online at [www.cacsmithcounty.org](http://www.cacsmithcounty.org).*

*A purchased ticket allows entry to all 6 homes. Individual tickets are \$45 each and groups of 4 are available for \$150 if purchased by December 2<sup>nd</sup>. All tickets are \$50 each after December 2<sup>nd</sup>. \$50 tickets will also be available at the door of each home during the tour.*



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www.cacsmithcounty.org  
info@cacsmithcounty.org

## Handprints

### 2011 Board of Directors

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Dorothy Taylor  
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## Investigative Team

Michelle Brock  
*Tyler Police Department*  
Dianna Brown  
*Tyler Police Department*  
Bryan Richards  
*Smith County Sheriff's Office*  
Jeremy Black  
*Smith County Sheriff's Office*  
Drew Allen  
*Child Protective Services*  
Danny Brown  
*Child Protective Services*  
Adam King  
*Child Protective Services*  
April Sikes  
*Smith County D.A.'s Office*  
Rachel N. Matthew-RN, CA/CP, SANE  
*East Texas Medical Center*  
Meghan Richardson-RN, NREMT, CA/CP, SANE  
*East Texas Medical Center*  
Natalie Starkey-RN, CA/CP, SANE  
*East Texas Medical Center*  
Sue Hinson-RN, CA/CP, SANE, CFN  
*Trinity Mother Frances Hospitals and Clinics*  
Investigators as assigned  
*Child Protective Services, Arp, Bullard, Lindale, Overton, Troup, and Whitehouse Police Depts.*

## Staff

Carol Langston  
*Executive Director*  
Todd Anderson  
*Financial Administrator*  
Cindy Brady  
*Development Coordinator*  
Beck Cunio  
*Kids in Court Coord./Forensic Interviewer*  
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*Therapist*  
Jason Isham, M.S., LMFT  
*Lead Therapist*  
Margaret McBride  
*Family Advocate/Volunteer Coord.*  
Brenda Sanchez  
*Community Educator-Bilingual*  
Edith Wineland  
*Victims Assistance Coordinator-Bilingual*  
Open  
*Forensic Interviewer/Rainbow Room Coord.*

## Partner Agencies

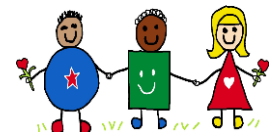
Arp Police Department  
Bullard Police Department  
Child Protective Services  
East Texas Medical Center  
Regional Healthcare System  
Lindale Police Department  
Overton Police Department  
Trinity Mother Frances Hospitals and Clinics  
Troup Police Department  
Tyler Police Department  
Smith County Criminal  
District Attorney's Office  
Smith County Sheriff's Office  
Whitehouse Police Department

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County is a not-for-profit (501)(c) (3)  
organization and welcomes contributions



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.

www.CaCSmithCounty.org



Walking hand in hand from outcry to  
final verdict and beyond....