

The VOICES of

CHILD **ADVOCATES** OF FORT BEND™

Inside /

CEO Update • Christmas Home Tour

• Keeping Kids Safe • CAFB Honored

• and MORE!



November 2025

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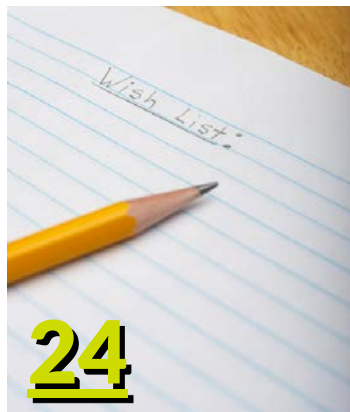


Keeping you informed on our mission:

Strengthen the Child's Voice, Heal the Hurt, and
Break the Cycle of Abuse and Neglect for Children
and Families in Fort Bend and surrounding counties.



CAFB HONORED



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WWW.CAFB.ORG



from the ceo

Welcome to our November issue of VOICES. . .

Welcome friends,

November is National Adoption Awareness Month where we raise awareness of the thousands of children in foster care who are waiting for adoption and celebrate families that have grown through adoption and children finding their “forever homes”. The goal is to ensure that every child can build a life of happiness and well-being. On the morning of November 21, we will host our annual adoption party at the Fort Bend County Justice Center themed “Better Together” complete with decorations, booths, face painting, stuffed animals, food and a rose for every child who is adopted. Why “Better Together”? For these children and their new families, they are “better together” through the love, caring and commitment from these adoptive parents and the security and safety afforded these children. This is one of the happiest days for us all year - please join us to congratulate these children and families!

November is all about Fall and Thanksgiving. We take time this month to give thanks for

all the blessings that we enjoy and to reaffirm our commitment to help and uplift children who may not be as fortunate in their life circumstances. As you celebrate, please remember these children. We have a lot of ways to get involved at Child Advocates of Fort Bend - from a one-time opportunity to a longer-term commitment - whatever suits you best. It's also nearing the end of the year and many donors are interested in making a charitable, tax-deductible donation to a cause that is meaningful and impactful in your community. We hope you consider Child Advocates of Fort Bend in your year-end giving this year and help change the life of a child.

Thank you for all you do to strengthen the voices of these children, heal their hurt and break the cycle of abuse and neglect.

For The Children's Sake,

Ruthanne

Ruthanne Mefford, CEO





CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR

December 5 + 6, 2025

Friday, December 5th

10am - 4pm

6pm - 9pm

Saturday, December 6th

10am - 4pm

Presented by Fred and Mabel R. Parks Foundation

About the Christmas Home Tour:

For 34 years Child Advocates of Fort Bend has been showcasing homes lavishly decorated for the holidays in Fort Bend County's most beautiful neighborhoods as a way of raising money to support our programs. With the help of professional decorators, homeowners decorate their homes for Christmas and open their doors to the public. Guests purchase tickets to tour the homes and admire the talents of the homeowners and decorators as well as the homeowners' personal styles. This is one of Child Advocates of Fort Bend's largest fundraising events. Ninety-four percent (94%), of the proceeds go directly toward services for children.



*Scan the QR code
for info, tickets, and more!*

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **Sponsor** - There are several opportunities left with perks [CLICK HERE](#) >>
- **Purchase Home Tour Tickets** Individual tickets - \$35 [CLICK HERE](#) >>
- **Purchase a Holiday T-Shirt** -Super cute **holiday light red tees**, available in short and long sleeve in red. Show your support and get in the holiday spirit. Order yours today! Short-sleeved \$30; Long-Sleeved (available online only) \$35 [CLICK HERE](#) >>
- **Purchase a Heart Ornament** - These beautiful blown glass heart ornaments are the perfect gift for everyone on your list. They measure 4"W x 4" L and come, ready for gifting! - \$35 [CLICK HERE](#) >>
- **Volunteer** - Share your time as a 2-3 hour host in one of the homes. Bring a friend or family member and volunteer together! [CLICK HERE](#) >>
- **Entertainers & Cookie Bakers** - Are you a singer? Do you play an instrument? Contact nandale59@gmail.com
- Can you bake? Put those your skills to work [CLICK HERE](#) >>

For more information contact **Tarina** at TSheridan@cafb.org.





SPOTLIGHT FRIENDS Fall Coffee

Volunteers, staff and supporters gathered at the home of Lynn Halford this month for the annual FRIENDS Fall membership coffee. We had a great time catching up and hearing what FRIENDS membership dues have done for children served by CAFB!

Special thanks to Fabulous You for a fantastic fashion show and tips on this year's trends. Keep an eye out for animal prints which will be very big, along with scarves and charm necklaces. Stop by the boutique to learn more





and check out all the fun fashions!

It's not too late to become a member of FRIENDS. Visit the [CAFB website](#) to learn more about FRIENDS, download a membership form and join today to make sure you get invited to their Spring evening event in 2026!



FEATURE STORY

Keeping Children Safe During the Holidays

By Jheri Walters, LCSW-S

When eight-year-old Emma arrived at her aunt's house for the holidays, she was surrounded by laughter, music, and cousins she hadn't seen in months. But as the day went on, she grew quiet. The noise, the new faces, the expectation to hug everyone – it all felt overwhelming. Her mom noticed, took her aside, and gently reminded her that she didn't have to do anything that made her uncomfortable. Emma smiled with relief and asked to help set the table instead.

Moments like these may seem small, but they matter. The holidays can be joyful – and they can also be confusing or stressful for children, especially those who have experienced trauma or who are adjusting to new environments and people. Keeping them safe starts with being intentional, observant, and kind.

1. Empower Their Voice

Encourage children to speak up about what makes them comfortable. Let them know they can say “no” to hugs or attention, even from family members. Giving them permission to set boundaries teaches self-respect and reinforces that their feelings are valid.

2. Prioritize Supervision

In busy gatherings, it's easy for children to wander off. Make sure there's always a trusted adult who knows where they are and who they're with. Safe, supervised spaces – especially during overnight visits – go a long way to prevent risk.

3. Prepare and Check In

Before events, have a brief talk about safety, appropriate touch, and who they can talk to if something doesn't feel right. Afterwards, check in with open-ended questions like, “Did you have fun?” or “Was there anything that made you feel uncomfortable?”

4. Watch for Signs

If a child seems unusually anxious, withdrawn, or fearful, pay attention. Their behavior may be telling you something important.

This season let's celebrate with awareness and empathy. Every hug, every smile, every moment should feel safe for a child.

Together, we can ensure that the holidays are filled with what children deserve most – joy, trust, and safety.

Checking In with Yourself This Holiday Season

The holidays can be joyful—but they can also bring stress and emotional exhaustion. Take a moment to pause and care for you:

- **Notice how you're feeling.** Give yourself permission to name your emotions—both the good and the hard ones.
- **Set gentle boundaries.** It's okay to say no to extra commitments that drain your energy.
- **Make time for rest.** Even a few quiet minutes of breathing, reading, or walking can help you recharge.
- **Connect with support.** Reach out to a trusted friend, counselor, or community resource if you're feeling overwhelmed.
- **Practice gratitude and grace.** Celebrate small moments of peace and kindness, you deserve them, too.



CAFB Honored

As a Finalist in Houston Business Journal's Best Places to Work 2025



On Friday, October 10th, CEO Ruthanne Mefford attended the Houston Business Journal's Best Places to Work Luncheon at the Omni Hotel, joined by staff members Heather Rashid, Metoyer Martin and Cheryl Henderson, and Board Members Jim Lockwood, Jim McClellan, Pat Somers and Bruce Longaker. We are incredibly honored to have been named one of HBJ's Best Places to work in 2025!

This recognition reflects the amazing people who make up our CAFB team. The passion, dedication, and commitment to our mission of serving children and families is what makes this organization such a special place to work.

To our staff - thank you for living our values, supporting one another, and showing up every day with heart. You are the reason we've earned this honor—and we couldn't be prouder. As CEO Ruthanne Mefford shared, "I am reminded daily how passionate and dedicated you are. We are truly honored to have been selected as a Best Places to Work—and it's all because of you!"

We truly are **Better Together**.





Thankful: feeling or showing gratitude and appreciation for something

WE ARE THANKFUL

I am thankful for my 7 beautiful, creative, entertaining grandchildren who make me laugh.
-Ruthanne

I am thankful for my friends and family, their good health, the ability to work in a place I love with people I love and for the time I get to spend with all of them.
-Jen

I am thankful for life, love, and family, the constants that keep me grounded and grateful every day..
-Jheri

I am thankful for my faith in God.
-Rence L.

I am thankful for my team members.
-Stephanie

I am thankful for peace of mind and the good that can still be found in this world.
-Casey

I am thankful for my family. Each day I have with them is a blessing. I see so many people losing family members and I know I am blessed to still have my mom.
-Cheryl

I am thankful we are here and for each of my coworkers who show up every day with loving hearts and a desire to ease suffering for children who have been abused and their families.
-Melissa

I am thankful for hope.
-Dana

I am thankful for good health, meaningful work that gives my life purpose, the blessing of receiving unconditional love, and the chance to keep growing and giving back..
-Sandra

I am THANKFUL for the opportunity to work at a place that seeks to eliminate child abuse and offer opportunities for healing.
-Deidra

I am thankful for a healthy work/life and a great family with both.
-Beth

I am thankful for my family and my work family.
-Heather C.

I am thankful for my entire family, especially my three granddaughters, Jayda, Aaliyah, and Ella.
-Rencee J.

I'm thankful for freedom of speech.
-Tarina



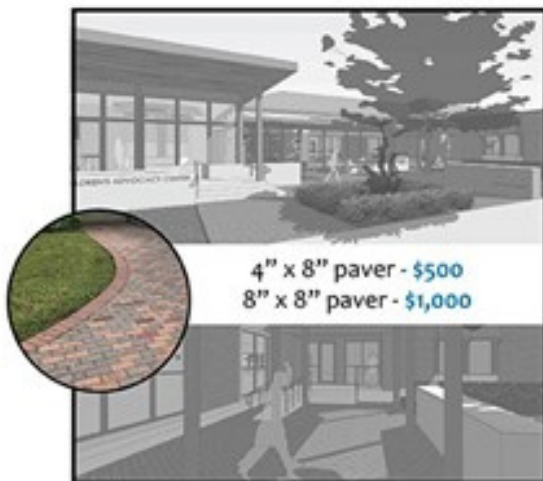


monthly spotlights

updates from the programs and MORE!

Looking for a way to honor or memorialize someone you love?

Would you like to pay tribute to someone by honoring or memorializing them for a life well lived or a special occasion? Send a donation in any amount with their name, address, and a note about why you are honoring them. We'll send an acknowledgement letter letting them know that you donated on their behalf. Honor someone today by [donating online](#) or by mailing a check to Child Advocates of Fort Bend, 5403 Avenue N, Rosenberg, TX 77471.



What are some permanent honorarium choices?

Pavers. Your \$500 or \$1,000 gift can purchase a medium or large paver in our front walkway engraved with your name or message. Purchase your paver today and someone will contact you to discuss your inscription. If you have already purchased a paver, we thank you!

If you wish to honor or memorialize someone special in a more significant way, why not name a room in our building after them? We have a variety of room naming opportunities available including private offices, therapy rooms, family meeting rooms, conference rooms and more.

For more information, please contact **Lisa Moore** at Lmoore@cafb.org





Welcome to the CAFB Family!

On Friday, October 10th, we wrapped up two weeks of Pre-Service Volunteer Training. Fourteen new volunteers, along with seven staff members, were sworn-in to service by Judge Monica Rawlins of the 328th District Court in Fort Bend. This incredible and diverse group of individuals will bring so much expertise, lived experience and talent to the children and families served by Child Advocates of Fort Bend. Congratulations to all - we are lucky to have you!

L-R: Ellie Archinal, Hannah Waltrip, Jaden Walker, Helen Simmons, Kelsey Madkins, Peiwen Laviolette, Jessica Dixon, Betty Baker, Claudia Ramos, Tolu Oguntuga, Lorrie Causo, Marisol Medina, Jamie Schuerg, Dimple Malkan, Megan DeYoung, Maha Elnaggar, Pat Ladd, Helen Simmons, Kelly Waswil (not pictured Jessie Corning)-CE Staff on the R: Jen Brown, Dana Mersiovsky and Casey Davis

License to Help!

Did you know that Child Advocates of Fort Bend participates in the TX CASA Specialty License Plate Program? You can order a custom license plate with the phrase "Big Voices for Little Texans". Not only can you spread awareness and show your support for us but a portion of the cost of the plate goes to Texas CASA and the local programs to increase our statewide efforts to advocate for



every child in the foster care system. To order your plate go to <https://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/license-plates> and search for CASA under specialty plates OR visit your local tax assessor's office and ask for the Court Appointed Special Advocate license plate.

Building Capacity:

Our Therapy Team Shares Expertise Across the Community

By Jheri Walters LCSW-S

At Child Advocates of Fort Bend, we believe that healing from trauma begins not only with the children we serve, but also with the communities that surround them. This past month, our team had the opportunity to extend our impact beyond our own walls by partnering with local schools and community organizations dedicated to creating safer, more supportive environments for children and youth.

Our **Clinical Director** led a **Youth Mental Health First Aid** training for **Waller ISD**, equipping educators and staff with the tools to recognize and respond to early signs of mental health challenges among students. This training helps school professionals feel more confident in identifying when a young person may be in crisis and how to connect them with appropriate support. By investing in education and awareness, Waller ISD is taking proactive steps to promote mental wellness in their schools.

Meanwhile, two of our **therapists** provided specialized training on **Trauma-Informed Interventions** to a local community agency. This workshop focused on practical strategies for creating age-specific interventions. Our therapists emphasized the



importance of empathy, regulation, and consistency—foundations that help children rebuild trust and resilience.

These partnerships reflect our ongoing commitment to building a trauma-informed community—one where every adult who works with children feels confident and equipped to respond with understanding and care. Together with our partners, we're ensuring that children across Fort Bend and surrounding areas have the opportunity to heal, grow, and thrive.

Building Trust and Strengthening Community Through TBRI®

By Ali Waterwall

This year, our TBRI team has been hard at work bringing the power of Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) to our community—and the impact is growing stronger every day. From caregiver trainings to school partnerships and community outreach, the reach of TBRI continues to expand across Fort Bend County and beyond.

This year we completed **three TBRI Caregiver Trainings**, with participants representing a wide range of professions and lived experiences. Attendees included teachers, foster parents, family members of origin, social workers, counselors, therapists, DFPS staff, Residential Treatment Center (RTC) employees, attorneys, first responders—and even a school bus driver. This diversity of backgrounds created meaningful dialogue and deepened understanding around trauma-informed care in a variety of settings.

Beyond our caregiver sessions, we've also provided focused TBRI trainings to key partners throughout the community. Agencies and groups reached include:

- **Public and private school** administrators and teachers
- **First responders** with a highlight on hostage negotiation teams and paramedics
- **FBISD** middle and high school students
- **Seventeen caregivers** served directly by our agency
- **Sugar Land Town Hall** members
- Supporting agencies for DFPS, including **Isaiah House 117** and **CASA de Esperanza**

- **CAFB Advocates** and professionals involved with our **Justice-Involved Youth Program**

We're also excited to share that we've **implemented TBRI Calming Corners** in two LCISD schools—one elementary and one middle school.

These safe, structured spaces are designed to help students regulate emotions and return to learning with confidence and support.

In collaboration with a local residential treatment facility, we've established a **TBRI cohort** to further strengthen trauma-informed practices in high-needs settings. This ongoing partnership is a vital step in building sustainable change.

This season also brought valuable opportunities to present and collaborate at two major conferences: **Judge Juli Mathews' Keepin' it R.E.A.L. Conference** and **Child Advocates of Fort Bend's Trauma-Informed Care Conference**. These events allowed us to share insights, build connections, and further spread the message of healing-centered care.

As we look toward the end of the year, we are energized by the growing community of caregivers, professionals, and advocates committed to understanding trauma and promoting healing through trust-based relationships. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in this important work. Together, we're making a difference—one connection at a time.

National Adoption Day

As Thanksgiving approaches, many of us reflect on gratitude, love, and the importance of family. National Adoption Day embodies this same spirit—a celebration of the hope, joy, and connection that come from building families through adoption. It's a time to recognize the children who have found their forever homes and to honor the families and advocates who make those journeys possible.

This year, we will be celebrating National Adoption Day on Friday, November 21. Families, volunteers, and community partners will gather to mark this special occasion and witness the life-changing moment when children are officially welcomed into their new families.

National Adoption Day was first established in 2000 through a collaboration of child

advocacy organizations, courts, and policymakers. Since then, tens of thousands of adoptions have been finalized on this day, filling courtrooms across the nation with laughter, tears, and celebration.

Beyond the festivities, the day serves as a powerful reminder that thousands of children in foster care are still waiting for permanent, loving homes. It calls on communities to come together—to adopt, foster, volunteer, or simply spread awareness—so that every child can experience the stability and love they deserve.

In the true spirit of Thanksgiving, National Adoption Day reminds us that family is defined by the bonds of love, care, and commitment.





CAFB Criminal Court Advocate [Renee Johnson](#) received CVRT's Ms. Vicki Compassion Award for being a true champion for children and families.

Supporting Survivors, Strengthening Communities: CVRT at Work in Fort Bend County

By Jheri Walters LCSW-S

For over two decades, the Crime Victim's Response Team (CVRT) has been a cornerstone of support and education in Fort Bend County. This dedicated coalition brings together professionals from across the justice system—law enforcement, attorneys, judges, victim advocates, counselors, and medical staff—to ensure that crime victims receive informed, compassionate care.

CVRT offers ongoing training and legislative updates, helping professionals stay current on best practices and legal changes that impact victims and survivors. Their mission goes beyond education: CVRT also provides grants to local nonprofits, funding vital programs and services that directly support those affected by crime.

The 2025 Crimes Against Persons Conference which was held in October, brought together a powerful lineup of speakers who are shaping the future of victim advocacy.

• **Nicole Jones** (AVDA) led a session on *Trauma-Informed Sexual Assault Response*, offering practical insights for professionals working with survivors.

- **Dr. Nusrat Ameen** Daya explored *The Intersection of Harm*, focusing on how Texas laws address domestic violence and forced child marriage.
- **Miriam Camero** shared strategies for *Trauma-Informed Care for Immigrant Survivors of Gender-Based Violence*, a vital topic in today's diverse communities.
- **Natalie Ivey** presented on *Left Hand, Meet Right Hand: Building a Coordinated Community Response*, emphasizing collaboration across systems for better outcomes.

Also joining the speaker lineup were Assistant District Attorneys Alycia Curtis and Tristyl McInnis from the Fort Bend County DA's Office, bringing their legal expertise to the conversation.

This conference offered a wonderful opportunity to connect, learn, and grow with others who are committed to justice and healing. Please add this event to your schedule for the Fall of 2026.



SPOTLIGHT Volunteer Social

This past month our volunteers, staff, and board members gathered to socialize and meet new people at Lupe Tortillas in Sugar Land for the 5th year. We are grateful to Lupe's for being so incredibly supportive of our organization. They were attentive and gracious, and it made the evening that much more enjoyable! (Plus, the food and drinks are never a miss at Lupe's!)



It was so nice to catch up with those we haven't seen in a long time, meet new people, and laugh with friends. Every time CAFB volunteers are gathered in one place, you can feel the buzz of the mission we are all passionate about, share the joy of hearing stories, and embrace the appreciation for all who are there.

It was a wonderful night thanks to our Volunteer Council. We look forward to the next one!!

The Volunteer Council gathers monthly to meet about various ways they can support CAFB volunteers and staff. They are the first to sign up for events where they can mentor or assist other volunteers, and we are grateful to have this group!



Partner Appreciation Celebration

Child Advocates hosted our Annual Partner Appreciation Event on October 23rd! This special evening was dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the incredible partnerships that make our mission possible.

Representatives from Law Enforcement, Department of Family Protective Services, the District Attorney's Office, the County Attorney's Office, Juvenile Probation and several other victim service providers –





all of whom play a vital role in protecting children and families in our community- joined us to honor the collaboration and commitment that help ensure safety, security, and justice for the children in our community.

This year's Casino Night theme brought the fun with (totally legal!) gambling tables, delicious food and drinks, and exciting door prizes. It was our way of saying thank you for the collaboration, commitment, and compassion that drive our shared mission forward.





DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Texas Mutual Insurance Company

Texas Mutual Insurance Company is a leading provider of worker's comp insurance. As a policyholder, Child Advocates of Fort Bend was one of 1,300 lucky recipients awarded a \$1,500 competitive grant to help reduce or eliminate workplace injuries and illnesses.

Thanks to the generosity of the Texas Mutual Safety Grant, we were able to provide:

- **CPR Training for 24 staff**
- **De-escalation Training for 4 staff**
- **(2) First Aid Kits**

Being a public facility for both children and adults, we must be responsive to the safety

and wellbeing of all who enter our facility. This grant will improve safety at Child Advocates of Fort Bend should an emergency arise. Moreover, having trained staff and first aid supplies onsite allows quick action should an accident occur, which can prevent minor injuries or safety incidents from becoming major ones, thus confirming our focus as an agency dedicated to the safety and wellbeing of others.

Texas Mutual has operated for more than 30 years across Texas with a vision of building a stronger, safer Texas by supporting workers, businesses, communities in need.





Child Abuse Prevention:

Empowering Families with Awareness and Action

At Child Advocates of Fort Bend, throughout the year we offer a multitude of training opportunities for the community rooted in child abuse prevention, recognition and response. Stewards of Children®, the curriculum we use with one of our partner organizations, Darkness to Light, teaches adults practical actions they can take to reduce instances of child sexual abuse in their organizations, families, and communities.

This year, Darkness to Light is sharing the Fall Edition of 5 Steps to Keeping Children Healthy-five simple, practical actions you can take this fall to ensure children are surrounded by safety, by care, and have the freedom to enjoy the season fully. Fall is a season full of those joys—pumpkin patches, cozy sweaters, school traditions, sports practices, and family gatherings. But just as the season grows busier, so do the risks. With more after-school programs, holiday travel, and time spent in new environments, kids need safe adults who are prepared to protect them.

Each year, more than 63,000 children in the United States are identified as victims of sexual abuse—that's five classrooms of children every single day. And these are only the confirmed cases. The truth is that most cases go unreported, meaning the actual scope is far greater. Abuse is widespread. Underreported.

And behind every statistic is a child who deserves safety, protection, and the chance to enjoy the simple joys of childhood.

Awareness is where prevention begins.

Step 1: Learn the Facts

Like the shifting colors of fall, child sexual abuse doesn't have just one appearance. It takes many forms and happens across all races, religions, regions, socioeconomic statuses, and ages. Understanding the facts breaks through misconceptions and gives adults the tools to act with clarity.

- 90% of children who are sexually abused know their abuser. Abuse most often happens within trusted relationships, not at the hands of strangers.
- Youth-serving programs vary widely in safety policies. Asking about background checks, supervision ratios, and training can reduce risk in after-school clubs, sports, and tutoring.
- More than 70% of children who are sexually abused are abused by a peer. Even fun settings like fall festivals, parties, or trick-or-treating need active supervision.
- Approximately 1 in 5 youth experience unwanted online exposure to sexually explicit material. Knowing which apps your child uses and how they communicate online is critical for digital safety.

[-more-](#)

Step 2: Minimize Opportunity - Look for ways to create safe, supervised spaces for kids

With fall comes sports practices, after-school tutoring, and family gatherings when kids may find themselves alone with adults. We know that abusers often take advantage of these one-on-one situations to isolate children.

- Check in during practices or tutoring sessions. A quick drop-by can make a big difference.
- Encourage groups for walking to school, trick-or-treating, or heading to activities.
- Offer group activities (like fall crafts or pumpkin carving) instead of solo playdates.
- Ask about supervision policies before enrolling in fall sports or clubs.

Step 3: Talk About It - Make safety conversations as natural as talking about school or sports

Children who regularly talk about body safety, boundaries, and consent are more likely to speak up if something feels wrong.

- Use car rides to and from activities as a time to ask questions and listen.
- Talk about personal boundaries during costume planning, reminding kids they can say no to unwanted touch.
- Bring up safety at family gatherings when new or extended relatives are around.
- Model openness, letting kids know no topic is off-limits if something worries them.

Step 4: Recognize the Signs - Take time to notice the small changes.

Fall teaches us to notice changes—the shorter days, cooler air, and shifting leaves. In the same way, protecting children means paying attention to changes in their behavior, mood, or

routines. Most children don't tell us directly when something is wrong, but their actions often do.

- Watch for sudden changes in mood after activities, practices, or visits.
- Pay attention to reluctance about attending a club, lesson, or gathering they once enjoyed.
- Notice shifts in sleep or appetite, especially during busy school months.
- Trust your instincts—if something feels off, don't dismiss it.

Step 5: React Responsibly - Because how you respond in the moment can make all the difference.

When a child discloses or you suspect abuse, your response can shape their path to safety and healing. Being prepared to respond calmly and responsibly is one of the most important roles a safe adult can play.

Here are some ways to put Step 5 into practice this season:

- Stay calm and listen if a child shares something concerning.
- Offer reassurance, letting them know you believe them and that they did the right thing by telling you.
- Know your state's reporting laws before busy holiday travel or visits.
- Take action quickly, reporting suspicions to the proper authorities.
- Only 4% to 8% of reports of all sexual abuse are false.

If you are interested in attending our Stewards of Children training, the next date is **December 2**. Reach out to **Dana** at dmersiovsky@cafb.org for more information.



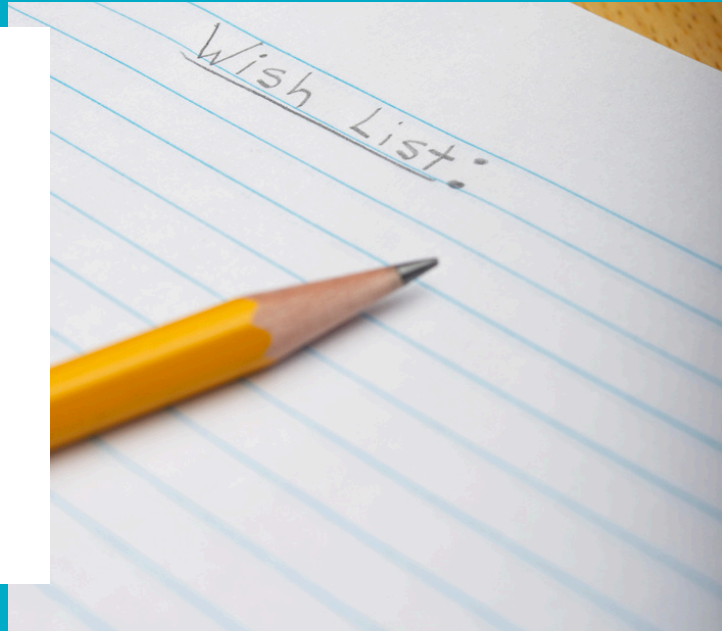
our needs

This month, we have immediate need for:

- **Gift cards**
VISA/ MasterCard, Walmart, HEB

View our [Amazon Wish List](#)

View our [Holiday Wish list](#)



You are invited to join us for a

LUNCH + LEARN

*How your life insurance policy
can be a gift to charity*

Thursday, Nov. 13

12:00pm - 1:30pm

Child Advocates of Fort Bend
Training Room
5403 Avenue N, Rosenberg, TX 77471



Tama Brooks Klosek

RSVP to Nancy at Plannedgiving@cafb.org



Let's Do Something BIG together!

December 2nd is GivingTuesday, and we set a big goal! We want to raise \$50,000 in a single day and \$100,000 by year end to help GIVE children the hope and encouragement they need to know that there are kind people in this world who care about them. We have received a Challenge Gift by a donor who believes in *allogofusandwilldoubleyourgiftbymatchingeverydollaryoudonatewithasecondollarupto\$25,000.*

Together, we can reach this transformational goal you can help make it possible!

01

Donate

Make a donation [here](#) or mail a check to 5403 Ave. N - Rosenberg, TX 77471. Please mark #GivingTuesday in the (Leave a Comment) box so we can double your dollars. Be sure to keep CAFB in mind for your year-end giving.

02

Honor Someone

Make a special gift in honor or in memory of a friend or family member. To give a financial donation or personalized brick paver in their honor. Click [here](#)

Would you like a named room in our building or in our new Wellness Garden and Park? Contact LMoore@cafb.org

03

Payroll Match

Do you have connections with a company that matches your financial donations or volunteer hours? Let us help you get those donations set up. Contact Jodell@cafb.org

04

Planned Giving

What legacy will you leave when you pass? Join our Forever Angels Legacy Society and let your legacy become the future for children. There are so many choices visit [here](#) to learn more.



Important Deadlines to Remember for Year-End Giving

Financial institutions require lead time to transfer assets, so it's wise to plan ahead. To ensure your charitable gifts are effective in 2025, we recommend confirming year-end deadlines with your financial institution or account administrator for transfers of cash or stock, charitable rollovers, and DAF distributions.

Ways to Create Your Legacy:

- **Fund a donor-advised fund (DAF):** This allows you to claim an immediate tax deduction for your contribution, but grant the funds to charities over time. Establishing a new DAF account by early December is often recommended, as complex asset transfers can take time.
- **Consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD):** If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make a tax-free distribution of up to \$105,000 directly from your IRA to a charity. This strategy can be especially beneficial if you do not itemize deductions.
- **Donate appreciated stock:** Giving securities that have increased in value allows you to avoid capital gains taxes while receiving a charitable deduction for the stock's fair market value. Be mindful of the transfer deadline, as these transactions can take several days to complete.

Remember Deadlines:

All donations must be completed by **December 31** to qualify for deductions in the current tax year.

- **Checks:** Must be postmarked or hand-delivered by December 31.
- **Wire transfers:** Instruct your financial institution to process the transfer before December 31.
- **Credit card gifts:** Often have a later online processing deadline, such as midnight EST on December 31.

Assemble documentation:

Keep a record of all donations, including receipts, acknowledgments & bank records.

If you would like more information about how to become a member of the Forever Angels Legacy Society, please email plannedgiving@CAFB.org.



CHILD **ADVOCATES** OF FORT BEND™



Darkness to Light

Stewards of Children

Learn how to prevent child sexual abuse

We will teach you how to:

- Recognize risky situations
- Talk to children about boundaries and abuse
- Learn strategies that keep children safer
- Report abuse if you suspect something

Scan QR code to register
or follow the link below:

[REGISTER HERE](#)



DARKNESS TO LIGHT'S
STEWARDS OF CHILDREN®



November 21

National Adoption Day
8:30am - 10:30am
Fort Bend County Justice Center

November 21

Sip & Stroll
noon - 1:30pm
Contact [Lisa](mailto:Lisa@cafb.org) at LMoore@cafb.org to reserve your spot

December 2

Darkness to Light (via Zoom)

December 5 + 6

Christmas Home Tour

December 8-11

CAFB is accepting holiday donations

CHRISTMAS **HOME TOUR**
December 5 + 6, 2025

Get tickets today!

**Tour four stunning private homes
with festive decorations, twinkling
lights & holiday touches**

- Local entertainers
- Fresh baked cookies
- Festive holiday t-shirts, beautiful ornaments, raffle **and MORE!**

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"Your condition is not your conclusion."
- Jeremy Anderson