

# The VOICES of

CHILD ADVOCATES OF FORT BEND™

Inside /  
CEO Update • A Year in Review  
• Monthly Spotlights and MORE!



January 2026

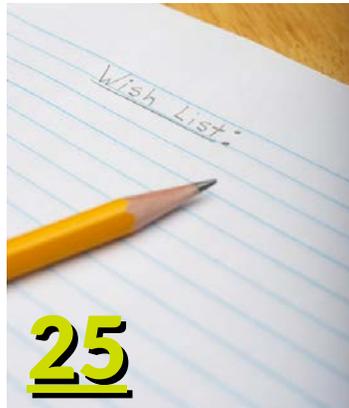
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**Keeping you informed on our mission:**  
*Strengthen the Child's Voice, Heal the Hurt, and Break the Cycle of Abuse and Neglect for Children and Families in Fort Bend and surrounding counties.*



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[WWW.CAFB.ORG](http://WWW.CAFB.ORG)



# from the ceo

*Welcome to our January issue of VOICES. . . .*

Happy New Year Friends!

As we begin this year, I am inspired by the many accomplishments of the past year and incredible outcomes that our children and families have achieved. We are embarking on Year Two of our 3-year Strategic Plan which focuses on five pillars:

- **Expand the Breadth and Depth of our Programs and Service** -- to reach every client with every service
- **Increase Operational Efficiency** -- to work smart and lean
- **Focus on our People** -- who are tasked with delivering exemplary services
- **Ensure Fiscal Responsibility** -- to be good stewards of our donor support
- **Expand Prevention, Outreach and Education** so that no child must experience abuse or neglect

We had a very successful 34<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Home Tour in December with four beautifully decorated homes and nearly 1000

guests visiting these homes over the two days. Over 600 volunteers welcomed guests, entertained us with holiday songs and baked cookies. The weather was crisp and seasonal, the decorations were over-the-top and the homes were exquisite. Thank you to our incredibly generous sponsors, including our lead sponsors: Presenting Sponsor with a gift of \$50,000 from the Fred and Mable R. Parks Foundation, our Archangel Sponsors with a gift of \$10,000 from Sewell Audi Sugar Land and WA Parish and our Children's Godparent Sponsors with a gift of \$5500 from The Spiwak Family and OCuSoft/Cynthia Barrett. Forty other sponsors and supporters purchasing tickets, t-shirts, raffle tickets and ornaments helped us raise \$210,000 - of which 94% goes directly to support programs and services for children who have been sexually abused, physically abused or neglected! Thank you all for making this our hallmark event which spreads the word about child abuse safety and prevention to many thousands of people

*-more*



in our community. This is truly a team effort, started by volunteers and driven by a huge volunteer corps who return every year to help out. We can't do this without our committed volunteers, generous donors and amazing homeowners! We are deeply appreciative!

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. This month, we bring attention to the tragedy of human trafficking. Human trafficking is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of individuals through force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of exploiting them for profit. This exploitation may include forced labor, sexual slavery, or other forms of commercial sexual exploitation. It is considered a serious violation of human rights and a form of modern slavery and a crime against humanity. Human trafficking is the third largest crime industry in the world, behind drug dealing and arms trafficking, and is the fastest-growing activity of transnational criminal organizations. At Child Advocates of Fort Bend, we focus on human trafficking of minors for commercial sexual exploitation. We have been designated by the Office of the Governor as Fort Bend County's Care Coordinator for victims and are currently designing our program, protocols and standards for identification and response. We have convened a cross-section of agencies in this effort to form a Development Team who

has crafted our vision and mission as well as a Rapid Response Team which is deployed immediately upon the recovery of a victim. Heading up this initiative is Metoyer Martin, Sr. Director of Strategic Services, heading wraparound services which receives the intakes and then works closely with both our CAC and our CASA programs to provide the appropriate services for healing and recovery. We are committed to ensuring that all child victims receive trauma-focused wraparound services and that we are actively educating the community to prevent other children from being recruited into the human trafficking industry. To learn more about human trafficking, read the articles inside this month's issue of VOICES.

Thank you for all you do to strengthen the voice of children who have experienced abuse or neglect, heal their hurt and break the cycle so that their lives can be transformed. We deeply appreciate your commitment to our vision of Ending the Cycle of Abuse and look forward to walking this journey alongside you this year.

For The Children's Sake,

*Ruthanne*

Ruthanne Mefford, CEO



## Turn Your Extras into Extraordinary

As you pack away 2025 and step into 2026,  
do you have gifts that just aren't quite right for you?

***Instead of letting them sit unused, why not share the joy?***

Child Advocates of Fort Bend is preparing for our Annual Gala on April 25, 2026, and we're seeking donations for our auction—items like:

- Gift cards you'll never use
- Bottles of wine or liquor that aren't your taste
- New and special items that don't spark joy for you
- Your generosity helps us fund critical services for the precious children we serve

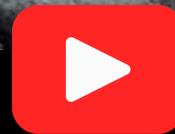
**Drop off your items at our office or contact Tarina at [tsheridan@cafb.org](mailto:tsheridan@cafb.org).**

Donations accepted now through April 15!





[Click here to watch 2024 in review](#)



## 2025 A Year in Review

Child Advocates of Fort Bend has had a remarkable year in 2025. As we look ahead to 2026, we're excited to build on our successes and continue making a difference. Let's review each program, highlighting our achievements in 2025 and our goals for the coming year.

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude and pride for the strides we have made in supporting families and advocating for the well-being of children in our community. This, of course, couldn't be done without the incredible support of our community, volunteers, partners, and donors who share the passion for supporting children and families in our community.

Our organization is dedicated to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.

### Here are some of the CASA Program highlights from this remarkable year:

This year, the CASA Program made a meaningful difference in the lives of hundreds of children and youth. We served **159** children through conservatorship cases, court-ordered services, and our Justice Involved Youth (JIY) program.

In addition, **218** youth from across the state received support through our Courtesy CASA Program, extending our impact well beyond our local community.

Throughout the year, we offered enriching opportunities for connection, growth, and learning. Youth participated in Community Service Days during Spring Break and Thanksgiving Break, and our NEST Summer Back-to-School Program for youth ages 6-13 was filled with educational field trips and opportunities to build relationships. We also hosted the WINGS Campus Crawl, visiting University of Houston, Texas A&M University, Texas State University, Wharton County Junior College, and Texas State Technical College, helping youth explore post-secondary options and imagine what's possible.

Our Life Skills Program continued to empower teens through field trips and presentations across the community, equipping them with practical tools for adulthood. None of this would be possible without our dedicated CASA Volunteers, who collectively donated over 4,400 hours of service and more than 45,000 miles in advocacy for children and families. This work is

[-more-](#)

challenging, but incredibly worthwhile. We are deeply grateful for the compassion, commitment, and heart our volunteers bring day after day to ensure every child's voice is heard and their best interests are represented.

**The Children's Advocacy Center had a big year in 2025.**

### The CAC

Our MDT Coordinators consistently reviewed hundreds of intakes each month and worked closely with partner agencies to ensure children and families were connected to services and welcomed through our doors. Forensic interviewers conducted approximately 100 interviews monthly, while Clinical Family Advocates provided critical crisis intervention, guidance, and ongoing support to children and their caregivers during some of their most difficult moments. We were also proud to welcome two new team members this year—Ellie Archinal as an MDT Coordinator and Hannah Waltrip as a Forensic Interviewer—both of whom have quickly become valuable assets to the team.

For more than a year, the Children's Advocacy Center has partnered with Texas Forensic Nurse Examiners to offer on-site forensic medical examinations two days each week. This collaboration has significantly increased access to care by allowing families to receive medical examinations locally, reducing the burden of traveling to the Texas Medical Center. As a result, we saw an increase in the number of clients receiving timely and necessary medical care.

This year also marked the relaunch of client support groups led by our Clinical Family



Advocates. These groups, designed for teenagers and caregivers, provide an additional and much-needed space for clients to receive support, connect with others, and begin processing their trauma in a safe and supportive environment.

Additionally, Renee Johnson assumed the role of point person for human trafficking victims, survivors, and their families. Through this role, she has coordinated closely with key community partners to better address the complex and unique needs of this population through our Care Coordination program.

As we move into 2026, we remain committed to expanding group opportunities for clients and strengthening our efforts to better support human trafficking victims, survivors, and their families. These initiatives reflect our ongoing dedication to providing comprehensive, compassionate care and meeting the evolving needs of the children and families we serve.

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## The Therapy Team

As 2025 comes to a close, our therapy team celebrates a year of growth, achievement, and meaningful impact. This year, we actively participated in multiple outreach events in partnership with The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD, as well as Access Health, expanding our reach and support within the community.

We are thrilled to share that two of our therapists achieved a major professional milestone by obtaining their clinical licensure, becoming Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs).

Within our therapy services, we saw numerous clients successfully graduate from care, reflecting their dedication and the collaborative work of our team. Additionally, our Outcome Measurement System (OMS), revealed overwhelmingly positive feedback, highlighting the quality and effectiveness of our services.

As we look ahead to the new year, we are proud of these accomplishments and remain committed to providing compassionate, client-centered care for our community.

## Community Engagement

Our Community Engagement Team has made a significant impact this year, reaching over **24,000** children and adults with vital prevention programming focused on recognizing and reporting child abuse for all ages. By building strong new partnerships with the LCISD Police Department and school administrators, CAFB has expanded its reach through the Child Safety Matters Abuse Prevention program for schools and Darkness to Light Sexual Abuse Prevention training. This included conducting **198** school presentations for children and adults, training over **400** educators and faculty members. Additionally, CAFB provided valuable training opportunities for its volunteers and community members, covering topics such as:

- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Stewards of Children- Darkness to Light
- Advocating for Youth with Disabilities
- The Labels we Carry
- Emphasizing Connection and Community
- Building Resilient and Trauma-Informed Communities Conference
- Recognizing and Responding to Abuse
- Educational Advocacy for the School Year
- Staying Grounded, De-Escalation and Bystander Skills for Safer Interactions

This comprehensive approach to prevention and education underscores CAFB's commitment to creating a safer community for children.

2025 also marked a significant milestone for our Prevention Speaking Team! We proudly welcomed new staff and volunteers who have become trainers for the Child Safety Matters, Not A Number, and NetSmartz curricula, benefiting students, parents, and educators alike. This expansion has greatly amplified our presence across LCISD and FBISD campuses, with growing interest from other districts as



well. As we look ahead to 2026, we're excited about the continued growth, especially with CAFB board members expressing interest in joining our dynamic Speaking Team.

We also had an incredible year of continuing education and training. CAFB provided an impressive amount of training for our dedicated staff, volunteers, partners, and community members. From pre-service training to conferences, lunch and learns, self-care seminars, and pop-up trainings, a huge thank you to our internal experts and field professionals who presented, and to everyone who attended our sessions throughout the year.

Get ready for an even more exciting 2026! We're gearing up to bring you training on the topics you've requested, along with extraordinary speakers for our conferences and other continuing education opportunities. Keep an eye on our website for training registration details.

Now let's talk about our incredible volunteers! With various events—from the Volunteer

Banquet to potlucks, socials, and new volunteer training—we've had the privilege of connecting with more volunteers than ever before. Watching our volunteers form new friendships and strengthen existing bonds has been wonderful.

We've also deepened our connection with the Fort Bend community. Our goal of providing diverse avenues for involvement has truly resonated. From direct volunteering to community awareness events, Sip and Strolls, and donations... our community has shown incredible support. This outpouring of generosity is a testament to the impact we can make together.

We couldn't achieve our mission without our dedicated volunteers, loyal donors and supportive community. As we look ahead to 2026, we're excited to continue fostering these connections and creating new opportunities for everyone to get involved with CAFB.



*Mark your calendars:*

**DARKNESS TO LIGHT**

**January 27, 2026**

10:00am - 1:00pm

More info OR to register [here](#)

**SAVE THE DATE - March 26, 2026**

Join us for our our largest conference of the year, Trauma Informed Care and TBRI.

*~ You won't want to miss it!*



# 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.** A 4"x8" paver is \$500 and a 8"x8" large paver is \$1,000. Bricks are positioned 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](mailto:Lmoore@cafb.org)



# Law Enforcement Appreciation

By Stephanie Helton, MDT Coordinator

We love and support our law enforcement partners. They represent the highest level of dedication, performance, and professionalism. All of our law enforcement partners show up ready, prepared, and fully present – not only meeting expectations but consistently exceeding them. They demonstrate what it truly means to be a leader, a teammate, and a

professional. Through their hard work, integrity, and vision, they have made a measurable difference – not just in their role, but in the lives of the people around them. CAFB now houses Detective Isenberg from LCISD, and she has become a huge asset to our agency.



**Did you know that you can donate cars, airplanes, boats, motorcycles or trucks and select Child Advocates of Fort Bend to receive the proceeds?**

Visit [HERE](#) for questions or contact  
Lisa at [lmoore@cafb.org](mailto:lmoore@cafb.org)



# From Classrooms to Communities: A Season of Impact in Child Abuse Prevention

By Sandra Glenn

The fall semester was one of meaningful connections, strong collaboration, and a shared commitment to keeping children safe across Fort Bend County. Through our ongoing partnership with Fort Bend County and local school districts, our Outreach team had the opportunity to reach students, families, educators, and community members with prevention-focused education that truly matters.

Throughout the semester, we taught lessons using the Child Safety Matters and NetSmartz curricula to students and families at numerous elementary schools:

- Randle, Jackson
- Colony Meadows
- Jane Long
- Velasquez
- Arizona Fleming
- Smith
- Bowie
- Thomas
- Meyer
- Terrell
- Phelan
- Dickinson
- Culver
- George Junior High
- Roberts Middle School

We were also grateful for the opportunity to engage with parents at Reading Junior High. These lessons equipped students with age-appropriate tools to recognize unsafe situations, strengthen digital safety skills,

-more-



and identify trusted adults they can turn to for help.

Beyond the classroom, we expanded our reach by training and engaging adults through Recognizing and Responding to Child Abuse presentations. Staff, families, and community members participated in trainings at:

- Meadows Place Preschool
- St. Theresa
- the Maylalee Association of Greater Houston
- Nery's Promise
- Lamar CISD Special Education Transition Team

We also had the opportunity to present to all elementary and secondary counselors in Lamar CISD, the lead counselor for Fort Bend ISD, and members of the Fort Bend Exchange Club, sharing information about Child Advocates of Fort Bend, our mission, and the ways we support children, families, schools, and the broader community. Educating adults remains a critical part of prevention.

When adults are informed and confident in how to recognize and respond to abuse, children are safer and disclosures are more likely to be met with appropriate support and care.

As one prevention expert notes, "Child abuse prevention education is most effective when it reaches both children and the adults who care for them. It creates a shared language of safety and responsibility." That shared responsibility was evident throughout the fall as schools and community partners opened their doors and invited these important conversations.

We were also proud to maintain a visible presence throughout the community. Our Outreach team hosted promotion tables at:

- Lamar CISD Administrator Retreat
- Lamar CISD Block Party
- Access Health Back to School Fair
- Cross Church, Trunk or Treat at Harvest Green
- Boys and Girls Club events
- Houston Methodist Sugar Land Nonprofit Expo
- District Attorney's Bike Ride

These events allowed us to connect with families where they already gather, share resources, and remind the community that child safety is everyone's responsibility.

None of this work would be possible without our dedicated volunteers. We extend our deepest gratitude to those who gave countless hours preparing lessons, staffing events, and representing our mission with care and professionalism. Their passion and commitment allowed us to widen our reach and deepen our impact. We are equally thankful for our community partners who continue to join forces with us, reinforcing the idea that prevention works best when we work together.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are filled with hope and determination. Our aspiration is to expand Outreach even further across Fort Bend County, reaching more campuses, engaging more families, and strengthening partnerships that place child safety at the center of our community. Every presentation, conversation, and connection brings us one step closer to a future where children are protected, supported, and empowered to thrive.

Together, we are building safer communities and brighter futures for the children of Fort Bend County.



# ELF Party Holiday Magic for Hundreds of Children

By Jen Brown

It is impossible to fully express the depth of love and generosity the Fort Bend community continues to show the children and families served by Child Advocates of Fort Bend. Time and again, you remind us what compassion in action truly looks like.

Our holiday journey begins quietly each Fall, as emails begin circulating in September, sparking anticipation for the season ahead. By December, those early efforts come to life in a joyful blur of activity. During the first week, our dedicated volunteers – our very own elves – work tirelessly to sort, organize, and pack the incredible volume of toys and gifts donated for our children and teens. The following week, the magic reaches its peak as over 500 gift bags are delivered to families throughout Fort Bend.

One especially touching moment came when a volunteer returned from a delivery and shared the family's reaction. The children didn't even pause to take off their backpacks after school before eagerly decorating the small Christmas tree they

had received and carefully placing their gifts beneath it. Their mother shared that they had gone without Christmas gifts for the past few years, calling this experience a true blessing.

Another mother was brought to tears when her son received a bicycle. "His bike was stolen earlier this year, and it was the only thing he asked for," she said. "I didn't know how I was going to make it happen." Thanks to the continued generosity of WA Parish, who once again donated 50 bikes, this young boy will be riding into Christmas morning with a smile that says it all.

The opportunity to ease even a small portion of the burden carried by these caregivers is a gift in itself. Yet equally powerful is witnessing the kindness of our donors – the quiet champions who give selflessly and without expectation. Whether it's a single blanket, a gift card, or an entire truck filled with presents, every contribution makes a meaningful difference. Each act of generosity brings comfort, joy, and hope to

[-more-](#)

families throughout Fort Bend.

Child Advocates of Fort Bend simply could not do this important work without the continued support of our community. Whether you donated gifts, volunteered your time sorting and packing toys, or helped spread the word about our mission, your involvement matters more than you know. There are countless stories that speak to the impact of your generosity on children, teens, and the caregivers who love them. Fort Bend, thank you for standing alongside Child Advocates of Fort Bend and for making a lasting difference in the lives of families who need it most.





## Christmas Home Tour

Ho Ho Ho! We are happy to share the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Home Tour held on December 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, was a fun and very successful fundraising event! Our fundraising success is due to the passion and giving nature of our homeowners, without whom we would not have a Christmas Home Tour each year. Each home dazzled with its own uniqueness, gorgeous décor and sentimental stories. Four unbelievable homes were showcased. In **Sienna**, *Whimsical, Indian & Classic*, a traditional family home full of history, memories and celebration of multiple religions and culture. In **Waters of Avalon**, *Classic & Elegant*, a new traditional style with European influences including a backyard recreated to feel like a vacation every day. In **Venetian Estates**, *Timeless, Classic & Cozy*, a newly built home with six Christmas trees and incredible lake views. The décor strikes a balance between feeling composed yet never overdone. In **Greatwood**, *Vintage Merry & Bright*, a remodeled home that exudes the touch of farmhouse. Each room includes vintage tinsel trees, an extensive Christopher Radko collection, family antiques, memories and traditions.

This is indeed one of the biggest fundraisers for our agency and it means so much to have the support from the community. Did you know that we are able to keep expenses low so that 94% of all dollars raised go directly to our programs and services? We exceeded our goal and raised over \$200,000. That means that over 3,000 children and families can heal with live-changing resources in our CAC and the 159 children served by CASA will continue to receive vital connections to help them thrive. We can continue our vision of ending the cycle of abuse by raising awareness and training to over 20,000 individuals in the community.

**THANK YOU ALL for sharing our mission!**

See more photos from this event at  
<https://www.cafb.org/2025christmas-home-tour-gallery/>



**PRESENTING SPONSOR**

Fred and Mabel R. Parks Foundation

**ARCHANGEL SPONSOR**

Sewell Audi Sugar Land  
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**CHILDREN'S GODPARENT**

OCuSOFT, Inc. **TICKET**  
The Spiwak Family **PROGRAM**

**PATRON SAINT**

Dr. Betty Baitland Classic Chevrolet Sugar Land	Johanson, Fairless & Taylor The Longaker Foundation
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John & Debbie Gamble	Julia & Art Saller <b>COOKIE</b>
The Hrebenar Family <b>MARKETING YARD SIGN</b>	

**CHILDREN'S SAINT**

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Memorial Hermann Sugar Land <b>RECIPE CARD</b>	

**CHILDREN'S ANGEL**

Baldwin Liaison Consulting <b>EXPRESS PARKING</b>	PB&J Pavement Marking <b>MISSION BANNER</b>
Doug & Ellen Earle <b>MISSION BANNER</b>	Sara Lyn Nguyen, Realtor BH&GRE Gary Greene <b>ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR</b>
The Engleman Family <b>MISSION BANNER</b>	Michael & Susan Reblin
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Tessie Guinn	Dr. & Mrs. Hal C. Stevenson <b>EXPRESS PARKING</b>
Pat & Linda King	John & Jolene Vanderzyl
Sue & Jim Lockwood <b>MISSION BANNER</b>	Karla & Greg Vesey <b>MISSION BANNER</b>
Colleen Migl	Lisa & Colin Watson
Zeenat & Ike Mitha	

**CHILDREN'S CARETAKER**

Nancy & David Dale	Barbara & Bryan Ives	Apurva & Mona Parikh	Revitalize Medi-Spa	Shiroz & Nizar Virani
John & Kathy Heinemann	Jessica & Jim Kij	Brian & Rosaelena Ratte	University of Houston	Daryl & Missy Waterwall

**CHILDREN'S FRIEND**

Vicki Carson	Alida Johnson	Null Design Partners -Diana Null & Tracy Pipes
Barbara Lee Cochran, Realtor	Lynn & Dennis Halford	Chelsi & Eric Oestreich
Jeanne Gregory, Hometown America	Nathan & Caroline Kunkel	Project Hope & Love
Gary & Carolyn Hawn	Kent & Lisa Landry	Arleen & Bud Smith
Peggy & Steve Jackson	Connie & René Lapotaire	Rachel & Cody Xi
Grayle & David James		

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

*thank you!*

TO OUR GRANTORS



# It Takes a Village

Child Advocates of Fort Bend is a nonprofit agency and relies on community support to provide its programs and services. We are so grateful for the support of numerous organizations and foundations who believe in our mission and provide funding, donations, and many of whom have partnered with us for years.

The funding we receive from our grantors directly benefits our clients and the community by allowing us to recruit top professionals, offer competitive salaries, use technology and equipment to support our processes and leverage our expertise to inform and train our staff, volunteers and partners, as well as the broader community. Without the generosity of funders, whether individuals, corporations or foundations, the breadth of our work would not be possible.

The saying goes that it takes a village to raise a child. At CAFB, it does indeed take a village to help children heal and recover from the trauma of abuse or neglect. It takes a village of specialized staff, community volunteers, partners in law enforcement, district attorneys, county attorneys, child welfare specialists, medical professionals and other partners to do this work. Grantors are an essential part of our community and the work we provide to help children heal and keep children safe.

These foundations and other supporters have helped close out the fourth quarter of 2025.

Astros Foundation	Halliburton Charitable Golf Foundation
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation
Rhett Butler Charitable Foundation	H-E-B Tournament of Champions
Harry & Isabel Cameron Foundation	Herzstein Charitable Foundation
Centerpoint Energy Foundation	Houston Methodist
Cullen Trust for Health Care	In-N-Out Burger Foundation
John S. Dunn Foundation	Madison Charitable Foundation
Fluor Golf for Greater Houston	Munday Foundation
Fort Bend County Child Welfare Board	The Fred & Mabel R. Parks Foundation
Fort Bend County DA Bike Ride	Pilot Company
Fort Bend Junior Service League	John T. Shea Foundation
Fort Bend Forward - The George Foundation YIP	Texas Bar Foundation
Charles A. Frueauff Foundation	Texas Mutual Insurance
Garden Club of Richmond	Williams Company
The George Foundation	Wingate Lindsay Foundation
George & Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation	Bert Winston Foundation

**THANK YOU, GRANTORS!**



## Child Abuse Prevention - Collaborative (CAP-C)

# Kicking Off 2026 With a Commitment to Child Abuse Prevention

By Dana Petty

As we step into 2026, one of our top priorities at Child Advocates of Fort Bend is our dedication to creating safe, nurturing environments for children everywhere. Child abuse prevention is not just a cause - it's a responsibility that impacts families, communities, and future generations.

### Why Focus on Prevention?

Child abuse can have lifelong consequences, affecting physical health, emotional well-being, and social development. By prioritizing prevention, together we can reduce these risks and foster resilience in children. Prevention starts with awareness, education, and community engagement. Normalizing the conversation about child abuse is the starting point for prevention.

### How You Can Make a Difference

#### Educate and Advocate:

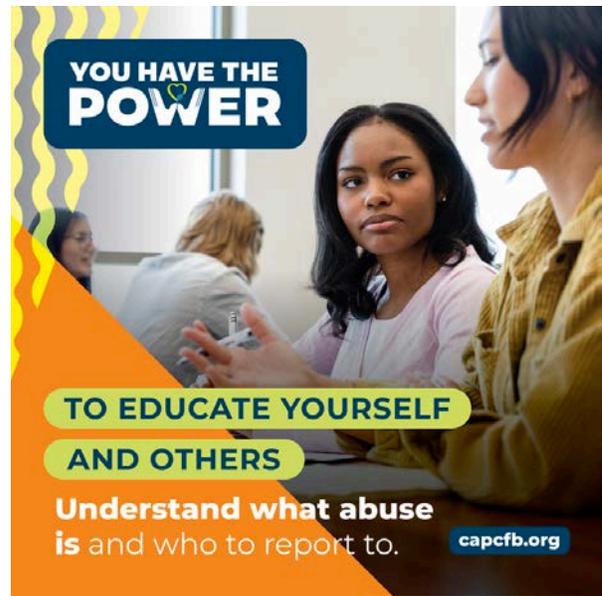
Share resources and information about recognizing signs of abuse and reporting concerns.

#### Support Families:

Encourage programs that provide parenting support, stress management, and access to essential services.

#### Build Strong Communities:

Promote environments where children feel safe and valued, and where adults are empowered to protect them.



### Moving Forward Together

This year let's all commit to proactive measures that protect children and strengthen families. Whether through volunteering, advocacy, or simply spreading awareness, every effort counts. Together, we can make 2026 a year of hope, safety, and positive change for all children.

Child Advocates of Fort Bend is your community partner in this effort. For more information about our prevention resources and trainings contact [Dana](#) at [dpetty@cafb.org](mailto:dpetty@cafb.org).



# TBRI Year in Review: A Year of Connection, Growth, and Hope

By Ali Waterwall

This year has been an incredible season of growth for Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) across our agency and our community. Through intentional training, strong partnerships, and consistent implementation of TBRI, we have continued to expand our impact across Fort Bend County—supporting children, families, educators, and professionals with tools that foster regulation, trust, and healing.

## By the Numbers

This year, the Fort Bend TBRI Collaborative achieved significant growth and impact:

- **1,085 individuals trained** in TBRI principles
- **40 TBRI trainings** delivered across Fort Bend County
- **5 cohort organizations** actively engaged in deepening TBRI implementation
- **20 agencies trained** outside of caregiver-specific training
- **19 referrals received** through CAFB agency partners

Over the past year, our TBRI team equipped caregivers, educators, and professionals with practical tools to better understand behavior, build trust, and meet the underlying needs of children from hard places. These trainings helped TBRI principles extend far beyond the classroom or therapy room and into homes and communities.

Participants consistently shared how TBRI transformed their perspective—from asking “*What’s wrong with this child?*” to “*What does this child need?*”—a shift that continues to create lasting change.

“ TBRI gave me  
a new lens ”

## TBRI in Classrooms & Organizations

This year, we actively implemented TBRI strategies, created environments rooted in felt safety, connection, and empowerment. Teachers reported noticeable improvements in student regulation, engagement, and relationships. Classrooms became calmer, more predictable spaces where children felt seen, supported, and capable of success.

One educator shared, “*TBRI gave me a new lens. Instead of power struggles, I now focus on connection—and the change in my students has been incredible.*”

Beyond classrooms, TBRI principles were integrated across agency partners, shaping daily interactions and organizational culture. From child-serving agencies to juvenile services, teams embraced a shared language of connection, empowerment, and grace.

One powerful example came from Juvenile Probation, where youth shared that their supervision officers regularly offer them “re-dos.” These moments of repair and opportunity reinforced trust and accountability, helping youth feel supported while learning new skills.

[-more-](#)

## TBRI Across Our Agency

TBRI continued to be woven into the fabric of our agency's culture. Teams across Child Advocates of Fort Bend integrated TBRI principles into daily interactions, staff training, and service delivery. This alignment strengthened consistency for the children and families we serve and reinforced a shared language of care, regulation, and connection among staff. Our youth programming incorporated yoga, breath work, bubbles, and other regulation-focused activities this year, creating engaging and effective ways for children to practice self-regulation.

## Real Impact, Real Stories

- A caregiver who attended training shared that TBRI strategies helped reduce daily meltdowns at home and restored hope in their parenting journey.
- A classroom using TBRI calming strategies reported fewer behavioral referrals and increased instructional time.
- Staff members expressed greater confidence in responding to challenging behaviors with empathy and effectiveness.

## Looking Ahead

As we reflect on 2025, we celebrate not only the growth in numbers, but the depth of impact—children learning to regulate, educators feeling empowered, and youth experiencing connection and second chances. We are deeply grateful to everyone who championed TBRI this year. Together, we are building environments where healing and connection can thrive—and we are excited to continue growing this important work in the year ahead.

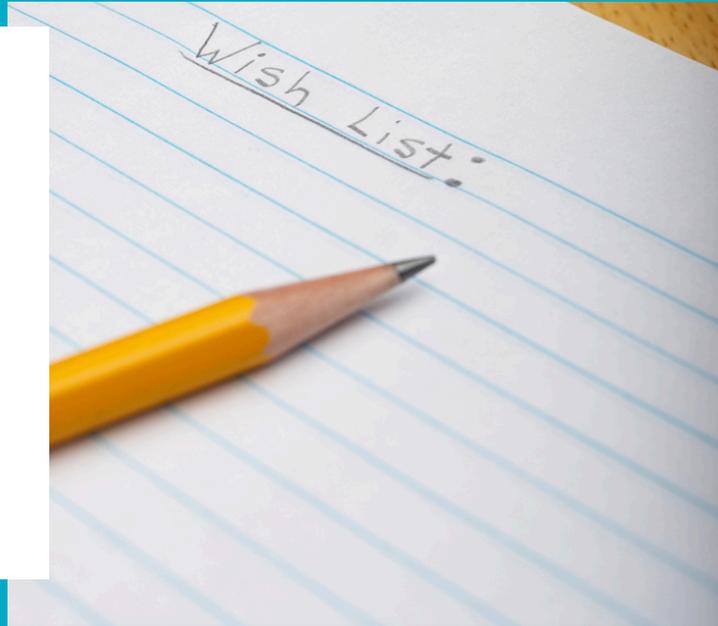


# our needs

This month, we have immediate need for:

- NEW medium-sized stuffed animals
- Gift cards  
VISA/ MasterCard, Walmart, HEB

View our [Amazon Wish List](#)



## 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.

CHILD **ADVOCATES** OF FORT BEND™



# Darkness to Light

Stewards of Children

Learn how to prevent child sexual abuse

We will teach you how to:

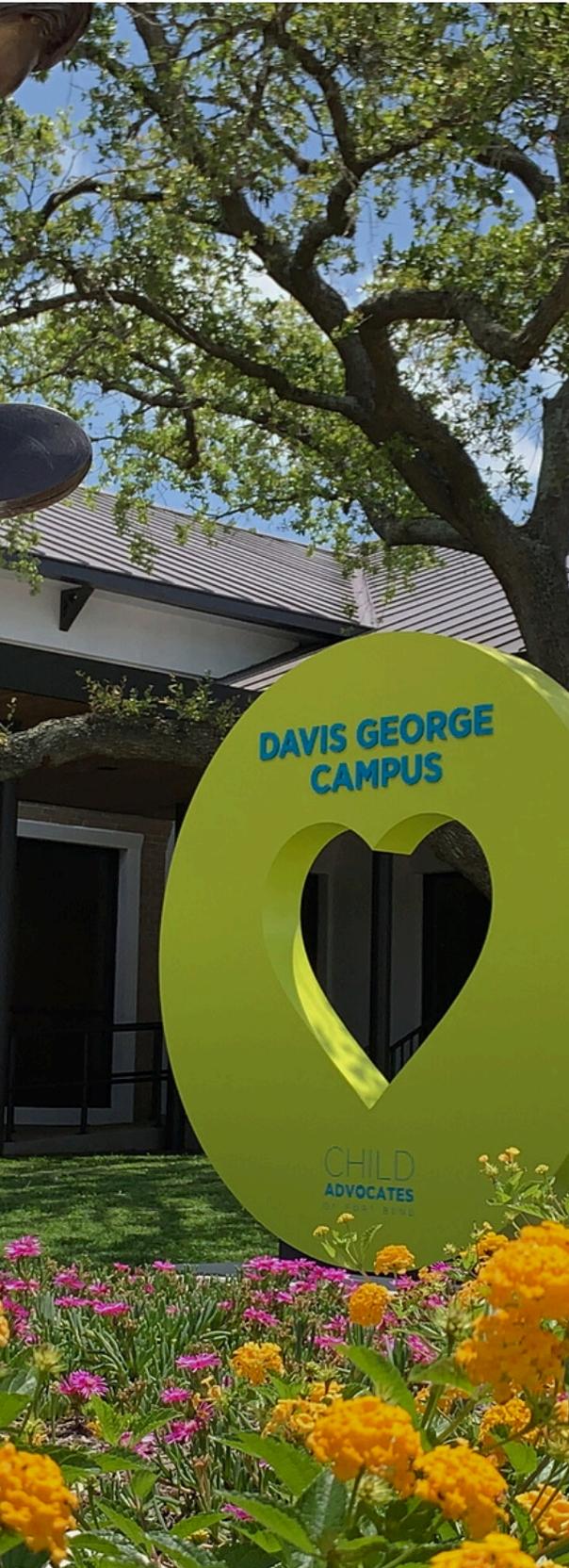
- Recognize risky situations
- Talk to children about boundaries and abuse
- Learn strategies that keep children safer
- Report abuse if you suspect something

Scan QR code to register  
or follow the link below:

[REGISTER HERE](#)



 DARKNESS TO LIGHT'S  
STEWARDS OF CHILDREN®



## January 27

Darkness to Light Stewards of Children  
10:00am until 1pm  
Reserve your spot [here](#) today!

## January 27

Sip & Stroll  
5:30pm until 7pm  
Contact [Lisa](#) at [LMoore@cafb.org](mailto:LMoore@cafb.org) to reserve your spot

## April 25

“Where the Wild Things Are” Gala  
5pm until 10pm  
*Houston Marriott Sugar Land*

## March 26

Trauma Informed Care and TBRI Conference  
9:00am until 4:00pm  
*James Reese Career and Technical Center*

## June 24

Youth Aging Out Conference  
1pm until 5pm





*“When children are surrounded by safety and compassion, healing and hope can grow.”*

**- Anonymous**