



# National Children's Advocacy Center

## Local Service. National Leadership.



January/February 2009



#12031

**\* To Model, Promote, and Deliver Excellence in Child Abuse Response and Prevention through Service, Education, and Leadership\***

National Children's Advocacy Center 210 Pratt Avenue Huntsville, AL 35801 Phone: (256) 533-KIDS (5437) Website: [www.nationalcac.org](http://www.nationalcac.org)

### Huntsville Havoc Waiter Night Benefits the NCAC

On Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> the Huntsville Havoc hockey players teamed up with Carrabba's Italian Grill to serve patrons delicious meals and hang out with fans while collecting tips to benefit the NCAC. Thanks to all of the generous donations we were able to raise almost \$1,700! Special thanks to Carrabba's Italian Grill, the Huntsville Havoc and everyone who came out to support the NCAC!



### Local Child Abuse Intervention Services January - December 2008...

- ❖ **355 therapy sessions were provided for 61 children**
- ❖ **337 forensic interviews were conducted**
- ❖ **97 specialized medical examinations were performed**

### Helping Child Abuse Victims Heal

In 1985 Congressman Robert E. "Bud" Cramer, who was then the District Attorney, saw the need to create an efficient community system for protecting abused and neglected children in Madison County. Before the opening of the NCAC, victims of child abuse were sent from one agency to another to tell and retell the horrible details of what they had experienced. This repetitive process was often traumatic for the child and complicated for the professionals involved.

The NCAC model was created to address these problems and bring together community agencies and professionals to investigate and respond to child abuse incidents together on one campus. This joint approach allows information to flow seamlessly among the professionals who need it and lessen any trauma to the child.

The clinical services offered at the NCAC are designed to help child abuse victims heal. Highly trained mental health professionals conduct forensic interviews with children to determine whether or not abuse has occurred and if so what happened. When necessary, children are also seen by the NCAC nurse practitioner for medical examinations. If a child needs therapy to recover from the trauma of abuse, he or she may visit the center on a weekly basis for as long as is necessary, regardless of whether or not the case is prosecuted. Group therapy is offered to adolescents to help reduce feelings of isolation and aid in the healing process. Family members are also offered support through the Family Advocate program, which offers education and resources as they help the child victim heal. All of these services are provided free of charge to children and families primarily in Madison County, Alabama.

### Free Fridge.....Donation Helps Families



Susan Ottaway, an LG employee won a new refrigerator at a company Christmas party. Although she was happy to have won, she already had a new refrigerator, and the LG fridge would not fit the dimensions of her house. She decided that donating the new fridge to a non profit organization would be the best thing to do. She researched local charitable organizations in the Madison County area, but decided to choose the NCAC after her co-worker, Jessica Hicks, told her about it. Jessica had recently visited and toured the Center when LG donated televisions to the NCAC.

"I feel really good about giving the refrigerator to the NCAC. It was meant to be, and I'm delighted to learn about helping children in the Huntsville area!" said Ottaway.

### 2009 Community Partners



\*To learn more about NCAC Model Programs click [HERE](#)



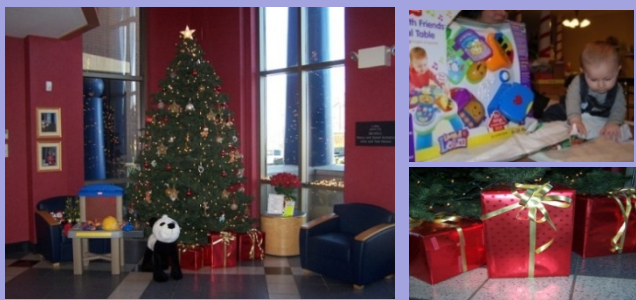
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## Healthy Families, Great Holiday Season!

This holiday season has been a fun and generous one in Healthy Families (HF). The festivities began in early December with the annual Holiday Party. The parents and children who participate in the HF program came to the party and enjoyed a delicious dinner provided by Kurt Lineback's "Catering by Kurt" and shared their wish lists with Santa, who posed with the children for pictures. The fun continued with a craft room and a very active music room for the kids to enjoy. Local photographer, Kay Fuller Moore took family portraits of all of the families. A special thanks to the Party sponsors including Compass Bank and Kelly and Mark Jackson.



In addition to the Holiday Party, the annual Healthy Families Holiday Tree project continued again this year. This project matched individuals and community groups with families in need. The parents of babies and toddlers who are placed on the tree for "adoption" during the holidays are participants in the Healthy Families and Just For Dads parenting programs. These families struggle with poverty throughout the year and were in need of assistance for the holidays. Most of their requests were for basic needs items including food and clothing. Thirty seven of our families were adopted this season. A special thank you to all who adopted one or more of our families!

*\*The NCAC **Healthy Families** program is a voluntary home visitation program that supports overburdened, low income, first-time parents. Trained family support workers provide education, emotional support, guidance, and other resources to parents facing major challenges in raising a child.*



## Santa Visits the NCAC!

On December 16, 2008, the abused children who receive therapy services from the NCAC celebrated the holidays with presents, a visit from Santa, food and fun. The Mortgage Bankers Association have been taking care of these special children for more than 6 years. Each year they go above and beyond by taking time to decorate the Children's Building and throw a grand party for the children who have been victims of abuse.

The dedicated therapists at the NCAC worked with each child to make a "Wish List" of items they would like to receive from Santa. Members of the Mortgage Bankers Association then purchased and wrapped the gifts to give to the children at the party. Many of the children have few resources to celebrate the holiday season and the delight in their eyes upon opening the gifts was heart-warming to say the least. Food was plentiful and the lobby of the Children's Building was loud with laughter and chatting. It was truly a moment in time when everyone present could forget about their current problems, past traumas and hurt, and enjoy the experience of giving, receiving and being loved.

A very special thank you to The Mortgage Bankers Association for providing the food, decorations, and gifts. Their sacrifice of time and kindness of heart made this season a little bit brighter for many children and their families.



The Exchange Club of Huntsville presented the NCAC's SCAN program with a \$5,000 check!



### From the NCAC Website

"The more that you read,  
the more things you will know.

The more that you learn,  
the more places you'll go." – Dr. Seuss



For Great Children's Book Ideas Visit

[http://www.nationalcac.org/families/early\\_learning/books/](http://www.nationalcac.org/families/early_learning/books/)

**NCAC Membership:** Every dollar you give directly benefit the local programs and services offered in this community. For example, \$100 could provide one hour of therapy to a local victim of child abuse. \$250 could provide a specialized medical exam. **Donate Now** or mail a check by to 210 Pratt Avenue Huntsville, AL 35801. Together we can make a difference....one child at a time!

For more information about NCAC programs and services please visit [www.nationalcac.org](http://www.nationalcac.org)

If you suspect child abuse, call the National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-4ACHILD (800-422-4453)

To report child abuse in Huntsville or Madison County, AL call: 256-535-4500