

THE ADVOCACY CENTER FOR CRIME VICTIMS AND CHILDREN IS AN UMBRELLA NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION FOR PROGRAMS THAT SERVE TO BRING ABOUT HEALING TO CHILDREN AND ADULTS WHO ARE VICTIMS OF CRIME AND TO FACILITATE CHANGE TO END VIOLENCE THROUGH ADVOCACY, COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.

## CASA Program Expands in Hill County

Earlier this year, 66<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge F.B. “Bob” McGregor, Jr. had the following words about the CASA program: “The CASA program has assisted numerous families in Hill County in the most difficult circumstances possible. The Court is thankful for the CASA volunteers and staff and hopes the program can be enhanced and strengthened as time goes by, and that many citizens will elect to consider helping these children and the Courts through CASA.”

Because of the generosity of the George G. and Alva Hudson Smith Foundation, the CASA program has been enhanced and strengthened. By providing funding for a half time equivalent position, the Hill County CASA Supervisor position became full-time on July 1st.

Therefore, Hill County children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and/or neglect and placed in the foster care system will receive even better services. We are very grateful to the foundation for so generously giving back to their community to ensure that some of Hill County’s most vulnerable residents receive the help they need.

**Thank you George G. and Alva Hudson Smith Foundation.**

## Healing Through Art



*Susan shares her healing journey in the hope it will help someone else on a similar path.*

### A Fallen Broken Angel

*By Susan (not her real name)*

... finally stopped fighting any more and gave up on the last little bit of something that kept it going – hope. So it decided to die.

... an out-reached hand...  
The Advocacy Center.

... understanding, compassionate and non-judgmental care...

... gave it back a voice and words to speak out loud.

... there when it needed help to keep fighting, when it was feeling vulnerable and weak.

... gave back its hope, strength, courage, power, and will when it had none of its own.



## Attorney General Greg Abbott Unveils New Tools To Help Identify Child Abuse

April 21, 2005 Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott unveiled materials to help teachers, school counselors, health care professionals and others who work regularly with children identify and report child abuse. The video and handbook "*What Can We Do About Child Abuse?*"

discuss the legal requirements for reporting child abuse and include tips on how to talk to children who may have been abused. General Abbott made the announcement in April at the Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children as part of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.



*Pictured with Attorney General Greg Abbott (center) are foster parent David Mims and Advocacy Center Executive Director Pamela Wessel.*

*For more information, go to [www.oag.state.tx.us](http://www.oag.state.tx.us).*

## Annual Jawbones v. Sawbones Softball Game

April 17, 2005 Area lawyers (Jawbones) and doctors (Sawbones) competed in a softball game to raise funds for the Advocacy Center.

The doctors 3-year winning streak was broken with a win by the lawyers.



Both groups have a great time in this spirited competition. Bragging rights are second only to the shared opportunity to help victims of crime in our community.

We are looking forward to next year to see if the lawyers will continue winning or if the doctors will reclaim the title.

## Baylor University Staff Council Gives Generous Support



April 13, 2005 Baylor University Staff Council's Service Project 2005 benefited the Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children.

The event is co-chaired by Staff Council representatives Dana Lee Haines and Rebecca White. Haines said, "Members of the Staff Council are thrilled to coordinate this project to provide much needed resources for the Advocacy Center. It is a great chance to help an organization in Waco."

*The Advocacy Center is deeply appreciative of Baylor's support.*

## Rotary Exchange Program from Mexico

April 5, 2005 Professionals in the Mexican Criminal Justice System visited the Advocacy Center to explore ways to coordinate advocacy efforts. Pictured below are local law enforcement and criminal justice personnel as well as Advocacy Center staff.



*Along with the Exchange Group visitors, the back row includes Waco Police Chief Alberto Melis, the Victims Center Program Director David Davis, Waco Police Assistant Chief Brent Stroman, McLennan County District Attorney John Segrest, and Waco Police Crimes Against Children Unit Sergeant Kraig Disney. In front are Forensic Interviewer Dondie Crook and the Children's Advocacy Center Program Director Kerry Burkley.*

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Arlene Bellelegie  
by Drs. Ann & Gayland Sims  
Ralph Cummings, Sr.  
by Sherry & David Hawkins  
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Phone: 254-752-9330  
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24-Hour Crisis Hotline (254) 752-7233  
Toll Free Hotline (888) 867-7233

## What Can You Do To Help? Volunteer!

### Training for New Volunteers

Volunteers for the 24-Hour Crisis Hotline carry a cell phone to answer calls to the hotline and provide emotional support for sexual assault survivors at area hospitals (Hillcrest and Providence).

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) help make a difference in the lives of children in foster care by being the child's voice in court.

An application package and/or interviews must be completed before you may attend any training. Background checks are part of the process and may take several weeks to complete, so submit your application as soon as possible.

We make presentations about the agency to organizations and congregations. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 254-752-9330 Ext. 141 to request the application package, ask questions or schedule a presentation.

### 24-Hour Crisis Hotline Training

**September 8-11, 2005**

4 days of training

Thursday & Friday, September 8-9  
5:30 - 9:30 PM and

Saturday, September 10  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM and

Sunday, September 11  
1:00 - 5:00 PM

1 hour follow-up TBA

Additional hours of observation TBA



### CASA Training

**September 19 - 29, 2005**

8 days of training

Monday through Thursday for 2 weeks  
5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Courtroom observation times TBA

