

Brooks' Place Information



Our Mission

A community working together to nurture hope and healing in the lives of children and families impacted by child sexual abuse.

Programs

Child Advocacy Center Services: coordination of multidisciplinary team (Law Enforcement investigators, Mental Health counselors, Child Protective Service workers, District Attorney, Victim Advocates, Medical professionals), forensic interviews, clinical assessment and counseling, family support and referrals, court advocacy.

Making A Difference (MAD): group-based psych educational programming (emotional management, character education) provided in the Cullman city school system's alternative schools daily during the school year

Community Education: seminars for civic and church groups.

Continuing Education Conferences: for professionals.

See Others As People (SOAP): community-based outpatient treatment program for adjudicated juvenile sex offenders at low risk to re-offend while remaining in the Cullman County community; long-term, intensive alternative sentencing program, with court-ordered parent/guardian component. Also provides case management and supervision component for those not yet adjudicated as well as those placed in residential treatment facilities.

History

Task force, spear-headed by then-District Attorney Len Brooks, formed in early 1990's to begin process of establishing a child advocacy center (child-family friendly setting; multidisciplinary team approach to child abuse reports; provision of specified services.

Child advocacy center became operational on September 1, 1997, as a sub-program of Victim Services of Cullman, funded by Victims of Crime Act grant.

The Child Advocacy Center of Cullman, Inc., was incorporated as a non-profit in Jan. 1998. Original location was in Downtown Plaza, then moved with VSOC to Cullman County Office Bldg.; moved to current location in spring 1999; added adjacent structure in 2002.

Funding

- ◆ Grants: Victims of Crime Act grant (ADECA)
- ◆ Program Support grant (NCA).
- ◆ State appropriation from Education Fund and Children First Trust (tobacco monies).
- ◆ Appropriations from several of Cullman County governmental entities (Cullman City, Cullman County Commission, and South Vinemont).
- ◆ Fundraisers and contributions/donations from individual, church, and civic groups.

Governance

Private non-profit; 501 (c) (3) organization Volunteer Board of Directors, maximum of 18 members. Board meets quarterly. current officers are Mr. Robby Walker, President, Mr. Patrick Ray, Vice Presi-

dent, Mrs. Lindsey Dossey, Secretary, Mr. Tim Thrasher, Financial Officer, and Dale Gambrell, Immediate Past President.

Agency is an accredited member (since 1998) of both the National Children's Alliance and the AL Net-

work of Children's Advocacy Centers (ANCAC). ANCAC is a non-profit organization whose Board of Directors is made up of the 29 directors of child advocacy centers in the state.



Staff

- Kim Bevis, Executive Director
- Gail Swafford, Clinical Coordinator
- Blakely Hopper, Forensic Interviewer, Victim Advocate, and J-SOAP case manager.
- Donna Dutton, Administrative Assistant.