



THE PINWHEEL POST

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF GREATER WEST TEXAS

VOLUME 1, EDITION 2: CHRISTMAS IS HERE

HUNTING DOWN SANTA

Girl on a Mission
Page 3



CHRISTMAS HONORARIUMS

Honor a loved one this year!
Page 6



CUT-OUT CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

Activity for all ages
Page 9

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Get to Know Margret
Page 7



DIRECTORS MESSAGE

Message from the CEO

Special holiday greetings to you and yours on behalf of the Children's Advocacy Center of Greater West Texas, Inc! What a wonderful couple of months we have had at the CAC, and we are gearing up for a festive and fun Christmas season. There is much going on at the CAC and I hope you are connected with us in some way whether that be with Christmas for Kids, Christmas Honorariums/Memorials (great gifts), or through direct services with our programs.



I want to start by saying a huge thank you to our friends at Tom Green County Sheriff's Office for their partnership this year with CAC Fall Festival. We welcomed over 1,300 individuals to the Courthouse Lawn and had over 25 vendors and deputy cars handing out treats and resources for children & families in our community. Our friends at Hoar Construction & H-E-B made a special impact by underwriting the event, and we thank them for their support!

Christmas is my favorite time of year. The lights, food (especially the cookies), time with loved ones, and making memories that hopefully will last a life time. Unfortunately, some of the children and families we serve do not experience Christmas like we would hope. Traumatic experiences in a child's life can return during the holiday season because this could be a child's first Christmas in foster care, first Christmas in a new placement, or a more joyous time where a child is experiencing their first Christmas with their adoptive family. No matter the joy or sadness, we continue to provide hope and healing through our services, and especially through our Christmas for Kids operation. If you wish to make an impact for a child this holiday season, and bring a little joy to them, consider supporting Christmas for Kids (more information later in the newsletter.)

Most importantly, I take this time to say Thank You. Thank you for your support of our organization, our mission, our staff, volunteers, and most importantly the children & families we serve. Our work isn't easy, but with the support of amazing staff, partners, volunteers, and the communities we serve - we know we can continue to ensure every child a safe, nurturing home. We thank you for coming along this journey with us and look forward to more amazing progress in 2024 as we work to prevent child abuse and protect those who have experienced it.

Merry Christmas to you and yours,

Justin M. DeLoach



HUNTING DOWN SANTA

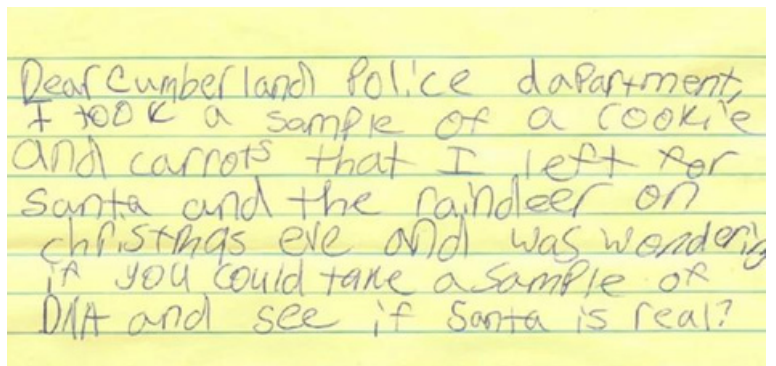
Girl on a Mission

A local police department in Rhode Island has received an unusual query: running a DNA test on evidence to prove the existence of Santa Claus.

The authorities in Cumberland, north of Providence, received a handwritten letter from a young girl earlier this month, according to a press release on Friday.

The young girl asked the police to run a DNA test on a partially eaten cookie and carrot remains presumably consumed by Santa Claus and some of his nine reindeer on Christmas Eve. The food remains were forwarded to the state's Department of Health-Forensic Sciences Unit for analysis, police said.

"This young lady obviously has a keen sense for truth and the investigative process and did a tremendous job packaging her evidence for submission," Cumberland's police chief, Matthew J. Benson, said in the release. "We will do our very best to provide answers for her."



A young girl's note to the police department asked to test for evidence of Santa.

Cumberland Police Department/Screenshot by NPR

The Cumberland Police Department responded to the young girl with "some already uncovered evidence in support of Santa Claus' presence in her neighborhood" on Christmas Eve, a photo of what appeared to be a deer with antlers. The Cumberland Police Department said it is awaiting test results, and asked residents to stay tuned for more information.

The original article, "Girl asks police to run DNA test on Christmas cookie for evidence of Santa Claus", sourced from NPR. To read the original article, [click here](#).



MERRY & BRIGHT

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS OPERATION

Sponsorship opportunities are still available for our Christmas for Kids Operation, serving over 300 Concho Valley children with a Christmas to remember! This program originally began with our CASA program, serving children in foster care who may not experience Christmas without the support and generosity of those in the community. As CASA's impact from Christmas for Kids grew, and the support of our community continued to provide in large ways, we have been able to expand this program to all children served by the CAC.

Check out the [Four Ways You Can Sponsor a Child this Christmas](#) on page 5!

For more information, contact Courtney White, Special Events & Marketing Specialist (a.k.a. Santa's Head Elf at the CAC) for more information or to get involved. You may also donate online by visiting www.cacgreaterwtx.org and click the donate button. Help bring the joy and hope of Christmas to a child in our community!

"You are a Pro" Parent Tip

It's ok to have your own version of Christmas - there is no such thing as a perfect Christmas so find what works for you and your unique family!

FOUR WAYS

You can sponsor a child this Christmas:



REQUEST A WISH LIST

Complete the Sponsor Form and mail or email the form to cwhite@cacgreaterwtx.org. Upon receipt of your form, we will send you a child's profile, wish list, and further instructions.



MAKE A MONETARY DONATION FOR GIFTS

Individuals/organizations may sponsor a child by making a tax-deductible contribution that the CAC will use to purchase gifts for a child in need. Please specify the donation is for Christmas for Kids.



MAKE A MONETARY DONATION FOR SERVICES

Individuals/organizations may sponsor a child by making a tax-deductible contribution that the CAC will apply toward a child in need of CAC Services. Please specify the donation is for CAC Services.



DONATE NEW, UNWRAPPED GIFTS

Individuals/organizations may donate new, unwrapped gifts from the Frequently Requested Items list. Please deliver the unwrapped gifts to the Children's Advocacy Center's beginning November 1. The last day for drop-off is Friday, December 8, 2023.





CHRISTMAS HONORARIUM

HONOR A LOVED ONE THIS YEAR!

Give the gift of hope in honor or memory of someone this Holiday Season. Donate today and we will send a special holiday acknowledgment letting your honoree know of your gift. To donate, visit our website and click the donate now button or call 325-653-HOPE!

Note: Deadline for acknowledgements to be sent is December 20th. All gifts received after this time will be processed following December 25th.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

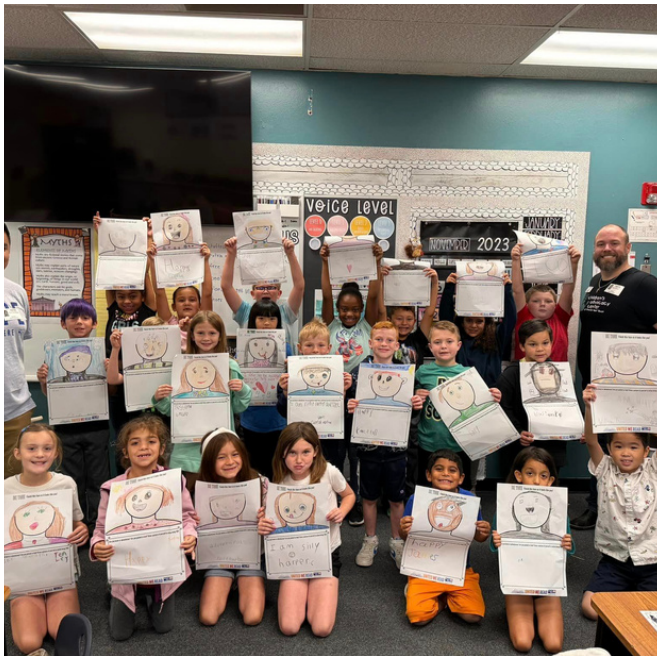
Margret Guerra LPC

What's your favorite:

- Color: Red
- Holiday: 4th of July
- Disney Movie: The Little Mermaid
- Pizza Toppings: Pepperoni & Italian sausage



Margret has been with the CAC for 2 years. She provides therapeutic services for clients who have endured trauma or who are struggling with anxiety, depression, suicidal ideations, or environmental changes. The thing she loves most about her job is the positive feedback her clients leave when they are preparing to complete their treatment together after reaching their set goals. "I am most proud of being present and providing great service to my clients."



FEEL GOOD FEATURE

United We Read

CACGWTX participated in United Way of the Concho Valley's United We Read on November 8th! Our CEO Justin was with Ms. Clifton's second grade class at Bonham Elementary School, and our Education and Outreach Specialist Michael Cuellar was with Ms. Vargas' class. We are a proud partner with UWCV and are proud to unite our community and promote reading!

2023 FALL FESTIVAL



children's advocacy center
of Greater West Texas

2023

TOM GREEN COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

H-E-B
Helping Here.

H
Hoar Construction

REECE ALBERT INC.
HEAVY CONSTRUCTION

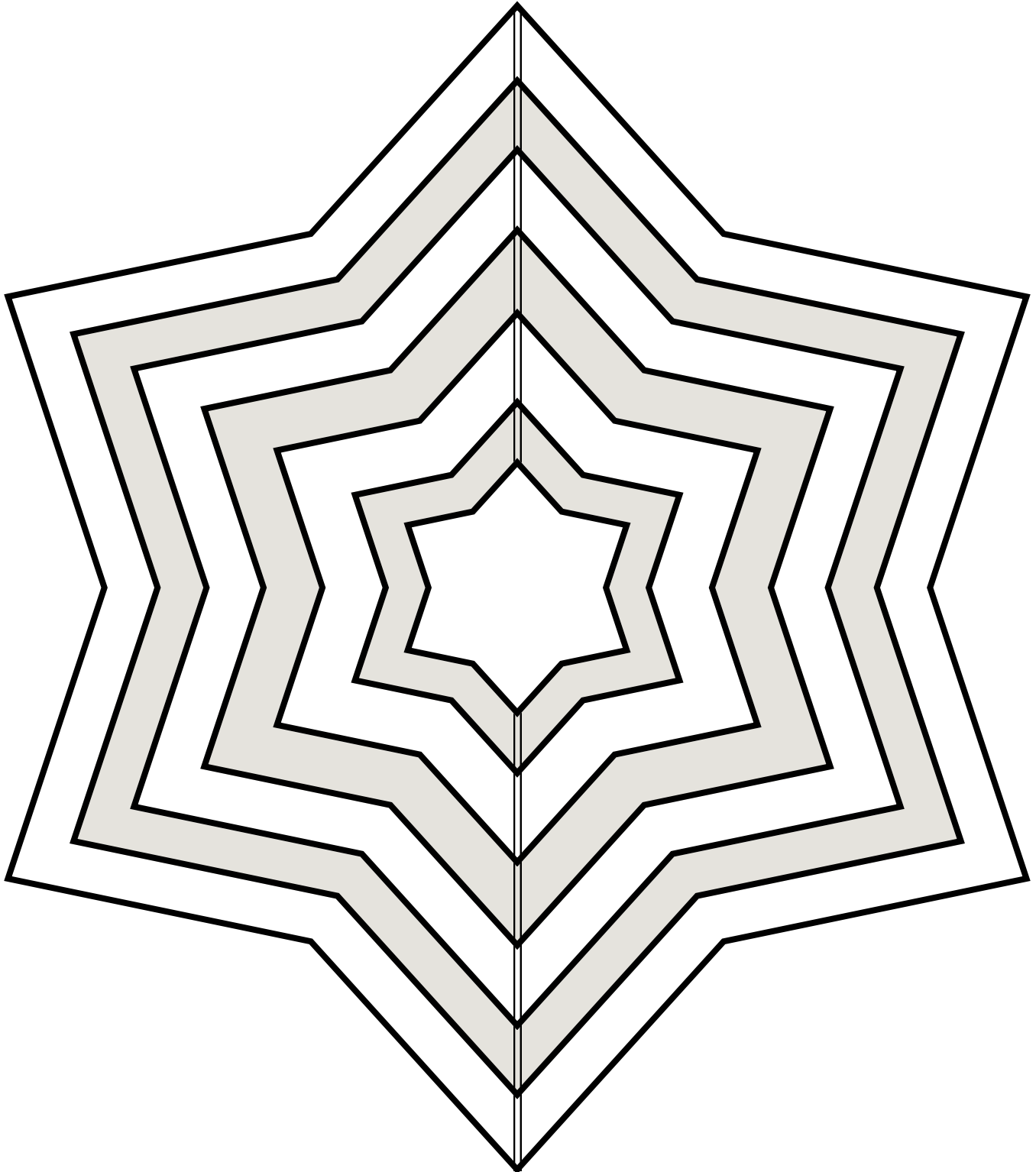
Trish & Len Mertz

RENT-A-SIGN
SIMPLE & EFFECTIVE ADVERTISING



CHRISTMAS CUT-OUT ORNAMENT

Starting in the center of the design and working toward the outside, carefully cut on the lines, taking care to not cut the areas that hold the shape together (line in the middle). Cut out all the grey pattern lines, then, starting with the center star, carefully twist one quarter-turn. Continue to twist each successive star until all are spun out. Activity created using Better Homes & Gardens "paper Star Ornament". To see an example and for more instructions, visit <https://www.bhg.com/christmas/ornaments/pretty-christmas-ornaments-made-from-paper/>



2024 Champagne & Diamonds

February 14, 2024 | Cactus Hotel | 6:30 p.m

2024 SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

DIAMOND LEVEL LEGEND JEWELERS

PLATINUM LEVEL \$10,000

- Reserved table for 12 - ballroom seating & dinner
- 6 reserved champagne glasses
- Bar service for the table
- Sponsorship mentioned in all media coverage
- Speaking opportunities
- Company logo or name listed on all printed materials
- Private reception before event

GOLD LEVEL \$5,000

- Reserved table for 10 - ballroom seating & dinner
- 5 reserved champagne glasses
- Bar service for the table
- Sponsorship mentioned in all media coverage
- Company logo or name listed on all printed materials

SILVER LEVEL \$3,000

- Reserved table for 10 - ballroom seating & dinner
- 3 reserved champagne glasses
- Sponsorship mentioned on social media
- Company name listed in event program

BRONZE LEVEL \$2,000

- Reserved table for 10 - ballroom seating & dinner
- Company name listed in event program



2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are pleased to announce our 2024 Board of Directors and would like to extend our thanks and appreciation for their dedication and support of the Children's Advocacy Center of Greater West Texas.

- **Patricia Mertz**
 - President
- **Susan Looka**
 - Vice President
- **Dr. Crystal Kreitler**
 - Secretary
- **Joe Munoz**
 - Treasurer
- **Colleen Haddad**
 - Past President
- **Diane Wilson**
 - Member-At-Large
- **Sharanda El-Masri**
 - Board Member
- **Brian Gargan**
 - Board Member
- **Meghan Kauten**
 - Board Member
- **Dr. Robert LeGrand**
 - Board Member
- **Shelley New**
 - Board Member
- **Steve Robles**
 - Board Member
- **Dr. Norma Cerna Schneemann**
 - Board Member
- **Nate Southard**
 - Board Member
- **Liz Bates**
 - Advisory Board Member
- **Dr. Brook Dickison**
 - Advisory Board Member
- **Valery Frank**
 - Advisory Board Member
- **Jackie Martin**
 - Advisory Board Member
- **Michelle Perkey**
 - Advisory Board Member
- **James Skinner**
 - Advisory Board Member
- **Ashley Knight**
 - Board Member, DA's Office
- **Lt. Mike Hernandez**
 - Board Member, SAPD
- **Sheriff Nick Hanna**
 - Board Member, Sheriffs Office
- **Carla Davis**
 - Board Member, CPS
- **Becky Fuentes**
 - Board Member, Shannon



UPCOMING EVENTS

Group Connections- Pictures with SantaDecember 6, 2023 | 5:30-7:30p.m. | CAC

Christmas for Kids Gift DeadlineDecember 8, 2023

Christmas Break (Office Closed)December 22, 2023 -January 1, 2024

SAVE THE DATE

2024
Champagne &
Diamonds 

February 14, 2024 | Cactus Hotel | 6:30 p.m

For more upcoming events, visit: <https://cacgreaterwtx.org/news-events/>



CONNECT WITH US

325.653.HOPE • WWW.CACGREATERWTX.ORG

