



THE PINWHEEL POST

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

VOLUME 3, EDITION 1: SEPTEMBER 2025

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

We all play a vital role in protecting our children
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FEEL GOOD FEATURE

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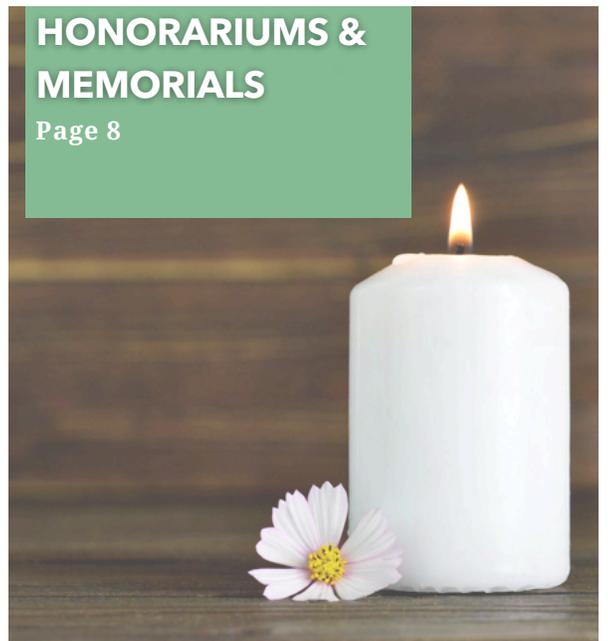
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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Welcome back to school and happy September!

The feelings of fall are just around the corner with the hints of cooler mornings and football season in full swing. We hope everyone had a great summer and that your new school year is off to a wonderful start!

This year has already been filled with encouragement and impact. Over the summer, we came together with CAC's across the nation at the National Children's Alliance Everyday Champions Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. and participated in their Capitol Day and leadership sessions, including an additional visit with Congressman August Pfluger. Our team also had the opportunity to attend the Crimes Against Children Conference in Dallas. Our team has already gotten to work on implementing what they've learned to better support our local efforts on child abuse prevention and the children and families in our community.

As we step into the new school year, we want to highlight an important reminder: keeping a close eye on your child's device(s) and social media activity is critical. A recent Stanford Medicine study, shared by Erin Digitale, revealed that about 25% of children receive their first phone by age 10, 75% by age 12, and nearly all by age 15. Among those who own phones, 99% have smartphones. While smartphones **can be** valuable tools for learning and connection, they also open the door for potential risks. Perpetrators often use these same devices to reach children in ways that can be difficult for parents to detect. Staying engaged in your child's digital world is one of the best ways to help protect them!

We encourage you to have open and honest conversations with your child(ren) about the risks of social media and online interactions. Plan to set expectations together, including the importance of using passcodes or passwords on all accounts. Remind your child never to connect with people they don't personally know, even if the contact is through an online game or platform. They should also understand that sharing personal details such as a phone number, social media handle, full name, birthday, or address with someone they haven't met in person can put them at risk. If your child does interact with someone unfamiliar or if someone they know begins sharing inappropriate messages, photos, or videos, it's vital that they feel comfortable coming to you right away. When they do, respond with patience and support! Stay actively involved by regularly checking your child's phone, including apps, direct messages, texts, and calls. If something concerning arises, talk it through with your child rather than ignoring it. It's our responsibility to guide them, support their decision-making, and help them build safe habits for navigating the digital world.

Together, we can create a safer community for our children! One where they feel protected, supported, and empowered to thrive. Thank you for all you do to stand alongside us in this important work.

Child Abuse Prevention: Today. Tomorrow. Forever.

With Gratitude,
Justin M. DeLoach

STAFF UPDATES

CONGRATULATIONS TO RACHEL WRIGHT, GREG GRAHAM, KEREN HARRIS-HAVARD, & ISABEL GARNICA FOR THEIR PROMOTIONS!



RACHEL WRIGHT
Director of CASA & Prevention



GREG GRAHAM, LPC-S
Director of Hope House



KEREN HARRIS-HAVARD
Operations Program Manager



ISABEL GARNICA
Compliance Program Manager

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST HIRES!



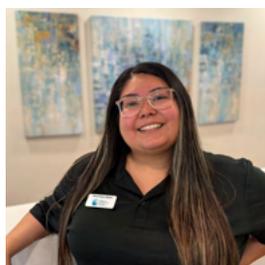
LAUREN BELL
Community Engagement Program Manager



EVELYN HOLDEN
CASA Case Manager



ARACELI OLVERA
Parent Provider



DOMINIQUE REESE
CASA Case Manager



TORI ALGIERE
Hope House Program Manager



SEAN SCATES
MDT Coordinator

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ASHLEY KNIGHT

CHIEF TRAVIS GRIFFITH

JOE WICKER

BECKY FUENTES

Fall Festival HALLOWEEN CANDY NEEDED

Our Family Fall Festival is right around the corner on October 16th, and we could use your help!

As you stock up your own Halloween candy, consider grabbing an additional bag or two to drop by our offices, or we'd be happy to coordinate a time to pick up.

Or, easily scan the QR code and you can order from our Amazon wish list. The candy will then ship directly to CAC - hassle-free!

Scan here for
Amazon Wish List:



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

BECOME A CASA VOLUNTEER

CASA Volunteers are ordinary people from all walks of life, ages, and ethnic groups who are committed to doing what is best for a child in the foster care system. As a CASA Volunteer, you commit to represent a child's best interests while they are in care.

BECOME A GENERAL VOLUNTEER

General Volunteers are vital to the work of Children's Advocacy Center of Greater West Texas, Inc. Through assisting with facility maintenance, organization, and event coordination, General Volunteers help ensure children and families continue to receive the care and support they deserve.



JOIN WOMEN OF HOPE

Women of Hope are ambassadors for children in the Concho Valley through their determination to increase community awareness, promote child abuse prevention efforts, and financially strengthen the Children's Advocacy Center of Greater West Texas, Inc.

HOST OR ATTEND A TRAINING

If you see it, now you can have the tools to report it! By learning the signs of child abuse and how to make a report, you can be a voice for children and ensure every child has a safe and nurturing home. A school, business, or group may choose to host a Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse Training as a way to train multiple individuals.

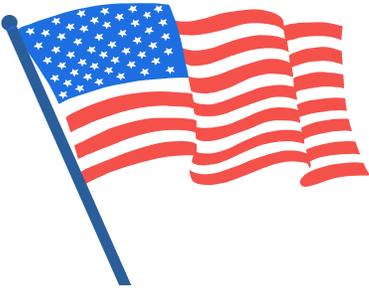
For more information on how to get involved, please contact Lauren Bell, lbell@cacgreaterwtx.org

FEEL GOOD FEATURE

A TRIP TO THE CAPITOL

Earlier this summer, our CEO, Justin DeLoach, and our Chief Programs Officer, Monica Escobedo, was honored to join National partners with National Children's Alliance for their Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. at our Nation's Capitol.

CAC of Greater West Texas, Inc joined Children's Advocacy Center of Central Texas by visiting our Texas Leaders in Congress and Senate. A special thank you to Congressman August Pfluger for taking the time to meet with us to talk about TX-11 and advocacy for our little Texans! It was a great day spent on the hill.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

James Valincano
Forensic Interviewer

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE:

- **Favorite TV Show:** Houston Astros baseball games
- **Favorite Food:** Anything Cajun/Creole
- **Favorite Color:** Baby blue
- **Best place you've visited:** Graceland
- **If you were an Olympian, what Olympic sport would you compete in?** Wrestling

MOST MEANINGFUL PART OF YOUR JOB:

Being able to provide a safe space for children and teenagers to feel comfortable enough to tell their story of abuse, allowing them to be heard; working with our multi-disciplinary team to ensure their case is pursued and investigated, and watching the child's journey towards healing begin right here at Hope House.





HONORING LOVED ONES - SUPPORTING THE CAC

Every year the Children’s Advocacy Center receives several donations in honor & in memory of loved ones. We are both grateful and honored by these donations and wish to thank these donors.

MEMORIALS

GIVEN BY

- Glinda & Mike Martindale.....

- Glinda Martindale.....
- Alma Stanford.....
- Donna Kay Smith.....
- Monna & Tommy Albea.....
- Krystal Humphreys.....
- Constance Terry.....
- Nancy Benetich.....
- Liz & Devin Bates.....
- Dr. Pamela & Lee Wetzell.....
- Earlene James.....
- Vicky & Keith McCutchen.....
- Steven E. Wilhelm.....
- Sherry & Jeremy Vincent.....
- Kerry Bruton (Bruton Trailers).....
- TX DPS Training Operations.....
- Sallie Neely.....
- Texas Dept. of Public Safety.....
- Su & Joe Henerson, Sr.

IN MEMORY OF

- Bradley Kinyon
- Dorothy Burrell
- Steve Morris
- Jenny Kelley
- Randy Stasey
- Rose Conner
- Major Gary Belcher & Lois Belcher
- Belenda Ockles
- Beth Nicholson
- Robert DeLoach
- Clarence Buford James



MATCH FOR OUR MISSION!



We're excited to announce...

The ASCO Foundation has selected CAC of Greater West Texas to receive a 100% matching gift in conjunction with their Charity Golf Classic on **October 11th**!

Additionally, **any** donation made to the CAC by October 11th will be matched 100%, up to \$10,000 per gift, with an overall matching limit of \$100,000!

HOW CAN YOU HELP

double the difference?



Reserve Your Sponsorship for an Upcoming Event:
ASCO's Golf Charity Classic (Oct. 11, 2025)
Champagne & Diamonds (Feb. 14, 2026)



Join Our Pinwheel Pals Campaign or Become a Woman of Hope



Make a Donation in Honor or Memory of Someone



Send in a Donation via Cash, Check, or Online

SAVE THE DATES!



SATURDAY
OCTOBER 11, 2025

QUICKSAND GOLF COURSE



Additional Underwriting Provided By:



For more information, please contact: **Chris Willis** | 325-655-5666 | cwillis@ascoeq.com

TOM GREEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



PRESENTS THE 2025

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL



**OCTOBER
16TH**

5:30-8 PM

**FREE
ENTRY!**

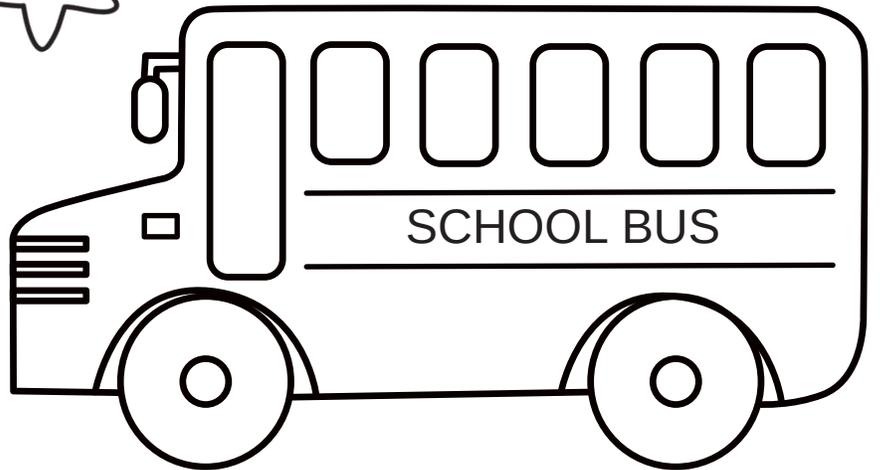
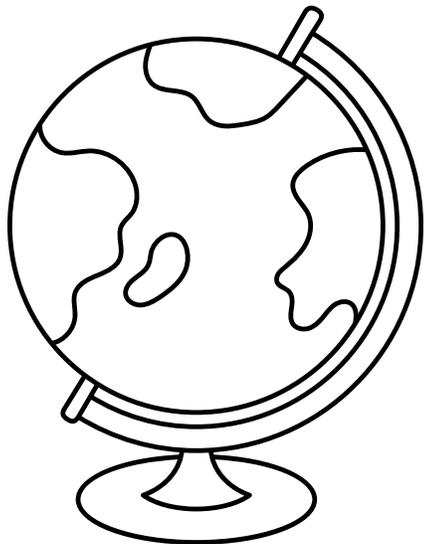
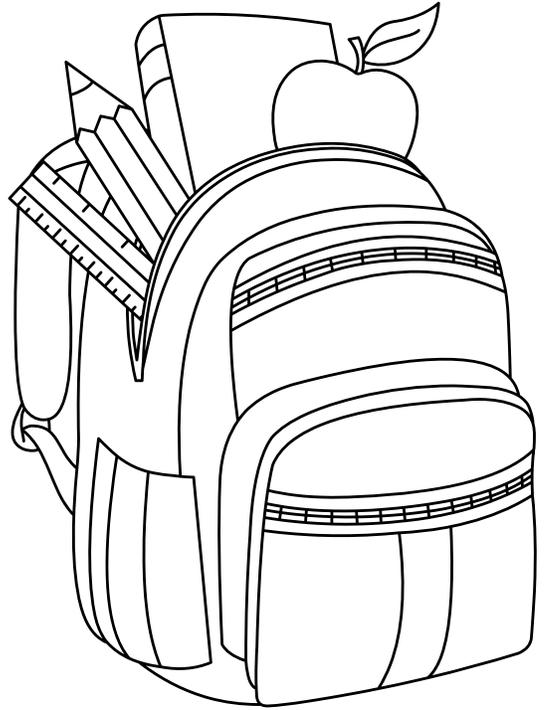
**GAMES
FOOD
GIVEAWAYS
TRUNK OR TREAT**

**Tom Green County
Courthouse
112 W Beauregard Ave**

For more information, please call 325-653-HOPE or email LBell@cacgreaterwtx.org

COLORING PAGE

**BACK TO
SCHOOL**



A B C

UPCOMING EVENTS

CASA Volunteer Trainings..... October 7th, 9th, 14th, 16th | 5:30 - 9:00pm
January 13th, 15th, 20th, 22nd | 5:30 - 9:00pm

ASCO Charity Golf Classic Benefiting CACGWTX.... October 11th | 8:00am | Quicksand

Family Fall Festival..... October 16th | 5:30pm - 8:00pm | Tom Green
County Courthouse



CONNECT WITH US

325.653.HOPE • WWW.CACGREATERWTX.ORG

