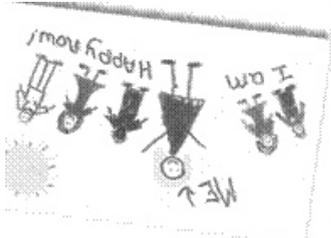


After a child discloses abuse, the next days and weeks can be very traumatic. Dealing with the reactions of family members and others, interviews with professionals, disruption in routines, possibly testifying in court — these are some of the difficult issues a child must cope with after disclosure of abuse.



The Lee Gross Anthonie Child Advocacy Center (CAC) began with the dream of a very brave and determined woman, Lee Gross Anthonie, who wanted to create a safe place for children who disclose abuse to receive the help that they need in a child friendly environment. In 1994, when Child and Adolescent Treatment Services (CATS) agreed to become the parent agency of the CAC, this wonderful center was able to open its doors, as one of the first two CACs in New York State.

The CAC creates a centralized location where children who disclose abuse can receive all of the services they need under one roof, including forensically competent medical examinations, mental health counseling and multi-disciplinary interviews. A multi-disciplinary team interview brings to the CAC a representative of each relevant discipline to conduct one interview of the child, which limits the number of times the child must retell what happened. Originally it was anticipated that the CAC would help 120 children annually. In the past 11 years, we have seen over 5,500 victims of abuse. Of these about 50% are under 5, and about 80% are under ten. We see children from Buffalo and every suburb of Erie County and Cattaraugus County. We have learned that child abuse is truly a crime for which there are no socioeconomic or cultural barriers.



We are continually striving to improve and expand the services of the CAC. We are now proud to say that we provide comprehensive services to child victims of abuse in our community. We have been recognized by the United Way as the outstanding community collaboration. This would not be possible without the generous donations of private citizens and private companies in Buffalo and its surrounding communities.

On behalf of every child who receives child friendly, compassionate, competent services and treatment at the CAC, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Child Advocacy Center Director — Judith Olin, Esq.

Friends of the CAC

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*The Friends of the Lee Gross Anthonie Child Advocacy Center
a division of Child and Adolescent Treatment Services (CATS)
invite you to their annual Holiday Celebration
to benefit the Child Advocacy Center*

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Salvatore's Italian Gardens - 6461 Transit Road, Depew

\$50.00 per person

*Open Bar and "Salvatore's Signature" Hors d'oeuvres
Silent and Live Auction to be held*

In lieu of huggable stuffed toys, we would be most grateful for back packs, school supplies or toiletries.