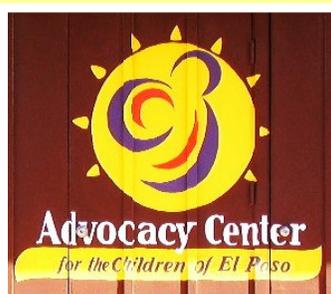
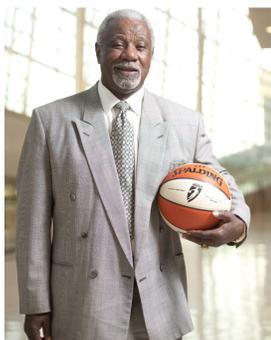




Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso



ANNUAL EVENT TO CELEBRATE OUR 15TH ANNIVERSARY



The Advocacy Center for Children of El Paso will be celebrating 15 years of helping children on April 19, 2011. This year we welcome back Coach Nolan Richardson. Coach Richardson was born in El Paso, TX and played collegiately at Texas Western College (now the

University of Texas at El Paso) playing for two years under the future Basketball Hall of Famer Don Haskins. Coach Richardson began his coaching career at Bowie High School and then moved to Western Texas College where he won the National Junior College championship in 1980. He was Head Coach at Tulsa from 1981-1985, leading them to The NIT Championship in 1981. In 1985, Richardson became the head coach at the University of Arkansas, where he gained national recognition. Richardson took the University of Arkansas to the Final Four three times. He was named the National Coach of the Year in 1994. He is the coach with the most wins in Arkansas

history, compiling a 389-169 record in 17 seasons. Coach Richardson is the only head coach to win a Junior College National Championship, the NIT and the NCAA Tournament. Coach Richardson was raised in El Paso's "Segundo Barrio" and speaks Spanish fluently. From 2005 to 2007, Richardson served as the head coach of the Panamanian National Team. In March 2007, Richardson was named as the head coach of the Mexican National Team. In 2009, Coach Richardson assumed the head coaching position for the WNBA Tulsa Shock, but Coach Richardson is more than just a Hall of Fame Basketball Coach. He is a master motivator, an experienced basketball clinician and a radio and t.v. commentator. More importantly, he devotes a great deal of his time touching the lives of people through various charity events. Thank you, Coach Richardson for your support to help "our kids".



Spring 2011



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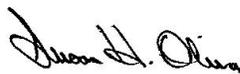
A letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friend of the Advocacy Center,

The Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso is here to help children identified as victims of severe physical and sexual abuse. Last year we helped 435 children under the age of five, 480 children between six and twelve, and 198 children between the ages of thirteen and seventeen. "Our kids" are assisted due to reports they have been fondled, raped, exposed to pornography, or otherwise physically or sexually assaulted.

Recently our Center received a frantic phone call from one of our "moms" in dire need of help. Our Victims' Advocacy Program had helped her in the past, and she turned once again to us. She has four daughters; two are victims of sexual assault who received services last year. Physically they are safe from their stepfather, since he is currently serving time for his crimes committed against them. However, mental trauma can be just as devastating to a victim's life. Over the weekend her 11 and 12-year-old daughters had attempted suicide. This occurred when her 15-year-old daughter disclosed that she too had been raped by their stepfather. Her nightmarish disclosure centered around "the bed," the bed that mom still slept in. In tears, mom explained that she could not afford a new bed, but could not bear to have that reminder of abuse still in her home. Could we please help her? Her daughters were sent to a ten-day program to help them cope, and we went into action. With help such as yours we were able to fulfill mom's request. Our multi-disciplinary team worked together, as we removed "the bed" and installed a new one, with new sheets, and a new comforter into their home. This family still has a long and difficult healing process ahead of them. Child victims may still be affected long after the perpetrator leaves the household.

We owe these children safety; we owe them the opportunity to be heard; we owe them the opportunity to heal. We meet them in a home-like environment, where a variety of trained professionals are ready to conduct forensic interviews, to provide counseling services, and to help end the cycle of abuse. We can help them because of people like you. Thank you for believing in "our kids" and helping them to have healing opportunities today, and making sure we are here for them tomorrow.



Susan H. Oliva
Executive Director

BE THE ONE.....



.....REPORT ABUSE

Texas family Code (261.101) states that a person having cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been or may be adversely affected by abuse or neglect must report immediately. Failure to report is punishable by imprisonment for up to 180 days and/or a fine up to \$2000.

TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE

Call: 1-800-252-5400

Online: txabusehotline.org

Or contact local law enforcement

THANK YOU!
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“One in four girls
and one in six boys
will be sexually
abused before
their 18th birthday.”

Meet Our Children



***Mary Ann was nine years old** when she told her mother that “the man” had hurt her in her bed. “The Man” had been homeless (Mary Ann’s mother felt sorry for “him” having to live on the street). Mary Ann’s mother let him stay in an extra bedroom. Mary Ann was examined at the hospital and her injuries corroborated her abuse. ACCEP’s partner agencies: Child Protective Services and the El Paso Police Department coordinated the investigation. “The Man” was arrested and charged with sexual abuse. While at ACCEP, Mary Ann’s mother felt so guilty she could not stop crying. ACCEP’s Victims’ Assistance Personnel provided referrals for both free counseling services, and medical assistance. Mary Ann recently attended court school provided at ACCEP, however, her court trail has been rescheduled, she will testify against her abuser this summer.

***Mia was ten years old** when she told her teacher she was sexually abused by her stepfather. The first person she told was her teacher. Her teacher reported the abuse to the El Paso Police Department. Mia was living with her mother and stepfather, and felt she had to tell someone that her father was hurting her. A detective was assigned to Mia’s case and contacted the Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso to schedule a Forensic Interview. The detective worked very closely with Child Protective Services throughout the investigation. Mia’s stepfather was arrested and ultimately found guilty of sexually assaulting his stepdaughter. ACCEP assisted Mia and her mother with filing Crime Victims’ Compensation referrals for both free counseling and medical wellness follow-ups. ACCEP provided free transportation for Mia to receive two years of counseling (Mia’s family had no means to “get to” healing services). While serving his sentence, Mia’s stepfather died of natural causes. His death caused additional stress on Mia, and she felt she needed additional counseling to deal with her abuse. After a difficult healing process, Mia is presently making good grades and growing stronger each day.



***Eddie was eleven years old** when he told his mother that he was being sexually abused by his father. After Eddie made his brave disclosure of abuse, his thirteen-year-old sister also disclosed that Dad had been abusing her as well. Unfortunately, their mother had been beaten by the same offender. Mom survived such a horrific beating she has permanently lost her sight. A Sheriff’s Office Detective worked closely with Child Protective Services utilizing the Advocacy Center to ensure the safety of the children and the prosecution of their father. Eddie’s family received assistance with Crime Victims’ Compensation, referrals for free counseling and medical follow-ups and free transportation to their appointments. They are currently safe from harm and healing as a family unit. Their father was prosecuted and is currently serving his sentence in prison.

***Names have been changed to protect the innocent.**

The Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc. Annual Team Excellence Awards are bestowed upon outstanding professionals and volunteers who have acknowledged the



merits of collaboration when working with abused children, and who have brought excellence from their respective fields of endeavor to the multidisciplinary team approach within a children's advocacy center environment in Texas.

The individuals honored have demonstrated their commitment and dedication to helping abused children through the team approach to multidisciplinary investigations, prosecution and provision of services. They represent the essence of the mission and philosophy of Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas. Sylvia Morales-Padilla was named the Team Excellence Award Winner for Victims' Advocate by Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas. Sylvia is our Victim's Assistance Liaison for the Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso. Others who received honorable mention were Rose Alvelais, outstanding volunteer, Aldo Puentes, outstanding center staff member, and Rosalynn Carrasco, outstanding law enforcement professional. Congratulations and thank you all for your hard work and dedication to "our kids"!

2010 CACTX ANNUAL TEAM EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Pictured left to right:
Rev. Michael Hamilton,
Rosalynn Carrasco,
Rose Alvelais,
Sylvia Morales-Padilla,
Aldo Puentes, Susan Oliva



Sylvia Morales-Padilla



Aldo Puentes



Det. Rosalynn Carrasco



Rose Alvelais

Don't Forget.....We're on the web!

Want to get more information on the Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso? Do you want to find out how ACCEP helps child victims? Or do you want to get quick access to child abuse issues, information, resources and training in the El Paso area? You can find all of this and more at the Advocacy Center's

website advocacycenterep.org

Community Awareness & Prevention Programs

The Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso is currently working with area schools to raise awareness and provide information.

“P.S. It’s My Body! Happy Bear!”



This program is geared for children in Kindergarten thru 2nd grade. And is designed to teach and reinforce the three R’s of safety: RECOGNIZE, RESIST, and REPORT. Is an interactive play performed by a facilitator and costumed volunteer, “Happy Bear!”



“No Means NO!”

In coordination with the Center Against Family Violence, ACCEP works together for older children’s personal safety in the “No, Means No!” program. A frank discussion on dating violence and useful information on how to avoid becoming a victim are provided.

If you would like more information or are interested in scheduling any of these programs please contact the Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso at (915) 545-5400.

Essential Services Provided

The Center assists children victimized by severe physical and sexual Abuse. Last Year, our Victims’ Assistance program provided the following services:

- 261 crisis counseling
- 343 follow up services
- 208 therapy
- 469 information referrals (in person)
- 175 justice/advocacy
- 214 assistance in filing claims
- 283 personal advocacy
- 323 telephone contacts
- 844 transportation, care packages, letters, translations, meals, court preparation.

Our Victims’ Assistance Program includes all services listed above including: coordinating professional agency investigation, providing a child friendly environment, and forensic interviews. Last year we assisted 732 victims of severe physical or sexual abuse. We also provided assistance for 202 young children who had witnessed violent events, such as murder, stabbings, or other violent attacks.



April is National Child Abuse Awareness Month!

Wear Blue.....

during April, National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month, and year round as a reminder that we all have a job to do to KEEP KIDS SAFE.



Wish List



Our center assists children victimized by physical and sexual abuse. We coordinate child abuse investigations with law enforcement and Child Protective Services to help reduce the children's trauma. We provide a friendly environment; forensic interviews; immediate crisis counseling; medical/long-term counseling referral services; and victims' transportation, **free** of charge.

We need:

- Packaged diapers-sizes Newborn 1,2,3,4,5,
- Comforting new toys: teddy bears, basketballs, Barbie Dolls
- New or gently used children's clothing: jeans, T-shirts, dresses, shoes, jackets, sweat pants, sweat shirts.
- New children's underwear and socks-all sizes
- Toiletries, canned goods, Capri Sun packaged drinks, toilet paper, paper towels, copy paper, coloring books, crayons, office supplies.
- Auction items for annual fundraiser- small working appliances, household items, clocks, jewelry items, art work, gift certificates for merchandise or services.

There are a variety of ways in which individuals and community volunteers can help:

- Volunteering time & talents.
- Donating needed supplies and office materials.
- Contributing money to fund programs.
- Becoming a monthly donor.
- Honor or memorialize loved ones via the Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso.

Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso is to advocate for child victims of abuse and neglect in the El Paso area by providing education and a collaborative, comprehensive and efficient intervention process to seek justice and to maximize each child's chance for healing. With community support, this mission can be accomplished in a child and family sensitive environment through partnership of legal, law enforcement, child protective and health care resources.



Editor: *Ana Apodaca*, ACCEP

Spring 2011 Edition



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**"Helping Child
Victims when they
need it most!"**