

ROXANNE'S HOUSE ON THE CUTTING EDGE

SINCE 1997, TRAUMA COUNSELING HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF ROXANNE'S HOUSE SERVICES AND SOON WILL BE A REQUIREMENT FOR ALL TEXAS CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS.

HCWC is almost unique in having established, from the very outset, counseling for victims of child abuse as an essential service in our Children's Advocacy Center known as Roxanne's House.

Most existing Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC's) grew out of child protective and criminal

justice entities that saw a need to have a trained forensic interviewer ease the trauma of interviewing a child for alleged abuse in a child-friendly environment. But because they mainly focus on criminal investigation and prosecution, these CAC's have not traditionally included counselors as on-site staff.

By contrast, Roxanne's House grew out of HCWC's longstanding tradition of providing counseling and advocacy services for victims of family violence and sexual assault.

To date, most CAC's in Texas still refer their clients to off-site counseling rather than provide that service. But that practice may be changing. Soon the Children's Advocacy Center of Texas (CACTX)—the statewide association that promotes the efforts of local children's advocacy centers in Texas — will require its 65 members to provide trauma-focused therapy as part of the new standards they are developing.

According to Lynn M. Hyde, CACTX Program Specialist, "Part of my duties is conducting site visits to the 65 children's advocacy centers in Texas. I recently conducted a site visit for Roxanne's House, and one of the services that really stood out for me was the level of mental health services provided to the children and their non offending caregivers."



A young boy acts out a scene during play therapy while a Children's Counselor from Roxanne's House observes.

AHEAD OF THE CURVE WITH "PLAY THERAPY"

About half of HCWC's child abuse victims are too young for traditional talk therapy. For these victims, HCWC employs play therapy as a way to communicate in an age-appropriate and natural way. In recent years, play therapy has gained support in the mental health field as being a developmentally appropriate and effective means of working with young children therapeutically.

In play therapy, play is the child's language and toys serve as the child's words through which they express and resolve what is causing them distress.

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HCWC staff includes a trained forensic interviewer, so essential to law enforcement and successful prosecutions. But the focus of Roxanne's House is on the victims, what they need to heal and how to make the whole experience more tolerable and less traumatic for the children. An added benefit is that counseling helps make children strong enough to testify at the trial while facing their abuser who is often a family member.

Without a CAC, a child might have to visit all these agencies and recall the details of the abuse again and again.

This type of "one-stop" Children's Advocacy Center was a concept begun in Alabama in 1985. A CAC is a team effort of law enforcement, prosecutors, Child Protective Services and other organizations working together to provide forensic interviews, crime investigation, trial work and victim support.

Roxanne McKimmey died during the CAC development process in 1996, and the first decision that the group made was to call the envisioned CAC "Roxanne's House."

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HCWC did not always have a CAC. The idea for HCWC to expand services for victims of family violence and sexual assault to also include victims of child abuse was a seed planted many years ago. In 1992, Marla Johnson accepted the position as HCWC Executive Director, and she asked staff to provide her with their goals. Kim Burke, Children's Program Director working with family violence victims' children, offered an ambitious goal to start a CAC.

Because Kim was so good with children, local law enforcement would call her to conduct forensic interviews of alleged child abuse at the police department. Kim envisioned a much more child-friendly environment for abused children. (Kim's expertise was tapped a few years later when she was one of seven invited by the CACTX to develop the Forensic Interviewer Five-Block Training Curriculum.)

HCWC began a series of community meetings to explore the idea of creating a CAC in San Marcos. Board Member Roxanne McKimmey attended the meetings and tirelessly researched, analyzed and wrote papers on how to set up a CAC. Local law enforcement, CASA and CPS were part of that group. Roxanne died during the process

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In a typical session, a child enters a therapeutic playroom filled with numerous types of toys to provide a safe outlet to express and self-soothe. Traumatized children typically engage in play that relates to what they have experienced. They may overtly play out the trauma using puppets or dolls to re-create the scene in which they were injured. Children may also engage in play that relates to their current needs. Examples of needs-based play could be a child soothing or doctoring a baby doll or protecting a doll from "bad guys."

This play serves not only to help a child re-enact his/her experience, but also to help the child make sense out of what happened. Play therapy allows a child to take control of a situation that he/she had no control over when it occurred. While playing, a therapist engages the child by making age-appropriate reflections of feelings expressed by the child.

in 1996, and the first decision that the group made was to call the envisioned CAC "Roxanne's House." With funding from the CACTX and a donation of a house by the McCoy family, HCWC ultimately opened Roxanne's House in 1997. The caseload since then has grown from 100 children to 315 served last year. In the first six months of this year, we have already helped 280 victims heal from the trauma of child abuse. 

HE CAN'T STOP HELPING

VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBER DON LEE IS INSPIRED BY HCWC STAFF'S DEDICATION TO HELP VICTIMS OF ABUSE.

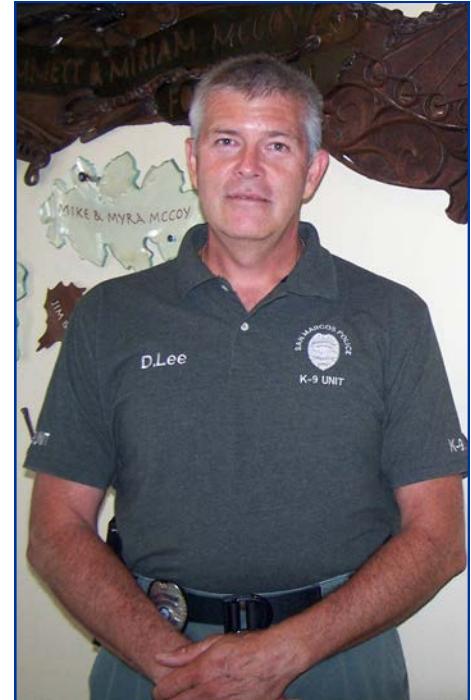
Donald Lee has been a volunteer board member for HCWC since 2006. Don works for the San Marcos Police Department as a Canine Handler, and he and his wife Pam live just outside of San Marcos. Don became interested in HCWC when he was a School Resource Officer at Miller Middle School and first encountered incidents of sexual assault. He had to take a few students to Roxanne's House, HCWC's Children's Advocacy Center, and the experience moved him.

"I was impressed with how HCWC works with kids," he explained. "It's incredible because kids don't have the safety nets that adults have. They cannot leave the house or be on their own to stop abuse from happening to them."

As a board member, Don began to realize the bigger picture of how HCWC works in the community, especially networking and collaborating with other agencies to help victims of family violence, sexual assault and child abuse. He was astonished to discover the intricacies of running three programs and offering a wide array of services to help victims heal and move forward while acquiring the necessary funding for staff and operations.

"I thought I'd help out on the board for three or four years," noted Don. "But when I see how much the staff does on a day-to-day basis, it inspires me to keep helping with the skills that I can offer."

When asked to explain what a new board member might



Don Lee manages a full life of work, family and volunteerism.

expect, Don answered that they are often amazed by how much HCWC does and wonder if they can meet the expectations of the other board members. His advice is to choose a mentor on the board and realize that there are so many needs that whatever time, skills or knowledge he or she brings can add value to the work that HCWC does for the community.

"Be motivated to help people, but take care of yourself to be effective," advised Don. He concluded, "Any way we can take a little off the staff's workload allows them to do their job better."

To apply for an HCWC Board position, contact Administrative Coordinator Glenda Muñoz at (512) 396-3404 or email her at gmunoz@hcwc.org. 



Curtis sang "No More" at HCWC's New Campus Open House event and Auction.

HCWC board member and singer-songwriter Curtis Clay performed an original song "No More" at HCWC's Open House and the Auction. The song was inspired by the child sexual assault cases perpetrated by Jerry Sandusky. The response was phenomenal and many attendees asked where they could purchase a copy.

"No More" is now available for download on [iTunes](#) and [cdbaby.com](#) for \$0.99; 100% of the proceeds will go to the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault. TAASA will use the proceeds to fund college scholarships for child and teen survivors of sexual violence.

HCWC's 28TH ANNUAL AUCTION

Our Most Successful To Date

HCWC's 28th Annual Auction raised \$73,000, more than any previous HCWC event. Over 300 guests purchased more than 300 donated items. Thanks to all who donated items and to the bidders for their enthusiastic support. A special thanks goes to auctioneer Leonard Germer who donated his time and expertise and to Kimberley Phillips who coordinated all the auction activities.

Next year, the auction will be held near the end of April, so don't miss out on all the fun. We hope to see you there!



Auctioneer Leonard Germer congratulates Robert Pfeiffer on a successful bid.



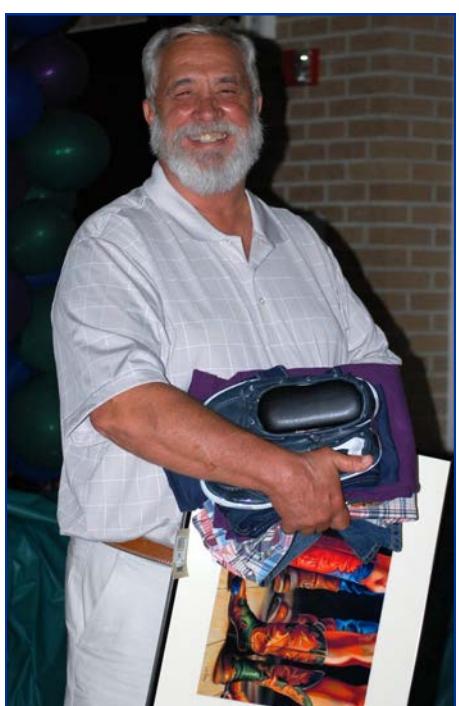
Board Member Debra Schliem (above) and Peggy Stansberry (below)



Rosie & Dagoberto Vela (above)



Annette Clay (above) and Jill Lanman and Cindy McCoy (below)



Harold Perkins is all smiles.



DONOR FOCUS: BLACK'S BARBECUE

RECENTLY HCWC SAT DOWN TO DISCUSS PHILANTHROPY WITH KENT BLACK, THIRD-GENERATION PITMASTER FOR BLACK'S BARBECUE IN LOCKHART.

Why does Black's Barbecue donate to HCWC?

My family's been in business 81 years. When you employ a lot of people, you really learn a lot about their lives — the good things and the bad things. We've tried to refer them to places where they can get some help, and so we're glad that HCWC is here. We know when we help this organization that a needed and good service is going to be provided to the citizens of Caldwell and Hays counties.

I practiced law for 30 years, and I served as a prosecutor for the State of Texas prosecuting child abuse cases. I got first-hand experience as to what can happen to kids and what kind of trauma the families can go through. I think it just made me more aware of the need for a facility like the Hays-Caldwell Women's Center and how important that is to the families of central Texas.

What is special about living in and doing business in Lockhart and in Caldwell County?

I don't know if it's that much different from other small towns, other than we are the barbecue capital of the world! But what makes it special is the friendships you make. We have made friends with five generations of customers.

What else would you like HCWC's supporters to know?

Our family urges people to consider this organization. There is — sadly — a great need in our communities for this service. They do very good work, they make great use of the resources they have.



Black's Barbecue Pitmaster Kent Black catered the 2009 Shelter Grand Opening and 2012 New Campus Open House.

BUSINESS DONATIONS CAN BE A WIN/WIN.

While HCWC receives much-needed funds, items and services, your business gains visibility by demonstrating support for the community. A 2010 Marketing Study noted that "85% of those surveyed have a more positive image of a product or company when it supports a cause they care about; and 80% are likely to switch brands, similar in price and quality, to one that supports a cause they care about."

Here are a few ideas for businesses who want to help victims of abuse:

- 1. Hold a Cell Phone Drive.** We work with the Shelter Alliance to recycle the toxic parts that harm landfills. Shelter

Alliance gives us a donation for each phone we send them. We can provide attractive posters to affix onto collection boxes that explain the project.

- 2. Donate to our Adopt-A-Family Program at Christmas.** You'll get a personal letter from your "adopted family" that you can read to your employees.

- 3. Designate a day when 10% of all sales will be donated to HCWC.** We'll help you promote it by sending an email to our supporters.

- 4. Donate funds, take a photo at delivery and send a press release to**

your local paper (please let us work with you on the wording of our mission). Post it in your company newsletter, on your website and on your Facebook page. We'll post it on our Facebook page to maximize your exposure.

- 5. Donate your product or service to HCWC.** The money we save can be used to assist more victims, and you may be able to write it off your taxes.

- 6. Sponsor the annual HCWC Auction next April.** Hundreds of guests will see your name at the event.

Contact Charles Vestal at (512) 396-3404 or cvestal@hcwc.org.



HCWC offered children's activities at the April Butterfly Festival in Wimberley to raise awareness about child abuse issues.



April was Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month AND Child Abuse Prevention Month. HCWC received proclamations from cities in Hays and Caldwell counties (San Marcos Mayor Daniel Guerrero in center front).

HCWC Happenings

HCWC COMPLETES NEW CAMPUS

After building and opening a new shelter in 2009, HCWC completed renovation of the other buildings at our campus in 2012: **(clockwise from top left)** Center for Community Partnerships, Children's Advocacy Center (Roxanne's House), the Counseling and Resource Center that also includes a Donation Center.

HCWC held a New Campus Open House in April for capital campaign donors and partner agencies. Guests toured the campus after attending a ceremony, ribbon cutting and lunch donated by Black's Barbecue of Lockhart. Pistolsmiths provided live music.



Volunteer Your Time

Do you know how good it feels to help someone in need? Our volunteers tell us the rewards are well worth the effort. Without their help, HCWC could not offer needed direct services to meet demand, especially with our reduced staff.



HCWC will offer volunteer training on September 10-26. Come learn, meet new friends and begin a personal journey of giving back to your community. Volunteers may answer HCWC's HELPline, provide sexual assault hospital response and more. Contact Kate at (512) 396-3404 or kshaw@hcwc.org.

Advocates in Summer Training (left to right, front row): Kesha Brant, Katie Barta, Michelle Calderon, Brittany Johnson, Georgina Gonzalez, Sara Wood, (back row) Cheryl Webb, Allison Davis, Joani Mendoza, Lissette Linares, Kathy Robbins, Kim Meneses, (not pictured) Andrea Grizzle, Megan Hulgan, Gayle Morris and Tania Rodriguez

How You Can Help!

Donate Funds

Donate Money in a variety of ways. Give securely online at www.hcwc.org. Send a check in the enclosed remittance envelope. Donate via your workplace giving program. See if your company matches donations.

Donate Gift Cards from HEB, Target and Walmart to help new clients shop for essentials like gasoline to drive to work, over-the-counter and prescription drugs, food, clothes and school supplies.

Before bringing donations to HCWC, please call Victoria, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (512) 396-3404. She will let you know if we still need the item(s) and where to drop them off.

Donate Items

Summer Wish List

- Adult and Child Flip Flops
- Plain White T's, toddler - adult sizes
- Women's Casual Shoes
- Ladies' Slippers
- New Women's Underwear
- New Women's Summer PJ's
- Shorts, all sizes
- Swimwear, all sizes
- Children's Shoes
- Toddler Clothes
- Toddler Socks
- Young Men's Boxers
- School Supplies
- Towels
- Twin-Size Sheet Sets
- Baby Wipes
- Diapers, size 4
- Juice Boxes
- Snacks for Children's Lunchboxes
(goldfish, pudding cups, etc.)
- Toenail & Fingernail Clippers
- Tweezers
- Bus Passes



Philosophy

Physical, sexual, emotional or psychological abuse of one human being by another is unacceptable.

The Hays-Caldwell Women's Center believes that all abuse diminishes or prohibits the full expression of life and growth that is every person's right.

Mission

The purpose of the Hays-Caldwell Women's Center is to create an environment where violence and abuse are not tolerated in the communities we serve. The Center will provide education, violence prevention services, and crisis intervention to victims of family violence, sexual assault and child abuse. We will seek the support and resources necessary to achieve this mission.

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Marla Johnson,

Executive Director



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If Out of Area: (800) 700-4292
Office: (512) 396-3404

E-mail: info@hcwc.org
www.hcwc.org

We Need Your Help!

Since the onset of the 2008 global financial crisis, we have seen a dramatic rise in demand for HCWC services and an alarming decrease in government funding. The only solution to bridge the gap is local private funding.

We are focusing on efficiency by expanding our use of interns and volunteers (152 last year) and cutting staff. Every cost is carefully scrutinized.

Please help us continue to provide crucial services to victims of violence. We know you care. Use the enclosed envelope to send a check today, or go to www.hcwc.org and donate online securely with PayPal.

