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Running Scared: Inaugural Zombie Run A Huge Success *Benefiting the Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center*

Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), 210 E. 11th Street, Panama City 32401 -- On March 15, 2014, HG Harder's Park, Panama City, Florida was the site of a zombie apocalypse. Hundreds of Bay County runners are staying away from Harder's Park after a spooky 5K run. The Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center held its first Zombie Run Saturday morning at the park. About 300 zombies all around Harder's Park waited to frighten more than 350 runners at Saturday's Zombie Run. Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center organizers came up with the idea after staffers agreed zombies are becoming popular again. They say Harder's Park was the ideal location for the event.

"This location was perfect because a lot of people know it for the haunted hayride. There are lots of eerie and creepy things out in the woods along the way and it worked out perfectly for a zombie apocalypse," said Lori Allen of the Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center.

As runners went to each different area of the park, they saw more zombies.

"We had a blast. I mean the makeup that the characters were wearing was awesome. They did a great job. The obstacles were a lot of fun," said Cheryl Mobley, a Bay County resident.

Several organizations including the Bay County Sheriff's Office, Tyndall Air Force Base, and Walmart helped put together the event.

"It's a chance to have some fun. It's something different. I mean you don't see this kind of thing very much. I think it's one of the first ones in this area, a Zombie Run," said Major Tommy Ford of the Bay County Sheriff's Office.

The Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center raised close to \$10,000 in this first year event.

The Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center serves to provide on-site agency collaboration and the use of the multidisciplinary approach in prevention, investigation, assessment, protection, referral for prosecution, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. The CAC provides multidisciplinary team who works together at the front end of each investigation, therefore expediting the referrals for prosecution and service provisions to help strengthen the family and prevent recurrence of abuse. The center offers a safe and secure, child friendly location to help children in their time of need. Advocates, therapists, on site medical personnel, child protective investigators, law enforcement, and forensic interviewers work collaboratively each day to ensure the safety and hope of healing to each of these precious children. In 2013, the Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center provided no cost services to over 1200 local children.