



## Certified, Bona fide, Accredited...All of The Above!

SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center achieved full accreditation status by the National Children's Alliance (NCA), the governing body for over 900 CAC's in the country. This major milestone confirms that abused children and their families served by SafeSpot are receiving the best possible care and services as they navigate a very difficult time in the aftermath of abuse. In addition, this achievement reflects SafeSpot's culture of continual improvement and best-practices attitude. Upon notification of the accreditation, SafeSpot's Executive Director, Michele Thames, said, **"We could not be happier! This was a group effort by so many, and because of our partnerships abused children in Fairfax County are getting the highest standards of service."**

Accreditation is an important milestone for many reasons. **It ensures the integrity of the successful CAC response model to reports of abuse**, provides an essential compass by which to guide MDTs, board members, and other stakeholders, reaffirms the exceptional work demonstrated by SafeSpot to policymakers, funders, and supporters, and improves justice for the victims and families in court.

Since its inception, SafeSpot's team of professionals worked tirelessly toward gaining this prestigious accreditation status. When the time came, a comprehensive application was submitted demonstrating compliance in ten major areas. In addition, it was integral that SafeSpot meet the revised 2017 standards, which included new continuing education requirements and the treatment of vicarious team trauma. The final step was passing a detailed onsite inspection and review, led by a group who verified physical requirements, checked paperwork, policies, and procedures, and interviewed team members, staff, and board members. This was an exhausting process, but worth every minute of preparation and care. A job well done!

**Congratulations!!**

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**500 Children Forecasted to Walk  
Through Our Doors in 2018**

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**Passion For Fashion!**  
October 21st at 9:30 am,  
Bloomingdale's Tysons Corner  
*Lots of new reasons to stay and play  
following the show!*



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5400-SS-7086 Virginia Child Abuse Hotline (language line available) 800-Children (800-244-5373) Parent Helpline, or Text 804-548-5395

Our program continues to grow as we build relationships with local law enforcement agencies and with Child Protective Services. This year, we project close to 500 forensic interview referrals. We are continually raising funds to provide these critical services to abused children in Fairfax County.

**Stay Tuned!**  
*Many fantastic upcoming events  
sponsored by the Junior Board are  
coming your way!*



If you would like to join or are interested in volunteer opportunities, please reach out to Becca Bickel at [juniorboard.safespot@gmail.com](mailto:juniorboard.safespot@gmail.com) or 571-216-9998.

## September 12th Celebration Luncheon at Westwood CC! *SafeSpot Turns FIVE!*

Friends of SafeSpot gathered together to celebrate two wonderful milestones. Five years ago SafeSpot became a reality for Fairfax County's children, and reaching full accreditation was icing on the cake! Luncheon attendees enjoyed a delicious celebratory meal, while Bootsie Humenansky and Denise Balzano thanked everyone for making SafeSpot not only a



Please join us for our annual fashion show, featuring a champagne and a finger brunch, pop-up beauty bars, expert denim consultations, personal shopping, exclusive day-of trunk shows and more! You may purchase your event tickets at:

[www.safespotpassionforfashion.com](http://www.safespotpassionforfashion.com)

Immediately following the fashion show, please enjoy afternoon shopping at Bloomingdale's! Bloomingdale's will kindly match and donate 10% of your sales receipts, throughout the day and from any department.

Online auction begins on October 11th! For additional attendee and sponsorship detail, please [click here](#).



This year's Passion for Fashion Co-chairs, Lauren Kushin, Jacqui McVey, and Jamie Weber

## Pennsylvanian Grand Jury Report Brings Rampant Abuse to Light



A 1,400 page report reveals horrific stories of child sexual abuse within the catholic church and the extensive cover up within that very same



reality, but an integral piece to protecting children, becoming a well respected organization, and for growing into an organizational model for other children centers. The ladies stressed the importance of providing abused children with the best possible toolbox for recovery and to date SafeSpot does exactly that. Congratulations to everyone for their time and support throughout the last five years. May the successes continue and the center grow with the demand for its services.



SafeSpot friends were able to hear more about center's programs, current studies, and its current needs from Executive Director, Michele Thames and Clinical Director, Lindsey Kerber.



The accreditation team, Michele Thames, Denise Balzano, Bootsie Humenansky and Debby Cochrane. Cheers!



Long time supporters enjoying the celebration, Tina Mather, Michelle Olson, and Rima Bitar

institution. Repeated rape, child impregnation, pornography, and marriage to minors, are just a few of the crimes committed by these 300+ Pennsylvanian priests. Although the report could identify 1,000 children and their stories, the 70 year long abuse and cover up probably affected thousands of children. Shockingly, this report only covers 6 dioceses in ONE U.S. state.

Because the statute of limitations has long past for the one thousand identified victims, legally the predators are untouchable. Many more victims are also unreachable due to suicide.

As child advocates, we are well aware of the long term damage caused by abuse. However, one of the victims who testified before the PA Grand Jury, James VanSickle, perfectly put the experience into words, "This is the murder of a soul." Luckily, children advocacy centers across the nation and the National Children's Alliance are in a good position to promote positive change. We can all use our social media resources and networking to stress:

- the importance of centers like SafeSpot
- the moral responsibility to report abuse
- the essential and immediate need for change within institutional cultures which better protect future generations
- the need for statute of limitations reform

**#Giving Tuesday will be on November 27th**

**#GIVING TUESDAY**

This November 27th, join the movement and give! Whether you come together with your family, community, company, or organization, find a way to give back and then share your idea. There are several ways in which you can give back: Donate time, dollars, items, and/or pro bono services. Join the movement!

**Be #UNSelfie**

Share how you are giving back on #GivingTuesday by posting your #UNSelfie on social media.

SafeSpot's Amazon wish list provides a quick and easy way to give back while you shop!

**wishlist**  
by **amazon**

[Visit our Website](#)

**SafeSpot State of the Art  
Programs**

## Upcoming Events!



### **International Country Club to Host Golf Tournament Benefitting SafeSpot September 18th**

ICC WGA has once again chosen SafeSpot of Fairfax as their charity recipient this year. The tournament will be held September 18th at ICC. For more information, contact Shannon Tully or Shelby Harvey, Co-Chairs ICC 18 Hole WGA at [bsjdtully@cox.net](mailto:bsjdtully@cox.net).



### **Canine Companions October 13th**

SafeSpot will be staffing a booth at the Canine Companions for Independence DogFest in Reston! This is your opportunity to meet Pecos, the SafeSpot Facility Dog, who works with abused children in forensic interviews, therapy, and court proceedings. Join our team by clicking here:

**Canine Companions**



### **SafeSpot Open House Friday November 2nd, 9 - 11am**

Only your own eyes and ears can register just how incredible the SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center truly is. This safe zone is a place in which a child's needs are looked after and protected in a very purposeful, clinical, state of the art, caring way.

4031 Chain Bridge Road  
Fairfax, VA 22038

RSVP to the following email address: [info@safespotfairfax.org](mailto:info@safespotfairfax.org)

## Volunteers Needed!

### **Passion For Fashion**

Volunteers wanted for the annual "Passion for Fashion" show on October 21st, 2018. Held at the Tyson's Bloomingdale's, this stellar event is one of SafeSpot's largest fundraisers and welcomes volunteers of all time commitments and interest levels. Please contact a volunteer coordinator, using the following email address: [info@safespotfairfax.org](mailto:info@safespotfairfax.org)

### **Junior Board Members**

If you are a young professional and interested in helping abused children via fundraising efforts, consider joining our Junior Board (ages 21+). Please contact Becca Bickel at the following email address: [juniorboard.safespotfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:juniorboard.safespotfairfax@gmail.com)



## OUR MISSION:

The mission of SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax County is to provide a child-friendly, culturally sensitive environment that promotes the safety and well-being of child victims of abuse while facilitating a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary team approach to the intervention, investigation, prosecution and treatment of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse.

DONATE

On Amazon frequently? Please consider sending us an Amazon box, by purchasing items off of the SafeSpot wish list.



Please consider purchasing a Bravelet to support essential services for children and families in our community and to help raise awareness of child abuse! \$10 of each purchase will be donated to SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center.

STAY CONNECTED

