



Michele Thames Addresses the Board of Supervisors

On April 10, 2018, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors **proclaimed** April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Immediately preceding the Proclamation, and in conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness Month, SafeSpot hosted a reception breakfast for many key individuals working in the field of child abuse, including Supervisors John Cook and Katherine Hudgins. Kindness rocks were also decorated to distribute to children who are recovering from trauma.

Michele Thames then represented the Partners for Prevention as she addressed the entire Board of Supervisors, expressing the growing severity of child abuse. The Board of Supervisors subsequently approved the Proclamation.



April 2018 - Pinwheels for Prevention

As part of a national campaign bringing awareness to Child Abuse Prevention Month volunteers "planted" shiny blue pinwheels in gardens and on front lawns of businesses and faith-based organizations all over Fairfax County and into Mount Vernon. These pinwheels spun throughout the cold breezes of April showing support for the fight against child abuse. Some of the many dedicated businesses displaying their pinwheels and banners included:

Meadows Farms, Exxon, LDS Church, and Saint Georges United Methodist Church. Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Mt. Vernon "planted" 500 pinwheels! The Fairfax prevention team also created displays on several library lawns across the county.



April 30th - Champions For Children Golf & Tennis Tournament

The third annual Champions For Children Golf (and now tennis) Tournament was another hit! The Tournament raised nearly \$200,000, and hosted 175 golfers, tennis players, and dinner guests. The sunny day was a warm welcome following the cold and rainy days of prior weeks! Tennis players took home cute prizes and a pair of sharp looking Under Armour sunglasses was given to each golfer. The evening's festivities included a chance for attendees to bid on silent auction items while sipping an adult beverage. Emceed by Larry Michaels, Emmy winner and "Voice of the Washington Redskins," dinner guests enjoyed listening to SafeSpot's very own Michele Thames, and sat on the edge of their seats during a heart-wrenching recount of Detective Jonathan Sorg's personal encounter with child abuse. The evening would not be complete without adding a little live auction fun! Winners took home Elton John concert tickets and are packing their bags for trips to Maine and Colorado. Live



music topped off the event as people gathered their auction w innings.

Thank you to all the sponsors w ho hosted golf foursomes, dinner tables, or functions throughout the day and evening. Such a philanthropic event could not take place without your support. The donations of the many guests w ho attended are integral to the success of our programs as w ell. We are now able to take ++ more children through a complete therapy process, thanks to you all.

SafeSpot is also grateful for CFC 2018's co-chairs, Ralph Masino and Angelique Bennett! Stalw art leaders like yourselves are hard to come by. Gretchen McLeish, Lauren Mencia, and several key committee volunteers also contributed huge amounts of time and talent.

Thank you!

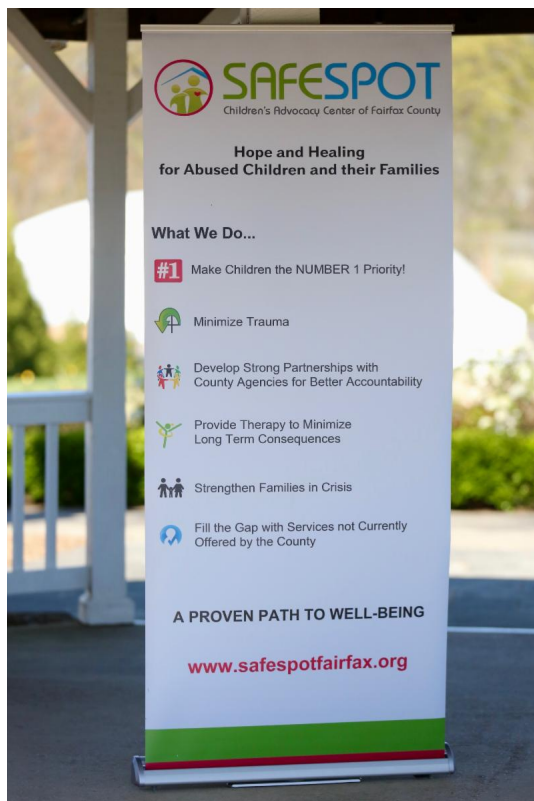
Welcome New Therapist!

Krystal Darnell, Child and Family Therapist

Krystal moved to Northern Virginia in 2014. She is a Supervisee in Social Work and is currently in the process of obtaining her LCSW. Krystal is a graduate of Radford University with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and has a Masters degree in Clinical Social Work from George Mason University. She is an experienced and passionate Crisis Clinician with an established history of working in the Mental Health field. Darnell is very familiar with clients from many cultures and at-risk youths within the rural, suburban, and urban communities, in which she used her skills and training in crisis intervention, family therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, and motivational Interviewing. Currently, Krystal is in the process of becoming trained in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT).



2018 Champions Fore Children Golf & Tennis Tournament *Another Hole in One!*





April 4th - Ben & Jerry's Free Cone Day

Many thanks to Ben & Jerry's in Reston, VA for their fundraising support, 8 years in a row! This event raised over \$1700. Thank you to Sydney Duberstein who dutifully coordinates this event year after year! And a huge thank you to the many volunteers who scooped ice cream, shared SafeSpot information with ice cream patrons and passersby, and managed the endless line from noon until 8pm.



Field of Hope

With the help of SafeSpot's Junior Board, Herndon, VA Detective Jonathan Sorg hosted his first annual "Field of Hope" event. It surely became a day to remember for over forty children! Field of Hope's goal was to benefit SafeSpot and educate the community on the difficult realities many children face in our own backyard. Officials say the event raised about \$6,500, which will help fund therapy and forensic interview programs at SafeSpot.

The group was joined by Washington Redskins Linebacker, Ryan Kerrigan and D.C.'s United Defender, Kofi Opare. "It's great to help out anyway we can. As athletes our job is to entertain and make people feel good about themselves...to lift spirits," said Kofi Opare. Ryan Kerrigan added, "It means a lot, especially for an important issue like this."

Fortunately, the weather was perfect and the team of individuals involved was spectacular: Fairfax County's Herndon Police, millennial volunteers & fellow SafeSpot junior board members, professional athletes, and children in need. Everyone had a terrific time together on and off the field. The children even enjoyed a little showmanship by Herndon Police Department's finest canine!

Many of the children participants (ages 8 - 12) were sponsored by friends/volunteers of SafeSpot. These same sponsors and more donated loads of time prior to and during the event. Gifts such as banners, event t-shirts, cookies, water, and pizza were also much appreciated.

"I wanted children to come out and have fun and let them know it's okay to talk about child abuse and it's nothing to be ashamed of," said Detective Sorg. Thank you, Detective Jonathan Sorg for your organization, passion, service, and time!



April 5th - Donations From Our Neighbors

On April 5th, sixty area individuals gathered at Mama Eugenia's Greek Restaurant in Great Falls for a luncheon hosted by the Great Falls Friends and Neighbors organization. During this lovely event the goals of SafeSpot were shared as well as the many statistics behind child abuse, locally and nationally. Many heartfelt thanks to the Great Falls Friends and Neighbors Club for choosing SafeSpot as one of your three annual donation recipients!

[Visit our Website](#)

[SafeSpot State of the Art Programs](#)

Upcoming Events

[Resilience Film Screening](#)

Wednesday, May 23rd, 7 - 9pm at
NOVA: Loudoun Campus

"**Resilience: The Biology of Stress and The Science of Hope**" is a 60-minute film on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and their impact on health, quality of life, economics and education. Research shows ACEs are common, they affect all income levels, and their lifelong impact on health and well-being is significant.

For more information and to RSVP [click here](#)

Pamphlet

Northern Virginia Community College: Loudoun Campus Waddell Theater LW Building, Room 115 21200 Campus Drive, Sterling, VA 20164

SafeSpot Open House
Friday June 8th, 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

Courthaus Social!
Saturday, June 9th
Arlington, VA

Join the SafeSpot Junior Board at the "Happy Hour for Hope!" Toast to friends, co-workers and family, while supporting a worthy cause and providing hope to child abuse victims. **See flyer below...**

DogFest Walk 'n Roll
Saturday, October 13th, 12:00pm
Reston Town Center

Grab your friends, family and dogs, and head to Reston Town Center on October 13 for the 5th annual DogFest DC, benefiting Canine Companions for Independence. Furry friends and families are invited to join us for a day of fun, festivities, graduate speakers, dog demonstrations, music, food, and more!

More information here!

COURTHAUS SOCIAL | ARLINGTON
SATURDAY JUNE 9TH 4-7PM



HAPPY HOUR FOR HOPE

LET'S GET "SOCIAL" FOR A CAUSE
PORTION OF PROCEEDS SUPPORT VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE

PRESENTED BY



Volunteers Needed! And Not Just for Scooping!

Passion For Fashion

Volunteers wanted for the annual "Passion for Fashion" fashion show in October 2018. Usually held at the Tysons Galleria Bloomingdales, 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

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



Service Spotlight - Bootsie Humenansky Wins SCAN's Ally in Prevention Award

One of SafeSpot's founding Board Members, Bootsie Humenansky, was chosen by SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) to be one of five recipients for the 2018 Ally in Prevention Award. The April 6th awards luncheon featured NBC4's Leon Harris as the emcee. Carine McCandless, author of the New York Times bestselling book, *The Wild Truth*, was the event's Keynote Speaker. Congratulations Bootsie, and thank you for all you do to bring awareness to our community via your pinwheel heels and tireless efforts!



Read More!

Top Right Photo:

2018 Ally in Prevention award recipient Bootsie Humenansky, flanked by Leon Harris of NBC4-TV and SCAN's Executive Director Sonia Quiñónez.

Bottom Right Photo:

Top Row - Kris DeBye, Jo MacMichael, Annette Kerlin, Denise Balzano, and Zelda Shute

Seated - Michele Thames, Maria Bonilla, Bootsie Humenansky, and Dave Humenansky



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](#)

SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax County depends on the support of generous individuals, community groups, corporations, foundations and local government funding to provide

crucial advocacy and help to children who have been abused.
Click here to see the impact of your gifts!



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

