



## Director's Message

When I explain what SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) is, I find it easier to explain what children face *without* one on their side. When a child is abused, they often endure pain and trauma that is unthinkable. Imagine having to repeatedly recount such unspeakable exploitation to police, child protection workers, lawyers, nurses, and doctors. Perhaps with each story, memories become jumbled as the body works hard to repress the hurt. The chances of being believed are diminishing rapidly, but the chances for PTSD are taking a sharp rise. This is the path of a child without a Children's Advocacy Center in their corner.

Fortunately SafeSpot's platform is based upon the latest in CAC models and our ability to serve the growing demand has rapidly increased. In part, this is thanks to the renewed partnerships with Fairfax County Department of Family Services and the Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney. SafeSpot now offers longer hours, more staff, and additional training needed for the recent 12% increase in referrals from law enforcement and Social Services.

Throughout the month of April, you may see blue pinwheels at your library, school or place of worship. The pinwheel is a symbol of child abuse prevention and is used to raise awareness for survivors. Please show your support as well, by donning blue ribbons or displaying blue pinwheels! SafeSpot CAC will be hosting several awareness events in our community and would love for you and your family to join us!

Please do not forget the importance of protecting our children in Fairfax County!

Thank you for your support,  
Michele Thames  
Executive Director

[Schedule of April Events](#)



## 2020 Champions for Children Tournament & Dinner

*Monday, April 27th - Become a Champion  
by Being a Sponsor, Player,  
or Dinner Guest!*

You all know the drill...1 in 10 children will be sexually assaulted by the age of 18, one child every eight minutes is sexually abused, and abuse commonly begins by the age of three. Become a Champion for Children today! Play golf, play tennis or simply join us for cocktails and dinner - the choice is yours! We promise lots of fun no matter what Champion role you choose!



More Detail & Registration

If you would like to volunteer at Champions for Children event, please contact Meghan Molinini by using the below link.

Event Volunteer



## "Let's Get Social" for SafeSpot

*New Date - June 20th*

*Punch Bowl Social  
4238 Wilson Blvd, Arlington*

## Building Stronger Families

*A safe and healthy  
childhood lasts a lifetime*



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

## April 2020 Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month

*Look out for Pinwheels!!*

The Pinwheels for Prevention campaign uses pinwheels as whimsical symbols of the fight against child abuse. The pinwheels symbolize childhood hope and happiness and bring smiles to all kids! During April, Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month, we plant "pinwheel gardens" at locations throughout the county to raise awareness about the issue of child abuse. If you know a church or business willing to display the pinwheels, please provide contact information to Bootsie Humenansky at 703-965-5463 or [bootsieh@aol.com](mailto:bootsieh@aol.com).

## Open House

*Join Us!*

*Please come see the SafeSpot Children's  
Advocacy Center for your own eyes! Our date is  
set for May 22nd. Hope to see your name  
on the rsvp list!*



Please RSVP

## The Junior Board: Always Active!

*Be a Part of The Solution!*

Join other young professional adults, who are giving back to the community and supporting the fight against child abuse.

Inquire or Join us!

Due to the COVID-19 virus, the Junior Board is postponing the "Let's Get Social" event to June 20th. Please join us then at Punch Bowl Social in Arlington for an evening of fun and games to raise money for SafeSpot. You can either be a sponsor at the event or purchase a ticket to attend. Tickets include dinner, 2 drink tickets and access to games. Please click on our image below for more detail and ticket/sponsorship purchasing.



SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH | 7-10PM  
PUNCH BOWL SOCIAL  
4238 WILSON BLVD, ARLINGTON

\$38 TICKET INCLUDES  
DINNER, 2 DRINK TICKETS & GAME ACCESS

TO BECOME A SPONSOR CLICK HERE  
FOR EVENT TICKETS CLICK HERE

## Let's Get Social For SafeSpot

Punch Bowl Social x SafeSpot Advocacy Center Junior Board

SAFESPOT CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER'S EXPERTS PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO CHILD VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE SO THEY CAN MOVE TOWARD HEALING WITH RESILIENCE AND STABILITY.



## Commonwealth Attorney Tours SafeSpot!

### *Key to Justice for Fairfax Children!*

Fairfax County's newly elected Commonwealth's Attorney toured SafeSpot in February. The Commonwealth's Attorney decides which cases get prosecuted and how those cases will be handled. Their office leads dozens of prosecutors, all establishing a strategic direction, setting the policies that direct the prosecutors, and creating the culture of the office. The prosecutors in Fairfax are key in finding justice for children, so we were very excited to share information about our program with Mr. Descano!



## Board of Director's Update

*Welcome New Members!*

The SafeSpot Board of Directors are proud to announce the appointment of eight new members. Please join us in welcoming:

**Pat Harrison**, former Deputy County Executive for Fairfax County

**Lauren Kushin, Jacqui McVey and Jamie Weber**, Co-Chairs of the SafeSpot Fashion Show for the past two years.

**Mike Kushin**, CEO of BlackHorse Solutions

**John McVey**, VP of Software & Services for Blue Planet, a division of Ciena

**Tim Weber**, Partner at Kearney & Co. CPA firm

**Randy Turk**, Retired Partner from BakerBotts

For more detailed information about these and all SafeSpot Board members, please visit our website.

[Visit our website](#)

### A Simple Way to Provide a Smile



Amazon Smile is an easy and automatic way for you to support SafeSpot as you shop on Amazon.

After you designate SafeSpot as your charity choice, via [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation to SafeSpot!!

#### Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

#### How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation.

#### Can I change my charity?

Yes, you can change your charity any time. To change your charity, sign in to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your desktop or mobile phone browser and simply select "Change your Charity" in "Your Account."

Smile Amazon

Visit our website

### 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.

### STAY CONNECTED

