



**SAFESPOT** *Speaks*  
Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax County

**Spring 2021  
News**



**Watch for Blue Pinwheels in April!  
National Child Abuse Prevention Month**



## Director's Message

Dear SafeSpot Friend,

The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) model was developed nearly four decades ago when Robert Cramer, Former Alabama Congressman and District Attorney, recognized that there was a fundamental lack of coordination between criminal justice and social service agencies, when it came to child abuse. He saw that the needs of children were getting lost in the legal and welfare maze, and dedicated himself to finding a solution. Today, SafeSpot is one of nearly 900 CAC's throughout the Country, each committed to the safety, stability, and well-being of children and families impacted by abuse.

But, how do we know the current CAC model is achieving the goals once set by Representative Cramer? At SafeSpot, we look at a combination of metrics which evaluate both program and participant success. To measure true impact, we look beyond the number of clients or therapy sessions and go straight to the people themselves. Only through the careful surveying of caregivers, children, and members of our multidisciplinary team, can we determine the efficacy of our programs and the success or failure of our mission, vision and philosophy. I encourage you to take a few moments to review our [2020 Impact Report](#), which highlights the results of these surveys and the many accomplishments of our clients.

Metrics and surveys aside, the impact SafeSpot has upon its clients is best delivered by a mother...

*"My daughter immediately began enjoying her [therapy] sessions and looked forward to attending."*

*Watching my child come out of a session smiling begun to heal my heart (as well as heal her). The SafeSpot Therapist made me feel like this was a team effort, we were both working towards the same goal...being involved in the process also made me feel less helpless as a parent and reassured me this was the right decision and definitely in the best interest of my child. I honestly cannot even put into words the huge impact [SafeSpot] had on our family."*

Looking forward, I am excited to share that April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I hope you will join us in the Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign (details below) or by engaging in the online conversation by following us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. Together, we can be a mighty voice that speaks on behalf of abused children in our community.

In partnership, and with gratitude,  
Heather O'Malley  
Managing Director



## News of Note

### The Junior Board is Expanding!

*Mark Your Calendars for Their Open House*

Calling all young professionals! The SafeSpot Junior Board is a fantastic way to network, make great use of talents and creative energy, and make a collaborative difference within the community! Via social and volunteer opportunities, let's give our youngest neighbors the voice they deserve! Join us!

### Put a Spin on Prevention!

*National Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign*



During the month of April, SafeSpot participates in the annual national "Pinwheels for Prevention" campaign. We plant "pinwheel gardens" throughout the county to raise awareness about the issue of child abuse. As they spin in the wind, pinwheels are a whimsical symbol of the fight against child abuse. They are a reflection of hope, health and safety and bring smiles to all children!

*"In Fairfax County alone, last year 3,031 children were involved with Child Protective Services – that would fill 56 school buses."*

Our prevention campaign is an opportunity to encourage everyone to **SPEAK UP** for a child if they suspect abuse. The problem with child abuse is that it is often a secret and shameful issue that no one wants to discuss. But we want to break the silence and hopefully, the cycle of abuse. We



## SAFESPOT JUNIOR BOARD OPEN HOUSE

**ARE YOU READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?  
GET ON BOARD!**

SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax  
is seeking community-minded young professionals  
to join our Junior Board.

**JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 22ND**  
**6:00 - 7:00 P.M.**

**TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN JOIN THE  
MOVEMENT TO KEEP CHILDREN IN OUR  
COMMUNITY SAFE!**

REGISTER TO ATTEND AT  
[www.safespotfairfax.org/who-we-are/junior-board/](http://www.safespotfairfax.org/who-we-are/junior-board/)



Website

Junior Board Virtual Open House - Register  
Here!

**Mark Your Fall Calendar**  
*Champions for Children 2021 is a GO!*

SAVE THE DATE AND DOLLARS



Please consider  
becoming a 2021  
Champion for Children!

Hundreds of Fairfax  
County children need  
your support

Champions for Children Golf & Tennis Tournament  
Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Become a 2021 Champion for Children on Monday, October 18th. Held at the lovely Westwood Country Club in Vienna, SafeSpot's annual tennis and golf tournament is packed with opportunities for players, sponsors, volunteers and

want to encourage children to **SPEAK UP** if they are being abused and for adults to report any abuse they may suspect to the Fairfax County CPS Hotline- **703-324-7400**. Although deciding to report suspected child abuse can be a difficult, it is an important first step toward protecting a child who might be in danger.

### **Pinwheels for Prevention Action Items:**

During Child Abuse Prevention Month, we strive to show kids we're here for them by displaying pinwheels across our county!

Just a few of many ways in which you can show your pinwheel patronage:

***(We'll provide the pinwheels and the signs!)***

- Dress up your outfits each day with a sticker that spreads awareness and support. (see below)
- Display a potted pinwheel on your desk (Grab a small flower pot, fill it with marbles or stones and stick a blue pinwheel inside. Simple, yet evident!)
- Plant a pinwheel garden in your front yard. Be it 30 pinwheels or 300, raise some eyebrows! Making an impact is just the ticket!
- Rally the neighborhood into planting a pinwheel garden in common areas.
- Ask your favorite local business if they wouldn't mind a store-front pinwheel garden.
- Color a poster of pinwheel support for your front door.
- Chalk-color your driveway.
- Post a photo of your supportive efforts and spread the word on SafeSpot's social media sites!

#PinwheelsForPrevention  
#ChildAbusePreventionMonth

If you would like to plant a pinwheel garden or if you know a church or business willing to display the pinwheels, please contact Bootsie Humenansky at 703-965-5463 or [bootsieh@aol.com](mailto:bootsieh@aol.com).



Keeping Children Safe

### **A Sticker a Day!**

Shop for these awareness stickers on Amazon and don a sticker every day this April! These can also be purchased via AmazonSmile - which will

guests to win, support and have loads of fun! 2020's sponsors and attendees can certainly be proud of the part they played in aiding nearly 450 children and their families throughout the year. Join us in making that same impact in 2021!

[Volunteer](#)

[CFC 2021 Website](#)

## Annual Impact Report & Year in Review

*We Make a Difference!*



**2020 IMPACT REPORT**

## Compass of Greater Washington

*Let the Vision of Our Mission Evolve!*



SafeSpot is thrilled to be working with Compass Greater Washington! As one of their 2020-2021 nonprofit clients, we have been matched with a team of talented, committed business professionals to develop the framework of our next strategic plan. With the support of our pro-bono team, we have begun examining our mission, vision, programs, and strategic objectives to ensure we are making the greatest possible

donate a portion of the purchase to your chosen charity...**SafeSpot!**



## Take a Tour of SafeSpot!

*Join Managing Director, Heather O'Malley,  
as She Guides You Through Our Center  
Click on the image below...*

Welcome to the SafeSpot Children's  
Advocacy Center!

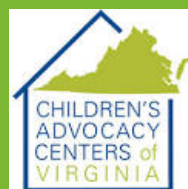


impact for abused children and their families in Fairfax. We look forward to sharing the results of our work this summer.

[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.



SafeSpot | P.O. Box 148, Fairfax, VA 22038

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