ANNUAL REPORT
2005

...securing a permanent, nurturing environment for every child

SUPPORT CENTER FOR CHILD ADVOCATES
1900 CHERRY STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

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www.advokid.org
Message from the President of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director

We are pleased to report to our generous and faithful supporters on the many exciting happenings at the Support Center for Child Advocates in 2004-2005. Completing the 28th year of service to our community’s most vulnerable children, the Staff, Board of Directors and Volunteers can be proud of their accomplishments.

The courts and community continued to look to Child Advocates to serve its troubled children and difficult cases. Teaming our Child Advocate Social Workers and Staff Attorneys with Volunteer Attorneys from across the region, we represented more than 680 abused and neglected children. Our staff answered hundreds of additional inquiries from callers in our own area and from around the nation about children’s legal cases, litigation strategies and theories of law, treatment needs and educational opportunities, and concerns for children in need of care and protection. We remain the place for the community to call when it needs a lawyer for an abused child.

The year was rich in accomplishments, led by an extraordinary level of volunteerism. More than 300 attorneys and paralegals were active during the year and we trained 170 new volunteers. Child Advocacy Practice Groups, a model of pro bono support and service, which we started almost a decade ago, have been established in 11 Philadelphia-area law firms. In so many of our cases, Volunteers are creating promising, productive relationships with young people who desperately need lawyers and friends. We moved ahead impressively in our Outcomes Project, collecting data on more than 100 cases closed in the second half of the year. Both locally and through the National Children’s Law Network, Child Advocates is evaluating an exhaustive checklist of strategies and outcomes regarding permanency, well-being and criminal prosecution of alleged abusers. We want to inform our practice with these and similar objective performance measures, so that we can know how we are doing for our kids.

Statewide, we continue to shape law and practice for children with appellate work, participation in Supreme Court and state legislative studies, and trainings for lawyers and other child-serving professionals. Members of our Client Advisory Board testified in the General Assembly in dramatic fashion, sharing their often disturbing accounts of their experiences in foster care and offering recommendations for reform, such as the Foster Child Bill of Rights.

Financially, we have restored our long tradition of balanced budgeting. Committed to fiscal integrity and sound stewardship of our resources, the agency weathered the deficit of the preceding year with targeted budget cuts and increased fundraising efforts. Our dedicated staff bore much of this load, and for the future we hope to endow our agency with the resources to ensure that our professionals can focus and thrive without these distractions.

In all, we raised $2 Million — quite an impressive total! With most of our funding support coming from non-government sources, we continue to rely heavily on the charitable giving of individuals, law firms and corporations, and more than 30 foundations. In particular, we appreciate the support of extraordinary institutional funders in 2004-2005 including the Independence Foundation, the Horace Goldsmith Foundation, and the Nelson Foundation. The Dolfiner-McMahon Foundation graciously supported production of this Annual Report.

For the future, we have convened the Child Advocates Leadership Council chaired by the Honorable Jane Greenspan and Eleanor Thompson, Esq. of Independence Blue Cross. We will conduct our first Charity Golf Tournament in 2006, and celebrate 30 years of service to children in 2007. Our Board of Directors and Staff will engage in a long-range planning process as well as a reconstituted Research and Evaluation Committee.

Thank you for being part of our essential work! There is much more for us to do, together!

ALAN M. SANDALS
President, Board of Directors
FRANK P. CERVONE
Executive Director

COMING EVENTS 2006 — MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Spring Fashion Event – Nieman Marcus – King of Prussia – Stay tuned!
Annual Benefit Reception – Late April or Early May 2006 – Cocktail Party, Silent and Live Auctions, Celebration of our Distinguished Advocates and Judge Lois G. Forer Child Advocacy Award Recipient.
27th Annual Philadelphia Bar Association Run/Walk – May 21, 2006 – Proceeds now benefit Child Advocates exclusively!
Child Advocates First Annual Golf Outing – October 16, 2006 – Huntingdon Valley Country Club – You do not want to miss this exciting new event!

Our sincere appreciation to George & Lyn Ross for opening their home to Child Advocates for an April Cocktail Party to honor our Major Donors of Champions for Children 2005!
Program and Activities 2004 – 2005

Child Advocates seeks to protect children by securing social services, finding alternative homes and helping them testify in court. The agency and its volunteers represented 680 children in the fiscal year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005, while assisting professionals and others in addressing the needs of hundreds of others through advice and referrals. For all of the children committed to our care, we work to ensure safety, health, education, family permanency and access to justice. Child Advocates services are offered to children in five Core Programs: Child Protection, Medically Needy Children, Kinship Care, Adoption and Child Advocacy Leadership.

Child Protection

Child Advocates trains volunteer attorneys and then teams each attorney with a staff Social Worker. Together they stand as the Child Advocate for each child client, as counsel and guardian ad litem, to ensure health and safety. In addition to the benefits of direct legal advocacy, Child Advocates offers role-modeling and mentoring for their young clients. More than 90 percent of our child clients were served under the Child Protection Program.

“Mackenzie” was sexually abused by a friend of her parents who had been given unlimited access to her in exchange for drugs. Volunteer Attorney Raymond McCullough and Child Advocate Social Worker Diane Jackson represented Mackenzie throughout the arduous process of a criminal trial. The defendant was convicted and sentenced to 22 to 44 years in prison. Mackenzie lived in two foster homes and had one psychiatric hospitalization before she was placed in a home where she was able to bond with a foster parent and thrive. Her foster parent was granted permanent legal custody in May 2005.

Medically Needy Children

In the Medically Needy Children Program, the Child Advocate team works to improve the health and well-being of individual children with serious and chronic medical needs who are subject to protective proceedings in Family Court. Focused on health-related outcomes, this collaboration assures access to justice.

Unfortunately, a few months later Brain was admitted to The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and required surgery for a tumor on his brain. Sadly, Brian lost his battle for life in February 2005.

Kinship Care

Grandparents raising their grandchildren is not a new phenomenon, but in the last decade the practice has grown enormously. The reasons for children’s formal or informal placement with relative caregivers include parental abuse, neglect, abandonment, addiction, incarceration and HIV/AIDS. The Kinship Care Program addresses the needs of these children and their relative caregivers by providing legal representation and developing policies that support kinship families on the local, state and national levels. In Kids n’ Kin, a partnership program with the Philadelphia Society for Services to Children (PSSC), children living with family members are referred to both agencies from the Department of Human Services (DHS). In a joint effort with PSSC, we published the manual Kids n’ Kin: A Handbook for Relative Caregivers which is used to train professionals and lay caregivers. Child Advocates works with relative caregivers to secure insurance rights for children and financial assistance to help relative caregivers raise children coming to their home. In some cases, Child Advocates paves the way for adoption so that a relative caregiver can make a permanent home for the child. When adoption is not appropriate or desirable, Child Advocates ensures that relative caregivers have the appropriate custodial relationship with the children in their care.

“Stephanie” and her three younger siblings, ages 2 to 13, lived in an unstable environment with a mother who suffered from mental illness and a father who was a substance abuser and rarely at home. Volunteer Attorney David Rovner worked with Child Advocate Social Worker Daryl Conner to advocate for the best interests of all the children. After months of litigation and supervision by parents were either unwilling or unable to care for him at home.
DHS. Stephanie and her three siblings were adjudicated dependent by a judge. All four children are currently doing well and living with their maternal grandmother.

Adoption
Permanency remains the goal of our work and the mission of our agency. In child welfare cases some children will need new homes and families in order to live wholesome lives. We are pleased to report that Child Advocates represented 29 children who were adopted this year!

Faced with a troubling legislative challenge to the opportunity for all persons to adopt, we helped create the statewide Value All Families Coalition to join labor, religious and advocacy groups and we held a news conference at our office. Continuing efforts will focus on getting adoption legislation passed that does not erode some important elements of adoption: the subsidy available under federal law for special-needs adoptions and the right of gay and lesbian parents to adopt children.

“Nicholas” saw his father kill his mother when he was eleven years old. He and his little brother did not have other family that could take care of them and they were placed in a foster home. His father was later charged with murder and Nicholas had to testify at the trial. Volunteer Attorney Edward Louden and Child Advocate Social Worker A.B. Clarke advocated for Nicholas during this difficult time. Nicholas and his brother are now in therapy and were recently adopted by a loving family.

Child Advocacy Leadership
The Child Advocacy Leadership Program addresses issues and trends on the local, state and national scenes. Child Advocates is expanding its focus from representation of individual children to addressing gaps in service and policy development, promoting training for high quality representation and service and developing outcomes measurement tools for organizations and lawyers representing children in the child welfare setting.

Child Advocates Supervising Attorney Marguerite C. Gualtieri completed a three-year term as co-chair of the Children’s Rights Litigation Committee of the American Bar Association, Litigation Section. The Committee promotes the creation and improvement of children’s law programs around the country.

Child Advocates attorneys were active in local bar leadership work. Our efforts continued to address certification, training, performance standards and adequate compensation for court-appointed private counsel for children and parents in dependency and adoption proceedings. We convened the monthly Law Enforcement Child Abuse Project (LECAP) for its 20th consecutive year, chaired by Volunteer Attorney Paula Weiss and hosted by Wolf Block LLP.

This year saw the successful formation of a wonderful new addition for our agency, the Client Advisory Board, whose members are young adults who were once our child clients. These young adults know first-hand the benefits and shortcomings of the services offered by our agency and of the foster care system. They have been generous with their time in speaking before groups of potential funders.

Frank Cervone served as co-director of the National Children’s Law Network, a consortium of eight non-profit children’s law centers from across the nation providing children’s legal representation that involves pro bono attorneys. An anonymous donor provided financial support for the creation of the Network, to promote effectiveness and growth, to identify concrete outcomes and measures, to improve the quality of counsel and representation provided to children, and to deliver a coordinated message for effective change on vital national issues of policy and practice for children. The Network is working to broaden opportunities for sustained support by expanding the capacity of each individual children’s law center and by forging a collaboration with greater national impact affecting justice for children. As part of the group’s efforts to improve educational opportunities and achievement for youths involved with the courts, the Network Partners have been active over the last year to carry the message In School, The Right School, Finish School to professional audiences all over the country. In May the group published an 80-page training manual addressing this topic.
Over 300 active volunteer attorneys and paralegals represented 680 children.

Child Advocates trained 170 new volunteer attorneys who represented 118 children.

Agency started five new Child Advocacy Practice Groups in law firms.

Champions for Children May 2005 Annual Benefit Reception raised record amount of $218,096.

26th Annual Philadelphia Bar Association Run/Walk raised net amount of $64,516.

1900 Cherry Street $2.5 million Capital Campaign reached $2,262,804.

Child Advocates made list of the Top Twenty Donor Designated Agencies in 2004 of United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania with more than $100,000 raised through United Way.

Agency supported by over 600 new donors in 2004-2005.

Client Advisory Board members received a standing ovation after testifying at PA General Assembly's Task Force on Services to Children and Youth in Harrisburg.


Agency collaborated with Women's Law Project in publishing, *Deciding Child Custody When There is Domestic Violence: A Benchbook for Pennsylvania Courts*.

Agency created *Child Advocates* Outcomes Measurement process for all cases at closing.

Child Advocates trained 130 victim services professionals in Wilkes-Barre, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

Members of the Client Advisory Board made presentations at June 2005 Conference *One Child, Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare* conducted by the Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research of the University of Pennsylvania.

Child Advocates convened an intensive two-day training program for experienced professionals to address the intersection of domestic violence, substance abuse and child abuse issues, hosted by PECO/Exelon.

More than 200 attorneys attended two full-day Volunteer Training Workshops under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Bar Education Center and our agency.

Executive Director Frank Cervone was elected Vice-Chair of the Board of the Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund. Mr. Cervone was also honored with LaSalle University's *Signum Fidei* Award.

**CHILD ADVOCATES’ ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2004 - 2005**

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**CHILD ADVOCACY PRACTICE GROUPS ARE A GROWING TREND!**

Child Advocacy Practice Groups are comprised of attorneys within a firm who are handling our cases. The groups provide a sense of community and camaraderie for our volunteers as well as a forum for discussion of the legal and social service issues that arise. Practice Groups strengthen our capacity to serve children by promoting a “teamwork” approach to our cases.

The Practice Groups also build capacity for volunteerism across the region. For example, the Cozen O’Connor Child Advocacy Practice group — the first in the nation — now has at least 43 lawyers in two offices, representing children in Philadelphia and with the Montgomery County Child Advocacy Project in Norristown, PA. There are currently eleven *Child Advocates* Practice Groups at area firms, five of whom joined us in the last year! We plan to expand the existing groups to include more volunteer lawyers, and to increase the number of Law Firm Practice Groups. In addition, we plan to form a Practice Group for Solo Practitioners and other non-firm lawyers. The Solo Practitioner Group will address issues particular to volunteers who may not have support staff or a peer group with whom to discuss case issues. This group will meet at *Child Advocates* and be facilitated by a *Child Advocates* staff member.

Thanks for your Practice Group Partnership with *Child Advocates*!

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll LLP
Blank Rome LLP
Cozen O’Connor
Dechert LLP
Duane Morris LLP
Fox Rothschild LLP
Hecker Brown Sherry and Johnson LLP
Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP
Pepper Hamilton LLP
Saul Ewing LLP

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**GIVE TO UNITED WAY!**

United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania’s Fall 2005 Campaign has begun! *Child Advocates* relies on donor option giving to continue to offer vital services to children. Our Specific Need Code is 00535. If you are a federal employee, and would like to make a donation to *Child Advocates*, our Combined Federal Campaign Code is 9204. Thank you!
Spring Fashion Event

Our successful new Friendraiser! A Spring Fashion Event was held at Paula Hian Designs on April 6, 2005. Internationally acclaimed clothing designer, Paula Hian invited us to her fashion atelier on Gay Street in Manayunk. Our thanks to Paula Hian, Ruth Hian, Andrea Broad and Rhoda Temkin for a beautiful evening of fashion and new friends! Rave reviews go to our lovely volunteer models Kate Scott, Alexis Tannenbaum and Liza Rosencranz.
CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN 2005 BENEFIT RECEPTION

Our most successful event ever! We could not have done it without you!!

Teri R. Simon, Co-Chair
Joan M. Smith, Co-Chair
Jane Barr Pino, Jane Barr Pino & Associates
Patty Barr Russo, Jane Barr Pino & Associates
Raymond L. McCullough, Auction Committee Chair
Gerald P. Becker, Master of Ceremonies
Mike Trudgeon, Reliable Copy Service
Kevin Dow, Wachovia
Susan Johnson, Wachovia
Toplin & Associates
Rachel Amara, Philadelphia’s WB 17 Cares
Anna Pace Atchick
Deborah A. Azarewicz
Frances Azarewicz
Pat Bossert
Andrea Broad
Andrea Brophy
Catherine Conway
June Dunwell
Terri Gallagher
Francis M. Hadden
Kathy Lewin
Nancy Mangini
Sharon & Joe McGinley
Dolores Miller
Susie Osborne
Linda Palantine
Ralph Palantine
Lorraine Shelkin
Joyce Sloan
Frank Smith
Jane Sneff
Signe Wilkinson
Joe Yamaoka
Celine Young

Many thanks to Raymond L. McCullough for his extraordinary efforts as Chair of the Auction Committee. Silent and live auctions and raffle raised almost $30,000 this year.

Child Advocates would like to recognize our partner in this event, Philadelphia’s WB 17 Cares, a fund of the McCormick Tribune Foundation.

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN 2005 BENEFIT RECEPTION HONOREES

Wachovia Bank — Recipient of the 2005 Judge Lois G. Forer Child Advocacy Award

Distinguished Advocates

• Children’s Crisis Treatment Center — CCTC is committed to providing high quality, comprehensive mental health services to Philadelphia’s neediest children and their families.

• Amy M. Foran of Day & Zimmermann — Ms. Foran has a great facility for working with clients and their families. With the aid of her legal assistant, Madeline Santiago, who contributes her translation skills for Spanish speaking clients, Ms. Foran has provided an invaluable team for many cases over the years.

• Angelo P. Giardino, M.D. — A pediatrician, hospital administrator and community activist, Dr. Giardino is admired for his creative genius for improving access to health care, improving the quality of health care for children and for his ability to engage other disciplines in this process.

• Michael D. Homans, Flaster Greenberg — Ms. Homans is a longtime volunteer who ten years ago took over a complex case involving five siblings with a drug addicted mother who was unable to care for them. He followed the children through multiple foster care placements and has worked to help them get the skills they needed for independent living.

• Alba E. Martinez, CEO United Way of Southeastern PA — During her tenure as Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, Ms. Martinez was inclusive in reaching out to agencies in the community to open up the process of gathering information to improve the services offered by DHS.

• Peter J. Mooney, White & Williams — Mr. Mooney is a longtime volunteer who is generous with his expertise as an experienced litigator for a legally complicated case or with a contested hearing.

• Gina Maisto Smith, Assistant District Attorney — In a twenty-year career as a child abuse prosecutor, Ms. Smith has manifested an empathetic sensitivity to the experience of children who have been victimized. Her diligence in preparing for trial and her talent for presentation of a case is only surpassed by her skill for making a real connection with the child and involving the jury in that relationship.

Our deep appreciation goes to Teri Simon and Joan Smith for co-chairing our most successful Benefit Reception to date! This event raised a net total of $218,096.
OUR VOLUNTORE ATTORNEYS WHO REPRESENTED CHILDREN THIS YEAR

Anne Marie Aaronson Pepper Hamilton LLP
Donna L. Adelberger Donna Adelberger & Associates
Michael E. Adler Blank Rome LLP
Alison C. Altman Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program
Stephen J. Anderer Scudder Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP
Jerrold P. Anders White and Williams LLP
Bruce D. Armson Saul Ewing LLP
Stanley R. Askin S. Askin, Esquire
Gwylion J. Antwell Cozen O’Connor
Joseph Baldassari Furey & Baldassari
David Banks Banks and Banks
Cristiana Barkhouse Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP
Ellana Barnes Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP
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Barbara R. Beckman Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP
David C. Berner Dechert LLP
Kristi M. Bushner Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP
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Molly Birmingham Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
Susan B. Blumenfeld Willig, Williams & Davidson
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Margaret M. Boyce
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Kimberly Donaldson
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Blank Rome LLP
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Day & Zimmermann Group, Inc.
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Judges of Sheila Woods-Skipper
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Klehr, Harrison, Harvey, Branzberg & Ellis LLP
Conard O’Brien Gellman & Rohn, P.C.
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Kline & Specter, P.C.
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Goldman Scarborough & Karzon, P.C.
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DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary US LLP
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<td>Anne Manero</td>
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<td>National Realty Corporation</td>
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<td>Pepper Hamilton LLP</td>
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<td>Molly Peckman</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. Stanley Perry, Jr.</td>
<td>Blank_Rome LLP</td>
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<td>Adelman Livine Gold &amp; Levin, PC</td>
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<td>James E. Robinson</td>
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<td>Keino Robinson</td>
<td>School District of Philadelphia, Office of General Counsel</td>
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<td>Marks, O’Neill, O’Brien &amp; Courtney</td>
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