

Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

The Children's Trust Fund of Alabama

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings from the ADCANP staff and Happy Holidays! During this busy season, let us pause to remember the many children and families we are serving through our various programs that lead to the prevention of child maltreatment. Never underestimate the worth of our collective work in the lives of those most vulnerable around us. My wish for the New Year is to increase our agency's funding capacities so that many more children and families in Alabama may receive the services that our grantees provide.



I recently returned from the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds annual meeting where the focus on the prevention of child neglect was focused. The National Alliance has secured funding to launch a 3-year effort to increase attention on preventing child neglect and unveiled a call to action logic model during the meeting. The model outlines the roles of society, community, family and individual in relation to creating positive outcomes. As the most prevalent form of child maltreatment, child neglect permeates all levels of society. The focus and work of the National Alliance will assist states in addressing the issue of child neglect and aid in targeting prevention efforts that reach each level in striving for safe and healthy children, strong and stable families, supportive and thriving communities and a humanitarian society. Preventing child neglect is more than a family matter, it is a shared responsibility among us all.

Warmest wishes,

Sallye R. Longshore

Department Celebrates 30 Years of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

Have you ever stopped to wonder what life might be like for many of the children and families in Alabama if this Department was no longer in existence? Can you imagine the lost opportunities to help a child or family in need?

This year marks 30 years of preventing child abuse and neglect throughout the State. Alabama's Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Act (ACANP) was adopted by the Alabama Legislature in 1983 to address the state's growing problem of child neglect and maltreatment. While several state agencies already existed to deal with different aspects of child abuse, none of these agencies specifically focused on solving the problem **BEFORE** it occurred. It was clear that Alabama needed to create a state agency with its own board, funding and staff to be dedicated solely to preventing child abuse and neglect. To address the problem at its origin, instead of merely addressing the symptoms of what could have been prevented, the ACANP Act established the Children's Trust Fund. As the only state agency designated to address primary prevention of child abuse and neglect, it is our goal to encourage and support each community in this state in their efforts to find new and effective solutions for preventing child abuse and neglect before it occurs, and ultimately strengthen Alabama families to prevent this tragedy in the future.



For the Program Year 2013-2014, the Department was able to fund 108 community-based child abuse prevention programs across the state totaling \$5,351,463. The programs funded provide services to children and families throughout our communities and include: Parent Education and Support, Fatherhood, Home Visitation, Community Awareness, Respite Care, School-based, Non school-based/After School and Mentoring. These programs are supported by State and Federal dollars through four main funding streams.

Unfortunately, there are so many programs we haven't been able to fund due to budget cuts. We are asking you to get involved with your lawmakers and let them know what this Department means to your agency and the communities you serve. We hope you will strive to create a relationship with your lawmaker so they might know you and your programs. If you don't reach out now and foster such a relationship, the Alabama Legislature won't know who the real victims are if the budget cuts continue.

We must continue to help those who cannot help themselves, those most vulnerable . . . our children.

Realtors' Fundraiser

During the Alabama Realtor Association Annual Conference in Nashville, Realtors® participated in the Realtor® Home-Made Cookie Contest with proceeds being donated to the Children's Trust Fund.

Since 2000, fundraising by the Realtors® for Children Task Force and proceeds from the Realtor® car tags have raised over \$248,000. Monies raised this year funded Kid One Transport and Special Deliveries through the Circle of Care Center for Families.

Realtors® entering the contest included Linda Gunn, GRI of Gunn Real Estate (Alexander City) with Chewy Chocolate Brownie Bites, Sheree Robinson of Becky Hancock Realty (Enterprise) with Chocolate Chip Cookies, Lime-Coconut Cookies by Carol Andrews of Aronov Realty Brokerage, Inc. (Montgomery), Mint Chocolate Cookies submitted by Kelly Cummings of The Cummings Company (Mobile), Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip Cookies by Shawn T. Reeves GRI, GREEN of Becky Hancock Realty (Enterprise), Realtor® Row Cookies provided by Kim Mangham-Barlare of SouthStar Properties (Vestavia Hills), Rita Smith of Lake Martin Area Association of Realtors with Sand Tart Cookies, and Soft Oatmeal Cookies from Maria Cummings of The Cummings Group (Mobile). The winner of the contest was Phillip D. Horton of the Alabama Association of Realtors® with his Chocolate Crackles.

The judges for the event were Executive Chef Roger Keenan of the Nashville Hilton Downtown, DJ David Simms of Spangler Entertainment, and Harrison Black, Field Director with the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, the Children's Trust Fund. The Realtors® raised \$1,200 at the event. In addition, the agency received \$100 from the Lee County Association of Realtors® and \$200 from Rocks, LLC of Mobile.



Cookies were displayed so Realtors® and guests could sample.



Pictured (left to right) are Phillip Horton, Realtor® Home-Made Cookie Contest Winner with his Chocolate Crackles, Harrison Black, Field Director with the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, and Linda Gunn, Chairperson of the Realtors® for Children

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

From the Staff of the
Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention



Pictured Back Row (Left to right): Victor Koriko, Cassandra Sharp, Greg Smith, Felicia Dumas, Harrison Black and Mike Roberts
Front Row (Left to right): Desiree Bice, Aseelah Lawson, Sallye Longshore, Jessica Jackson, Barbara Anne Fell and Dawn Miller

3 Easy Ways to De-Stress Over the Holidays

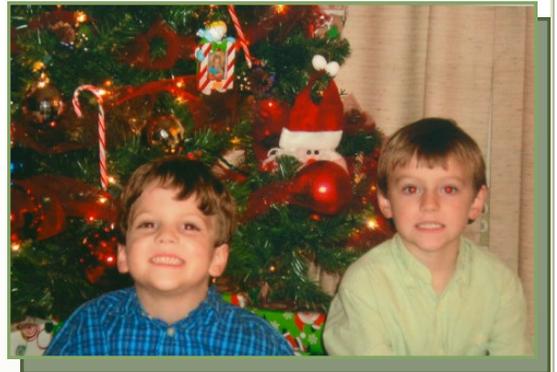
By Jennifer Walters
Lifestyle Coach

1. **Meditation.** Who knew that holiday zen took just a few quiet breaths? Meditation is a powerful de-stressing tool any time of year, but when you're rushed during the holidays it can be the perfect way to center and relax. And the best part? You can do it anywhere. Even if you're standing in line waiting to mail holiday gifts at the post office, you can do it! All you have to do is take a few deep, slow breaths, focusing completely on your inhale and exhale. Yep, that's meditation!
2. **Sip green tea.** Researchers have found that regularly drinking green tea can help to beat stress and improve psychological wellbeing. So this holiday season, skip the coffee and drink the green stuff!
3. **Say "no."** Most of us get stressed during the holidays because we're overscheduled and feel obligated to do things when we really don't feel like it (or have the time). So this year, make a commitment to do less and prioritize your time for only the events that are the most important to you. Do this, and you'll kick holiday stress to the curb.

SPOTLIGHT ON PROGRAMS

FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER SUCCESS BY SIX—

Landon and Larson Langley. We have had the pleasure of working with the Langley Family for almost three years now. The Langley family is made up of Mom (Ashley) Dad (Chad) Landon (now 6) and Larson (now 4). When we first began working with this family, the household was chaotic and in constant financial crisis. The boys displayed significant behavior problems and Mom exhibited signs of depression and major anxiety. This family was at major risk for abuse and neglect due to the significant stressors and lack of support and resources.



The first stressor was the financial difficulties. Dad has always been employed full time, but he did not make enough to cover all of the bills. This family falls into an atypical category because they own their own home, have two vehicles, and dad has full-time employment, but they did not make enough to pay for the basic necessities and they did not qualify for most assistance programs. Working closely with our Community Outreach Specialist, the Langley's were able to get their immediate needs met while Chad could find a position that paid enough to cover all of their needs.

Behavior problems quickly became the next difficulty to tackle. Once the stressors of meeting the immediate needs were handled, the stress level in the house decreased significantly, resulting in a noticeable difference in the children's behaviors. We taught Chad and Ashley how to use a rewards system to encourage good choices in the children and helped them set up a good schedule that they could stick to. The children responded very well and I can now say everyone appears happy and well adjusted. The family was referred to River Region Mental Health to address the depression, anxiety, and ADHD issues. Since treatment began, mom is reporting a decrease in symptoms in both her and the boys.

Chad was able to secure employment in Troy making more than twice what he makes here. He will make enough for the family to begin a savings account. Over the last two years, we have watched this family grow and thrive. Ashley has learned to be assertive and how to stand up for her family. Chad and Ashley have made their marriage a priority and worked hard to strengthen that commitment. The angry, over tired boys we knew two years ago are now sweet, bright, articulate little boys thriving in school. The family will have to move this summer, and we will be sad to see them move on, but they leave our program stronger and happier.

GRANTEE FUNDRAISING



Tuscaloosa's One Place is working to make this Christmas a little brighter with a new Christmas tradition, Tinsel Trail. Tinsel Trail is a display of 100 live Christmas trees that light up the city's Riverwalk. Trees are displayed beside Tuscaloosa's Market from November 24 to January 5. The event not only promotes their community but also enriches families by providing a free family-friendly activity for the holidays.

Local businesses, organizations, groups or individuals are able to sponsor and decorate a spruce for \$250. Each tree will list the sponsor and/or decorator's name. A variety of awards will be given out for the trees which really stand out.

The Exchange Club Family Skills Center in Birmingham recently held an event entitled "Bow Ties, Stripes & Polka Dots!!" to promote child abuse prevention.



Bow Ties, Stripes & Polka Dots!! Oh My!!

Join us for our 1st Annual "Bow Ties, Stripes & Polka Dots" reception to benefit the prevention of Child Abuse.

September 15, 2013

Wear your Bow Ties, Stripes and/or Polka Dots as we work to Break the Cycle of Child Abuse and keep our children safe. Eat, mingle & know that you are making a difference.

Where:
Birmingham Public Library- Central Location
Richard Arrington Auditorium, 4th Floor
2100 Park Place
Birmingham, Al 35203

Donation:
\$20 payable at the door
Please RSVP by Sept. 9, 2013

Time: 1:30pm-5:00pm

Exchange Club Family Skills Center
2300 10th Court South
Birmingham, Alabama
Phone: 205-801-5151
Fax: 205-801-6040
www.ECFSC.com

For more information contact:
Sonya Williams, Executive Director
SWilliams@ecfsc.com

Check Presentations Around the State

Tuscaloosa County Grantees



Dallas County Grantees



Etowah County Grantees



Madison, Morgan, Limestone & Lawrence County Grantees



MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention secures resources to fund evidence-based community programs committed to the prevention of child maltreatment; we advocate for children and the strengthening of families.

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www.ctf.alabama.gov



Prevent Child Abuse
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