

FY11 United Way Year-End Report 7/26/11

Program: Foothills Child Advocacy Center (Foothills)
Agency: FoothillsChildAdvocacyCenter
Submitted By: Jane T. Tirrell, Administrative Coordinator

- 1 For the current funding period, please highlight your program's goals, activities, and results, noting any changes to your original plan/proposal. Include any relevant budget and/or financial information. Limit your response to no more than one page.**

Foothills Child Advocacy Center (Foothills) provides a culturally sensitive, coordinated community response to allegations of child abuse in a dedicated, child friendly setting. Through the multidisciplinary team (MDT), Foothills coordinates the work of all of the agencies and organizations in the Charlottesville and Albemarle communities that are involved in child abuse allegations, investigation, and treatment. The process begins with a forensic interview by a trained professional and includes case management services for as long as the child and family are in need. We also provide community education and outreach. Our goal is to minimize trauma, promote healing, insure child safety, and hold perpetrators accountable

During fiscal year 2011, 206 children (58% increase over FY2010) and their families were served through the MDT, and 149 forensic interviews were conducted at FCAC with an additional 16 conducted offsite. 36 cases were accepted for prosecution and 34 previous prosecutions came to a conclusion. Through a grant from BAMA Works, we continued to offer our space and forensic interviewer's service free of charge to outlying counties who do not have a CAC of their own. Two counties brought 26 cases to Foothills. In FY2011, Foothills funded 126 hours of training for MDT and Foothills' staff members and presented Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children Program 35 times with 434 adult participants. This program is a revolutionary evidenced-based sexual abuse prevention training program that educates adults to prevent, recognize, and to react responsibly to child sexual abuse, and motivates them to courageous action.

Our FY11 budget was re-adjusted in January to include a gift received in December from the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation and better than projected donations and fundraising. Based on these events Foothills was able to retain and add to the reserve fund established in FY10. Thanks to an Initiative Grant through the United Way, Foothills is working with an outside consultant to develop new short and long range strategic and sustainability plans with emphasis on exploring the advantages of merging or co-locating with another agency. We submitted our application for full accreditation with the National Children's Alliance (NCA) in March and are scheduled for our site visit on August 11, 2011. NCA's decision on our accreditation will be made by October 30, 2011.

2. **Please share a success story from your program. We are especially interested in stories that show a long-term impact on a person or family, and stories that show collaborations or referrals with other community programs in meeting a client's multiple needs.**

Child Protective Services received a report that six year old, Chelsea (not her real name) told her Guidance Counselor that her stepfather was touching her inappropriately, while he was watching her after school. He would buy her things and tell her not to tell anyone. The CPS Social Worker referred the case to Foothills Child Advocacy Center. The CPS Social Worker, Police Detective and Victim Advocate met the Forensic Interviewer at Foothills CAC, before the family arrived, to discuss the case. The team met with Chelsea's mother while Chelsea played out in the waiting room. The team interviewed the mother and gave her information about the forensic interview, the team approach to child abuse investigations and the team answered the mother's questions. The Victim Advocate met with the mother while Chelsea was being forensically interviewed. The Victim Advocate educated the mother about the civil and criminal justice systems and the importance of counseling for her daughter, as well as giving her information about resources in the community. During the non-leading forensic interview, Chelsea told the interviewer that her stepfather had been touching her and making her touch him. She was afraid to tell because her stepfather told her she would be taken away from her mother if she told. The CPS Social Worker and the Police Detective received copies of the DVD recorded interview, so that Chelsea would only have to tell details of the incident one time. Chelsea's mother was reluctant to believe Chelsea at first, but after working with the team and the Victim Advocate, she learned the importance of believing and supporting her daughter. The CPS Social Worker did a protection plan with the mother that Chelsea was not to have any contact with her stepfather. Chelsea's mother got Chelsea into counseling and also went to counseling herself to deal with her own childhood abuse. CPS made a founded decision. The stepfather was criminally charged, plead guilty and received jail time, without Chelsea ever having to testify.

3. **Complete the following Outcome Measurement update (based on your application for funding) for the fiscal year.**

The FY11 projected figures for primary beneficiaries were increased substantially in March because of the 58% increase in cases brought to the MDT. The new projected figures were obtained by annualizing the actual March 2011 YTD figures. Primary beneficiaries do not include Steward of Children participants.

Revised Projected Number of Intended
of FY11 Primary Beneficiaries: **192**

FY2011 Actual Number
Primary Beneficiaries: **206**

| Projected FY11 Outcomes | FY11 Indicators Tracked | FY11 Outcome Results |
|---|---|----------------------|
| Child safety & protection from re-victimization enhanced through multidisciplinary investigations | # of MDT Investigations # of safety plans # of prosecutions | 206 206 36 |
| Adequate information received from single forensic interviews | # of forensic interviews # of repeated interviews | 165 0 |
| Children and non-offending families receive support through interagency communication and coordination | # of children receiving case management services # of cases reviewed at MDT meetings # of agencies represented consistently at MDT meetings | 206 206 13 |
| Professionals working with FCAC have improved knowledge of best practices and enhanced skills in providing services | # of MDT members who attended CAC sponsored trainings # of peer reviews # of trainings in MDT meetings | 8 5 5 |

- 4. Impact Report: We are looking for issues and statistics specific to our local area; you are also welcome to include some general issues that set the framework for the local statistics. Under the Actual Results heading, we are looking for impact, especially long-term results, not just numbers served. For the Financial Impact section, have each example highlight a different thing.**

Community Need and Issues Your Program Addresses.

In calendar year 2009(2010 data not available),there were a total of 837(1.7% increase from 2008) reported cases of child maltreatment to the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County Child Protective Services (CPS) and law enforcement agencies combined. For law enforcement, these cases included all “reports” of child victimization, defined as aggravated assault or a sex offense. For CPS,the numbers represent cases of child physical abuse, child sexual abuse, child psychological abuse, and child neglect. This figure includes all reported cases, whether or not the case was investigated or only referred for family assessments. 319 reports received family assessments and 518 were deferred or investigated, of which 125 were referred to the MDT (2009 Foothills annual evaluation). The discrepancy between all investigated cases and those reviewed by the MDT is primarily explained by the fact that the MDT accepts only cases that involve sexual abuse, physical abuse, and neglect with physical injury. Our overall goal is to make sure that every child in our community has access to an accredited Foothills Child Advocacy Center and the services and resources we offer. Foothills as an organization and as a space enhances the ability of our community to respond to child abuse allegations, reduces the trauma that the victims experience, and provides hope and healing to victims and their families.

Your Program's Solutions that United Way Community Impact Funds Support
Our program supports the United Way impact area of "Successful Kids in Strong Families". We believe that all children are entitled to be safe, healthy, nurtured and valued. Foothills Child Advocacy Center envisions a unified and just community whose members are knowledgeable about and invested in assuring that all child victims receive the benefit of a range of services available in the community. Foothills provides a system where intervention and prosecution in cases of child abuse/neglect and victimization are well-coordinated and effective in a child and family friendly environment which is as non-traumatic to children as possible and which contributes to prevention of child victimization and the safety of all children.

Actual Results

National data indicates that negative outcomes such as physical injury, psychological problems, academic failure, inappropriate behavior and interpersonal difficulties are a direct result of children's exposure to domestic violence, as well as other forms of child abuse. Fortunately, with the right kind of help, these children can recover completely and live normal and happy lives. Through 6/30/11, Foothills has served 206 children and their non-offending family members and has given them the crisis intervention and on-going support to begin this recovery. 165 child victims have not had to endure the trauma of multiple interviews and 36 perpetrators have been prosecuted. 434 adults have attended one of 35 Steward of Children prevention training programs. The Stewards of Children curriculum has been shown to increase knowledge as well as improve attitudes and positively change participant's protective behavior over the long term. After the training, participants have reported that they are more likely to: discuss issues of sexual abuse with a child or another adult, pay attention to potential signs of sexual abuse, and drop in unexpectedly to ensure that a child is safe in the care of another adult.

Financial Impact of Donations:

Every donation big or small will help us continue this needed work in our community:

- \$3/week (\$156 per year) ensures: that 15 adults will be able to attend a Stewards of Children workshop, a revolutionary sexual abuse prevention training program that educates adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.
- \$5/week (\$260 per year) ensures: that a child victim of abuse in our community will have a single forensic interview by a trained professional in order to tell their story.
- \$10/week (\$520 per year) ensures: crisis intervention, support services, and case management for a child victim and his or her non-offending family member or guardian.
- \$20/week (\$1,040 per year) ensures: that for a period of 3 months Foothills will be able to provide a comfortable, private, child-friendly setting for child victims of abuse and assault to talk about what might have happened to them.