



IF YOU KNEW WHAT WE KNEW, YOU'D HELP

SCAN-IT

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CAC is "Crucial to Bringing Cases to Prosecution"

"Last year we saw more than 3,600 cases," said Detective Sergeant Michael S. Mocello with the City of Richmond Police Department. "We only have eight detectives who can work on those cases."

Sgt. Mocello is a member of the Child Advocacy Center's (CAC) Richmond Multidisciplinary Team, and serves in the police department's Major Crimes Division for Youth and Family Crimes. While speaking to SCAN's Board of Directors on March 26, Sgt. Mocello said that the CAC has been crucial to bringing cases of child abuse to prosecution in Richmond.

Duplicative contacts and excessive interviewing during the investigation of child abuse hinders prosecutors' efforts to hold alleged offenders accountable. The CAC reduces the number of interviews children face when a case of abuse is being investigated. The CAC also increases information sharing among the law enforcement, Department of Social Services, Child Protective Services, Richmond CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), VCU Medical Center's Child Protection Team and the Commonwealth's Attorney.

"What's more important are the cases they help with that don't make it to prosecution," he said. "We have so many cases to investigate, we don't always have the time to do the follow up on those cases that aren't being prosecuted. The CAC does and that often prevents victims from becoming victims again or becoming victimizers themselves."

Many of the cases referred to the CAC for investigation and treatment are child sexual abuse cases. Sgt. Mocello affirmed this and added that many of the cases he sees now are child-on-child sexual assault. He feels that it is a learned behavior and that many times these cases will lead to the prosecution of an adult offender, which would not be successful without the forensic interviews and other follow up from the CAC. Most of the cases of child sexual abuse involve children ages 12 to 17, he said.

In all cases referred to the CAC, ongoing mental health treatment is offered by SCAN's mental health therapists for no cost or clients are referred to outside mental health resources.

[Learn more about the CAC.](#)

**Visit the new
GRSCAN.com!**



Coming Events

Panda Express at Short Pump

*April 7, 2012
10 a.m. to 9 p.m.*

Join us at Panda Express and help SCAN earn 20% from your food order. Simply bring [this flyer](#) to turn in with your purchase.

Mosaic Community Give Back Night

*April 18, 2012
5 to 9 p.m.*

Join SCAN at Mosaic Café in the River Road Shopping Center for dinner. Say you are a SCAN supporter and Mosaic will donate a pre-tax portion of your meal to SCAN. In addition, our celebrity bartender will be accepting tips to donate to SCAN.

Westover Hills Yard Sale

*April 21, 2012
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.*

Join us during the annual Westover Hills Yard Sale. The rain date is Saturday, April 28. Proceeds from items sold at 5218 King William Road will benefit Greater Richmond SCAN. We need donations to sell. Contact Megan Southall to donate items or to get involved as a volunteer: msouthall@grscan.com.

Pescados at China Street

*April 23, 2012
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.*

Join us at the award-winning Pescados in Oregon Hill for lunch or dinner. The restaurant will donate 20% of their sales at the end of the day to SCAN.

Nacho Mama's

*April 30, 2012
11 a.m. to 10 p.m.*

Join us at the eclectic Latin restaurant Nacho Mama's in Carytown all day to benefit SCAN. Nacho Mama's will make a donation to SCAN the very next day!



National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Each year, SCAN organizes the local campaign for April, National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This year, because of the overwhelming need, we are focusing on child sexual abuse prevention. We know that the statistics are alarming: 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused before their 18th birthdays. **You Can Protect Their *Only* Childhood.**

[Click here to view our 8-Page insert in Style Weekly.](#)

[Click here to download the 2012 Child Abuse Prevention Packet.](#)

[Click here to learn more ways to get involved.](#)

[Click here to donate in honor of a child you love.](#)

Stay in Touch!

Like us on Facebook.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

Follow us on Twitter.

The Twitter logo, consisting of the word "twitter" in a blue, rounded, lowercase font with a white outline.

The New [www.GRSCAN.com!](http://www.GRSCAN.com)

In addition to unveiling a new logo last fall, SCAN has worked to launch a new website, which is now live. We



have undertaken both of these efforts because SCAN is a larger organization than it was 20 years ago. We serve more than 1,000 children and families each year through our direct services and we reach more than 60,000 community members through our public education and prevention efforts. The more descriptive our logo and the more user-friendly our website, the better able SCAN can be at welcoming more people to join us in our fight to end child abuse and neglect in the Greater Richmond area.

While we are still improving the website, please view it at grscan.com and send feedback and questions to Megan at msouthall@grscan.com.

Thank you to [The Idea Center](#) who helped make this possible. Their expertise and hard work have made this dream a reality.

Thank you!

Thank you to **The Pauley Foundation, The Community Foundation, The Cameron Foundation and The Emily S. and Coleman A. Hunter Charitable Trust** for recently awarding grants to SCAN.

Thank you to **The Idea Center** who has made the creation and launch of our new website possible!

Shamrock the Block

Thank you to **Three One One Productions** for making Shamrock the Block another success this year. Thank you also to the more than 100 volunteers who kept the event moving! Check out photos from the event on **Facebook**.

Thank you Protector's Circle 2011-2012 Members

Kathleen and Gerard Albanese	Marsha and Michael Hawkins
Dottie Amore	Sasha and Michael Hogan
Trina and Roy Anise	Diane and Gene Hosenfeld
Kelly and Tiffany Armstrong	Billy Hupp
Lindley and Coby Beck	Renee and Steve Hupp
Cathy and Howard Bos	Kari and Heath Hyman
Kathryn and Matt Brotherton	Kimberly and William Johnson
Carter and John Bryan	Carrie and Tommy Johnstone
Leemore and Alan Burke	Cindy and Michael Joyce
Daisy and Tom Byrd	Margaret and Jerry Keightley
Edie and Bob Cabaniss	Jen and John Kostyniuk
James Cabaniss	Amy and Byron Ladd
Jennifer and David Campbell	Kathleen and Frank LaRosa
Jeff Chandler	Kat and Mike Liebschwager
Andrea and Robert Clark	Juliet and Mark Levin
Kevin Collier	Tehshau Luan
Nona and Bill Collin	Elizabeth and Michael Martin
Rose and Josh Dare	Jasper Mersereau
Trudy Rickman and Chuck Dean	Caroline and Marshall Morton
Carrie and Bob Delille	Allie and Richard Oelhafen, Jr.
Mark Dillon	Jay Olander
Paul Edmunds	Linda and Larry Paige
Lawrence Eiben	Shelton Panak
Anne Marie and Scott Elles	Ann Marie and Bryan Petrucelli
Jean and Rob Estes	Scottie and George Phillips
Samira Fazel	Kelly Pickerel
Audrey and David Franks	Thomas Rankin
Tehshau Luan	Kathleen and Bob Redmond
Dena Frith and Chris Moore	Anne and David Schlussler
Betsy and Bobby Fauntleroy	Michael Sieja
Dana and Gray Garland	Dorinda Smith
Trish Garland	Martha and Bobby Speight
Katherine Godin	Jeanne and Stallings
Bruce Gottwald, Jr.	Lucinda and John Stanchina
Mary Anne Graf	Judith Strickler
Martha and John Grover	Eric Sundberg
Cindy and George Harrison	Letty and Bill Tate
Hilary and Brett Hawkins	Margaretha and Jose Valderas
	Elizabeth Scott Warren
	Stephanie and Brad Welles

Richmond CASA Trains a New Class of Volunteers

SCAN welcomed a new class of Richmond CASA volunteers on March 27 as they began their first three hours of their 35 hours of intensive training.

"As always, it's a very diverse crowd with people from all walks of life," said SCAN Volunteer Coordinator Jana Blue. "They vary from folks who are young to retired... Some have experiences with children who have had guardian ad litem or CASA volunteers and are at a point in their life where they want to give back in honor of those who helped them so much."

After five weeks of training, the 12 new volunteers will be sworn in on Thursday, April 26.

As usual, Richmond CASA will base training on the National CASA training curriculum. Jana said that this time, though, they will tweak the curriculum to focus more on items that are jurisdictionally specific to Richmond because the class has proven to be particularly strong during the application and interview process.

"We will cover everything in the manual," she said. "But we'll emphasize a lot of cultural and historical information about the families we serve in Richmond."

The training will also feature a few other new additions. Firstly, a current CASA volunteer who is a retired teacher has become an authority on advocating for children in educational settings with special needs. She will lead a session on ensuring children's educational needs are met during one of the evening trainings.

In addition, Child Advocacy Center Mental Health Coordinator Lisa Wright will present on trauma. She will discuss the impacts that trauma such as abuse and neglect have on the children that CASA volunteers serve.

Finally, Jana said, she will show volunteers the documentary "From Place to Place," which SCAN and other organizations premiered in the Richmond community last fall. The film documents the experience of young adults who have lived most of their lives in the foster care system. It has powerful messages for those who are dealing with children who are currently in foster care or may be in foster care soon.

"We always get excited for training," Jana said. "I always feel like we learn from the class and the class learns from each other as much as we are teaching them. When all of these people come from all different backgrounds and bring their experiences to the table, adds to our experience as CASA staff as well."



[Learn more about Richmond CASA.](#)

Empowering Teen Mothers

In 2010, SCAN developed a new parenting class for teen mothers, one of 16 caregiver groups SCAN now offers through its Family Support Program. The 22-week Teen Parenting Group is offered to mothers enrolled at the Performance Learning Center, an alternative high school, in partnership with Communities in Schools.

Andrea Mitchell is now facilitating the fourth group of females, which has been meeting on Tuesdays since September 2011.



She has covered nurturing parenting principles including attachment, empathy, nurturing yourself, gentle touch, discipline, praise, expressing feelings and age-appropriate expectations. She says the group impacts a number of the young women greatly, but it has come with challenges.

The majority of the teen mothers live in low-income housing in Richmond and do not live with the fathers of their children. The mothers and the family members they live with have little to no income, she said. In addition, many of the mothers are still impacted by the way they were raised.

"Many of them were raised in homes where their words and their thoughts weren't valued," Andrea said. "Many were raised to think that what children think isn't important. They continue to believe that about themselves and also have had difficulty understanding the impact their own words have on their children."

But, many of the mothers express that they want to parent and discipline their children differently than they were parented. While the young women are engaged and ask questions during class, they still face obstacles outside of class. Many of the mothers still live with the people who raised them.

"They have a hard time finding a voice to say 'That's not how I want to raise my child,'" Andrea said. "I spend a lot of time helping them find a voice to say that and believe that it's okay to raise their children differently."

One young woman recently shared how the group helped her understand the damage she has been doing to her relationship with her son by spanking him. She would often joke about "popping" him all the time, Andrea said. Now, she works on setting reasonable expectations for him. She understands that "He's only two and he doesn't know any better." She positively disciplines him without hurting him by simply saying "No" and works to spend positive bonding time with him.

"The young mothers empower each other to make these important changes," Andrea said. "Coming from difficult family lives and having often experienced other hardships, they don't trust many people. But, they have allowed each other into their lives in ways they don't let other people in."

"The girls have relationships with each other," she said. "They listen to the things I have to say, but it's so powerful when they speak to each other... They say things like 'your daughter is most important, you shouldn't be hanging around with those people.'"

[Learn more about the Family Support Program.](#)