



## *News Release*

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### **Autumn Splendor Event to Benefit Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard Tickets Now On Sale**

*Melbourne, Fla.*—The Ladies of Suntree Country Club and the Friends of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard will present the *10<sup>th</sup> Annual Autumn Splendor Fashion Show, Silent Auction and Luncheon* on Wednesday, October 31, 2007 at Suntree Country Club from 10:30 until 2 p.m. to the benefit the programs and services of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard. Tickets are available at \$35 per person from Marlene Spatola at the Advocacy Center, 259-1883; and from Christy Cannella, 961-7479 and Ru Nance, 752-9516.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available: Child Champion/Event Sponsor, \$2,500; Child Advocates: \$1,000; Child Supporters: \$500 and Table Sponsors: \$100. Item donations for the silent auction are also needed. For sponsor or item donation forms, or other information, contact Ru Nance at 752-9516, or Marlene Spatola at the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard, 259-1883.

Event Co-chairs are Mary Louise Coleman, representing the Ladies of Suntree Country Club, and Christy Cannella, Secretary for the Friends of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard. Committee members are: Peggy Allen, Kim Gwiazda, Shari Hoover, Joan Jensen, Jamie Johnson, Ru Nance, Vicki Qualter, Diane Scott and Marlene Spatola. The Emcee for this year's event is Michael Coleman, former publisher of FLORIDA TODAY.

Established in 1996, the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard is a nonprofit organization affiliated with Wuesthoff Health Services, and is a multiple-agency collaboration of the Child Protection Team, the Florida Department of Children and Families, Brevard County Sheriff's Office and municipal law enforcement agencies, the Office of the State Attorney and community mental health professionals. Advocacy Center partners intervene in cases of child sexual or severe physical abuse, or neglect—the most difficult cases in Brevard County. Last fiscal year the Child Protection Team (CPT), which is an onsite Advocacy Center partner, opened 873 cases, an increase of 64 percent over last fiscal year. CPT medical staff performed 483 examinations—an increase of 88 percent. The CACB Clinical Intervention Program provided crisis and short-term counseling to 693 child victims and non-offending family members, an eight percent increase over last year, with the number of counseling sessions increasing by 12 percent.

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