



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bristol-Hansen Charitable Foundation Awards Grant to benefit Children's Advocacy Center

Melbourne, Fla.—The generosity of Grace Bristol and Gladys Hansen lives on in the Bristol-Hansen Charitable Foundation, which has awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Friends of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard (CACB) to be used for renovation expenses including the purchase of equipment for the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard's proposed new facility in Rockledge, Florida.

“Anticipated occupancy for the new facility is early 2009 but we need to be making plans now for renovations that should take place in fall 2008,” said Charles Biehl, Director of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard and Child Protection Team. “The 9,600-square-foot building is currently occupied by Children's Medical Services, which will be relocating to the new Health Department facility being built in Viera. We are extremely excited to have the opportunity to move to this larger facility without encumbering a large capital expense.”

The Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard currently occupies a 7,200 square-foot building located in the Suntree area of Melbourne that is owned by the Friends of the CACB. While it continues to serve our purposes, the building has costly maintenance issues, and cannot economically be expanded in size. “Because the Child Protection Team, which is an Advocacy Center onsite partner, is under Children's Medical Services domain, the Advocacy Center is able to move its entire operation into a new larger space without incurring the typical expenses associated with such a move. It is truly a unique and wonderful opportunity,” added Biehl.

The Mission of the Friends of the CACB is to increase awareness of the issues of child abuse and neglect and to raise funding for the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard, an organization that serves abused and neglected children of Brevard County, Florida.

Established in 1996, the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard is a nonprofit organization affiliated with Wuesthoff Health Services. CACB is a multi-agency collaboration of the Child Protection Team, the Florida Department of Children and Families, both of which are onsite at the Advocacy Center; Brevard County Sheriff's Office and municipal law enforcement agencies, the Office of the State Attorney and community mental health professionals. Advocacy Center partners are involved in the most difficult cases in Brevard County, including cases of child sexual or severe physical abuse, and neglect. Major onsite services provided by the Child Protection Team include medical exams, medical consultations, and specialized and forensic interviews. The CACB Clinical Intervention Program provides immediate mental health crisis counseling for child victims and their non-offending family members.

For additional information about the Advocacy Center, call 259-1883, or visit our website at www.cacbrevard.org. CACB tours are available by appointment by calling Teresa Munroe at 259-1883.

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