



## *News Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:**

Teresa Munroe, Communications & Development  
321.259.1883, ext. 229  
2 Suntree Place  
Melbourne, FL 32940

### Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard Recognizes Lt. Mike Qualter

*Melbourne, Fla.*—At a luncheon ceremony on April 24, the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard recognized the long-standing and dedicated support of Lt. Mike Qualter with the Brevard County Sheriff's Office. "Lt. Qualter has devoted most of his 22-year career to handling child abuse issues and investigations. As a founding member of the CACB Operations Board in 1996, he was instrumental in setting the course of the Advocacy Center's work that is successfully continuing today," said Charles Biehl, Director of the Child Protection Team and the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard (CACB).

Lt. Qualter has won many community service awards throughout his career but his work on behalf of the CACB was nothing short of extraordinary. Beyond his leadership early in the development of the Advocacy Center, in 2001 he announced a fund-raising idea that has resulted in bringing awareness to the issue of child abuse and financial support to the CACB.

He and his wife, Vicki, dedicated themselves to hike Appalachian Trail (A.T.) in 200-mile sections until they complete the 2,100+ miles through 14 states. The expedition, titled HIKE A.T. — "Helping Innocent Kids End Abuse Today," is designed to raise funds from the community to benefit the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard and Camp Chance, two organizations that provide services to child victims of abuse. To date the Qualters have raised more than \$23,000 for the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard.

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The Qualters have hiked through six of the 14 states and reached the halfway mark in terms of actual miles completed. “The HIKE A.T. effort represents the daily struggle encountered by abused children and those who work on their behalf,” said Lt. Qualter. “Long-distance backpacking is not an easy undertaking. By its very nature, it is symbolic of the struggle to not only survive, but to overcome barriers and succeed.”

After serving on the Operations Board, Lt. Qualter continued his commitment to the Advocacy Center first as a member, and later as President, of the Friends of the Children’s Advocacy Center of Brevard, the fundraising entity for the CACB.

“Because of his devotion to serving child abuse victims and his selfless dedication to the Children’s Advocacy Center of Brevard, this recognition is a small token of how very much he is appreciated. Even though Lt. Qualter is no longer on one of the CACB’s Boards, he is still an important contributor to the success of the Advocacy Center. He will always be of service to children somewhere in Brevard,” added Biehl.

Established in 1996, the Children’s Advocacy Center of Brevard unites child protection professionals from multiple agencies under one roof in a child-friendly environment to intervene in the most severe cases of child abuse in Brevard County. Children’s Advocacy Center group tours are available by appointment by calling Teresa Munroe at 259-1883. CACB is a nonprofit organization affiliated with Wuesthoff Health Services.

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