



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard Receives Grant from Target

Melbourne, Fla. — The Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard (CACB) received a \$2,000 grant from Target in support of the CACB's efforts to provide immediate mental health counseling to child victims of abuse and their non-offending family members through the Clinical Intervention Program (CIP).

“Sexual and severe physical abuse are traumatic in the life of a child, and immediate and appropriate counseling by a trusted advocate can help a child learn how to work through the emotional crisis. Counseling can also greatly influence the ability of the non-offending parent or caregiver to be supportive and protective,” explained Charles Biehl, Director of the Child Protection Team and the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard. “CIP is provided free of charge and it is through the generosity of donors like Target that we are able to continue this vital service to child abuse victims.”

The cases handled through the Advocacy Center are the most severe cases of abuse found in Brevard County, and we recognized a gap in services that was filled in late 1997 through the Clinical Intervention Program. The CIP primarily, though not exclusively, serves child sexual abuse victims between the ages of 3-17 years old, and the non-offending family members of these victims.

This grant is part of ongoing efforts by Target to strengthen families and communities throughout the country. Since opening its doors, Target has given five percent of its income to organizations that support education, the arts and safe families and communities. Today that translates to \$3 million every week.

“At Target, we are making a real difference every day through our grant-making program,” said Laysha Ward, vice president, community relations, Target. “We're proud to partner with the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard as part of our ongoing commitment to give back to the communities where our guests and team members live and work.”

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In addition to immediate, on-site crisis and short-term counseling, the Clinical Intervention Program also provides:

- case consultation to child protective service agencies
- expert testimony in court
- personal advocacy services (such as communication with the victim's school or parent's workplace)
- assistance in the transition to long-term therapy (if appropriate)
- follow-up with the victim and family for up to six months to ensure that they are maintaining appointments and receiving the identified needed services intended to strengthen their family.

Established in 1996, the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard is a nonprofit organization affiliated with Wuesthoff Health Services. CACB 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. CACB group tours are available by appointment by calling Teresa Munroe at 259-1883.

Minneapolis-based Target serves guests at 1,502 stores in 47 states nationwide by delivering today's best retail trends at affordable prices. Target is committed to providing guests with great design through innovative products, in-store experiences and community partnerships. Whether visiting a Target store or shopping online at Target.com, guests enjoy a fun and convenient shopping experience with access to thousands of unique and highly differentiated items. Since opening its first store in 1962, Target has partnered with nonprofit organizations, guests and team members to help meet community needs.

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