



## *News Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Community Foundation of Brevard Awards Grant to Friends of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard**

Melbourne, Fla.—The Community Foundation of Brevard has awarded a \$1,080 grant to the Friends of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard that will be used to help furnish the children's play/wait area in the lobby at the Children's Advocacy Center's new facility in Rockledge.

"The Advocacy Center will occupy the former Children's Medical Services building in April, and the grant from the Community Foundation of Brevard will help the Advocacy Center communicate, through its design, décor and materials, that it is a welcoming and child-oriented place for children," said Helene Sanford, President of the Friends. "Much of the existing furniture in the current playroom at the Suntree facility will be used after the move but the new larger space will require the addition of more child-sized furniture. Also, the move is an opportune time to purchase new videos and purge well-used toys, and replace them with new ones that keep in mind the diversity of the population served at the Advocacy Center."

National accreditation for the Advocacy Center requires that special attention be given to designing and decorating the client service areas. "The appearance of the Center can help facilitate children's and families' participation in the child abuse intervention process, largely by helping to alleviate anxiety and instill confidence as they navigate through what can be a confusing time," explained Charles Biehl, Director of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard.

Established in 1996, the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard (CACB) 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 crisis and short-term counseling for child victims and their non-offending family members. In fiscal year 2006-2007, Advocacy Center partners assessed 1,074 cases of child sexual abuse and the most severe physical abuse and neglect found in Brevard.

For additional information about the Advocacy Center, call 259-1883, or visit our website at [www.cacbrevard.org](http://www.cacbrevard.org). CACB tours are available by appointment.

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