



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inaugural Toast and Roast Benefits the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard

Brevard County—The children served by the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard (CACB) will benefit from the proceeds of the inaugural Toast and Roast event hosted on April 4 by the Friends of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard. State Attorney Norman Wolfinger sat in the honoree chair, and for the most part, quietly listened as the crowd of approximately 160 at the King Center for the Performing Arts enjoyed his being toasted and roasted by people who know him best. The total net from the event is expected to be close to \$9,000.

"It was a successful inaugural event and one we plan to grow each year," said Helene Sanford, President of the Friends. "Events like this one not only honor individuals who have had a significant impact on the Children's Advocacy Center but also bring awareness to the community about child abuse in our community and the amazing work of the Advocacy Center on behalf of abused children."

Event Silver sponsors were Brevard Community College, Community Credit Union, Florida Power and Light, Kirk Realty, Inc., Steven and Michelle Perlman, Helene and Wayne Sanford, Delores and Guy Spearman, Whittaker Cooper Financial Group, and Norm and Janie Wolfinger.

The evening began with the music of cardiac surgeon Dr. David Sims on the piano. Friends President Helene Sanford welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to support the Advocacy Center, and introduced CACB Director Charles Biehl, who gave a brief organizational overview. After dinner, Assistant State Attorney Meryl Allawas talked about the early days of the Advocacy Center and Norm Wolfinger's role in its development. Then Roastmaster Jim Theriac stepped up to the podium and the evening took a hilarious turn as he introduced the toasters and roasters—some of whom, like Assistant State Attorney Rob Parker, appeared incognito in an effort to "save his job," with co-roasters Mike Doyle and Jim McMaster, both Assistant State Attorneys. Also toasting and roasting were Beth Rossman, Director of Victim Witness Services, Office of the State Attorney; Assistant State Attorney Phil Archer and Judge Jack Griesbaum.

Wolfinger had the last word as he graciously acknowledged all that was said about him, and thanked guests for being a part of the evening's fun. He also reminded them of the real reason for the event: child abuse is a community problem that needs a community response.

The Florida Tech Twitchy Band, which is probably the only all-Ph.D. band on the Space Coast, closed out the evening with the musical talents of Dr. Cliff Bragdon, Dr. Anthony Catanese, Dr. Fred Ham, Dr. Kevin Johnson, Dr. Ivica Kostanic, Dr. Alan Rosiene, Dr. Tom Waite and Dr. Jamie Younkin.

The Friends of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard is a nonprofit organization of volunteers that bring awareness of the issues of child abuse and neglect in our community, and raise funding to support the mission of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard. In addition to Sanford, Friends Board members are Kim Gwiazda, Donald Hemmenway, Kenneth Whittaker, David Brock, Jessie Das Kirk, Maxwell C. King, Ed.D., Diane Scott, Delores Spearman, and Norman Wolfinger. At the April meeting, the Board welcomed its newest Director, Vicki Rios Martinez.

Established in 1996, the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard (CACB) is affiliated with Wuesthoff Health Services and is a multi-agency collaboration of the Child Protection Team, the Florida Department of Children and Families, both 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. CACB partners intervene in the most severe cases of child abuse in the county: 1,074 cases in FY 08. The CACB Clinical Intervention Program provides crisis and short-term counseling for child victims and non-offending family members.

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Friends of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard

Toast and Roast Photo caption

Photo sent as separate document.

Before the fun begins at the Toast and Roast on April 4--State Attorney Norm Wolfinger is greeted by Helene Sanford, President of the Friends of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard.