



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard Facilitates Donations to SIP Family

Brevard County — Employees of two companies stepped up to meet the needs of a family enrolled in the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard's Stabilization in Placement (SIP) program. Employees from Intersil Corporation in Palm Bay and from the Cocoa-based Vance Lotane and Bookhardt Law Firm responded to a unique request to help an individual caring for an infant who was born substance exposed.

"I received this referral to SIP when the baby was four weeks old," said Advocacy Center Clinical Intervention Coordinator Terri Williamson. "The infant will likely be with this caregiver, who is a relative, for quite a while. The caregiver is already raising her own 15-year-old daughter and a four-year-old adopted son."

Stabilization in Placement is a pilot program within the Advocacy Center's Clinical Intervention Program. The Clinical Intervention Program has been providing crisis and short-term counseling free of charge to child abuse victims and their non-offending caregivers since 1997. SIP is specifically targeted to situations where a child is removed from their caregiver, which is usually a parent. The program's counselors provide an assessment of needs and referrals for interventions to ensure stability of the placement.

During Terri Williamson's initial conversations with the caregiver in this case, the only request was for a stroller. Further discussions revealed much more was needed to assist—stabilize—this placement. That's where Intersil and Vance Lotane Bookhardt employees stepped in.

To date a crib, car seat, and diapers have been donated. Financial contributions will be used to purchase additional supplies such as a stroller.

Long known for their generosity to clients in the Clinical Intervention Program, Intersil Corp. employees have made many Christmases brighter for a lot of children and their caregivers over the years. So it was no surprise when they responded positively to the Advocacy Center's unique request.

The response from employees at Vance, Lotane and Bookhardt was just as swift. "The culture at the firm is to respond to a variety of needs all year rather than just during the holidays," explained Julie Tookes, Office Manager for Vance Lotane Bookhardt. "We don't focus on just one organization but try to match employees' interests with causes in the Brevard community, and that means we are very active in helping wherever and whenever we can."

Terri Williamson added, "SIP is a pilot, and as such, we are still determining the appropriate level of services to provide in cases. Both SIP and CIP are primarily assessment and counseling programs. However, when such a need as this one arises, it is heartwarming to know that there are individuals in our community who are willing to generously respond."

Established in 1996, the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard handles the most severe cases of abuse found in Brevard County—all child sexual abuse and the worst cases of physical abuse and neglect. There were 1,232 cases assessed by Advocacy Center onsite partner, the Child Protection Team, in fiscal year 2009-2010. For additional information call 321.637.7652, or visit www.cacbrevard.org.

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