



Media Release

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Awareness Event Benefits Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard

Brevard County, Fla.— The [Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard](http://www.cacbrevard.org) was presented with a \$578 donation from Matt's Casbah in downtown Melbourne following a child abuse awareness event organized and hosted by the restaurant staff on July 17.

"It was an event designed to serve several purposes," explained organizer William Payne, who is the Marketing Director for Matt's Casbah. "It started out as a way to remember Caylee Anthony and grew into a community awareness event about the issue of child abuse in Brevard County."

The event featured live music by Joe Colutti and a performance by singer Ana Kirby and ending later in the evening with participants lighting candles and walking to Front Street Park to release lighted lanterns into the night. Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard (CACB) representatives were on hand to share information about the organization—the CACB is a source of expert information when it comes to child abuse in Brevard County—both on the assessment of abuse after allegations are made, and on ways to prevent child abuse from occurring in the first place.

"The idea of an awareness event featuring a local organization dealing with child abuse led us to the Children's Advocacy Center," said Payne. "Restaurant owner Matt Nugnes was totally onboard with the idea and was working with me every step of the way to help make the event the best it could be."

"Community education and training are part of our mandate," explained Charles Biehl, Director of both the Children's Advocacy Center and onsite partner, the Child Protection Team. "We take every opportunity to promote a message of awareness and child abuse prevention to the Brevard community. When we were presented with this particular awareness-raising opportunity, we gladly accepted the invitation to be a part of the event."

Children's Advocacy Center professionals assess child abuse allegations and provide services to child victims, which means the organization is in a unique position to know first-hand the serious injuries that can and do happen to children—injuries that are purposely inflicted as well as those that are unintentional.

Established in 1996 as a member of the Wuesthoff Health Services family, the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard is now managed by the Space Coast Health Foundation. 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 free, no waiting list, mental health crisis and short-term counseling for child victims and their non-offending family members.

Contact the CACB at 637-7652; visit our website at www.cacbrevard.org.

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Matt Nugnes, owner of Matt's Casbah in Melbourne, presents a check to Jeanie Bondy, Child Protection Team Casework Supervisor, who is accepting on behalf of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard. The funds were raised during a child abuse awareness event at the restaurant on July 17.



Visiting the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard are Matt's Casbah staffers (clockwise) Tabbi Green (seated), General Manager; Lori Hughes, Catering Manager; Matt Nugnes, Owner; and Will Payne, Marketing Manager. Pictured with the Matt's Casbah team is Peta Adovasio (far right), a Board Director of the Friends of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard. The visitors came to the Advocacy Center to present a check for funds raised during a child abuse awareness event at the restaurant on July 17.