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### Let's Celebrate Together!



Do you have an upcoming birthday? Celebrate your special day with DCAC through our newest campaign, Donate to Celebrate! Currently, about 1 in 10 children will be abused before their 18th birthday. At DCAC, we believe birthdays should be a celebration, not a statistic of abuse and we are working to change that statistic. By pledging your birthday, you can create a customized fundraiser through CrowdRise to support our community's most fragile children and raise funds for our programs at DCAC. Please visit our [Donate to Celebrate webpage](#) to learn more about the campaign, browse current birthday fundraisers, and view a step-by-step guide.

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## Cherokee Trail High School Students Give Back



Earlier this month, we had the honor to meet a group of students from Cherokee Trail High School in Aurora. The students came to DCAC to deliver a very special donation for our forensic interview program. As the students donated 20 Build-a-Bears, we were able to explain to them that every child that we see in our forensic interview program gets to pick out a stuffed animal to take home with them and that their Build-a-Bears would be used for that purpose! Everyone at DCAC is overjoyed by this donation and we can't wait to see the joy on our client's faces when they get to pick out a brand new stuffed animal that was made with love.

Thank you again, Cherokee Trail High School. We are so grateful for all your kindness and generosity!

If you are interested in making a stuffed animal donation to our forensic interview program, please contact Meghan at [MParman@DenverCAC.org](mailto:MParman@DenverCAC.org).

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## National Child Abuse Prevention Month

We all play a role in preventing child abuse and neglect.



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and DCAC will be raising awareness about how everyone can play a role in preventing abuse. National Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families.

During April, we will be hosting and attending several events to promote awareness. This includes: a kick-off event at the State Capitol, Pinwheels for Prevention event at the

Rockies Season Opener and various trainings for individuals who work with traumatized children. Stay tuned for more details all of our upcoming events!

DCAC is currently seeking sponsorships for National Child Abuse Prevention Month. If you are interested in learning more about our available sponsorships and becoming a partner, please view our [2017 Sponsorship Packet](#) and contact Meghan at [MParman@DenverCAC.org](mailto:MParman@DenverCAC.org) with any questions.

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## Save the Date - Art from the Heart 2017!



**Mark your calendars for the evening of Thursday, September 14th!**

**Art from the Heart** is our unique annual fundraiser and will be held again this year at the unique SPACE Gallery in the Santa Fe Art District.

**Art from the Heart** draws attention to the transformative power of art and the art therapy utilized by DCAC in working with traumatized children. This distinctive event will help raise much needed funds for the many programs we provide.

Stay tuned for more details!

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### *Toxic Love: When Offenders Enter the Family System*

presented by Cathy Hay, LMFT and Courtney Palm, LMFT

Your child just disclosed to being abused...now what do you do? For most mothers the need to respond and protect their children is immediate, but what happens when the mother is under the influence of the offender? This toxic dynamic between the mother and offender can often cause a scattered response of confusion and blame towards the child. There are five "toxic responses" most displayed by mothers in these situations which impact how they comply with the investigation, support their child through the forensic interview, and participate in therapy. This training will highlight the red flags for each type, how to support these children during the investigation, and how to engage these mothers in treatment. Toxic Love is geared towards mental health professionals, victim advocates, forensic interviewers.

*When?* April 26th, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

*Where?* Mile High United Way  
711 Park Avenue West  
Denver, CO 80205

*Price?* \$70 per attendee

To learn more about this training or to register, please click the link below.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

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## DCAC's Problematic Sexual Behavior Program



We are continuing to work with the University of Oklahoma to establish a treatment program for children with problematic sexual abuse behaviors and their families. This program is designed to eliminate problematic sexual behaviors and improve pro-social behaviors and adjustments in children. It is also designed to reduce stress and enhance skills in parents and other caregivers.

For more information about treatment for problematic sexual behavior in youth, please contact:

Gizane Indart, PsyD. at [Gizane@DenverCAC.org](mailto:Gizane@DenverCAC.org) or (303) 996-8580.

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## Staff Corner

### Meet Bilingual Victim Advocate, Micaela Escontrias!

Micaela joined DCAC in 2017 as a Bilingual Victim Advocate. She has worked for various organizations that provide services for children including Denver Children's Home and Denver Court Appointed Special Advocates.

Micaela received a bachelor's degree in sociology in 2011 and a master's degree in criminology in 2013 from Regis University. She has dedicated her career to working with children, especially those who have been victimized. She is

passionate about prevention education along with being of support to the Latino community. Micaela is excited to be working with our Forensic Interview program to serve children and families in need.



*Q: What is your role at DCAC?*

A: My role as a Victim Advocate at DCAC is to welcome children and families, help them understand the interview process, and give them the overall support, resources, and referrals that they need.

*Q: What do you find most rewarding?*

A: The most rewarding part of my job is getting to interact with the children. Recently, DCAC received a donation of Build-A-Bears from a local high school and we have been giving them out to children after each interview. It is amazing to see the look on their faces as they leave the center with a brand-new teddy bear.

*Q: What do you find most challenging?*

A: Learning the ropes of a new position is always challenging, yet I have enjoyed every second of it! I think the great part about being challenged is that it motivates me to keep working hard and be the best Victim Advocate I can be.

*Q: If you had a superpower, what would it be and why?*

A: I would have to say being able to fly. I could get anywhere in a matter of seconds and I wouldn't have to deal with Denver traffic!

*Q: What do you love to do when you are not working?*

A: I spend a lot of time with my nieces and nephews; they are my world! When I am not doing hanging out with them, you can find me at Coors Field during baseball season (GO ROCKIES!), volunteering, or enjoying some karaoke with friends.

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