



CONNECT *with* CAPA

Mission Statement: CAPA breaks the destructive cycle of child abuse and neglect by equipping parents, children and their caregivers with necessary skills, knowledge and values.

Spring 2016

Celebrate National Child Abuse Prevention Month

“PIN A FRIEND” IN APRIL

Over 4,000,000 pinwheels have been displayed across the nation since April 2008. Planted as “pinwheel gardens,” these eye-catching displays entice the public to take notice of this societal problem and to play an active role in prevention in their communities. The Child Abuse Prevention Association is securing pinwheel sponsors from across our community to raise funds for prevention programs!

Let us plant a garden in your friend or family member’s yard or even your business anywhere in Beaufort County. The pinwheels will be placed during the morning and will stay in place for 24 hours. Please call the office today at **(843) 524-4350** to **order your own gift garden** or you may **request a PINWHEELING on our website at www.capabeaufort.org**.

\$25.00 Garden of 25

\$50.00 Garden of 50

\$100.00 Garden of 100

OR

Because we value prevention, you may purchase pinwheel insurance for \$100.00.

Plant a Pinwheel garden. Order today!



A Volunteer's Journey

Contributed by: Peg Cronin

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My CAPA volunteer story begins a long time ago. In fact, almost ninety years ago, in 1929. That was the year that the cartoon character Popeye made his debut, the year that Al Capone shot up Chicago on St. Valentine's Day. In October of that year, the New York Stock Exchange crashed, ushering in a great depression that decimated the world economy and caused widespread suffering throughout the country, that was also the year that a widower and owner of a small grocery store in Knoxville, TN, suffering from grief after his young wife's death, stress of raising three children on his own and the pressures of a failing business, died suddenly of a massive coronary. His youngest child, Margaret, was 8 years old. She became a ward of the court, and spent the remaining years of her childhood in an orphanage.

Margaret was lucky. Someone noticed that she was a tenacious student and a hard worker. When she completed high school, a charity stepped in to help her study nursing. She joined the Army Air Force as a nurse during World War II, got married, and raised three daughters. I'm one of those daughters. Although my childhood was comfortable and secure, I learned by listening to my mother's stories that it was possible for things to go terribly wrong, not just for grown ups, but also for the youngest children. Families could fall apart, children could be left vulnerable and suffering.

I grew up, married, and became a mother myself. As I raised our children, I also tried to help children in my community whose welfare were at risk. When my own children were grown, and both my husband and I had both retired, I started looking for ways to be useful to the children of this community. I'd heard of CAPA, but to be honest, I was a little afraid to become involved. I wasn't sure I had the emotional strength to help children who'd been born into drug addictions, who'd been victimized by sexual predators, who'd been left to care for themselves in the worst filth and deprivation. But I had too much respect for CAPA's mission not to give it a solid try. I completed the training and the first few times I visited, I was so nervous that I barely spoke to the kids. Instead, I looked for ways to help out with small household tasks. I got to know the children's names, and they began to remember me from visit to visit. I'd brush someone's hair, play Simon Says with two others, check someone else's spelling homework. Nothing grand or planned— mostly I just listened to them, noticed them, played with them just as I would have my own children and grandchildren.

It didn't take long for those kids to teach me that I had nothing to be nervous about. They may have had unspeakable hardships in their lives, but they also had unimaginable courage, optimism, and most of all, a heroic capacity for joy. They didn't need me to share their sorrow or suffering—there were professional resources for that. What they needed from me was an adult who just plain enjoyed being with them. Soon, I was sharing with the children some of my favorite activities—craft projects, sewing lessons, old fashioned board games. Soon, my husband heard how much fun I was having and he wanted to get in on the action, too. I realize how fortunate we've been to have these amazing kids in our lives...these young heroes who, in spite of crushing hardships, are so ready and willing to experience whatever joys we come to share.

I can tell you that when I knock on the shelter's front door and I'm greeted by staff members who've become my close friends, it feels like coming to visit family. And when I hear children say, "Miss Peg is here!", I know the next few hours will be some of the happiest hours of my week.

Often, there will be a new girl or boy who has just come to the shelter. And as I ask their name and introduce myself, I sometimes try to imagine 8 year old Margaret during her first days without a parent to care for or protect her. It would have been wonderful if someone could have told her that life would turn out okay, and that someday, she'd grow up to become a good mother in spite of a very rough start.



Peg Cronin, CAPA Volunteer

Everyone Is Invited To Join Us At Our
21st Annual



SATURDAY 2 APRIL 2016
1000 TO 1400
CROSS CREEK SHOPPING CENTER

A day of fun - FREE games & information for families

PARENTING CENTER

Our Parenting Center has been upgraded with audio visual equipment. The center is available to our community for its use. *Special thanks to Beaufort County and the Human Services Alliance for their support of this project.*

Contact Tracy at 524-4350 to reserve the room!



UPDATE!

CAPA's National Exchange Club Parent Aide Program is accepting **NEW FAMILIES!**

If you know of a family you would like to refer or if your own family would like to join our program, please contact Claïressa Atkinson at claïressa@capabeaufort.org

Thank you to the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry for this invaluable program!



NEW GOALS!

Thanks to our Navy friends of CPO-365 in MAG-31 for taking down the old basketball goals and installing the new ones we received from a Victims of Crime grant. The kids love them!

The Child Abuse Prevention Association is committed to transparency.

Board meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month and are open to the public.



There are currently **12** children, ages 1 to 16, in our **Open Arms Children's Home.**



*We will pick up your donations of household items and furniture!
Call 524-0281 to schedule!*



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Beaufort, SC 29901

843.524.4350
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kids@capabeaufort.org



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Thank You to our Sponsors!



Support CAPA Today!

Please complete the below form and return to CAPA, PO Box 531, Beaufort, SC 29901.

Or contribute online by visiting www.capabeaufort.com/donate or www.facebook.com/CAPABeaufort.

- I want to learn more about becoming a volunteer with CAPA.
- I would like to receive this newsletter by email. My email address is _____.
- I want to help the children of Beaufort and surrounding counties. My donation of \$ _____ is enclosed.
- I want to be contacted about a recurring donation or planned giving options.

Name _____ Phone _____

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