



A Silver Anniversary

Twenty-five years can go by in the blink of an eye or feel like a lifetime. It really does depend on how you perceive it. For CAPA, it has been both.

CAPA's Open Arms Shelter for Abused and Neglected Children opened its doors on March 28, 1985. Three days later, Susan Cato was hired as the part-time coordinator for CAPA. Susan worked out of her home to raise funds for the shelter and the two programs CAPA was running - Welcome Baby Program and a Parents Anonymous hotline. Volunteers were used for both programs and also as respite for the house parents who lived, at that time, at the shelter.

Susan was the glue that held everything together in the early years. She was operating with a budget of \$52,000. Grants had to be written, volunteers had to be recruited, trained and evaluated, groups and organizations requested speakers from CAPA, and the community was actively involved. All this was handled by Susan Cato.

Within the first years of Susan being with CAPA, the University of South Carolina's Guardian ad Litem Program had a program in Beaufort facilitated by CAPA's volunteers and staff. Weekly parent education classes were implemented, a partnership with the SC Board of Realtors provided the "Someone To Talk To" puppet show, and teen pregnancy prevention programs started. We now have over 40 different awareness and safety education programs, several teen pregnancy prevention programs, and three parent education programs.

CAPA's Closet was opened in 1996. It has become an invaluable source and resource to so many in our community. The staff and volunteers have made this the "go to" thrift store for Beaufort. It is so popular that we are out growing our space.

In 2008, CAPA was accredited by the Council on Accreditation. It was a very long process in which the entire staff and board of directors were heavily involved. It was well worth the sweat and long hours.

Our crowning glory is still our Open Arms Shelter. It is a highly regarded emergency shelter for children and youth and respected throughout the state of South Carolina. The shelter was 25 years old in March and Susan Cato celebrated her 25th Anniversary with CAPA in April. It has been a lifetime, but if you asked Susan, I am sure she would say that it passed in the blink of an eye.

Thank you, Susan Cato, for your dedicated service to our community.

Fondly,

the CAPA staff, board of directors, and the thousands of volunteers who have passed through our doors