

OUR COMMUNITY
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

CHILD ADVOCACY

COMMUNITY
ORGANIZATIONS &
RESOURCES

PREVENTION
&
AWARENESS

CHILD WELFARE
AGENCIES

Angels
Against Abuse, Inc.



2018/2019 Annual Recap

ANGELS



WWW.ANGELSGAINSTABUSE.COM

Angels Against Abuse, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



ANGELS AGAINST ABUSE, INC

Programs

2018/2019 Annual Review



**How the Angels Are Making a Difference
Programs We Provide
Annually & As Needed**

Angel Mission Statement

The mission of Angels Against Abuse is to build awareness and educate the community regarding existing neglect and abuse against children. To provide support, monetarily and through hands-on volunteer hours, to neglected and abused children who are removed from an abusive situation and to those children and families who are at risk of losing their children because of such situations. We strive to bring together all available resources to help families achieve the best possible result from available government agencies, courts and services in the fastest possible manner when help is needed most. In some cases, it is as easy as pointing people in the right directions and making sure that they get there. We are making a real difference in the lives of many children who are unfortunate victims of abuse and systems that fail to help them.

The Angels take pride in the fact that we can research what the needs are within the Welfare System and work towards meeting those needs. Our ability to be the “quick responders” when it comes to a child’s needs has proven to be a huge benefit to the many agencies that we work with daily. The Angels can only touch the surface of the many needs that these children and youth need in our community, but we are making a difference and giving “HOPE” for a better tomorrow to children, youth and families who suffer at the hands of their abusers.

THE ANGEL JOURNEY

Founded in 2007, Angels Against Abuse started with four women whose hearts were captivated when they visited an emergency shelter for children ranging in ages newborn to 11 called the Sallie House. Immediately after their visit, they vowed to start a movement that would positively impact the lives and futures of the children who had unfortunately suffered from child abuse and/or neglect in our local community.

We started Sallie's Angels and hosted our **1st Annual Blue-Ribbon Gala** fundraiser to help kick-start the capital campaign for construction of a much needed, new Sallie House. Once the new Sallie House was completed and running smoothly, it became clear that our work was far from over as we realized there were thousands of children in our local community needing our help. We formed a non-profit organization, changing our name to Angels Against Abuse Inc., so that instead of solely focusing on the Sallie House, we would additionally begin to help throughout our local community to those children and families that have unfortunately been placed into the child welfare system.

Since then, Angels Against Abuse has been blessed with the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of so many children and families who have been abused and neglected. The Angels continue to find ways to increase our assistance, develop new programs, and strive to make a difference in the lives of many. We take pride in our ability to establish strong relationships with our community partners to develop programs that will have the greatest impact on the children we advocate for. As the system changes, the programs change, and the Angels can quickly adjust our programs or develop new ones to meet the need.

Sallie House/Children's Village

Themed Birthday Parties (Donated by Diana & Kerry Helinger – Angels – for over 11 years this amazing couple has provided birthday parties for children who would have never been given a themed birthday party that was designed just for them, if not for Diana and Kerry Helinger. Their generous hearts have made such a difference in the lives of these children and they have given them a memory that their birthday is a special day!

Ready for Life

- **UPASS Bus Program** — there is no limit on bus usage for these youth. It is designed for any time of day or night with their bus card. To date this program has saved Ready for Life significant funds that can be directed toward new programs thanks to this program through PSTA
- **Youth Christmas Giving** — Every year there are new youth that enter the Ready for Life family who have aged out of Foster Care. This transition is challenging for these youth and the Angels want to make their Christmas special to let them know there are Angels thinking about them! Ready for Life provides the Angels with a list of the new youth in their program. We provide a \$50 gift card that is displayed as a special gift designed specifically for them to buy something special for themselves.
- **Angel Assistance**— We receive requests throughout the year for assistance for these youth. As these requests come to the Angels, they are reviewed by our Board. Our hope is to lessen the burden of their needs as they arise that are under-funded by Ready for Life.

Eckerd Connects – Eckerd Kids (the Lead Agency for Children in Foster Care)

- **Uniforms** - 2 sets per child ranging in ages from elementary to middle school age
- **Pack N Plays** - Prevention of Infant deaths from sharing beds
- **Christmas Giving Program** –The Angels adopt 6 families every year and provide everything from the Christmas Tree & Decorations, Christmas Dinner and filling the Wish List of every child in the family. These families would not have a Christmas if it were not for the Angels. These gifts are distributed annually at the Angel Christmas Celebration.

Friends for Children Mentoring Program

- **School Uniforms** – This program consists of 25 girls and 25 boys ranging in ages kindergarten thru high school. The Angels provide 2 uniforms per child every school year.
- **Tablets** – This program does not have adequate funding for items of this nature and the mentors cannot afford this expense. The Angels have provided tablets for not only the Mentors but the children as well in this program to assist with their learning needs for both the Mentor and the Child.
- **Backpacks/School Supplies**– Each school year the Angels provide backpacks and school supplies for these children in preparation for their school year. The Angels bridge the gap for this need since there is not funding for this type of assistance.
- **Christmas Giving**– The Angels and some very generous donors provide Christmas for 25 boys and 25 girls that make up this program. Their wish list is filled and there is a large Christmas Bag for every child that is filled from top to bottom. Our hope is to give them a reason to believe and have Hope for a better tomorrow.

Department of Children & Families (DCF)

Camp for Champs Summer Program - The Angels have participated in this program for several years to partner with some of our community partners to provide a summer program for these children. The amount depends on the request made to the Angels. Every year the camp request varies with one year the focus on girls and the next year the focus on boys. DCF provides the Angels with the information and we host the event along with Fun Packs for each child to take with them at the end of the camp.

Guardian ad Litem Foundation (GAL)

- **Birthday Angel Bag Program** - We provide 25 Angel Bags per month to the GAL volunteers who use these bags for first time visits or Birthday Bags. There is a wait list for our monthly distribution of these bags since the children are so excited when someone remembers their birthday or makes a visit for the first time. Every personalized bag called “*My Angel Bag*” is filled with personal items, activity coloring books, crayons, a learning book, stuffed animal, a toy, and a \$20 gift card that is specifically for them to use.
- **Gas Card Program** - The rising gas prices has made it more difficult for the GAL volunteers to make timely visits to the children they advocate for. This program has given the Guardian more flexibility to make their visits since this person is most often the one stable person in a child’s life.

- **Angel Assistance Program** – All of our programs that we have developed with our Community Partners have requests that occur that are either under-funded or not funded at all that are important to a child's well-being. These requests range from an immediate need to a need that will benefit the child. When the request is received, if it is more than \$500, it is sent to our Board for review. The review process is completed within 24 hours with an answer. If we are unable to assist, we try to find a solution or a resource that can assist them. The Angels work closely with our Community Partners to assure that we are addressing these needs and making a difference in the lives of these children.

The Kind Mouse

Mouse Nibbles Program – We partnered with The Kind Mouse to assist with the growing population of hungry children in our community. There are over 7000 children in Pinellas County going hungry every day at the elementary school level and the Angels feel no child should go to bed hungry.

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office CPI Division –

Wish List Requests – Throughout the year, the Child Protection Division of the Sheriff's Office requests items from the Angels which is largely based on removals. These requests are items for the food pantry, infants, children of all ages and gender, bedding, beds and other needs of a child.

Child Advocacy Expo – Hosted Annually by the Angels (The Angels have Passed the Torch)

For the past 10 years the Angels have hosted the Child Advocacy Expo. The purpose of this event was to bring all our community partners together to network with one another and find solutions to problems in the child welfare system that will benefit the children and the agencies who are involved in these children's lives. This event has been so successful over the years that many agencies who have attended have not only learned from one another, but they have learned better ways to communicate with one another and work together as a team. It was decided that our 10th year would be our final year for this event since we felt we had accomplished our goal. On October 12th, 2018 we announced that this would be our final year. Before we left the stage, one of our Community Leaders requested they take over this event and grow it even more in the community. This was very exciting news for the Angels since it confirmed that we were making a difference in the community and this event had such an impact with our community partners that it would be continued for years to come.

Christmas Giving Program (Recap 2018)

Wednesday, December 12th, 2018 was a day in 2018 that Angels Against Abuse will remember as a very special day. It was a magical morning that each of realized there is good in the world and good people all around us. Our Angels help you **BELIEVE** in miracles and confirms that everybody needs an Angel in their life and especially the children and youth that we advocate for 24/7! Here is the current list of Agencies we provided a Christmas to in 2018 which ranged from infants to young adults 25 years old. The Angels put magic in the lives of over 250 children and youth Christmas morning.

- ***Eckerd Kids*** - There were six families selected from Eckerd Community Alternatives that were given a wonderful and blessed Christmas from the Christmas Tree, all the decorations, Christmas Dinner and the wish list for all the children in that family.

- **Ready for Life** - Some of the new youth who are entering into the Ready for Life program who are aging out of Foster Care who struggle this time of the year with loneliness and fears of what lies ahead for them will receive a \$50 gift card to buy something special for themselves that they might otherwise not be able to have if not for our assistance.
- **Healthy Start PAT+** - New moms who are struggling to be good moms and in need of encouragement and assistance for their babies who are unable to provide for themselves much less have presents for their child on Christmas Day, we give **HOPE**
- **Friends of the Children Mentoring Program** - The children who are at most risk who have been assigned a mentor on their life journey from elementary school age to high school who need something to look forward to on Christmas Morning that will make them feel special, the Angels made it happen!
- **Directions for Living** – The Angels took four Families living in a motel who were homeless and in need of assistance. If it weren't for the Angels, these families would not have anything to look forward to Christmas morning. They not only received a family bin filled with all the essentials, but they were treated to a Christmas Family Dinner at a local restaurant, a bus pass to get there and back and the wish list for the children. In addition to the families, the Angels put together large bins for other homeless families filled with essentials, hygiene items, blankets, toys, games and anything else that would lessen the burden of being homeless.
- **Pinellas County Sheriff's Office CPI** – A child who was struggling, afraid and alone who needed Angels to let her know we care, and she does not have to feel alone!

The Angel Center – Our Vision Became a Reality August 14th, 2017!

The Angel Center is **NOW** a reality. We opened our doors to this beautiful facility, August 14th, 2017 for supervised visitations. The Angels had a vision of a place for children to gather that was a child-friendly, stress-free environment that would put a smile every face who walks through the doors. Whether it was a parent, case manager, therapist, Guardian and especially a child, we wanted to create an atmosphere of **HOPE**. Thanks to the generous hearts of Nick and Kay Catizone, a couple who loved children but had none of their own, their memory will live on with the difference they have made for the thousands of children who visit this Center. Their generosity is making a difference in the lives of children in our community for years to come. We have proudly displayed a plaque in their honor naming the Angel Center, the Catizone Angel Center.

Clearwater Marine Aquarium did all the artwork that was themed from their two movies Dolphin Tale 1 and 2. Florida Graphic Services made the walls come to life with their life-like murals that covered specific walls in each of the rooms, hallways and lobby. The Angel Center has three visitation rooms that are age appropriate for three different age groups. The *Hope Room* is for little ones from Infant to six years old; the *Winter Room* is for children seven to twelve years old; and finally, the *Rufus Room*, for the children and teens thirteen to eighteen. Each of these rooms is decorated with books, toys, movies, and educational toys for the appropriate age group.

We have paid attention to every detail in these rooms to assure successful visits between the child and their biological parents. We have a separate snack/meeting room where parents can share a meal or snacks with their children. The goal for these supervised visits is a successful reunification for the child and the Angel Center wanted

to help with this process by providing a facility to help with this process. We keep snacks and water on hand for the children. First time visits receive a Welcome Bag filled with goodies for a child when they leave our Center. We have tried to think of everything to make the visits fun and interacting with the parent. We have a Resource Room filled with items that are requested by our Community Partners. This room is filled with everything from infant needs to adult items. We maintain an updated inventory of all items taken and the room is kept filled for anyone requesting items.

The Center is conveniently located across the street from Eckerd Connects and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office for convenience for the various parties who represent the children and on a main bus route for the parents to get to and from their visitations. The physical address is 2300 Tall Pines Drive, Suite 100, Largo, FL. We share an 8000 square foot facility with Ready for Life which is the perfect partnership for kids in the foster care system and those youth who are aging out of the system. Anyone who would like a tour of this facility, please contact sandy@sandykearney.com.

At the close of 2018, we are happy to announce that the Angel Center has been a powerful tool in the Foster Care System for visitations and we are averaging 87 hours per week of supervised visits. We are proud of the fact that the Angel Center is not only child friendly and stress free for all of our visitors, but it is as clean as the day it opened. Our Community Partners have worked with the Center to make sure they straighten up after visits and the Angels make sure everything is clean and sanitary between visits. This has been such a compliment to our Center from our Community Partners that they love our clean facility. Our Center has had a positive impact in many of the reunifications. We love hearing about families getting back together who held their visits at our Center. If we can be a part of helping to break the pattern of abuse, then we have accomplished our mission. Please come visit and see for yourself that you should never give up on a dream, we didn't!



ANGELS give **HOPE** for a better tomorrow...

GOODBYE 2018 – HELLO 2019

As we close out 2018 and move into 2019, we thank everyone who has made it possible for the Angels to grow and thrive and keep the momentum of our non-profit to continue. This past year we said goodbye to our famous Mad Hatter Tea Party, but it was not goodbye for long since the Sunshine Kiwanis Club took it over allowing our legacy to continue. We also said goodbye to our Annual Child Advocacy Expo and again, the torch was passed to an agency that wanted to keep it going so again our legacy will continue. The Angels can now focus on the programs that are having the most impact on the children and youth we serve and will allow us to grow and develop future programs.



We thank all our many supporters, organizations, foundations and businesses for their support and their belief in what we do for these children. We would not be where we are today without their support.

Special thanks to all our amazing volunteers. Our Volunteers are the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future for which we can all be proud. Some people give time, some money, some their skills and connections, because we all know that everyone has something to give. It **ALL** matters in the life of these children who have so little to smile about to have an act of kindness to brighten their days!

An angel is someone
who helps you
believe in miracles
again.

