

We would like to introduce you to the GCCAC staff

Christy Williams, MS, Executive Director

Christy began at the GCCAC in October 2004 after graduating from Texas State University-San Marcos where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Family and Child Development and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. In December 2010, she graduated from Texas State with a Master of Science degree in Family and Child Studies. Over the years, she rapidly moved up the ladder at the Center and was promoted to Executive Director in 2012. She has conducted over 2,500 forensic interviews of alleged abused and neglected children and has facilitated many other training and community presentations. Along with the board, Christy is working diligently to obtain a larger facility for the Center to meet the needs of the children of Guadalupe County. Most recently, Christy was awarded the Human Rights Award from the Guadalupe County Church Women United.

Rose Mary Ermel, Office Manager

Rose Mary joined our team in October 2009. She handles many tasks including volunteer coordination, data entry, donor correspondence and tracking, and general office management. She keeps our office staff organized and assists heavily on all special events including our Designer Purse Bingo events and all volunteer appreciation luncheon and training events. Rose Mary is our executive director's right hand and an integral member of our team.

Jane Tomlinson, LPC-S, Therapist

Jane has been with the GCCAC since November 2004 as our part time therapist. She has provided thousands of free counseling hours to our child clients and their non-offending family members. Jane is also a LPC supervisor and has been able to supervise Master's degree level counseling students and LPC Interns completing their 3,000 hours before licensure. By doing this, Jane is able to provide additional counselors to our clients at minimal cost to the Center while also training the next generation of counseling professionals.

Amanda Pack, Counseling Intern

Amanda joined our team as a counseling intern in January 2015 and was hired in September as our first ever paid counseling intern with the intention that after she graduates with her Masters degree in Counseling from Texas State she will stay on with the GCCAC to complete her 3,000 hours to become a licensed professional counselor. Amanda will be graduating December 2015 and will be able to carry over 400 hours of counseling towards her 3,000 hour goal. Amanda is fantastic with our clients and we are truly fortunate to have her on our team.

Tina Bryan, MDT Coordinator

Tina started her time at the Center as an intern in September 2013, then was hired as a part time advocate in November 2013 and is now our new full time MDT Coordinator. She will graduate December 2015 from Texas State with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work. In her new role, she is charged with the responsibility of coordinating the multiple partner agencies and investigators to help streamline the cases where children are in need of CAC services. She is navigating this new role and her demeanor and personality make her the perfect person for the job!

Michele Meehan, LMSW, Assistant Director

Michele began at the GCCAC in August 2011 while at Texas State University-San Marcos completing her Master of Social Work. Michele had previously received her Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi and had worked with Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend since 2005 conducting forensic interviews, coordinating advocacy services for families, and providing various trainings and presentations to local community agencies and citizens. Since Michele has been with the GCCAC, she has conducted more than 430 forensic interviews, worked with more than 500 families in advocacy, and become a valuable team member infiltrating our local school districts and providing essential training to school administrators and personnel. She was recently promoted to Assistant Director after proving her ability to lead during the executive director's absence.



*Picture taken at the First United Methodist Church's Pumpkin Patch this October
Back left to right: Grace Moon, Jasmine Garcia, Michele Meehan, Rose Mary Ermel, Jane Tomlinson, Amanda Pack
Front left to right: Tina Bryan and Christy Williams. Not pictured: Tiffany Alloway*

Tiffany Alloway, Forensic Interviewer and Advocate

Tiffany is our most recent hire, starting on November 2 of this year. She comes to us with four and a half years of experience with our local Child Protective Services (CPS) as an investigator of child abuse and neglect allegations. She has worked as a team member with the center over her tenure with CPS. Tiffany is a fast learner and is already conducting advocacy on her own. We plan to send her to forensic interviewer training in January 2016.

Grace Moon, Forensic Interviewer and Advocate

Grace started at the GCCAC in May 2014 two days after graduating from Texas Lutheran University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. Grace was trained as a forensic interviewer in June of 2014 and has conducted more than 315 forensic interviews since then. She also serves as an advocate to the non-offending caregivers who come with our child clients to the Center, providing them with information and resources. She tracks our cases throughout the judicial process and enters every case into our electronic tracking system. Grace is our first ever Spanish speaking staff member and forensic interviewer at our Center.

Jasmine Garcia, Advocate

Jasmine started with the GCCAC as an intern in May of 2015. In September of 2015, we hired her as a part time advocate. She is also bilingual and has been working with our non-offending caregivers to provide a listening ear, resources and referrals for necessary services for the family, and provides counseling information and referrals. Jasmine has helped with our most recent Designer Purse Bingo and was instrumental to its success. Jasmine will continue on with the GCCAC and we plan to train her as a forensic interviewer in the coming year.

Upcoming Events and Happenings:

Start your Christmas shopping or treat yourself to something nice while supporting the GCCAC!



Keepers Interiors will be supporting the GCCAC's building fund on December 4th and 5th. Present this letter and you will receive \$25 off your purchase of \$100 or greater **and** 15% of your purchase will be donated back to the GCCAC. Give a little – get a little with Keepers Interiors and GCCAC!

4th Annual Schertz Designer Purse Bingo - May 5, 2016

Doors open at 6, games start at 7 pm
Tickets will be \$35 in advance and if we don't sell out in advance a limited number may be available at the door for \$40
Check us out on Facebook to see when tickets become available!
If you would like to sponsor our event, please contact Michele or Christy at mmeehan@gccac.net or cwilliams@gccac.net or 830-303-4760



April is Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month

Look for our pinwheel displays across the county and let Michele know if you would like to participate or sponsor a display at your location. mmeehan@gccac.net or 830-303-4760



Donating is as easy as shopping - .5% will go to the GCCAC when you designate us as your charity of choice. Go to www.smile.amazon.com and access your Amazon account and designate us as your charity! If you do it now, Amazon will remember for you the next time you shop.



424 N. River Street
Seguin, TX 78155



cactx

The newsletter of the Guadalupe County
Children's Advocacy Center for our

Winter 2015

Friends with Courage!

New Building Project in Motion

As many of you know, we have been working for the past several years to raise money for a new building and to find a location for our new home intended to serve the children of Guadalupe County for years to come. With the donation we received last year from the Chambers' family of 2 acres of land (265 Wetz Street), we were past the first giant hurdle on this journey.

Since then, Sheriff Arnold Zwicke and GCCAC executive director, Christy Williams, have been working with Lyndsay Thorn, an architect with ThornGraves, and Keith Strimple and Trey Sims, engineers with M&S Engineering, Charlie Koehler, Steve Koehler, and Basil Kallies with the Koehler Company, and other service providers who are all donating their time and expertise to our project on our building committee.

We are still working to finalize the plans, budget, and timeline for this project and will let you know the plan as it becomes set. So far, we have raised more than \$381,000 in cash donations and many in kind donations promised including: concrete for the slab, drywall, HVAC system, networking and electronic systems, plumbing and electrical work, and much, much more. We are so appreciative of the many contributions from our supporters and look forward to welcoming you all to our new building once it comes to fruition!

We are currently selling "bricks" (symbolically) to support this initiative. Gifts of \$100 or more will be included in a visual display on the wall at the new center. If you are interested in being a part of this project in any way, contact Christy at cwilliams@gccac.net or 830-303-4760.



Architectural rendering of the new building to be located at 265 Wetz Street, Seguin, TX



www.gccac.net

