

March 2018

NEW BUILDING GROUNDBREAKING!!!



Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center

Friends of Courage!



Architectural rendering of the new building.

After years of planning and fundraising in order to move the GCCAC into a larger building in Seguin, it is finally becoming a reality! As you probably already know, we received a two-acre donation of land in 2015. The architectural, engineering, drilling, planning work has all been donated to date. Until breaking ground, the GCCAC's only expense was a \$25 state fee. All of that was possible in whole to MANY generous donations.

The GCCAC has been working with Bartlett Cocke to estimate and bid the project and they have also leveraged all of their contacts in order to seek donations in addition to their own donations. With all of the contributions both past, present, and promised, the GCCAC secured all funds needed for the construction phase and began construction on March 1, 2018! Below is a rough timeline for the project:

- 03/01/2018 – Begin construction
- 04/06/2018 – Ground Breaking Ceremony
- 06/04/2018 – Rough in complete
- 06/25/2018 – Exterior work complete
- 07/18/2018 – Interior work complete
- 07/23/2018 – Landscaping complete
- 07/30/2018 – Construction complete
- 07/31/2018 – Begin to furnish/move/set up
- 09/01/2018 – Begin providing services

at 265 Wetz!

The groundbreaking ceremony will be on April 6, 2018 at 1:30pm.

Please join us at 265 Wetz Street, Seguin, TX 78155 to see the construction progress so far, celebrate the accomplishment, and enjoy light refreshments.

New Building Plans

Recently, the GCCAC Board of Directors met to approve the contract with Bartlett-Cocke General Contractors to build a brand new, almost 10,000 square foot facility in Seguin. After the official business was over, GCCAC executive director, Christy Williams, spent some time with the board members giving them a tour of the new facility with the blueprints. Christy shared excitement about the features of the new building that will enable the staff to better complete the mission of the organization and will allow children and families more privacy when conducting business at the center—either for the first time at a forensic interview or for continued counseling services.



Board members review blueprints

Of the many exciting features the new building has to offer, there will be two forensic interview rooms each with its own monitoring room. The rooms will feature state of the art interview recording technology to ensure the children's statements are captured and can be used for the prosecution process, when necessary. The current facility only has one forensic interview room with antiquated recording equipment, and one monitoring room that doubles as an office for three staff members as well as file storage.

The new GCCAC will also have three counseling rooms to better serve clients with necessary and fee free therapeutic services throughout the healing process. The current office only has one counseling room that doubles as an office for three full-time counselors and one part-time counseling intern, which forces the counselors to find a different space to work in whenever

there is a counseling session in progress.

In addition, the new facility will have ample space for the employees to take care of their daily caseloads. There will also be a large conference room to hold team meetings, trainings, and community education events as well as space for team members to meet with clients and other team members to better facilitate coordinated investigations, resulting in stronger cases.

This project will provide healing, hope, privacy, and security to the most vulnerable members of our community in a time of deep stress, fear, and anxiety. The true value of this project is its ability to allow staff to fully serve clients with the utmost dignity and respect in an environment that is confidential, safe, and child-friendly. The Board of Directors, GCCAC staff, and multidisciplinary team (MDT) members from partner agencies are very excited for the improvements in quality and quantity of services that the new building will provide.



Board members pose with new building plans

The timing for the GCCAC, the MDT members of law enforcement, child protection workers (DFPS investigators—formally known as CPS workers), and prosecutors could not be better either, with a current wait list for counseling, and having served 623 children in 2017 and a projected increase in children served on the horizon.

Follow us on Facebook for updates on construction progress!

New Building Community Support

We are so thankful to all of the individuals, organizations, and businesses in our community who have helped make this project happen. Though their names are not included here, we have had numerous individuals donate "Brick" contributions that together have helped us reach our goal. We would especially like to thank County Attorney Dave Willborn and Sheriff Arnold Zwicke for providing the final funds needed to cover construction expenses. We wouldn't be where we are today without all of the generous donors in our community and we are so thankful for everyone who supports the GCCAC, whether it be through their time, donations, or efforts.

**THANK
YOU**

Cash Donations Received of \$1,000 or more

Guadalupe County Sheriff, Arnold Zwicke — Forfeiture Funds
Guadalupe County Attorney, Dave Willborn — Forfeiture Funds
Guadalupe County — Commissioner's Court— Child Safety Fee
GVEC Power Up Grant
St. Luke's Lutheran Health Ministries
Karen Wallock, GCCAC board president
Guadalupe County Welfare Board
Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church
First United Methodist Church
Presbyterian Women Farmland Cluster
South Central Texas Community Foundation
Women's Ministries, Hillcrest Assembly of God
Bullseye Motors, Inc.
Miscellaneous "Brick" contributions < \$ 999.00

In-Kind Donations Received and Pledged

Bartlett Cocke General Contractors	ThornGraves, Lyndsay Thorn
The Koehler Company	M & S Engineering, Keith Strimple
Central Texas Metal Roofing	AM&N Electronics
Urban Concrete Contractors	Eagle Drilling, Inc., Wil & Gloria Drash
CMC Steel	Drash Consultants, Chester Drash
Meridian Steel	Alamo Title, Kathy Seeger
Urban HVAC	Tri County Surveying, Inc., Gloria Kinz
Ingram Ready Mix	Maldonado Nursery, George Maldonado
Central Texas Metal Roofing Supply	Menn and Associates, Albert Menn
Port Roofing	Big State Electric
Hanson Brick	San Antonio Floor Finishers, Inc.
Burditt Tile	R & S Sitework
Stewart Plumbing	Guadalupe County Road and Bridge
DEA Specialties	Damco Utility
BJ Chambers, Scott Chambers, and Laura Flume	

We are truly appreciative of all of the many donations both promised and received to date and have made every effort to ensure that all donors have been included here. We sincerely apologize if we have left any donors off this list. Since there are still a few needs left to be met, there may be more donations as we move forward with the project and we will make sure that every donor receives the proper thanks for their generosity!

Upcoming Events

5K Superhero Dash

April 14, 2018

The GCCAC is partnering with the Guadalupe County Child Welfare Board to host the 5K Superhero Dash on April 14th at Starcke Park. Visit our website or Facebook page for details.

Runner registration is through athleteguild.com. If you are interested in sponsoring our event, email Christy Williams at cwilliams@gccac.net. If you are interested in having a vendor booth, email Christine Jaecks at cjaecks@gccac.net. We hope to see you there!

Our annual Bowl-A-Thon event has a tentative date of April 20, 2018, so get your teams ready and watch for info on our Facebook page!

TLU Amazing Race Survivor's Challenge

April 28, 2018 2:00-5:00pm

In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, Texas Lutheran University is hosting an event where competing teams will follow the path of an abuse survivor, all while solving puzzles, beating challenges, and learning about the resources available in the area. The GCCAC is just one stop along the way.

Watch our website or Facebook for info!

6th Annual Schertz Designer Purse Bingo

May 17, 2018 7:00-9:00pm

Mikulski Hall in Schertz

Schertz Designer Purse Bingo is coming soon! Tickets are already sold out, but if you are interested in sponsoring our event, email Michele Meehan at mmeehan@gccac.net.

Find us on Facebook for updates and purse previews!



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.

Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center

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The mission of the Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center is to advocate for and provide services to abused children and their families in the investigation, prosecution, treatment, and prevention of child abuse, and to reduce the trauma to children by coordinating a multi-disciplinary approach.

