



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: August 26, 2015

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CAC Wish Granted

Lowndes County, Georgia – The Lowndes County Board of Commissioners and the Children’s Advocacy Center of Lowndes County are excited to announce, that the Georgia Department of Community Affairs has awarded \$500,000.00 in funding to Lowndes County for the purpose of building a new facility for the Children’s Advocacy Center in Lowndes County. “Lowndes County was approached by the Children’s Advocacy Center earlier this year with statistical information indicating a great need for additional space. Once the County approved the application, a tremendous initiative was launched to meet grant deadlines. Without the dedication of the CAC staff, board of directors, local media partners, Hahira Middle School’s Y-LEAD leadership program, community donations and the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, the project would not be moving forward,” stated Lowndes County Commission Chairman Bill Slaughter.

As mentioned by Chairman Slaughter, community donations continue to play an important role in this project. Early on, the generosity of Mrs. Mala Vallotton overcame the CAC’s need for land. Mrs. Vallotton donated the property to the CAC in memory of her late

husband, Joseph E. Vallotton. Mrs. Vallotton stated, “My husband would be proud to know that this land is being given to a well deserving organization such as the CAC to better the lives of children in need of a new beginning.” CAC Executive Director, Susan Atwell said, “The CAC will forever be indebted to Mrs. Vallotton. Her donation will provide hope, support and healing for children and families in our community, for many years to come.”

As the project moves forward, the need is still great. While the grant will cover the cost of construction, items such as furnishings, window blinds, a phone system, computer equipment to include laptops, additional forensic equipment, medical equipment, therapy resources, playground equipment, landscaping, paving, outdoor furniture, are still needed for the new center. Additional details regarding fundraising and donations will be announced as soon as the CAC finalizes the details of the center’s capital campaign themed, “A Moving Story.”

The Children’s Advocacy Center of Lowndes County is a facility-based program whereby representatives from law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, mental health, and the medical community collaborate to investigate, treat and prosecute child abuse cases. Using a multi-agency team approach, the CAC works with agency partners to prevent further victimization of children affected by abuse. Funded through grants, fundraising and donations, the CAC provides services free of charge. In 2014, the CAC provided services to more than 592 children including 1,584 therapy sessions. Sadly, eight months into 2015, the number of those served has surpassed the 2014 year-end total.

Lowndes County was one of 78 Georgia communities approved for Community Development Block Grant Funding, which is administered by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. For more information or to donate to the Children’s Advocacy Center of Lowndes County, please contact CAC Executive Director, Susan Atwell, at 229-245-5369. END