



FOOTHILLS CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER
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Charlottesville Area Community Foundation awards Foothills a \$5,000 grant

(CHARLOTTESVILLE) – The Charlottesville Area Community Foundation (CACF) has awarded Foothills Child Advocacy Center a \$5,000 Enriching Communities Grant Award for the *Be a Hero for Kids* program. Foothills was one of 57 area organizations that received a grant award.

Through its Public Education and Outreach Program, Foothills works to educate adults about the prevalence and impact of child abuse, their responsibility to identify, report, and stop child maltreatment, how to prevent child abuse, and the best way to respond to child victims. The *Be a Hero for Kids* program seeks to increase the number of adults who take an active role to keep kids safe in the community.

Currently, Foothills primarily offers the *Stand Up For Kids!* mandated-reporter training for those who work with children and the *Stewards of Children* child sexual abuse prevention training for parents, grandparents, and all concerned adults. Since 2010, more than 2,500 adults have completed these and other trainings. Foothills also has a website, beaheroforkids.org, that offers a clearinghouse of resources for concerned adults who want to keep kids safe.

Through the *Be a Hero for Kids* project, Foothills would maintain and expand its current training program through offering new curricula, more sessions, and improved marketing. Foothills plans to develop *Be a Hero for Kids 101* – a 30 to 45-minute session that offers basic information about child abuse and how to keep kids safe.

Cathee Johnson Phillips, Foothills' executive director, said, "We are thankful for the support of the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation. It really is up to adults to stop child abuse and keep kids safe. They need to be able to recognize the signs of abuse and know how to speak up on behalf of child victims, as well as how to prevent abuse in the first place."

The CACF grant supports the *Stand Up for Kids!* and *Be a Hero for Kids 101* outreach. A generous grant from the Wardle Family Trust supports the *Stewards of Children* program.

For more information, please contact Johnson Phillips at 434-971-7233, ext. 4, or visit <http://www.beaheroforkids.org/training.html>.

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