



FOOTHILLS CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER
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**Whole Foods Market Nickels for Nonprofits campaign is featuring
Foothills Child Advocacy Center**

(CHARLOTTESVILLE) – Foothills Child Advocacy Center (Foothills) is one of two local non-profit organizations currently featured in Whole Foods Market’s *Nickels for Nonprofits* program. Whole Foods Market customers can donate their nickels in support of Foothills through mid-January.

Customers can support Foothills by requesting a wooden nickel for each reusable bag they use and depositing that in the collection bin by the exit door. Customers can also ask the clerk to add so many nickels for Foothills to their grocery purchase, e.g., 20 nickels equal a \$1.00 donation. At the end of the giving period, Whole Foods Market will issue a check to Foothills for the total amount collected.

Foothills will use the funds to support its programs that benefit local child victims of abuse and help to keep kids safe, including:

- Child Abuse Victims’ Medical Program
- Child Abuse Victims’ Forensic Assessment Program
- Child Abuse Victims’ Family Support Program
- Child Abuse Prevention Program.

Executive Director Cathee Johnson Phillips said, “We are so grateful to the Charlottesville Whole Foods Market for their support of local nonprofits and very excited to be one of the two nonprofits featured over the next three months. They are heroes for kids!”

For more information about the programs and services that Foothills provides, visit www.foothillscac.org or call Johnson Phillips at 434-971-7233. To learn how you can be a hero for kids and to access resources about how to keep kids safe, visit beaheroforkids.org.

About Foothills

Foothills provides a coordinated system of effective response and intervention to children who have been victimized. The center’s goal is to minimize trauma, promote healing, ensure child safety, and hold perpetrators accountable. Foothills conducts forensic interviews with alleged child crime victims, and non-offending caretakers receive crisis intervention and referrals for

services and ongoing support. Foothills is an accredited member of the National Children's Alliance (NCA) and primarily serves the City of Charlottesville and County of Albemarle. Through a grant from Bama Works, Foothills conducts courtesy forensic interviews for surrounding counties that do not have a child advocacy center of their own.

Foothills works with a team of professionals in Charlottesville and Albemarle dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators and to the support and treatment of child victims and their non-offending caretakers. The multidisciplinary team (MDT) meets monthly to communicate and collaborate on child maltreatment cases. Cases are reviewed beginning with the victim's initial outcry through investigation, treatment, and prosecution. Communication within the team reduces duplication and keeps victims from falling through the cracks. MDT partners include: Foothills; Charlottesville and Albemarle Child Protective Services; Charlottesville and Albemarle Police Departments; Charlottesville and Albemarle Victim/Witness Services; Charlottesville and Albemarle Commonwealth's Attorney's Offices; Piedmont Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); Sexual Assault Resource Agency (SARA); Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS); Region 10 Community Services Board; and UVA Forensic Nurse Examiners.

Foothills provides education about child advocacy and the multidisciplinary team model to the community. Foothills sponsors free trainings including *Stand Up For Kids!*, a program which educates mandated reporters, and *Stewards of Children*, a program which provides adults with the knowledge of how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

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