



APRIL 2021

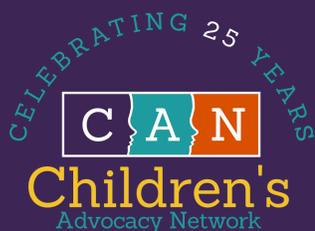
# CANtastic NEWS



## #BeTheChange

### THE LATEST IN THE CAN COMMUNITY

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Championing Children's Needs since 1995

Over the past twelve months we have seen the best of humanity and its worst. Like a roller coaster, it's been emotional and exciting! As April marks another year in a worldwide pandemic, Child Abuse Prevention month, a modified prayer vigil, and the continued stressors of our new "normal", I am continuously taken aback by the generosity and love shown by many. From our generous donors and communities who've given graciously to our mission, to extended families and foster families who have invited the most vulnerable into their home for safety, to our CASA Volunteers for their countless hours advocating in a continuously changing

and complicated child welfare system, to our MDT members who's dedication towards safety prevails, to our court systems for their perseverance to provide justice, and most importantly to all of our children and families who have embraced the need for change and have chosen love and safety above all,

#BeTheChange is more than just a catchy phrase. It's a testament to our collective strengths, our collective will to heal, and our collective drive to champion the good in others. We've seen the power of how just one child can change our world and ensure we all shine bright! We believe that together we CAN,

**#BeTheChange.**

Forever Grateful,  
*Wade Bond*



[www.childrensadvocacy.net](http://www.childrensadvocacy.net)



April is

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH  
2021**



We began Child Abuse Prevention Month with a community wide Prayer Vigil. Coming together as a community, both in person and virtually, to listen to speakers Seth and Vanessa Sanders as they shared heartfelt messages, as well as pray together to end child abuse.

**Educate  
Encourage  
Empower**

Follow us on social media all month long as we Educate, Encourage, and Empower our community to help support families of Cenla and move forward in efforts to end child abuse. Together we can help families thrive and prevent child maltreatment.

Be sure to join our facebook page and participate in raising awareness and the events, like our Be Happy, Shine Bright, Love Yourself t-shirt fundraiser, and The Empowered Family Project that will be published every Friday!

Like, Comment and Share to help raise awareness and continue in efforts to end child abuse.



Be Happy  
Shine Bright  
Love Yourself

On a Sunday afternoon, while outside drawing with chalk, Kennedy created a saying and emblem to match. She has always been very creative, loves drawing, writing, and creating things. She said, "Mom, this is my motto in life." I said, "That's very creative". Kennedy said, "Can we make it into a shirt and maybe sell them to get money." I said, "Probably, what would you do with the money?" She said, "Give it to children!" We then reached out to our uncle, who works with foster children, on a possible organization that we can donate ALL profit towards. We wanted it to go directly to helping our children locally. His response, "Our foster children! We could do this big! And have the money go directly to foster children and buy things that are important to Kennedy such as a stuffed animal, books, clothes, and comfort items like blankets." We are donating 100% of the proceeds to Children Advocacy Network. So let's stand up, help Kennedy open her heart, and help our children! Thank you all in advance and remember to "Be happy, Shine bright, and Love yourself"!

This fundraiser will run from April 5th through April 30th!

Contributions given through this fundraiser ensure children will receive healing services in 2021 including:



**CASA Volunteers who give children a voice**

**healing through therapy sessions**

**access to a safe place to share their story and receive help needed to heal**

To order your shirt visit here:  
<https://cenlacan.cbo.io>



# BUILDING RESILIENCY

## Resilience Defined:

- the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or significant sources of stress

## It's important to understand:

- each trial and change affects people differently, bringing a unique flood of thoughts, strong emotions and uncertainty
- having relationships with adults who listen and support their thoughts and feelings is a crucial part of resilience for kids
- children need adults who believe in them, who show support during the good and bad times, and believe in their ability to overcome challenges.
- relationships shape their ability to cope under stress and handle life's difficulties



## Building Resiliency:

- takes time and intentionality
- is important in strengthening families
- is crucial in the prevention of child maltreatment



## PROTECTIVE FACTORS

### Protective factors:

- are conditions or attributes of individuals, families, communities, or the larger society that mitigate risk
- promote healthy development and well-being
- are strengths that help buffer support families at risk.

Protective factors approach is a positive way to engage families.

**"TO SEE ALL OF THE COMMUNITY LEADERS COME TOGETHER AND SAY 'NOT ON OUR WATCH'...WE'RE NOT GOING TO ACT LIKE IT'S NOT OUR PROBLEM...WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE."**

**-VANESSA SANDERS ON HOW OUR COMMUNITY CAN HELP END CHILD ABUSE**



# INDIVIDUAL PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Children and youth's internal skills provide a strong platform for their overall well-being and positive outcomes.

## These skills include:

- regulating emotions and actions
- the ability to connect and interact effectively with others
- the ability to proactively respond to challenging circumstances and plan for life in ways that head off adversity.

## Strategies that adults can use to build resilience as well as instill in children include:

- embracing healthy thoughts
- seeking help
- building positive connections
- fostering wellness
- finding purpose

When caregivers strengthen their own individual protective factors and become resilient, they can promote and encourage the same resiliency within children in their lives.



# RELATIONAL PROTECTIVE FACTORS

## Relationships Matter - things to remember as a caregiver

- the development of safe, stable and nurturing relationships with the caregiving and broader environment is at the heart of positive child outcomes
- when parents/caregivers stay involved in their children's lives, the relationships tend to be a protective factor for children's long term school and life success
- learning how to practice resilient thinking in the way we talk about and encourage their abilities will shape how children handle difficult times
- show you value their hard work and effort through interest and encouragement. They can learn to appreciate the process and build a growth mindset.



# SOCIETAL/COMMUNITY PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Systemic, societal and community-level changes are needed in order to support building resiliency.

## Our community has the responsibility to:

- provide positive community experiences
- raise awareness and upholding commitment to safe, stable and nurturing relationships
- promote the community norm that we all share the responsibility for the well-being of children
- create the context for healthy children and families through policies
- increase support and resource access for economic opportunities





# SERVING CENLA



CAN was honored to host a virtual tour for First Lady Donna Edwards to share the impact of the the programs, services, and mobile units that provide healing services to children and families across Central Louisiana.



Volunteer swearing in ceremonies have begun! This means more children will have a supportive adult to advocate for their well-being!

## BE A CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN!

# VOLUNTEER

## CASA TRAINING BEGINS SOON



## Our Why

In everything we do, our agency strives to be a voice for all children & provide support for their families so they are resilient through adversity and empowered in their future.

**#BeTheChange**

As a Community, we must...

- come together as a community to help our families thrive
- work together to provide support despite the ever-changing atmosphere of the world
- understand and improve our protective factors in order to help build a stronger community
- enhance the ability to provide support to strengthen families that can encourage and empower our children

Resources:  
Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2014). Protective factors approaches in child welfare. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.  
"If You Could See Inside my Head...": A Game for Building Relationship and Resilience  
<https://www.kidsintransitiontoschool.org/if-you-could-see-inside-my-head-a-game-for-building-relationship-and-resilience/>



# THANK YOU

for your continuous support 



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

CAN

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