

WHO helps Children's Advocacy Center

The Women Helping Others ladies were honored to have Tiffany Sturman, director of community Engagement at the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center as the guest speaker at their May meeting.

For 26 years, this 501(c)3 organization has provided a welcoming, child-friendly and safe place

WOMEN HELPING OTHERS

Anne Marshall

for children and their families to share their experiences of abuse. Victims and their families are helped to reduce the emotional trauma throughout their journey with the organization.

Their professional services align with local law enforcement and the Department of Family and Protective Services to ensure the integrity of child abuse investigations are protected each step of the way. Family Advocates work collaboratively with the Multidisciplinary Team and non-offending family members to ensure that the client's voice is heard. They provide clients with information regarding their rights and can help provide updates on the status of their case, supporting families by helping navigate the complex process of an investigation and the judicial system.

They also provide emotional support by listening to the needs of the family and can help connect families to mental health



From left, Director of Development Tiffany Sturman, WHO Vice President Maria Tolleson and Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center staff member Caroline Gatlin.

services.

Family Advocates provide clients information regarding the status of their case and aid in connecting them to resources in the community. Family Advocates can connect families to resources that assist with food, clothing, legal, housing, employment, finances and other aspects of living. Family Advocates can also assist in completing applications for Crime Victims Compensation. The Family Advocate oversees their Crisis Closet, which helps provide families with emergency clothing and other essential items.

The Center provides everything from forensic interviews to medical examinations, family advocacy, mental health counseling, and community education. Their multidisciplinary response to al-

legations of child abuse ensures that all child victims get the services and support they need under one roof. Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center works with its partners to walk each child and their non-offending family members through the process of reporting their abuse and giving them access to their numerous support services, free of charge. Every Child. Every Service. Every Effort.

At their May meeting, the WHO ladies responded to an emergency food drive for Helping Hands that netted about \$500 worth of food. WHO supported the annual Meal on Wheels, Sip & Shop Style Show in Marble Falls by being on the development committee, attending and modeling. Approximately \$35,000 was raised at the event.

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