

C.A.S.T.

Child Abuse Services and Trust



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Child Abuse Services and Trust Newsletter, March 2012

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CAST Newsletter is published semiannually for child abuse sponsors, donors, advocates and anyone interested in helping child abuse victims. If you have comments or suggestions, please contact Kate French at 580-465-6892 or www.CAST.org.

CAST ADVOCACY GIVES YOUNG, ABUSED GIRL A NEW LIFE

Eight-year-old excels in school and finds joy in life thanks to CAST

From the bruises on her arms, to her insecurities, to her confusion about why this abuse was happening to her, Anna began to think that hiding and trembling under her bed at night was normal and acceptable.

Last year, this viscous lifestyle finally ended with the help of Child Abuse Services and Trust. Anna Dunn's aunt informed the CAST agency of the horrific abuse happening in her 8-year-old niece's home. Within hours, CAST advocates carefully removed Anna from her home and diligently worked and searched to find her a more suitable home.

There are nearly 50 advocates at CAST and that number is rapidly growing every year. One dedicated, passionate advocate is Sammy Barns, who has been with CAST for more than a decade.

"It's not easy taking a child away from their home, from their parents," Sammy said. "But we

do what's best for each child—whatever that may be."

Sammy was one of the advocates involved in young Anna's case. She took part in deciding which family and living condition seemed to be most suitable. After many hours and much thought, Sammy and the other advocates choose Brad and Nicci Deere.

The Deeres' are both 35 years old, have never had children, make a good living and have flexible work hours. They live in San Antonio, Texas.



"It absolutely broke my heart when my doctor told me that I couldn't have kids,"

Nicci said. "When CAST called us, saying we were candidates for adopting Anna, and then we got chosen, my heart started to piece itself back together. I couldn't wait for this little girl be apart of our family."



Continued:

Not only was Anna given new parents and new home, but also, she decided that she wanted to transfer to a private school, where her best friend attends, and join the tennis team.



tragic, unfair upbringing. We take pride in a professional, confidential, caring staff that is dedicated to helping abused children.

CAST gives children the happiness

“Anna has excelled in her new school this year—inside and outside of the classroom,” Brad said. “She seems truly happy and has transitioned very well. In fact, she even won the spelling bee last month.”

CAST is committed to helping, preventing and promoting child abuse. Many children have had a

they deserve with advocacy, a 24-hour help line, counseling, safe sheltering and sponsorship events.

To become a sponsor, donor or for more information, contact Kate French at 580-465-6892 or www.CAST.org.

FAMOUS AUTHOR WRITES NOVEL ABOUT CHILD ABUSE AND DEDICATES TO CAST

Award-winning fiction author, Will Decker, writes a book about child abuse from his personal, traumatic childhood and dedicates the novel to Child Abuse Services and Trust.

Decker's novel, *Never Enough Hiding Spots*, tells the story of a young boy who was abused in his home every night. The book is told from a young boy's point-

of-view and is inspired by true events in Decker's childhood. The book releases in stores on April 12.

“It's not my typical suspense book,” Decker said. “I thought it was time to share my story with the

world, in hopes of helping another child who has been or is being abused.”

Decker did not have much access or opportunity for higher education in his hometown, Ringling, Oklahoma. However, he was determined and diligent about getting out and making a life for himself. In the past five years, Decker has won multiple awards,

including best selling, for his series, *Linked*.

“My motivation to succeed was not money or fame; It was merely to get out of my situation and overcome my past,” Decker said. “I got out by

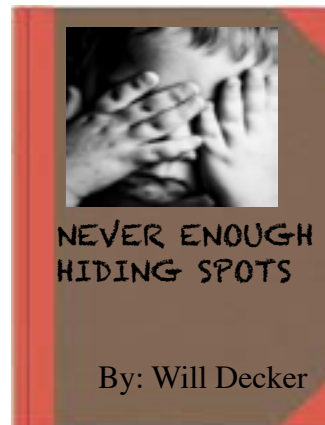
myself, but I wish there had been a child abuse agency like CAST to help me. My goal is that my new book will raise awareness of CAST and help abused children find the strength to get out and overcome the abuse--physically and mentally.”

Decker will spend the next year traveling to bookWstores across the country, signing his latest book, *Never Enough Hiding Spots*, and speaking at conferences.

To see Decker's book signing calendar or for more information, visit the events section on CAST's website at www.CAST.org.



Will Decker



CHILD ABUSE SURVIVOR FINDS JOY AT DAY AT THE LAKE

Nine-year-old boy escapes, thanks to CAST, and looks forward to relaxing at Lake Travis

Brett Turner curled in a ball on the floor of his closet, trying not to breathe too loudly. Eyes closed, hands over mouth, he waited anxiously for his abusive father to find him. What was normal to Brett was outrageous to Child Abuse Services and Trust. If it were not for Brett's nosy, concerned neighbor, 9-year-old Brett might have taken his last breath that night.

“I don't understand what I did wrong,” Brett said. “Even when I did what my dad told me to do, he would still find some reason to get mad at me.”

Child Abuse Services and Trust is committed to helping, preventing and promoting child abuse because of children like Brett, who have had a tragic, unfair upbringing.

CAST hosts its annual Day at the Lake event in April to help

raise awareness of child abuse and allow those children to enjoy a fun, carefree day outdoors. From swimming, boating, fishing, hiking or biking, the children have many options to relax and simply be a kid.

Through advocacy, safe sheltering, counseling and events like Day at the Lake, CAST strives to reach and comfort as many child abuse victims possible. Whether it's physically or mentally, child abuse can have a traumatic, lifetime affect on victims.

One staff member is Karen Bonner, CAST's volunteer coordinator.

“I was abused as a child and know from experience the long-term affects and nightmares

that the trauma can have on a person,” Karen said. “If my aunt hadn't told a child abuse agency about my abusive parents, I may not be here to tell my story today.”

“I help at events like Day at the Lake because I know these kids needs help like I did—to heal and overcome their past,” Karen said.

Day at the Lake is at Lake Travis in Austin, Texas, near the CAST agency. The event is on April 19 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Boats, bikes and other equipment will be provided. Participants are asked to bring a sack lunch.

“I love staying at the CAST place because I can play with other kids, like it's a sleepover,” Brett said. “And, I can't wait to go swimming, fishing and hiking at Day at the Lake!”

CAST HOSTS DAY AT THE LAKE

- Swimming
- Boating
- Hiking
- Biking



April 19, 2012
10 a.m - 6 p.m

Help raise awareness and support child abuse victims' at Lake Travis in Austin, TX.

To register, visit www.CAST.org or call 580-465-6892.

CAST PARTNERS WITH WII TO LAUNCH CAMPAIGN FOR CHILD ABUSE

For every Wii item purchased, Wii will donate half the cost of the product to Child Abuse Services and Trust to raise awareness and help prevent child abuse.

This campaign applies to all stores in the United States that carry Wii products. The campaign begins on March 19 and ends June 19.

Wii's account executive, Jordan Evans, attends the same church as CAST's volunteer coordinator, Karen Bonner, where they began brainstorming about CAST's partnership with Wii.

"I love what I do and working for Wii," Evans said.

"But I've always been passionate about fighting and preventing child abuse. I think this partnership with CAST has the potential to really affect lives by raising awareness and money."

CAST is dedicated and determined to put an end to child abuse. Whether it is physical or emotional abuse, CAST believes that no child should tolerate any form of abuse.

Wii offers games and gaming equipment in stores and online at www.wiishopexpress.com. There are a variety of games to choose from—dance, action, fishing, hunting, music, sports and more. Purchase a Wii product on March 19 to June 19

to contribute to help fight child abuse.

To report child abuse, to become a sponsor, or for more information, contact the CAST agency at 580-465-6892 or www.CAST.org.



These are CAST's current sponsors. Now, it's your turn. Stand up, speak up and become a sponsor to promote and prevent child abuse.

