



Child Protection Matters

Blank Foundation gives \$3 million to Children's

Arthur M. Blank, co-founder of The Home Depot and owner of the Atlanta Falcons, recently announced a [\\$3 million gift](#) through The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation to honor his wife, Stephanie, and her support of the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Child Protection Center. The center has been renamed the [Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children](#).

Victories in the war against CSEC

The issue of the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is of growing interest to child advocates, child abuse prevention professionals, policy and legal groups, and other various organizations throughout the state. Georgia advocates won their first CSEC-related battle in 2009 when the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation to expand the definition of sexual exploitation in the mandatory reporting statute to include exploitation by persons who are not a child's parent or caretaker ([Georgia code 19-7-5](#)). This year, two more pieces of state legislation passed that will impact commercially sexually exploited children and those at high risk:

- [HB 200](#), the Freedom from Human Trafficking Act, increases human trafficking offender accountability, expands resources for victims and improves training for law enforcement.
- [SB 94](#), the Runaway and Youth Safety and Services Act, provides protections for homeless children by increasing access to emergency shelters. One in three teens is in danger of being recruited by a trafficker/exploiter within 48 hours of becoming homeless.*

Learn more about CSEC during our [webinar](#) Tuesday, Aug. 30.

Backpacks for suspected victims of abuse

Watching children arrive at the Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children without basic necessities, such as food and water, was disheartening for intake coordinator Millicent Taylor and other staff. So, they coordinated a group to fill book bags with socks, underclothes, combs, brushes and toiletries. Through additional sponsorship and fundraising, Pearl Culberson, patient care tech; Kelli Wood, M.S.W., forensic specialist; and child life specialist Kara Klein contributed sweat suits, notebooks, pens and food items.

Since completion, we have had the pleasure to give away several book bags to children in need.



Pictured from left are Kara Klein, child life specialist; Bella, therapy dog; Millicent Taylor, intake coordinator; Kelli Wood, M.S.W., forensic specialist; Pearl Culberson, patient care tech 2; and Sonia Shah, M.S., C.C.L.S., Practice Manager.

Quarterly tip

Cyberbullying is bullying through the use of email, instant messaging, chat room, websites or images sent to cell phones. Twenty percent to 70 percent of teens report being a victim. To [stop cyberbullying](#), adults are encouraged to monitor what teens are doing online, set rules for Internet and cell phone usage, and talk with children about the dangers of cyberbullying.

Upcoming trainings

Save the date for our **11th annual Child Abuse and Neglect Conference** Monday, Oct. 24, and Tuesday, Oct. 25. [Sign up](#) to receive the conference brochure. Interested in being [an exhibitor](#) at this conference? Contact Elizabeth Williams at 404-785-7694 or elizabeth.williams@choa.org for more information.

The Medical Evaluation of Child and Adolescent Sexual Abuse [training](#) is Thursday, Sept. 22, and Friday, Sept. 23. Space is limited.

*National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Thrownaway Children (NISMA^{RT})

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