

Child Abuse Services Team Celebrating Twenty Years of Service

By the authority of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, the following resolution is hereby issued:

WHEREAS, the Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) is celebrating 20 years of service to the County, and it is highly appropriate at this time that they be extended special recognition and commendations by the public for their many outstanding achievements and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, the Orange County Board of Supervisors appointed a blue ribbon task force to develop a public/private, multidisciplinary team program for conducting child sexual abuse investigations; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the task force was to design a way to decrease the trauma children might experience during the investigation of abuse, and after a year of study, the task force recommended the pilot project now known as the Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) to the Orange County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, CAST began its operation, which now consists of social workers, therapists, medical providers, a deputy DA, volunteer child advocates, and victim witness representatives; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers throughout Orange County take children to CAST for the investigation of abuse, and provides services to child victims of sexual and physical abuse and child witnesses to serious crimes, such as homicide, domestic violence and kidnapping; and

WHEREAS, to date, more than 17,000 children have been interviewed, approximately 5,000 medical exams have been conducted, more than 15,000 contacts with clients have been made by CAST therapists, and more than 170,000 volunteer hours have been donated; and

WHEREAS, the CAST Advocate Program has trained more than 100 community volunteers and approximately 600 university student interns, and a large number of Orange County individuals, philanthropic clubs, organizations, and businesses are dedicated supporters of the CAST Advocate Component; and,

WHEREAS, CAST has adopted the lion as its mascot, and CAST team members strive to endow children with knowledge to understand what happened to them, courage to be able to tell someone about it, and heart to know that someone respects, cares for, and loves them;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS does hereby commend and honor the Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) as it celebrates 20 years of dedication and service to children in Orange County by reducing the trauma of the investigative process, and further extends sincere best wishes in all future endeavors.

Dated this 7th Day of April, 2009

PATRICIA C. BATES
Chair, Board of Supervisors

JANET NGUYEN
Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

JOHN M. W. MOORLACH
Supervisor, Second District

BILL CAMPBELL
Supervisor, Third District

CHRIS NORBY
Supervisor, Fourth District