



# Quarterly Report

VOLUME 6: ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2005



## Forum: "Talking About Tough Topics"

On December 1, 2004, over 120 people attended a forum entitled "Tough Topics: How to Ask and What to Do." The forum was designed to help individuals recognize the importance of asking children and adults about "sensitive" issue such as depression, substance abuse, domestic violence, and sexual abuse. One of the messages of the forum was that in order for people to receive assistance with these difficult issues, they have to be able to disclose them and be directed to appropriate resources. Panel members gave forum participants tools to help them feel comfortable asking about these issues.

Panelists included Joyce Allan, a psychotherapist who has 35 years of experience working with child and adult survivors of sexual abuse, and Roberta Culbertson, PhD, the Director of Research and Education at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and the Institute on Violence and Survival.

The forum was sponsored by CCF's Family Violence work group and Partnership for Children, along with the Charlottesville/Albemarle Prevention Coalition, the Shelter for Help in Emergency, and the Sexual Assault Resource Agency.

The forum will be repeated in the Spring of 2005. Check CCF's website [www.ccfinfo.org](http://www.ccfinfo.org) for details.

## Study recommends ways to increase youth engagement in after-school programs

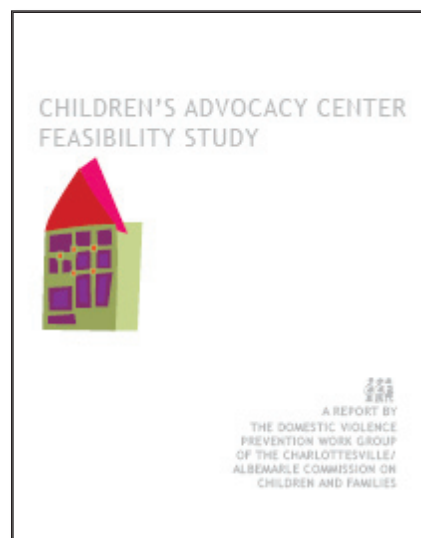
A 2003 community needs assessment study of local residents, conducted by CCF, indicated that low-income and non-Caucasian young people were almost half as likely to be involved in available extracurricular and after-school programs. CCF's Assets for Youth work group was formed to investigate this discrepancy in participation by income and race, and is releasing two new reports of their findings.

"Improving Access to Out-of-School Time in Charlottesville/Albemarle" is an in-depth investigation of local conditions and makes concrete recommendations for improving youth access to and participation in productive out-of-school activities. "Youth Voices: Out of



Continued on page 2

## Feasibility study supports creation of local Children's Advocacy Center



A Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) is a comfortable, child-friendly, safe setting for conducting investigations and providing services for children who are alleged to be abused or victimized. CACs use a multidisciplinary approach and strive to decrease trauma for child victims while providing appropriate treatment services. Communities that have CACs have better outcomes in terms of both child wellbeing as well as prosecution of perpetrators.

A feasibility study was conducted by CCF's Family Violence Prevention work group during the summer of 2004 and consisted of structured interviews with 34

Continued on page 2

**After-School** *(cont. from page 1)*

*School Time in Charlottesville/Albemarle*” shares the results of youth-led focus groups involving 260 City and County middle and high school students, and provides a first hand account of youth opinions along with suggestions for improvements.

Positive activities help youth keep their grades up and avoid risky behavior, and quality programs can provide safe and welcoming places for students to exercise, learn, and socialize during after-school hours. Specific recommendations for the City and County schools include creating and supporting after-school programming at Walton and Henley, and keeping school gyms and computer labs open later for student use during evenings, weekends and summers. The report recommends that City and County recreation departments expand the hours of operation for public swimming pools. The report also recommends that the City and County Transportation Departments conduct a market study for an after-school bus line to address transportation barriers.

These reports were made possible thanks to a grant from the St. John the Baptist in the Woods Foundation, the members of CCF’s Youth Assets work group, Teens Give, and especially to the 23 local youth who volunteered to lead focus groups of their peers. Thanks also to Virginia National Bank in Charlottesville for providing meeting space for the work group.

**Child Advocacy Center** *(cont. from page 1)*

community leaders, almost all of whom supported development of a CAC locally.

At its December meeting, the CCF accepted the feasibility study on the development of a Children’s Advocacy Center. Commissioners endorsed the concept and authorized limited staff support to move the project forward. Commissioners also agreed to approach community members to create an Implementation Team. The Implementation Team will begin work in March 2005 to determine the model to be developed, and to create policies, protocols and a fund raising strategy. Students from the University of Virginia’s Darden School are currently developing a business plan. For more information contact Gretchen Ellis, CCF Planner, at 872-4548.

**COME JOIN US!**

CCF meets the first Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at CCF offices: 1600 5th Street.

4:30-5:00 p.m., refreshments

5:00-6:30 p.m., public meeting

Agendas are posted online before each meeting at [www.ccfinfo.org](http://www.ccfinfo.org).


Agendas and minutes may be found on the web at [www.ccfinfo.org](http://www.ccfinfo.org).

**NEW ON THE WEB: CCFINFO.ORG**

• Spanish-language *Juvenile Court Guides* are now available. Contact Rory Carpenter at [rcarpenter@albemarle.org](mailto:rcarpenter@albemarle.org). English version also available.

• *Quarterly Juvenile Statistics Bulletin* now available. Sign up online under Juvenile Justice page.

• *Guide to Local Resources for the Limited-English Proficient Population* now available online.

Quarterly Report 

1600 5th Street  
Charlottesville, VA  
22902

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- Forum: Talking About Tough Topics
- Children’s Advocacy Center Feasibility Study
- Improving Access to Out-of-School Time Activities in Charlottesville/Albemarle”