

# Winter 2024 News

Dear Heather.

I hope this year has been filled with joy and positivity for you and your family. As we dive into the holiday season, I can't help but reflect on all the achievements and lessons learned throughout this year. All of us here at SafeSpot know that we would not be where we are today without the support from the incredible community that surrounds us. When we work together, the future looks bright for the children and families we serve.



I am so proud of all the achievements SafeSpot has made this fall. From the success of our 9th Annual Champions for Children Golf Tournament, which you will read more about below, to earning our reaccreditation with the National Children's Alliance and moving into a brand new center, we will end the year celebrating our accomplishments and planning for even more to come in 2025. Our staff's work and success this year have not gone unnoticed in our community, as SafeSpot received an award from the Fairfax County Department of Family Services recognizing our partnership. I am also proud to share that SafeSpot's Clinical Director, Lindsey Kerber, was awarded Virginia Mental Health Clinician of the Year, which I encourage you to read more about below.

We hope you will remember SafeSpot and the children and families we serve this holiday season. On December 3, 2024, we invite you to join the community of donors worldwide donating to their favorite charities on Giving Tuesday! Thanks to a very generous donor, all donations made to SafeSpot on Giving Tuesday will be matched \$1:\$1 up to \$10,000! This is the best time to financially support SafeSpot, as your support will double the impact. If you are looking to support children impacted by abuse directly, please consider becoming a Winter Wishes sponsor by adopting one or more of the families participating in our trauma-focused therapy program. You can also purchase and donate an item from our Amazon Wish List, which includes toys, children's books, and much-needed office supplies - all of which make an impact.

On behalf of our board, staff and those we serve, we thank you for all your support to SafeSpot this year. We are immensely grateful to have you as a partner in our community!

Wishing you and yours a happy, healthy holiday season!

With Appreciation,

H. L. O'Malley
Heather Lyn O'Malley
CEO, SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax County

SafeSpot's 2024 Champions for Children Golf Tournament Raises Over \$400,000!













On Monday, October 21st, SafeSpot hosted the 9th Annual Champions for Children Golf Tournament! It was a truly special day and evening in support of child abuse victims and their families. Thanks to your combined generosity, we raised over \$400,000 for our core services of forensic interviewing, family advocacy, and trauma-focused therapy - a new record for our generous community.

Our most sincere gratitude goes to our generous sponsors, donors, golfers, and dinner guests. We want to give a special thanks to our leadership team who made this possible: Andy Klaff, Ralph Masino, Jessica Bourgeois, Ruth Franke, Tommy McVean, Phil Simonides, Caite Price, and Jessica Greis-Edwardson.

Thank you also to our incredible volunteers who gave so much of their time and passion to make this years event a success!

2024 Champions for Children Golf **Photos** 

2024 Champions for Children Dinner **Photos** 

## Thank You to Our 2024 Champions for Children Sponsors!

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### Compassion & Healing Sponsors

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# SafeSpot Clinical Director, Lindsey Kerber Awarded Virginia Mental Health Clinician of the Year



Children Conference, SafeSpot's Clinical Director, Lindsey Kerber, was awarded the Mental Health Clinician of the Year! Lindsey was awarded for her outstanding service to the state in supporting children's mental health. She has served not only the children in our community but also our peers at Children's Advocacy Centers in Virginia by leading the CACVA mental health peer support group, where clinicians find support from each other and find new ways to improve their services to children. Lindsey's tireless commitment to advancing child mental health treatment in Virginia and her compassionate care has made a profound impact on the lives of countless children and families.

## More Ways to Support SafeSpot During the Holidays

As you consider how you can support SafeSpot and the children and families we serve during this time of giving, we want you to know that there are many ways to make an impact!



**Giving Tuesday:** Join the community of donors and support SafeSpot on December 3, 2024, for this year's Giving Tuesday! We have set an ambitious goal of raising \$20,000 for our programs that support abused children in Fairfax County. And to help us reach our goal, a generous donor has committed to matching \$1:\$1 every gift made to SafeSpot on Giving Tuesday, up to \$10,000! This is your opportunity to double your impact and reach even more children in need.

**Make a Tax-Deductible Donation**: Please consider a donation to SafeSpot in your year-end giving. We welcome many forms of donations in addition to cash, checks, and credit cards, including appreciated stock and IRA distributions. It is easy – just visit our website.

**Sponsor a Family**: SafeSpot's Winter Wishes Program matches generous community donors with one or more of the families being served in our mental health therapy program. Our team works with caregivers to develop wish lists for each member of the family, and we make shopping and delivering those items to the Center as easy as the click of a button through Amazon. To sign up or learn more, please contact Heather O'Malley at <a href="https://homalley@safespotfairfax.org">homalley@safespotfairfax.org</a>.

**Shop from our Amazon Wish List** we are always in need of new toys, art therapy supplies, snacks, and more! To find our most urgent needs, visit our <u>Amazon Wish List</u>.

# SafeSpot Welcomes New Staff

We are proud to welcome 2 new members to the SafeSpot Team!

#### Sarai Dutcher

Sarai Dutcher, LCSW is a bilingual therapist. She received her bachelor's degree in social work from Adelphi University and holds a Master of Science in Social Work from Columbia University. Sarai previously worked as an advocate at a Children's Advocacy Center in Long

Island and as a social worker in a hospital-based CAC in Manhattan. She also has experience working as a clinician using EMDR in a school-based mental health clinic. Sarai is currently training to become a certified Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) therapist.

#### Maeve Berman

Maeve will be interning with SafeSpot this Fall/Winter. Maeve was born and raised here in Northern Virginia. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Virginia in 2021 and is currently in the final year of her Master of Social Work program at George Mason University. She has previous mental health experience working with children and teens in crisis, as well as in child welfare. Maeve is thrilled to be receiving training in TF-CBT and learning through practice as a clinical intern at SafeSpot!

# Learn More About SafeSpot!



Join us for one of our monthly Hope and Healing tours. The tours provide an opportunity to experience our new center while learning more about our mission and impact. Center tours are conducted monthly on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 6:00pm – 7:00pm. Our next Hope and Healing Tour will be Thursday, December 12th. If you are interested in attending, please click the link below to register! Once you register, you will receive a confirmation with the center address.

Hope and Healing Tour Registration

# 2025 Casino Royale All-In for Children!



Join us for our 2nd Annual Casino Royale All-In for Children!

Event Date: Saturday, April 5th
Location: Falls Church Marriott Fairview Park
More details to come!

The mission of SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center is to provide a safe environment and support services for child abuse victims and their families as they navigate the investigation and

### aftermath of abuse.



















### SafeSpot | P.O Box 148 | Fairfax, VA 22038 US

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