

SafeSpot's Professional Team & Board of Directors join hands in thanking our devoted volunteers, supporters, and fundraising attendees.

May you all enjoy a happy thanksgiving!



Director's Message

What is Our Product?

I am often stumped when people ask me, "What is it that you do?" Responding as the Director of a Children's Advocacy Center, I have to be very careful with my wording and guarded with my information. If I answered freely, confidential detail would be at stake and court cases could be jeopardized. Now, if the question was perhaps, "What is your product?" The answer would be simple. Gratitude.

By the end of most work days, appreciation arrives in one of two ways. Some days staff members have the honor of hearing a child utter "thank you" despite their broken heart. While on other days, it is we who feel grateful for the positive impacts we deliver. In order to illustrate some of the many formats in which SafeSpot affects the lives of its clients and administers aid to families, I've shared the following story. (*Fiction based upon fact of course!*)

This particular client was an 8 year old little girl, who was sexually abused by her uncle. Following this discovery, her family fell apart, leaving her father and she alone with nothing, but the ramifications of the uncle's behavior. The child displayed symptoms of depression, guilt, shame, and distraction in school. Naturally, her single father struggled to understand both the denial of his family and heavy toll sexual abuse took on his daughter. Due to the twosome's financial, transportation and language barriers, the SafeSpot team kicked into high gear. First and foremost, before the child could shut her emotions down any further, the team ensured that cab fares to immediate therapy sessions were covered. SafeSpot therapists not only collaborated with social workers to arrange for safe

transportation, but to also provide academic support in school. SafeSpot's on-site interpreter was integral in communications with caregivers. And after many Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy sessions, this little girl regained her ability to express emotion and feel self-confident. With the support and preparation from her therapist, she was also ready to share her story with her father, who in turn was able to respond appropriately and with validation. Soon thereafter, the child's grades improved, her mood stabilized, and the willingness to socialize appeared. But, this was not the end of their troubles as a legal battle against the abuser still lay ahead, and the need for financial and parenting assistance continued. Being referred to community case management services would certainly help the latter two issues. This would hopefully secure financial and parenting support following the child's discharge from SafeSpot care. Eight months after discharge, this intrepid duo graduated from their case management program and the offender was sentenced to time in jail.

I am certainly grateful for the opportunity to work with that little girl and her father. Our team is thankful for the renewed belief in people within this father and daughter family. And in the end, hundreds of clients are indebted to the SafeSpot process.

Thank you for your support,
Michele Thames
Executive Director

News of Note

Passionate Recap for Fashion!

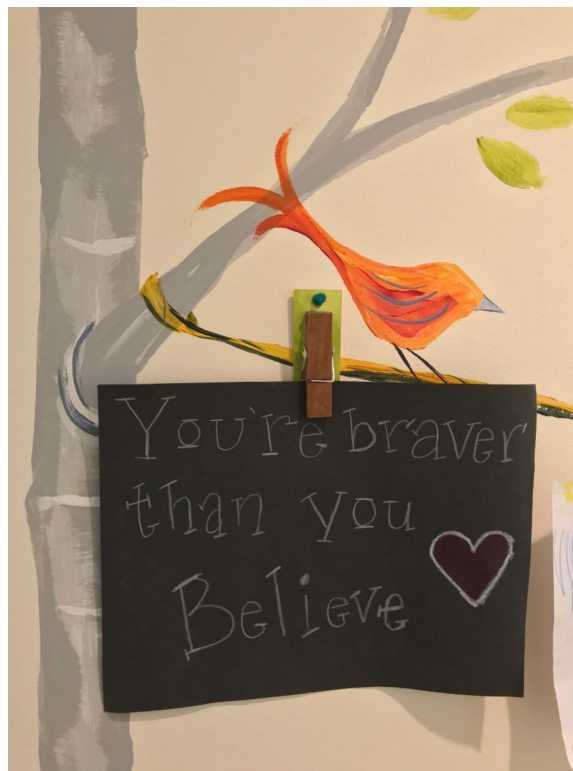
*This amazingly fun & worthwhile event was
a grand success!*

Open House!
Friday November 22nd
9 - 11 am



BLOOMINGDALES, TYSONS
ANNUAL FASHION SHOW & FUNDRAISER

The Passion for Fashion Co-chairs, Jaime Weber, Lauren Kushin, and Jacqui McVey, hit a stylish home run when they decided to move the annual SafeSpot Fashion Show to a Friday evening. The new format and timing allowed parents of younger children to grab a babysitter and spend an entertaining night out, celebrating the efforts of SafeSpot over cocktails. Two hundred and sixty ticket holders were able to sample award-winning spirits (Many thanks to Smooth Ambler Distillery partners), shop the show racks, partake in the traveling taco cart, and bid on enticing silent auction items. The runway was lined with all generations as SafeSpot Executive Director, Michele Thames, opened the fashion portion of the show by delivering a moving story concerning one of the Center’s sexual abuse victims. The mission became very clear and thanks to a very generous audience, the fundraising competition began. Great Falls’ very own, Phil Simonides, led a “lively” and lucrative auction and raise-the-paddle! He even turned one very sought-after Italian villa into TWO! High-fiving their way down the



RSVP

SafeSpot’s next Open House is scheduled for Friday, November 22nd from 9:00am – 11:00am. Visiting the SafeSpot Children’s Advocacy Center is seeing to believing! Visiting us will provide a more complete understanding of how our soothing surroundings, supportive messages, and state of the art programs provide comfort, concern and care to our youngest victimized neighbors! Please RSVP by emailing us at info@safespotfairfax.org

The Junior Board: Always Active!



aisle, eleven volunteer models and 16 very excited children worked hard to keep up with the likes of three professionals. Thank you to SafeSpot's outstanding Passion for Fashion Co-chairs and committee members, sponsors, auction and tasting donors, audience members and the Bloomingdale's team for raising the funds needed to keep resilience and safety in the vocabulary of young abuse victims!

If you just learned of SafeSpot at the recent Fashion Show and would like to see the Center with your own eyes, please join us at the SafeSpot Open House on November 22nd. Details can be found in the following article.

The Junior Board stays busy by assisting wherever they are needed and planning events of their own. All hands were found on deck at the latest Passion for Fashion Show. The Junior Board also plans to hold a brunch on November 24th, to which each attendee will bring an item found on the SafeSpot Amazon Wishlist. Plans for a fall bowling event will be discussed over avocado toast and mimosas! If you are interested in joining our efforts, please contact us at : juniorboard.safespot@gmail.com

Inquire or Join us!

2019 Passion for Fashion Slideshow

Tis' The Season of Giving!

#Give Resilience on #GivingTuesday

Join us on December 3rd for this 24 hour international movement!

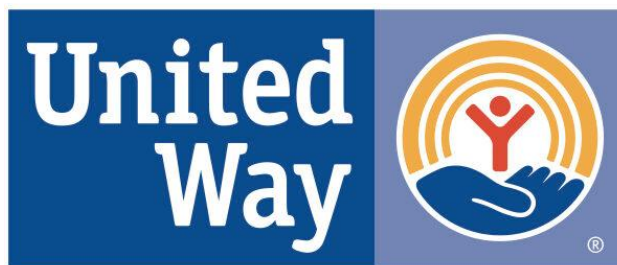


#GiveResilience - Donate!

#GivingTuesday refers to the Tuesday directly following Thanksgiving. It is a 24 hour international movement with the intent to drive charitable giving at the beginning of the holiday season. Please support SafeSpot during this short time frame, by joining this world-wide wave of generosity! Share the above video or save the date image with friends and family today!

Keep your eyes and ears peeled for updates and reminders!

You've Got Our Number! United Way's Federal & State of Virginia's Campaigns Continue!



**United Way
of the National Capital Area**

Proud Partner

Join the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign - *United Way's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)*! This campaign runs from September 9, 2019 – January 12, 2020. If you would like to donate to SafeSpot through your employer - federal government, state government or a participating company - it's easy to designate your donation to SafeSpot with the numbers noted below. This can be a recurring or a one time donation.

SafeSpot's Federal Government Employer designation number is 93973.

Our designation number for the state of Virginia is 04-008813.

For participating companies, SafeSpot's United Way designation number is 9170.

Volunteer Time:

Another aspect of our United Way partnership includes opportunities to represent SafeSpot within the workplace and at community events. We need volunteers who are willing to become these SafeSpot representatives by staffing a table or delivering a brief presentation. Functions are generally one-day events without any long term commitments. The more volunteers we have, the better we share our programs and story. *Training will be provided.*

[Inquire or Volunteer](#)

A Simple Way to Provide a Smile



Amazon Smile is an easy and automatic way for you to support SafeSpot as you shop on Amazon.

After you designate SafeSpot as your charity choice, via smile.amazon.com, *every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation to SafeSpot!!*

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

Can I change my charity?

Yes, you can change your charity any time. To change your charity, sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser and simply select “Change your Charity” in “Your Account.”

Smile Amazon

Visit our website

OUR MISSION:

The mission of SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax County is to provide a child-friendly, culturally sensitive environment that promotes the safety and well-being of child victims of abuse while facilitating a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary team approach to the intervention, investigation, prosecution and treatment of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse.

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