



The Child Advocacy Center of Aiken County

NEWSLETTER

August 2026

WHAT ARE WE UP TO?



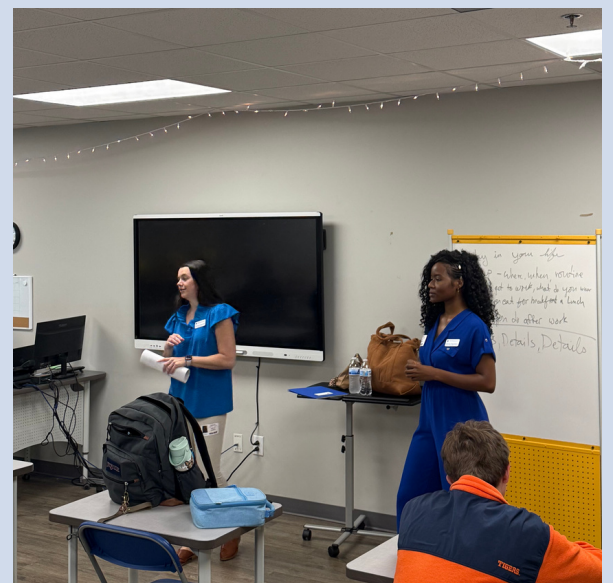
The American Dream Podcast by Aiken Chamber of Commerce

One of our forensic interviewers, Fatima Thompson, went on the Aiken Chamber's American Dream Podcast to share more about the work of the Child Advocacy Center of Aiken County and the importance of creating a safe, supportive environment for children and families who come through our doors.

The episode is available on YouTube (@Aiken Chamber) and Spotify (@The American Dream Podcast). Tune in to this meaningful conversation and support the CAC!

Sharing Our Stories, Inspiring Futures at Horse Creek Academy

Our team had the opportunity to connect with 11th and 12th grade students at Horse Creek Academy! One of our Forensic Interviewers, Fatima Thompson, and our Family Advocate, Ansleigh McIntosh, shared what happens at the Child Advocacy Center, the different career opportunities within our organization, and their own education and career journeys that led them to the CAC. We're proud to introduce students to meaningful careers in child advocacy and show them the many ways they can make a difference in the lives of children and families.



FAMILY

 UNITED WAY
Aiken County

FUN!

DAY

GAMES, PRIZES, FOOD, FACE PAINTING, & MORE!

MOST GAMES ARE APPROPRIATE FOR KIDS AGES TODDLER - 10 YEARS OLD.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2026 **11:00AM - 2:00PM**

Odell Weeks
Price Ave. Picnic Shelter.
(near the Pickleball Courts)

1700 Whiskey Rd.
Aiken, SC 29803

PRESENTED BY: **UNITED WAY**
Aiken County

Publix®

 Saturday, September 5, 2026

 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

 Odell Weeks – Price Ave. Picnic Shelter

Visit www.cacofaiken.org to donate today!

PREVENTION STARTS WITH US

Child abuse prevention is about creating safe, supportive environments where children can grow, learn, and thrive. While no single person can prevent abuse alone, each of us has a role to play in protecting children and strengthening families.

Prevention can look like checking in on a parent who may need support, teaching children about healthy boundaries, listening when a child talks about something that concerns them, and making sure children have trusted adults they can turn to. It also means building communities where families feel supported rather than judged when they need help.

For years, we've been proud to advocate for children and families throughout our community—and we're continuing to find new ways to make an impact. As we look ahead, we're expanding our prevention efforts to reach families earlier, strengthen protective factors, and address the root causes of child abuse. There's more work ahead, and we're excited to bring our community along with us. Stay tuned for what's next.

NEWS ON CHILD ABUSE IN OUR COMMUNITY



Aiken Lawmaker Works to Strengthen Child Protection Laws

Following the death of 4-year-old Aiken County resident Javeayah Harris, local lawmakers are working to strengthen protections for children. Aiken Representative Melissa Oremus is developing legislation known as “Javeayah’s Law,” aimed at addressing gaps in child protection and accountability.

Source: <https://www.wrdw.com/2026/07/13/aiken-lawmaker-drafting-javeayahs-law-tighten-child-protection/>



14,184 Children Served Across South Carolina

Children’s Advocacy Centers across South Carolina served 14,184 children in 2025, a 3% increase from the previous year. The statewide network has seen a 74% increase in the number of children served since 2016, reflecting the growing need for child-centered services across the state.

Source: <https://cac-sc.org/scncac-looking-back/#children-served>