



## MEDIA CONTACT

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## St. Joe Foundation Grants \$2500 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tootsies Bay Point Boating Expo *Benefiting the Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center*

Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), 210 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Panama City 32401 -- The Second Annual Bay Point Boating & Outdoor Expo will be held in Panama City Beach, Florida, on Friday and Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> at the Bay Point Marina. The St Joe Community Foundation) has provided a \$2,500.00 grant to the Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) to sponsor its Boating & Outdoor Expo July 18 and 19. This grant will assist the CAC with essential services and investigations involving child abuse and neglect within the community in which they live.

"To know that the Foundation is helping area children in a positive way is very rewarding," said Janet Greeno, Executive Director for the Foundation. "Providing this grant will help the CAC support and assist more local children that need the protective and positive relationships in their lives."

The Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center serves to provide on-site agency collaboration and the use of the multidisciplinary approach in prevention, investigation, assessment, protection, referral for prosecution, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. The CAC provides multidisciplinary team who works together at the front end of each investigation, therefore expediting the referrals for prosecution and service provisions to help strengthen the family and prevent recurrence of abuse. The center offers a safe and secure, child friendly location to help children in their time of need. Advocates, therapists, on site medical personnel, child protective investigators, law enforcement, and forensic interviewers work collaboratively each day to ensure the safety and hope of healing to each of these precious children. In 2013, the Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center provided no cost services to over 1200 local children.

