

*“But Jesus said, let the little children come to me and do not hinder them,
for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 19:14*

The Respect Life Ministry supports our local community organization, the Baldwin County Child Advocacy Center. For over 36 years, the Baldwin County Child Advocacy Center has been providing unique and life-changing services for child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and their supportive, non-offending family members.

Through a Multidisciplinary Team approach, these services are conducted in a home-like environment offering children who have been victimized the safety, comfort, and support vital to their healing. This coordinated team is comprised of a group of key individuals in law enforcement, criminal justice, child protective services, and medical and mental health workers. This model of care has revolutionized the response to child sexual abuse across the country.

In 2024, 397 local children received direct intervention services, such as forensic interviews, medical exams, or counseling services at the BCCAC. In addition, the BCCAC offers the Darkness to Light program to raise awareness and educate adults about how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse, and Prevention Education through their “Someone to talk to” puppet shows presented to children in grades K-2. Topics covered include safe/unsafe touches and personal protection skills. Internet safety lessons are also provided to schools, civic groups, churches, and community organizations.

Our Lady of the Gulf and the Respect Life Ministry is an Advocate Sponsor of the Baldwin County Child Advocacy Starlit Soirée being held at the Coastal Arts Center in Orange Beach on Thursday, December 4 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$100 and are available through the parish office, or the BCAAC website.

*Heavenly Father, we ask you to protect and heal all children who have been abused.
May they find comfort in your love and strength in their suffering.
Guide us to be advocates for their safety and well-being.
Help us to create a world where every child is cherished and protected.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*