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Abuse cases up, funding down

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By Katharhynn Heidelberg
Daily Press Senior Writer

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MONTROSE " Child abuse cases in the 7th Judicial District already have topped the 2009 count. But while the cases increase, funding for agencies that help the children is decreasing.

"Like everyone else, we're hurting at this point," said Sue Montgomery, executive director of the Dolphin House Child Advocacy Center.

The center's funding from its yearly Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) grant has been cut 35 percent, leaving Dolphin House with \$9,000 less for 2011 than it received this year. And its grant from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) for 2011 is the same as last year " \$27,000, based on 88 clients " even though cases have increased dramatically. Dolphin House has served 159 children so far this year " up from the 36 victims in April, when Montgomery sounded the alarm, and seven more than the 152 victims served all last year.

Donations for Dolphin House, CASA

- To sign up as a Friend of the Dolphin House, visit www.dolphinhousecolorado.com or call 240-8655.
- The Dolphin House's yard sale is from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at 735 S. First St. in Montrose.
- The Stone House is hosting a wine-pairing dinner, with wine donated by the Pour House, on Nov. 3 to benefit Dolphin House. The dinner starts at 6 p.m. at the Stone House (1415 Hawk Parkway) and is \$60 per person, excluding tax and gratuity. The four-course dinner features thermador bisque with charred arugula, scallops, shrimp and crab; Granny Smith Panko-crusted goat cheese with an aged balsamic and wild berry drizzle; herb-crusted tenderloin with Chateaubriand sauce with shitake jasmine Himalayan rice, and toasted almond white chocolate cheesecake with peach compote.

Selected wines are pinot grigio, Chardonnay, Sauvignon, petite sirah and Riesling.


To reserve your spot, contact Jack at 209-9100 or 240-8889.

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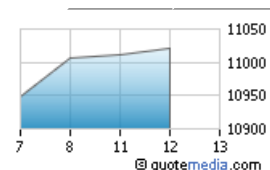
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To help Court Appointed Special Advocates - Voices for Children:

- Send donations to Voices for Children, P.O. Box 1708, Montrose, CO 81402.
- To volunteer as a CASA or as a supervised visitation supervisor, call 249-0337 and ask for Brenda or Mary Jo. The Delta office can be reached at 874-7730. In Gunnison, call Betsy Anderson at 641-8721.

The website (undergoing updates) is www.casanow.org.

For the full story, see today's print edition. The online story may not reflect all relevant information that was reported. We encourage readers to obtain the full story by reading the print edition or our e-edition, To subscribe, call (970) 252-7081 or click on the [subscription link](#) on the main page.



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