



# 2014 INSPIRE BALL



Hi, my name is Alicia, I am seventeen years old, and a survivor! When I was eleven I was sexually assaulted. I understand this subject is very somber, but I would like to address it because of how common sexual assault is. I was surprised to learn just how many children within our community have been assaulted and even more surprised to find out how few have been brave enough to report it because of how scary it can be. I know because I've been there myself. It took a year before I was able to tell my secret. To this day it is the hardest thing I have ever done. I truly believe the only reason I am a survivor is because of the Children's Assessment Center (CAC).

The mission of the CAC is to hear the story, heal the pain and halt the cycle for children who have fallen victim to suspected sexual assault. They are ready with detectives, doctors and counselors. The child always has someone to hold their hand every step of the way. I had three people assigned to my case: my counselor, the detective and prosecutor (although not through the CAC). Each were my superheroes in this very scary chapter of my life.

Many friends and family helped my family and I get through all that was involved after I disclosed and I want to give back to the CAC as much as I can. Since my graduation from the CAC's program in 2011, I have been eager to give back. Knowing that the CAC's cost for one child is roughly \$1,000/year, I originally set a goal to raise enough money to help another child become a survivor just as I have. However, through the generosity of so many friends and family I reached my goal and beyond! In 2013 myself, my family and sponsors ran with a purpose in support of Team Alicia from July through December raising awareness. In January 2014, the Grand Rapids Press wrote an article about the CAC and the fundraising I was doing, opening the hearts of many, spreading awareness to thousands of people. (mlive.com-Children's Assessment Center-Jan 19, 2014) To date, sponsors of Team Alicia have made it possible for 45 children and counting to become survivors. Over the past year I have heard stories from victims who have kept their sexual assault a secret for years, some for over 40 years, because they had no one to tell or anyone who would listen to them. This alone has inspired me to want to do more, raise more awareness and let each child victim know that they have a voice, that there is someone who will listen, who cares and will help them.

On November 13, 2014 I am having a ball titled 'INSPIRE'. There will be dinner, ballroom dancing, a performance by myself and my brother, a community guest speaker and hopefully much inspiration to stop the cycle of sexual assault. In order to make this event a success though, I was hoping you would consider sponsoring this special night. Attached you will find the sponsorship form for your review and consideration. Would you please join me to raise awareness through a financial sponsorship?

If you are unable to provide support financially, please pray for me as I keep setting new goals to help other children become survivors. More importantly though, please pray for all the victims. You can help change a child's life by joining together to raise awareness of this ugly crime, and get the children the help, comfort, safety, and support they need. It wasn't until I spoke with the detective at the CAC that I finally felt safe with my story. The counseling I had, allowed me to feel free and learn to trust again. Everyone involved with the center is truly a gift to each child they see.

Please know that I am doing this with the support of my parents. The Children's Assessment Center has not in any way asked me to participate with any fundraising efforts. I am simply wanting to give back to the organization that has given me so much: trust, hope & freedom!

Thank you for your support, it truly means the world to me!

Blessings,



Below is a brief summary of what I am asking of your company and how you can help support an amazing cause.

- Consider becoming a sponsor for the ball I am organizing on November 13, 2014 with a nominal amount that best fits your companies charitable budget. See attached form
- Sponsor the event so all ticket proceeds can go directly to the Children's Assessment Center.
- Mark the evening of November 13 as 'busy' on your calendar so you and a group of family/friends can attend this inspiring event.
- Dust off your dance shoes and come enjoy an evening that would not be possible without your support.
- While at the event, meet other community sponsors who, like yourself, have come together to help children have a voice against their sexual assault, stopping the cycle and starting the healing, because it begins with generous people like you!

If you have any questions, please contact the event coordinator at [Team.Alicia.CAC@gmail.com](mailto:Team.Alicia.CAC@gmail.com). I hope to see you at the ball, it will truly be a night to remember but more importantly a night of new beginnings for the children of Kent County and surrounding areas.

THANK YOU! YOUR SUPPORT WILL MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE TO THE LIFE OF A CHILD!

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