

# THE DENVER CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



## In Her Own Words: DCAC's Executive Director, Gizane Indart, Speaks about the Devastating Effects of Separating Children from their Parents

*"Children are biologically programmed to grow best in the care of a parent figure. Losing a loving and protective parent is the biggest single tragedy that can happen to a child."* Alicia F. Lieberman, PhD

As you may know, I am many things: a spouse, a mother, a grandmother, a friend, and the director of the Denver Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC). What many of you do not know is that I am also an immigrant who came to this country in 1991 with my husband and our two-and-a-half-year-old toddler son.

I am also the daughter of a refugee mother, who, at the tender age of four witnessed the bombing of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War. She fled to safety with her mother and siblings, and they spent six months in the Atlantic Ocean in the hull of a ship waiting for a country that would take them in.



September 1991 - My son and I in Fort Collins, CO



1938 - My mother, her parents, and siblings on the ship

My family history, including my own journey through immigration, gave me a unique perspective about many things in life, the most important one being:

**Children and families belong together.  
Together we are stronger; together we become more resilient.**

I was always mesmerized by my maternal grandmother's strength and her ability to keep her six children safe in the midst of danger. As a young girl, I would listen to her carefully and she taught me three very important lessons:

- 1) Nobody wants to leave their country of origin as it is heartbreaking and heart wrenching;
- 2) Moving towards the unknown and unfamiliar is very scary, even though it is sometimes the only option; and
- 3) While facing these extremely stressful situations, stay together and do something every day to remind you of your origins.



My Abuela, my mother, and her siblings when they first arrived in Argentina

My grandmother, "Abuela" or "Amama" in the Basque language, would do anything to protect her children. She cooked for the ship's crew and ironed their clothes in return for food and shelter. She would also sing Basque songs with all of her children every morning before dawn. To this day, many of my cousins continue this beautiful ritual. At family gatherings, we all sing songs taught to us by our grandparents. The maternal part of my family fared well in spite of all these adversities. I believe it is directly related to their ability to stay together and find comfort in one another.

I was born on February 2, 1961 on a very hot day in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I was born several weeks premature and with some medical challenges that required me to stay hospitalized - I am guessing here - for my first two months of life. My mother, "mi Amatxu" never let me out of her sight. She fought with doctors and nurses to stay at my side. She resisted all attempts to send her away.

My mother never completed elementary school. She knew though, that I needed her. She knew what all the research in the world has been telling us for decades now: Children need to be rocked, touched, sung to, and fed by a caring adult if they are to survive and thrive. She was always my shining light even at the darkest of times. I never felt alone.

"Mi Amatxu" understood the importance of parents and children being together. She learnt that from her mother, who was her shining light. I believe my inner strength today stems from those early life experiences where I felt loved, cared for and protected even in the midst of ongoing medical intrusions to my body. I never felt alone. Never, ever.

I also felt safe and protected when I arrived in Miami, Florida on June 30, 1991. I felt welcomed and protected. I still remember the first words I heard: *"Welcome to America."*



Mi Amatxu & I in Denver

I strongly believe that it is a human right for every child to grow up in close proximity to their parents. Children bloom when they are cared for by attuned, protective and loving caregivers. Left alone, only long-term and catastrophic consequences are to be expected.

- Gizane Indart, PsyD

To view this article on our website, please [click here.](#)

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## Join Us at Art from the Heart 2018!



The Denver Children's Advocacy Center presents

The 3rd Annual

# Art from the Heart

September 13th, 2018

Space Gallery - Denver, Colorado

5:30 p.m.



*Lucy Ana Walton - Art from the Heart Honoree*

Tickets are now on sale for our third annual Art from the Heart event! Join us on Thursday, September 13th at 5:30 p.m. at the Space Gallery for a fun evening to benefit our programs at DCAC.

\$40 - Young Professional

\$50 - General Admission

\$100 - VIP

This year, we will be honoring Lucy Ana Walton, a longtime supporter, volunteer, and friend. Lucy Ana's commitment to DCAC through out the years has made a lasting impact on our organization and we cannot thank her enough.

**Buy Tickets Now!**

Are you or your company interested in sponsoring Art from the Heart 2018?

[Please click here to view our 2018 Partnership Packet.](#)

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DCAC's 2017 Annual Report has been Published



We are thrilled to announce that our 2017 Annual Report has been published. Thank you so much to all of our supporters, partners, and friends who helped us have another impactful year in 2017. We cannot express our gratitude enough. In addition to our annual report, we have also published our 2017 Donor List.

To view the 2017 Annual Report, please [click here](#).  
To view the 2017 Donor List, please [click here](#).

To request a physical copy of the annual report, please reach out to Meghan Parman, Development Associate, at [MParman@DenverCAC.org](mailto:MParman@DenverCAC.org).

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Please join us for the 1st Annual KB Home Charity Golf Event Supporting the Denver Children's Advocacy Center!



KB Home has been a proud supporter of the Denver Children's Advocacy Center, and they want to thank you in advance for your support as they know that it will make a

difference in the lives of children throughout the Denver area. Join us for a day of fun and fundraising with golf, food, margaritas, games, contests, fun prizes, and more.

**When?** Wednesday, September 12th

**Where?** Raccoon Creek Golf Course - 7301 West Bowles Avenue Littleton, CO

**What time?** Registration - 12:30 p.m. | Shotgun Start - 1:30 p.m.

**Cost?** \$150 per player

**Questions?** Please contact Meghan Parman, Development Associate, at MParman@DenverCAC.org or 720.974.7231

REGISTER NOW

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## DCAC's New Programs and Partners Flyer



We recently published a new marketing flyer that explains all of DCAC's programs and each program's partners. We are excited to share this new flyer with you to help clarify the services we provide Denver's children and their families. If you would like to view a PDF version of this flyer, please [click here](#).

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## Staff & Volunteer Corner



Denver Children's  
Advocacy Center

# Meet Bilingual Victim Advocate Intern, Amayrani!

## What does your average day at DCAC look like?

I am a bilingual victim advocate intern here at DCAC. My role is to assist Viviana, DCAC's bilingual victim advocate, with families and children in the Forensic Interview program. I get to greet families, tell the children and families a little bit about why they're at DCAC, and give them information regarding programs that we offer. Viviana and I offer our support to all families and children and are here for whatever they may need!



## What do you find most rewarding about your role at DCAC?

The most rewarding thing about working at DCAC is being able to make a positive impact in the child and family's life. I love seeing kids smiles as they are leaving DCAC and I always see how genuinely grateful families are for DCAC's team.

## What do you find most challenging?

The challenge I face is the harsh reality that there are some very cruel people in this world, but I am a firm believer that the good outweighs the bad!

## What do you love to do when you are not working?

I love to learn and explore new things, whether it's to try a new restaurant with family, do a new hike with friends, travel to some place I've never been to, or just hang out at home reading a book I've never read!

## What is your hidden talent?

If I could consider it a talent, I would have to say that I'm very organized. I really enjoy keeping my closet color coded and I love, love, love to write everything in my planner in colorful pens!

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