



## **Young Ambassadors**

### **Project Description**

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Young Ambassadors is a group of young professionals (ages ~18-40) coming together in a special way to support ESCAPE's efforts to "*prevent child abuse and neglect before a child is hurt*" by raising awareness of Greater Houston's child abuse crisis and the availability of the agency's services for at-risk families.

ESCAPE Family Resource Center is a privately supported nonprofit, 501(c)(3), organization that provides child abuse prevention programs and parenting classes. By participating in family-based educational classes, adults and children learn how to effectively cope with stress, listen and speak from the heart, change someone's behavior without resorting to punishment or violence, and work together to solve their problems. ESCAPE's interventions enhance the community by making it possible for all children to awaken to brighter days free from the threat of being harmed by their parents or other caregivers.

Young Ambassadors have three primary jobs:

1. Raise awareness of Greater Houston's child abuse problem,
2. Raise funds for ESCAPE through donations, and
3. Cheer runners in the Chevron Houston Marathon (January 18, 2009)

ESCAPE Family Resource Center is an official charity of the 2009 Chevron Houston Marathon through the "Run for a Reason" Program. Last year the marathon raised more than \$1.25 million for local and national charities. ESCAPE raised about \$20,000 through this campaign. This year's goal is to double the support generated from this event -- to \$40,000!

Supporters of ESCAPE gain access to Personal Fundraising Pages on the marathon's website that allows for online donations through the "Run for a Reason" program.

The Young Ambassadors' long-term goal is to "support the mission of ESCAPE while serving as community ambassadors in the prevention of child abuse."

By serving as a Young Ambassador, members learn how to:

1. Communicate ESCAPE's message,
2. Raise money for the organization in a unique way, and
3. Make a difference in the life of children living across the Greater Houston area.