STROLL

Old Preston Hollow & Bluffview

The Lam Family
EXUDES LOVE OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Photo by **Jin Kim, Jin Kim Studio**

DELIVERING NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS

SAM AND ELLIE LAM—

A LOVE OF ART AND A HEART FOR CHILDREN

Dr. Sam Lam and his wife Elsinore "Ellie" heard the news stories about the significant rise in physical abuse cases of school-aged children when stay-at-home orders were in effect during the pandemic. The statistics tore at the young parents' heartstrings, so they decided to get behind Dallas Children's Advocacy Center's cause, giving of both their time and financial support.

DCAC coordinates the investigation, prosecution and healing services for the most severe cases of child abuse in Dallas County – those that rise to the criminal level. They serve over 8,000 children and their non-offending family members each year—a number that they also saw sadly rise as well during the pandemic time.

"In the immediate time period after shelter-in-place orders were issued, DCAC experienced a 50%

reduction in reports of severe child abuse. This number is extremely misleading because we know extreme abuse increased during this time, but without access to safe adults like teachers, coaches, or parents of friends, the overwhelming majority of criminal child abuse cases went unreported in the second half of 2020," said DCAC Development Officer Jessica Short. "It's important to differentiate that physical abuse cases were on the rise, but overall reports dropped because children didn't have access to safe adults."

The community's support of DCAC's mission through its annual fundraising events is always a critical cause, but the need has been underscored even more due to the circumstances and the stress that the pandemic caused families.

Annual events include the Aim for Advocacy sporting clay tournament coming up on Aug. 25 at the Dallas Gun Club and Art for Advocacy happening on Sept. 10, which will be hosted by Stephanie and John Roberts at their private event space near the Design District. DCAC also hosts a Community Lecture Series program throughout the year, focused on informing guests on relevant topics and equipping them with the knowledge to keep their families safe and to make a difference in our community.

DCAC's Art for Advocacy event was an easy choice for Sam and Ellie. Not only do they support the fundraising cause, but they are also art patrons. Sam himself finds

time to paint, a hobby he enjoys when he is not wearing his doctor's scrubs as a facial plastic and hair restoration surgeon in his practice Lam Facial Plastics. The positive benefit of the Covid pandemic, he said, was more opportunity to learn and practice his painting skills.

Ellie served on the underwriting committee, fundraising and planning the 2021 Art for Advocacy event, and Sam and Ellie are the honorary chairs for the 2022 event. Sam's own art donation to the 2022 auction took him over 90 hours to complete. It was one of 20 pieces selected by the curatorial committee and by NorthPark to be displayed at NorthPark Center from Aug. 9 through Sept. 6. The art display promotes selected auction items and DCAC's cause before the silent and live auction events take place at the gala on Sept. 10, 2022.

Art also plays a big role in the décor of the Lams' new home on Catina Lane that they moved into exactly a year ago. Five years in the planning and construction process saw the addition of precious family members at move-in time. Alessandra is now 3-and-a-half, and Enzo is 1-and-a-half years old. Ellie was an optical physicist for Alcon prior to becoming a full-time mom. Sam is Asian, and Ellie is of Asian and Caucasian descent. They were both raised in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. They met by God's design at a party that they both attended.

Together, the family enjoys practicing their Christian faith, playing in the park and going to museums. They also look forward to getting out to explore the world as they are ready to begin traveling as a family soon.