April 28, 2011 - Board members of the Fannin County Children's Center surprised their director with an award at their recent open house. Executive Director Sandy Barber was wrapping up her speech to those attending the nonprofit agency's open house, when Board President Cindy Bankston sprung the surprise on the unsuspecting director.



Barber recently celebrated her tenth anniversary as the Executive Director of the nonprofit agency which includes several programs for abused and neglected children, including CASA and Children's Advocacy Center.

Bankston praised Barber's dedication in leading the Children's Center for the past decade. Barber thanked all those who join her in the work at the center and make her job easier.

"This is my passion, my calling in life," said Barber.

She remarked that the job is not always easy. When she looks around the state at other CASA and Children's Advocacy Centers, Executive Directors do not often stay in the position for more than ten years.

The Children's Center hosted their annual open house in coordination with the Bonham Chamber's Network Nites in honor of Child Abuse Awareness month. As guests arrived, they were given a choice of a blue button or bracelet with the slogan "No Excuse for Child Abuse."Winners of the center's children's art contest were honored. The event also included lots of good food and networking opportunities, as well as tours of the center.

The Children's Center needs additional CASA volunteers to serve as advocates for children in foster care. Training starts May 2. For more information, visit www.fanninccc.org or call (903) 583-4339.

CAPTION: Children's Center Board President Cindy Bankston presents an award to Sandy Barber for ten years of outstanding leadership as the Executive Director of the Fannin County Children's Center.