

The Children's Safety Center, Inc. 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

DREAMS WORTH SAVING



children's safety center



The Children's
Safety Center
served a total
of **552** alleged
victims of
child abuse in
2014

Letter from the Executive Director

In 2014, the Children's Safety Center staff was able to help more children and families by providing more advocacy, performing more medical exams, conducting more forensic interviews, and having more on-site therapy sessions compared to 2013. No matter what challenges our team faced throughout the year, we focused and worked hard because as I constantly remind my team, "at the end of the day we all know it is all about the children." This was even more apparent right before Christmas, when I received an email through the CSC website. The email was from a former child victim of abuse who had been helped at the center 11 years earlier. She wanted to let me know that "she had never felt safer than she did at the Children's Safety Center."

Luckily, there are too many success stories from 2014 to list, but to name a few: the Children's Safety Center added a second full-time therapist to the team; **the Dream Big Charity Gala raised more than \$80,000 and the CSC received more than \$48,000 from the Children's Christmas Train**, and more children than ever before were able to enjoy a Christmas full of clothing, shoes, and toys, thanks to volunteers who believe in our mission and value the work of the whole team.

As we look forward to 2015, we will continue to provide a safe environment for the children. We also hope to implement more prevention opportunities, as well as continue raising awareness of child abuse and how the community may help us put a stop to it.

Fighting child abuse is no easy task and isn't for the weary. I can say without hesitation that the Children's Safety Center is made up of an amazing staff, as well as the Washington County Multi-Disciplinary Team and our many passionate volunteers, all who have made it their mission to help abused children. In my heart they are all superheroes!



Elizabeth Moore Shackelford
Executive Director



Forensic Interviews

498 CHILDREN RECEIVED FORENSIC INTERVIEWS

Minimizing the number of times a child must tell their story of trauma is fundamental to the Center's mission. Highly trained CSC forensic interviewers conduct a non-leading, fact finding interview at the beginning of the investigative process in order to minimize the number of times a child has to tell their traumatic story of abuse or neglect. The interviews are recorded to preserve the child's statement, while law enforcement and Department of Children and Family Services watch the outcry behind secure doors, in hopes that the child will have to tell their story once and once only.

Medical Services

123 CHILDREN RECEIVED SANE EXAMINATIONS

Onsite in the Center's medical suite, the CSC Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) conduct sexual assault examinations for children. Services also include physical abuse exams, sexual transmitted infection testing, pregnancy testing, and case consultations.

Advocacy

552 CHILDREN & FAMILIES RECEIVED ADVOCACY SERVICES AND 3 INTERNS COMPLETED 660 INTERN HOURS

In the midst of a crisis, we believe the number one focus should be the safety and healing of our children and families. Our child advocates strive to provide families with the resources they need as well as navigating them through the legal process during this moment of crisis and beyond. Services provided by the program include: needs assessments, community resource referrals, home visits, attending court hearings with the children and help apply for Crime Victims' Compensation funds. Advocacy is not defined by any specific time frame. Advocates are there until the child and family no longer need the support of the CSC.

Mental Health Therapy

172 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RECEIVED 1,285 THERAPY SESSIONS AND 6 THERAPY INTERNS PROVIDED 1,459 INTERN HOURS

The ultimate goal of our therapy department is simple, to help child abuse victims and their non-offending family members heal from trauma. Through highly individualized and specialized therapeutic counseling using trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy, our clinical staff strives to restore emotional functioning and to ensure a positive and productive adulthood.

We truly strive to eliminate any barriers between the services a child needs and the services a child receives. For this reason, all of our services are offered at no charge, as long as the family needs them. Our empirically sound, innovative types of therapy are diverse and include: art, play, music, individual, family and group therapy. Our clinical department is comprised of top notch licensed counselors and serves as an accredited training site for graduate clinical internships from 2 local universities.

Our Multidisciplinary Team consists of

- Arkansas State Police Crimes Against Children Division
- Washington County Prosecutors Office
- Department of Human Services Division of Children and Family Services
- Washington County Sheriff's Office
- Fayetteville Police Department
- Springdale Police Department
- Children's Safety Center

Children's Safety Center statistics for the year ended December 31, 2014

Gender

Female – 366
Male – 186

Age

0-12 372
13-17 180
Average Age 9

Race

Caucasian/White – 382
Hispanic/Latino – 96
Marshallese – 15
African American/Black – 12
Palauan – 4
Other – 43

Alleged Offender

Parent – 96
Stepparent – 37
Sibling – 52
Other Relative – 65
Parent Boyfriend/Girlfriend – 33
More Than 1 Type of Offender – 32
Other Known – 165
Unknown – 73

Allegation

Sexual Abuse – 473
Physical Abuse – 61
Sexual & Physical Abuse – 7
Other (Includes Witness to Domestic Violence, Neglect, Threat of Harm, Exposure to Methamphetamine) – 11

Service Area

Washington County – 497
Other County – 53
Other State – 2

Kappa Delta Shamrock Event

The ladies of Kappa Delta Sorority held a color dodge ball competition during their annual Shamrock Event and raised over \$20,000 for CSC programs. They have tirelessly volunteered for CSC events and have raised over \$94,000 since 2007 for the Center.

Hogeye Kid's Marathon

The CSC participated in the 4th Annual Hogeye Kid's Marathon and Jr. Run by spreading the word, registering kids, and volunteering on race day. We had a blast! Registration is now open for the 5th annual event to be held on Saturday, April 11. Start logging your miles now and register at www.hogeyemarathon.com

Pinwheels for Prevention

We would like to thank Springdale Mayor Doug Sprouse, Fayetteville Mayor Lioneld Jordan, Farmington Mayor Ernie Penn, Farmington Police Department, Fayetteville Boys and Girls Club, Fayetteville Metro Kiwanis, and Springdale High School service learning program, for helping us plant more than 1,800 pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention Month. The pinwheels were placed in three Washington County locations during the month of April to bring awareness about child abuse to the county. Each pinwheel represented an alleged child abuse victim that received services at the Children's Safety Center in 2013. In addition to bringing awareness about child abuse, the pinwheel campaign was focused on encouraging the community to prioritize child abuse prevention through community activities and public policies to ensure child abuse and neglect never occur in the first place. Save the date for April 1, 2, 3 and help us plant pinwheels!

Northwest Arkansas Young Professionals Saucy Wing Event

The Northwest Arkansas Young Professionals and the CSC held the first annual Saucy Wing Event at Foghorns in Fayetteville. Seven teams competed against each other for the best wing sauce voted on by attendees. Big thank you to Foghorns Wings, Burgers and More for hosting the event! Save the date for Saturday, June 13.

RazorFest

The Children's Safety Center had a booth at the 9th annual Champions for Kids RazorFest event held at Razorback Stadium. Kids of all ages colored handprints and took photos with Spider Dude. Thank you to the ladies of Kappa Delta Sorority for helping us make this a great day!

The Founders Crawfish Boil

The Founders once again displayed their crawfish boiling skills at the 2nd Annual Crawfish Boil benefitting the CSC. The event was held at Kingfish on Dickson and featured live music, crawfish and gumbo. Save the date for Saturday, June 1.

Dream Big Charity Gala

The Center hosted its 7th Annual Gala on July 19, at the Fayetteville Town Center. The evening featured a live performance by Barrett Baber and Boom Kinetic, live and silent auction items including a Labradoodle puppy, and a cigar and wine pull. A special thank you to event chairs Richard and Jordan Watkins and the event committee for their diligent efforts that ensured the evening's success. Save the Date for the 2015 Dream Big Charity Gala – Saturday, June 27.

Bikes, Blues & BBQ

The CSC participated in the 14th Annual Bikes, Blues & BBQ Motorcycle Rally by bringing over 50 volunteers to help with the event. We are very grateful to receive funding from this awesome charity and a big thank you to Johnson & Johnson, Fayetteville Chamber Diplomats, Kappa Delta Sorority and Fayetteville Leadership Class XXVIII for volunteering.

Children's Christmas Train

The CSC was proud and excited to be the sole beneficiary of the NWA Children's Christmas Train event this year and moving forward. We formed a committee, sold tickets, incorporated an adult only train ride, and had activities for the kids in Santa's Village. Big thank you to the Arkansas Missouri Railroad, sponsors, committee, and over 70 volunteers for making this event a huge success. Save the date for Saturday, December 5.

Financials

General/Fundraising/Special Events - \$201,479.55
Federal/State Funds - \$263,955.04 (CVR and other grants)
Local Grants - \$47,925.00

CSC Staff 2014

Elizabeth Shackelford
Executive Director

Casey Atwood, LSW
Program Director

Karen Blackstone, BSW
Forensic Interviewer

Emily Rappe'
Development Director

Abra Morgan, LSW
Child Advocate

Daisy Bonilla
Bilingual Child Advocate

Debbie O'Brien
Child Advocate & Forensic
Interviewer

Sue Stockton, RN, SANE
Forensic Nurse

Keri Timmons, MS, LPC, NCC
Clinical Therapist

Crystal Pitts, LMSW
Clinical Therapist

2014 Board of Directors

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Jordan Greer
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Brittney Duke
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Sara Boelkins
Dale Brown
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John Sampson
Danny Snow

