

# The Children's Safety Center, Inc. 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

## DREAMS WORTH SAVING



**children's safety center**



The Children's  
Safety Center  
served a total  
of 546 alleged  
victims of  
child abuse in  
2015





# Letter from the **Executive Director**

I would like to thank our donors for investing in the Children's Safety Center (CSC), but more importantly, I would like to thank you for investing in the children we help so that they may have the opportunity to experience hope as they receive support from the CSC staff, while beginning to heal.

I am often asked how the CSC directly impacts the community or how the CSC defines success. The Children's Safety Center has impacted our community for more than 18 years, whether it has been financially since all our services are free for the child or whether it has been educational. CSC staff have provided mandated reporter trainings to various school personnel and other organizations in the area, who work or volunteer directly with children. But, the most important impact the Children's Safety Center has had, has been to the children's lives we have been trusted to become a part of. The CSC makes an impact every time an alleged child abuse victim is provided a forensic interview by a specifically trained interviewer in one of our two forensic interview rooms, which are designed to be comforting and safe. Our success always involves the alleged child abuse victim – our focus is and will always be what support and services may the CSC provide, in order for the child to begin healing?

Finally, we believe the Children's Safety Center makes an important impact every single day, whether it is by the number of children being brought to the colorful, child-friendly facility or watching a child's trauma scores decline after therapy sessions. We know abuse is happening in Washington County, but while we can't give a definite number, research indicates that as many as 1 out of 4 girls and 1 out of 6 boys will experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of 18 and that 90% of child sexual abuse victims know their abuser. Having children brought to the center allows the CSC staff to ensure that all the agencies involved in the child abuse investigation will hopefully work together so the child experiences less trauma.

Thank you to the Washington County Multi-Disciplinary Team members, who work diligently and around the clock to do their best to keep children safe. In 2015, the CSC was able to help 546 children who experienced neglect, sexual abuse, physical abuse, both sexual and physical abuse, and were alleged witnesses to homicide, domestic violence, as well as possible witnesses to drug use in their home. As I often say, "children should never have to experience any form of abuse!" Thank you to our board of directors, our volunteers and our donors for placing trust in our mission. With your ongoing support, I can assure you that we will continue making sure alleged child abuse victims are able to have their needs met in a discreet, comforting, and nonthreatening manner, which makes the process more efficient and less traumatizing for the child. I would like to give a final thank you to the CSC staff: Casey, Abra, Debbie, Maria, Karen, Crystal, Emily and Sue! While you may not always witness the final outcome of your work and support, please know you have made the largest direct impact on the child by offering advocacy support, listening to the child tell the most horrific experience in their life, performing a pediatric sexual assault exam, or providing trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy.



Elizabeth Moore Shackelford  
Executive Director



# Forensic Interviews

## 479 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

## 132 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

## 546 CHILDREN & FAMILIES RECEIVED ADVOCACY SERVICES

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

## 131 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RECEIVED 1,180 THERAPY SESSIONS

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 a top notch licensed counselor and serves as an accredited training site for graduate clinical internships from two 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, Springdale, Farmington, Greenland and Prairie Grove Police Departments
- Children's Safety Center

## Children's Safety Center statistics for the year ended December 31, 2015

### Gender

Female – 387  
Male – 159

### Age

0-12 | 359  
13-17 | 187  
Average Age 9

### Race

Caucasian/White – 384  
Hispanic/Latino – 69  
African American/Black – 39  
Pacific Islander – 7  
Indian/Native American – 6  
Other – 41

### Alleged Offender

Parent – 96  
Stepparent – 37  
Sibling – 52  
Other Relative – 65  
Parent Boyfriend/Girlfriend – 33  
Other Known – 165

### Allegation

Sexual Abuse – 468  
Physical Abuse – 51  
Sexual & Physical Abuse – 12  
Other (Includes Witness to Domestic Violence, Neglect, Threat of Harm, Exposure to Methamphetamine) – 15

### Service Area

Washington County – 492  
Other County – 44  
Other State – 15

## Kappa Delta Shamrock Event

The ladies of Kappa Delta sorority at the University of Arkansas are very passionate about spreading awareness of child abuse issues on the University campus and in the Northwest Arkansas community. These young women have held events to raise funds and awareness for the CSC for the past nine years while logging countless volunteer hours. They also bring more than 100 new members to the Center each fall for a tour and to learn about our programs. At the National Philanthropy Day luncheon, Kappa Delta sorority was honored with the 2015 Youth in Philanthropy award presented by the Northwest Arkansas chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

## Hogeye Kid's Marathon

The CSC participated in the 5th annual Hogeye Kid's Marathon and Jr. Run, now the Hogeye Kids Fun Run, by spreading the word, registering kids, and volunteering on race day. We had a blast! Registration is now open for the Hogeye Kids Fun Run set for April 9, 2016. Sign up to run 1 mile or 2.5 miles at [www.hogeyemarathon.com](http://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 2015. 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.

## Northwest Arkansas Young Professionals Saucy Wing Event

The Northwest Arkansas Young Professionals and the CSC held the 2nd annual Saucy Wing Event at Foghorns in Fayetteville. Eight teams competed against each other for the best wing sauce voted on by attendees. Big thank you to Foghorns Wings and More for hosting the event!



## The Founders Crawfish Boil

The Founders once again displayed their Crawfish Boiling skills at the 3rd Annual Crawfish Boil benefitting the CSC. The event was held at Kingfish on Dickson Street and featured live music, a raffle for prizes, and all the crawfish and gumbo you can eat. Thank you to The Founders, volunteers, and everyone that donated to our Center.

## Dream Big Charity Gala

The 8th Annual Dream Big Charity Gala presented by Johnson & Johnson was a huge success bringing a record number of guests to the Fayetteville Town Center and raising significant funds for the Center. The 1920's carnival themed event included live music provided by NWA's own Groovement, hors d'oeuvres from area restaurants, a balloon dart cigar pull, a ring toss wine pull, themed basket raffle, a dunk tank featuring Washington County's finest, a unique silent auction and a short program about the Children's Safety Center. Be sure and save the date for Saturday, July 23, 2016!

## Bikes, Blues & BBQ

The CSC participated in the 15th 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 generous charity event and a big thank you to the Bikes, Blues & BBQ board, staff and generals and those who volunteered!

## Children's Christmas Train

The weather was actually on our side at this year's 12th annual Children's Christmas Train event held at the Arkansas Missouri Railroad in downtown Springdale. Guests of all ages enjoyed the train ride with Santa, children's activities in Santa's Village, pony rides, and the live entertainment. The adults had fun on the 2nd annual Not So Silent Night train ride singing along with the live music and celebrating the holidays while supporting the CSC. Big thank you to the Arkansas Missouri Railroad, sponsors, committee members, and over 100 volunteers for making both events a huge success.

## Financials

State/Federal/Foundation Grants - \$152,137.30  
Businesses/Organizations/Churches - \$126,544.72  
Crime Victim Reparations - \$109,870.88  
Fundraisers - \$102,532.26  
Individuals - \$37,443.28



# CSC Staff 2015

Elizabeth Shackelford  
Executive Director

Casey Atwood, LSW  
Program Director

Karen Blackstone, BSW  
Forensic Interviewer

Emily Rappe' Fisher  
Development Director

Abra Morgan, LSW  
Child Advocate

Debbie O'Brien  
Child Advocate & Forensic  
Interviewer

Maria Banks  
Bilingual Child Advocate  
& Bilingual Forensic Interviewer

Sue Stockton, RN, SANE/P  
Forensic Nurse

Crystal Pitts, LCSW  
Therapist

## 2015 Board of Directors

Chris Thornton  
President

Jordan Greer  
Vice President

Dan Prier  
Treasurer

Brittney Duke  
Secretary

Susan Antony  
Sara Boelkins  
Dale Brown  
Matt Hicks  
Danny Snow  
Richard Watkins  
**Medical Director,**  
Dr. Andy Koehler

