

The Children's Safety Center, Inc. 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

R E S T O R I N G D R E A M S



**children's
safety center**
of Washington County
Restoring Dreams





The Children's
Safety Center
served a total
of 612 alleged
victims of
child abuse
in 2016

Letter from the **Executive Director**

On behalf of the Children's Safety Center team and board of directors, I would like to thank everyone who made our mission a priority in 2016. We had an eventful year, one filled with numerous successes and a lot of optimism for the alleged victims of child abuse we helped and their future.

Looking back, there was not one day that was the same, yet every day the CSC team's common goal was to put the alleged victims of child abuse first. **It was always about the children** - whether the therapy lobby was full of clients receiving trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy or staff and community members were out displaying pinwheels throughout Washington County or during July when the advocates helped 75 alleged victims of child abuse.

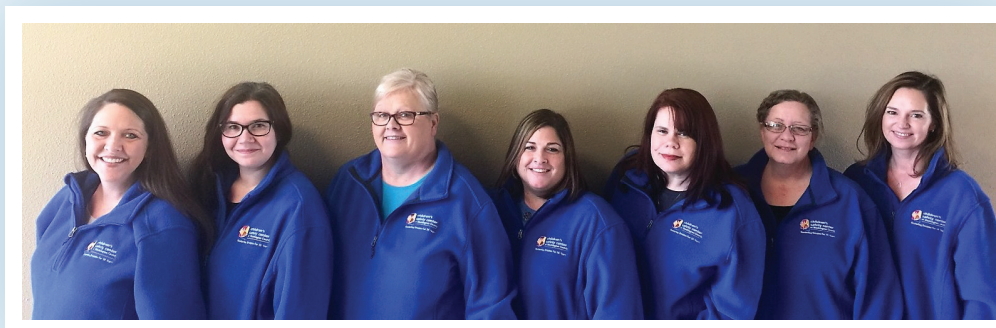
Many of us do not know the feelings the children experience during their abuse or are unable to relate to the trauma that has been caused, and many may not understand why children might delay their disclosure, but hopefully what we can understand is the importance of the Children's Safety Center in Washington County. For **20 years**, the CSC has impacted the community in more ways than one. Because of your support, the CSC has been able to provide a child-friendly atmosphere with the expectation that every alleged child abuse victim brought to the center will have his/her needs met in a discreet, comforting, and non-threatening manner, hopefully making the investigation process more efficient. This would not be reality without our donors and the Washington County Multi-Disciplinary Team members.

Now, looking forward, the CSC team embraces this new year with strength and pride in our services so we may continue to deliver hope and healing for children and their families. We are excited about the launch of our prevention education program for all schools in Washington County and for all adults in the community. I encourage you to continue donating to the Children's Safety Center, in 2017. If you are new to the CSC world, I ask you to consider making a gift that will directly impact alleged victims of child abuse. **Throughout the year we will be asking all of our donors, volunteers, partners, and community members to engage and help us celebrate 20 years of making a difference.**

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Moore Shackelford
Executive Director



Advocacy

612 CHILDREN & FAMILIES RECEIVED ADVOCACY SERVICES

In the midst of a crisis, we believe our priority 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 applying for Crime Victims' Compensation funds. Advocacy is not defined by any specific time frame.

Forensic Interviews

544 CHILDREN RECEIVED FORENSIC INTERVIEWS

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

Medical Services

133 CHILDREN RECEIVED S.A.N.E EXAMINATIONS

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

Mental Health Therapy

91 NEW CHILD CLIENTS RECEIVED 784 THERAPY SESSIONS

The ultimate goal of our therapy program 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 therapist strives to restore emotional functioning and to ensure a positive and productive adulthood.

We attempt 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 therapy program is comprised of a licensed counselor and the Center serves as an accredited training site for graduate clinical internships from 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
- Juvenile Court

Children's Safety Center statistics for the year ending Dec. 31, 2016

Gender

Female – 410
Male – 202

Age

0 - 12 | 388
13 - 17 | 224

Average Age 10
Youngest 2 months

Race

Caucasian/White – 429
Hispanic/Latino – 105
Multiracial – 35
African American/Black – 25
Pacific Islander – 14
Asian – 3
Indian/Native American – 1

Alleged Offender

Parent – 28%
Step-parent – 13%
Other Relative – 23%
Parent Boyfriend/Girlfriend – 4%
Other Known Person – 32%

Allegation

Sexual Abuse – 535 (87%)
Physical Abuse – 56
Sexual & Physical Abuse – 14
Other (Includes Witness to Domestic Violence, Neglect, Threat of Harm, Exposure to Methamphetamine) – 7

Service Area

Washington County – 545
Other County – 55
Other State – 12

Dream Big Charity Gala

The 9th 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 more than \$135,000. The 1920's carnival-themed event included a variety of highlights, such as: live music by NWA's own Boom Kinetic and entertainment by Orenda Cirque (both presented by Walmart), a Candy Land themed lounge by Pediatric Dental Associates & Orthodontics, hours d'oeuvres from area restaurants, a cigar dart throw by One Eyed Jacks Cigar Lounge and wine ring toss by Sassafras Springs Vineyard, a unique silent auction with mobile bidding provided by Bear State Bank, and a program about the Children's Safety Center. A big thank you to event chairman Matt Bumgarner, the Dream Big planning committee, sponsors, volunteers and donors who make it possible that 87% of the total event revenue directly funds CSC's programs. Be sure and save the date for our 10th annual gala set for Saturday, July 22, 2017.

Bikes, Blues & BBQ

The CSC participated in the 17th Annual Bikes, Blues & BBQ Motorcycle Rally by bringing over 30 volunteers to help with the event. We are very grateful to receive funding from this generous charity event and thank you to the Bikes, Blues & BBQ board, staff, generals and those who volunteered!

Children's Christmas Train and Not So Silent Night

Everyone got in the holiday spirit at this year's 13th 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 caroling. The adults had fun on the 3rd Annual Not So Silent Night train ride singing along with live music from Mike & Grady and celebrating the holidays while supporting the CSC. A big thank you to the Arkansas Missouri Railroad, sponsors, donors and over 100 volunteers for making both events a huge success.

Kappa Delta Shamrock Event

The ladies of Kappa Delta sorority at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, 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 the past 10 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. This past year they raised more than \$30,000 for our programs and a total of over \$150,000 since 2007.

Pinwheels for Prevention

April is Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. Organizations, businesses, community leaders and individuals all throughout Washington County showed their commitment to end child abuse by displaying banners, signs and pinwheels at various locations. 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.

Thank You:

Springdale Mayor Doug Sprouse
Fayetteville Mayor Lioneld Jordan
Farmington Police Department
Fayetteville Boys & Girls Club
Fayetteville Metro Kiwanis
Prairie Grove Police Department
Lincoln High School
Riders United 4 Children

Pediatric Dental Associates & Orthodontics
First National Bank of NWA
BioLife Plasma Services
Ozarks Electric Cooperative
Arvest Bank Elkins Branch
Jackson-Young Designs
Garage 33 Fitness
Pinnacle Foods

The Founders Crawfish Boil

The Founders once again displayed their Crawfish Boiling skills at the 4th Annual Crawfish Boil benefiting the CSC. The event was held at Kingfish on Dickson Street and featured live music, a raffle for door prizes, and all the crawfish, and gumbo you could eat. Thank you to The Founders, sponsors, volunteers and donors who made this the most successful event to date.

Prevention – Keeping Children Safe

Protecting children is our top priority. That is why we introduced two new prevention programs in 2016, Empower Me! and Stewards of Children. Our programs raise awareness of the prevalence and consequences of child sexual abuse by educating children and adults about the steps they may take to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to the threat of child sexual abuse.

Empower Me!

The CSC Program Director is introducing the Empower Me! Curriculum throughout Washington County School Districts. The first step is to go into local area schools and train school counselors on the body safety education curriculum. The counselors will implement Empower Me! directly with students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Since the children who are receiving the new education will likely disclose to a teacher or other school staff if they have been abused, the CSC will then go back into each school and train the teachers and other staff with a first responder/mandated reporter training. The CSC also offers an optional Parent Night where we are able to educate parents on the curriculum as well as any other information that may be helpful to them regarding child abuse and the safety of their children. In 2016 the CSC introduced the Empower Me! Curriculum to almost 100 school personnel in Washington County.

Stewards of Children

This is a two hour evidence-based training with the goal of teaching adults five steps to protecting children from sexual abuse. The CSC Program Director may go to any agency or business in the community to conduct this presentation. The training applies to any adult who comes in contact with children whether through their job, church or as a parent or relative to any child. Between August and November 2016, the CSC trained 45 community members. We plan to have open enrollment trainings for any community members interested, during each quarter of 2017. We also have several trainings with other community agencies scheduled.



2016

Fundraisers = \$172,168.28

State/Federal Grants = \$161,332.02

Crime Victims Reparations = \$125,423.20

Individuals/Businesses/Organizations/Churches = \$105,571.56

Foundation Grants = \$54,173.00

Dream Catchers

The Dream Catcher Giving Program encompasses our hope that every child is able to fulfill his or her dreams despite the darkness that has clouded them. This program launched at a most crucial time for the Children's Safety Center. The Center has had a 12% increase in the number of cases seen over this same time last year. In 2015 we averaged 45 children per month. In one month, this past July, we provided services to 75 alleged child abuse victims.

Dream Catcher: An individual, organization or business that makes a total annual donation of **\$1,000** or more. Your donation is a mission driven, tax-deductible leadership gift that provides trust, hope, and healing to the children served by the Children's Safety Center.

THANK YOU to all of our 2016 Dream Catchers. Your gifts ensure that every child finds his/her smile.





2017 CSC Staff

Elizabeth Shackelford
Executive Director

Casey Atwood, LSW
Program Director

Karen Blackstone, BSW
Forensic Interviewer

Emily Rappe' Fisher
Development Director

Abra Morgan, LSW
Child Advocate & Forensic
Interviewer

Debbie O'Brien
Child Advocate & Forensic
Interviewer

Sue Stockton, RN, SANE
Forensic Nurse

Jeni McIntyre, LMSW
Therapist

2017 Fund Development Committee

Will Clark
Chris Hawkins
Dave Holland
Tori Pohlner
Philip Schmidt
Becca Shanklin
Sean Simons
Crandall Streett
Summer Wright

2017 Board of Directors

Chris Thornton
- President

Jordan Greer
- Vice President

Dan Prier
- Treasurer

Brittney Duke
- Secretary

Susan Antony
Dale Brown
Vanessa Harper
Ananda Engber Rosa
Becca Shanklin
Danny Snow
Richard Watkins

Medical Director
Dr. Andy Koehler



Four hands are shown, palms facing forward, with fingers spread. Each hand is covered in thick, multi-colored paint. The colors include red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple, applied in various patterns and strokes. The hands are positioned against a solid orange background.

RESTORING DREAMS FOR 20 YEARS

FIRST CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER IN THE STATE