

The Children's Safety Center, Inc. 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

RESTORING DREAMS



**children's
safety center**
of Washington County
Restoring Dreams For 20 Years



The Children's
Safety Center
served a total
of 679 alleged
victims of
child abuse
in 2017



Letter from the **Executive Director**

There is so much I would like to update you on regarding the Children's Safety Center, but I will do my best to keep my comments brief. I had the absolute honor watching our team transform this past year while supporting 679 alleged child abuse victims and their families.

We miss our past teammates who chose to move on to other opportunities, but we have been blessed with four new staff members, who have shown daily they are determined to help us make positive changes in our community. We welcomed our newest therapist this past January. Two months later, in March, we said hello to our bilingual child advocate and a third child advocate. Then, in July, we were able to hire a fourth full-time child advocate. These four individuals have shown they are called to fight the vicious cycle of child abuse and to make sure the children we are able to help, begin their healing. As of October, all of our advocates and forensic interviewer have been cross-trained, in the hopes the CSC is able to continue serving more and more children.

I'm happy to report, our prevention education program we developed in 2016 has taken on a life of its own. The program provided free training to more than 630 individuals in the community. The trainings varied from the school-based curriculum Empower Me!, and an evidence based program Stewards of Children, to Mandated Reporter/1st Responder Training, and Healthy Teen Relationships Training. The team also provided our educational tours to more than 700 children and adults from various businesses, schools, and organizations.

Our Forensic Interviewer, Karen Blackstone, celebrated her 20th CSC Anniversary this past year. She has conducted more than 4,000 forensic interviews and has provided advocacy to more than 1,000 children during her tenure. How blessed is the CSC to have her commitment, passion and drive?

In closing, this past year was a special year for all of us at the Children's Safety Center. We were able to honor several of the individuals who made the CSC a reality in 1997, as well as all of those who have been a part of the CSC along the way, helping to not only raise awareness but also raise funds. As the first child safety center/child advocacy center in the state, 20 years ago, our focus has always remained the same: support for the alleged child abuse victim and what his/her needs may be during the investigation. There are thousands of children over the years, who benefited from the CSC's ongoing support and services days, months, and even many years after the investigation and/or prosecution ended because the child's healing is the most important to our team.

I hope you will continue to invest in the Children's Safety Center because I will assure you, even though we are a small team, we are performing powerful work which in turn is making a positive impact in Washington County. We know from research, if there is early intervention with child abuse victims they will have a better chance to mature into productive students, employers/employees, successful community members and loving parents. Everyone in our community needs to take accountability and ensure **ALL** children remain safe and empowered.

Kindest Regards,



Elizabeth Moore Shackelford
Executive Director



Advocacy

679 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

594 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

146 CHILDREN RECEIVED S.A.N.E EXAMINATIONS

Onsite in the Center's medical suite, the CSC Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (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

87 NEW CHILD CLIENTS RECEIVED 687 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 informed therapeutic interventions, 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, 2017

Gender

Female – 494
Male – 185

Age

0 – 10 | 361
11 – 17 | 318
Average Age 10
Youngest 4 Months

Race

Caucasian/White – 466
Hispanic/Latino – 134
Multiracial – 34
African American/Black – 24
Pacific Islander – 19
Indian/Native American – 2

Alleged Known Offender

Parent – 26%
Step-parent – 11%
Other Relative – 25%
Parent Boyfriend/Girlfriend – 8%
Other Known Person – 31%

Allegation

Sexual Abuse – 561 (86%)
Physical Abuse – 89
Sexual & Physical Abuse – 25
Other (Includes Witness to Domestic Violence, Neglect, Threat of Harm, Exposure to Methamphetamine) – 4

Service Area

Washington County – 616
Other County – 52
Other State – 11

Dream Big Charity Gala

The 10th 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 \$150,000. The 1920's carnival-themed event included a variety of highlights, such as: live music by NWA's own Boom Kinetic and entertainment by silk aerialist Brittany Paul (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 co-chairs Kara Dearien with Walmart and Sarah White with Saatchi & Saatchi X, the Dream Big planning committee, sponsors, volunteers and donors who made it possible that 88% of the total event revenue directly funds CSC's programs. The Dream Big Charity Gala was voted Top 5 Best Charity Events in NWA by Citiscapes Magazine for the fourth year in a row. Be sure and save the date for our 11th annual gala set for Saturday, July 21, 2018.

Bikes, Blues & BBQ

The CSC participated in the 18th 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 give thanks 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 14th annual Children's Christmas Train event held at the Arkansas Missouri Railroad in downtown Springdale. Guests of all ages enjoyed the train ride with carolers singing Christmas songs, visiting Santa in the train caboose, the children's activities in Santa's Village, and the pony rides provided by Barnyard Buddies. The adults had fun on the 4th 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 130 volunteers for making both sold out events a huge success.

Partners Plus Prevention

We hosted our 2nd annual Partners Plus Prevention awareness event that brought like-minded community and business leaders together to support our programs for victims of child abuse. Arkansas attorney and child abuse survivor Matt Smith gave his brave testimony going from victim, to survivor, to child advocate. Celebrating our 20th anniversary, the following heroes were presented awards: Arkansas Missouri Railroad, Arvest Bank, Saatchi & Saatchi X's C.A.R.E. Initiative, Karen Blackstone, Michael Dougherty, Dan Prier, Dustin & Morgan Roberts, Brenda Rouse, Chris Thornton.

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 11 years while logging countless volunteer hours. They also bring more than 120 new members to the CSC each fall for a tour and to learn about our programs. This past year they raised close to \$30,000 for our programs and a total of over \$180,000 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:

BioLife Plasma Services
Farmington Police Department
Fayetteville Boys and Girls Club
Fayetteville High School
Fayetteville Mayor Lionel Jordan
Fayetteville Metro Kiwanis
First National Bank of NWA
Garage 33 Fitness
Jackson-Young Designs
Lincoln High School

Ozarks Electric Cooperative
Ozark Montessori Academy
Pediatric Dental Associates & Orthodontics
Pinnacle Foods
Prairie Grove Police Department
Signature Bank
Springdale Mayor Doug Sprouse
The Neighborhood Church
Watermark Chiropractic

The Founders Crawfish Boil

The Founders once again displayed their crawfish boiling skills at the 5th annual Founders Crawfish Boil benefiting the CSC. The event was held at Kingfish on Dickson Street and featured live music from Fetts Folly and Bottlerocket, a raffle for door prizes, and all the crawfish and gumbo you could eat. Despite the rain, this was the most successful event to date bringing in over \$11,000 for the CSC. The Founders have raised a total of \$26,000 since 2013. Thank you to The Founders committee, sponsors, volunteers and donors who make this event a success every year.

Prevention – Keeping Children Safe

Protecting Children is our top priority. That is why we are continuing to educate our community on Child Abuse Prevention using the Empower Me! Curriculum as well as the Stewards of Children Training. These programs raise awareness of the prevalence and consequences of child sexual abuse by educating children and adults about the steps they make take to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to the threat of child sexual abuse.

Empower Me!

The CSC Program Director continued to implement the Empower Me! curriculum throughout Washington County Public School Districts and Private Schools in 2017. Our program director visits local area schools and trains school counselors on the body safety education curriculum. The counselors then 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 2017 the CSC introduced the Empower Me! curriculum to almost 100 school personnel and parents in Washington County.

Stewards of Children

In 2017, over 250 community members completed our Stewards of Children child abuse prevention training! Stewards of Children is a two hour evidence-based training with the goal of teaching adults five steps to protect children from sexual abuse. The CSC Program Director may go to any agency, organization 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. Each quarter in 2018, the CSC will have open enrollment trainings for any community member interested in receiving this free training.

2017 Financials

Federal/State Grant Funds: \$184,804.63

Crime Victim Reparations: \$113,986.16

Fundraising Events: \$220,844.91

Individual/Family Donations/Businesses/Organizations/Churches: \$100,654.06

Local Grants: \$24,470

(The C.A.R.E. Initiative, Bikes, Blues & BBQ, MANA, Mental Health America in NWA, and Cox – Arkansas Charities)

Total = \$644,759.76

***Your generosity is restoring dreams
one colorful handprint at a time***

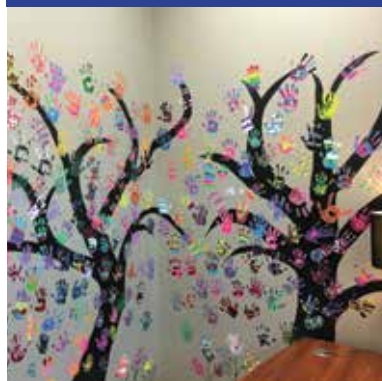
1997



2005



2017





2017 CSC Staff

Elizabeth Shackelford
Executive Director

Casey Atwood, LSW
Program Director

Karen Blackstone, BSW
Forensic Interviewer

Emily Rappe' Fisher
Development Director

Debbie O'Brien
Child Advocate

Liliana Ruiz
Bilingual Child Advocate

Brittni Jeffers, LSW
Child Advocate

Lindsey Carter
Child Advocate

Jeni McIntyre, LMSW
Therapist

2017 Fund Development Committee

Tori Bogner
Brian Buckley
Will Clark
Larra Donaldson
Chris Hawkins
Zach Miller
Hunter Norton
Philip Schmidt
Sean Simons
Crandall Streett

2017 Board of Directors

Chris Thornton
- President

Jordan Greer
- Vice President

Dan Prier
- Treasurer

Brittney Duke
- Secretary

Susan Antony
Dale Brown
Rick Hall
Vanessa Harper
Jim Minor
Ananda Engber Rosa
Richard Watkins
Sarah White



Four hands are shown, palms facing forward, with fingers spread. Each hand is covered in thick, multi-colored paint in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue. The hands are positioned against a solid orange background. The text "RESTORING DREAMS FOR 21 YEARS" is overlaid in white, with the number "21" being significantly larger than the other words.

RESTORING DREAMS FOR 21 YEARS

FIRST CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER IN THE STATE