

The Children's Safety Center, Inc. 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

RESTORING DREAMS



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

The Children's
Safety Center
served a total
of 838 alleged
victims of
child abuse
in 2018



Letter from the **Executive Director**

When I reflect on 2018 and the Children's Safety Center, growth is the one word that consistently comes to mind. The CSC continues to grow in various ways, whether it is the increase in the number of children being helped, or the number of community members being trained, or an increase in individual donors. As Washington County continues to grow, so does the need for the Children's Safety Center and our free services and trainings.

The team helped 838 children and their families last year, a 24% increase over the previous year. Having more children brought to the center for services, allows the CSC team to ensure that all agencies involved in the child abuse investigation will hopefully work together so the child experiences less trauma and the CSC is able to help the child begin his/her healing process.

The Children's Safety Center's prevention education program completed its first full year of trainings. The CSC's Program Director has implemented the child abuse curriculum, Empower Me!, in all but one Washington County Public School District. The CSC Program Director is training school counselors, who will implement the curriculum. The program teaches children in K-6th grades how to protect their own body and stay safe.

The Program Director also trained more than 1,000 adults in our community with Mandated Reporter Training and Stewards of Children Training. Stewards of Children is a nationally distributed, evidence-based program proven to increase knowledge, improve attitudes, and change child protective behaviors. Stewards of Children takes a comprehensive approach to educating adults and youth serving organizations to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. It is designed for parents and for any organization that serves youth, including schools and education institutions, faith centers, sports leagues, and law enforcement.

The Children's Safety Center collaborated with the Children's Advocacy Center of Benton County, NWA Center for Sexual Assault, and MERCY to establish a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Coordinator position. All three centers worked together to develop the position to oversee each medical program and coordinate the 24 hour on-call sexual assault nurse examiners.

The CSC fundraisers continue to exceed expectations, thanks to our brilliant volunteers and Development Director, who consistently meet details and goals with the children's needs in mind. We are able to continue to grow as an organization, thanks to the volunteer time and knowledge our board members provide on a daily basis. Our board of directors makes sure the CSC team and organization continues to strengthen and grow so we are able to deliver the best care to alleged child abuse victims and their non-offending family members.

I only see more growth on the horizon and I hope each of you will continue to invest and be a part of our organization. Thank you for donating your money, your time, and your talents to help alleged child abuse victims in Washington County.

All my best,



Elizabeth Moore Shackelford
Executive Director



WE ARE RELENTLESS

CHILD ABUSE IN OUR COUNTY

Since 1997, the Children's Safety Center has been the expert resource on child abuse in Washington County. Our teams are first responders to reports of child sexual and physical abuse, and we coordinate the response of the county's law enforcement, child protection and medical professionals.

Child abuse occurs in every community in Washington County

- Regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status or any other demographic
- Sexual abuse is most often a repeated crime
- Victims often suffer in silence for months, years or a lifetime before abuse is discontinued or reported
- 90% of sexual abuse is by someone the child knows
- Abusers often have regular access to victims by being a family friend, babysitter or family member

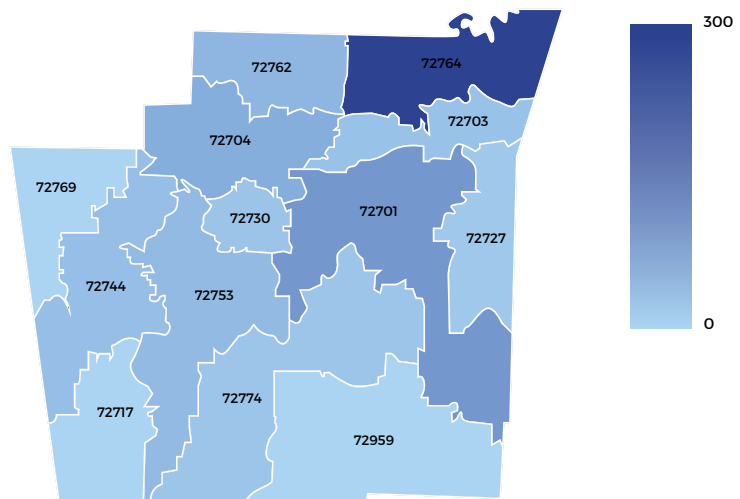
Sexual abuse across the U.S.

- 1 in 10 children are sexually abused before turning 18
- Only 20-40% of child sexual abuse is ever reported to authorities
- Experiencing child sexual abuse has long-term health impacts, as well as increased risk of poor academic performance, being a victim of other violence, drug abuse, depression and suicide

Location of cases of child abuse received by the CSC

January 1, 2018 -
December 31, 2018

738 TOTAL





LAURA AGE 9

Laura came to the Children's Safety Center after being removed from her physically abusive home. While the child advocate was painting her hand to place on the wall, Laura said, *"I love it here because I know you really care about me and that makes me feel safe."*



SERVICES

Advocacy

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 their moments 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 may be on-going and is not defined by any specific time frame.

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.

Medical Services

Onsite in the center's medical suite, the CSC Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (S.A.N.E) conduct forensic medical examinations for children. Services also include sexually transmitted infection testing, pregnancy testing, and case consultations.

Mental Health Therapy

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 therapists strive 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 two full-time therapists and the center serves as an accredited training site for graduate clinical internships from local universities.

In 2018, the Children's Safety Center...



838

children & families received advocacy services – 24% increase over 2017



763

children received forensic interviews



92

children received S.A.N.E. examinations



154

new child clients received

748

therapy sessions

GENDER



Female | 515

Male | 323

AGE

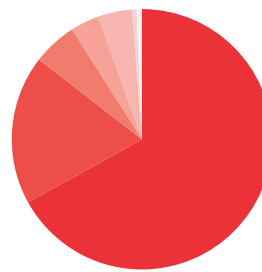
0-10 | 473

11-17+ | 365

Youngest:
1 month old

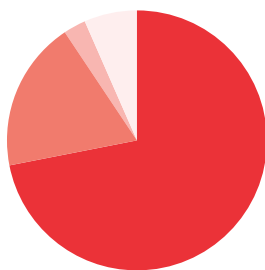
Average age:
10 years old

RACE



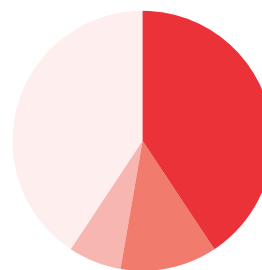
- Caucasian/White | 65%
- Hispanic/Latino | 18%
- African American/Black | 6%
- Multiracial | 5%
- Pacific Islander | 4%
- Asian | 1%
- Other | 1%

ALLEGATION



- Sexual Abuse | 72%
- Physical Abuse | 19%
- Neglect | 2%
- 2 or More Allegations | 6%

ALLEGED KNOWN OFFENDER



- Parent | 40%
- Step-Parent | 12%
- Parent Boyfriend/Girlfriend | 7%
- Other Known Person | 41%



PREVENTION

Prevention – Keeping Children Safe

Protecting Children is our top priority. That is why we are continuing to educate our community on child abuse prevention implementing Empower Me! Curriculum as well as 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 may 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 2018. 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. By the end of 2018 the CSC implemented the child abuse curriculum in all but one Washington County Public School District.

Stewards of Children

In 2018, over 500 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 2019, the CSC will have open enrollment trainings for any community member interested in receiving this free training.

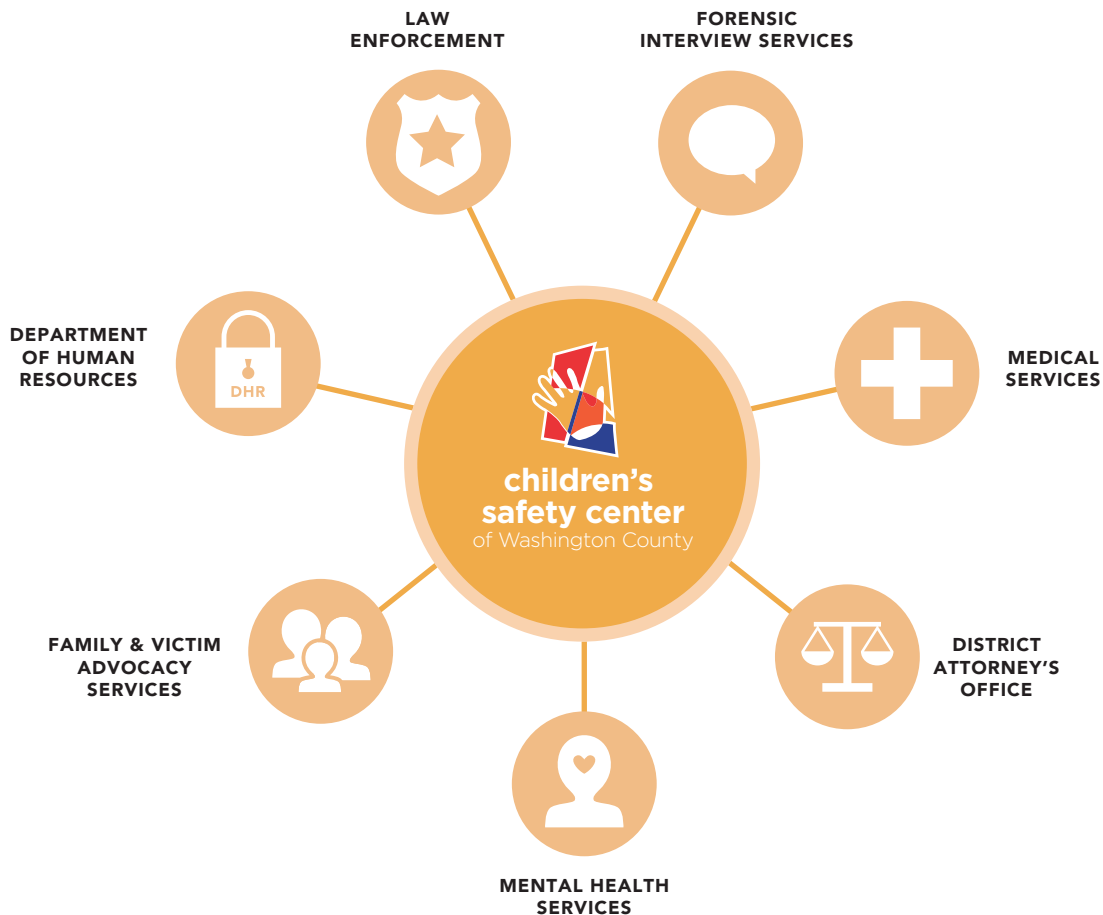
Financials

Federal/State Grant Funds	\$208,581.79	Individual/Family/Business	\$132,223.01
Crime Victim Reparations	\$78,745.44	Organization/Church Donations	
Fundraising Events	\$309,024.89	Local Grants	\$80,500.00
		Total	\$809,075.13

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM

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



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

Savanah Thorne
Child Advocate

Jeni McIntyre, LMSW
Therapist

Caitlin Houk, LMSW
Therapist

Dawn Thompson Hannah
Regional SANE Coordinator

Crystal Nagel
Contract Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

Kacie Parrish
Contract Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

Amber O'Malley
Contract Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

Rachel Thurman
Contract Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

Christi Turnage
Contract Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

Regina Welch
Contract Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

Board of Directors

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Jordan Greer
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Will Clark
Larra Donaldson
Ryan Faust
Amanda Foster
Sheri Koch
Hunter Norton
Chris Perkins
Philip Schmidt
Sean Simons
Crandall Streett





| **AIDAN** AGE 7

After Aidan disclosed his sexual abuse during a forensic interview at the Children's Safety Center, his stepdad walked out on the family leaving mom no money for Christmas gifts. But thanks to an amazing donor, Aidan had a wonderful Christmas. After his mom told him where the gifts came from he said, *"That's one reason I love the Safety Center and why I love America!"*



RESTORING DREAMS FOR **22** YEARS

FIRST CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER
IN THE STATE