

2023

the children's ADVOCATE

... Leading the effort against child sexual abuse. ...



children's
ADVOCACY CENTER
OF KENT COUNTY

FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Celebrating 30 Years

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am both humbled and honored to join you as the CEO of the Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County, as we come together to reflect on our journey in our 30th anniversary year. Our Annual Report not only marks this significant milestone, but also serves as a testament to the unwavering commitment of our community through our mission: creating safe, trauma-informed support, while seeking justice for child victims of sexual assault.



My own journey to this role has been a diverse one, shaped by my law enforcement, clinical, and legal experience. This unique blend of backgrounds aligns seamlessly with our Center's multi-disciplinary team approach to prevent and treat child sexual abuse, combining skills and expertise across disciplines to build trust, inspire hope, and empower communities.

As we look to the future, the Center is guided by a set of new strategic goals that will shape our path forward:

Improving Capacity and Sustainability: Ensuring an optimal level and mix of engaged staff is essential will enable us to extend our reach to more children in need, providing the crucial support they deserve.

Enhancing Governance: We are dedicated to improving our governance structure to foster transparency, accountability, and efficient decision-making, all of which are key in advancing our mission.

Creating Innovative Partnerships: We will actively seek and cultivate innovative partnerships that encourage a trauma-informed perspective in our work.

Increasing Prevention Efforts: We will invest in community efforts that are expansive and effective, working to prevent child sexual abuse and raise awareness within our community.

Enhancing Responsiveness: We will strive to make our services accessible and responsive to the diverse needs of all children we serve, regardless of their backgrounds.

With these strategic initiatives in mind, it is essential to acknowledge that the lifelong impacts of untreated trauma are profound. They encompass chronic physical and mental health problems, increased likelihood of substance abuse, and even suicide. There are also significant financial implications, with the total lifetime economic burden of child sexual abuse estimated to be over \$9.3 billion. This is a call to action, urging us to continue our work with even greater determination.

As we enter this next phase of our journey, aiming to impact more lives than the prior year, I am thankful to you for joining us in our efforts to create a world where child sexual abuse is prevented, hope is restored, and justice prevails.

Warmly,

Leah Ortiz, LMSW-Clinical, J.D.
President & CEO

30 Milestones for 30 Years



1991- The origin, the girl in the yellow dress



1993- First Center building opens to clients, 901 Michigan St.



2004- Launched Kids Have Rights to 3rd grade students



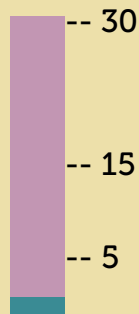
2023- 30th Anniversary, launch of Ambassador Program

To view all 30 milestones, please visit our website.

Seeking Our First 30 Foundational Ambassadors

As a Foundational Ambassador, you will have an exclusive opportunity to be part of the legacy of the Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County, where building trust, inspiring hope, and empowering communities is a priority.

To become a Foundational Ambassador and help us reach our goal:



Nearly 25,000

children have been served over the past 30 years.



Endowment Fund

Help ensure access to services for the next thirty years.

To help mitigate the impacts of trauma for survivors now and into the future, please visit our website to donate to our endowment.



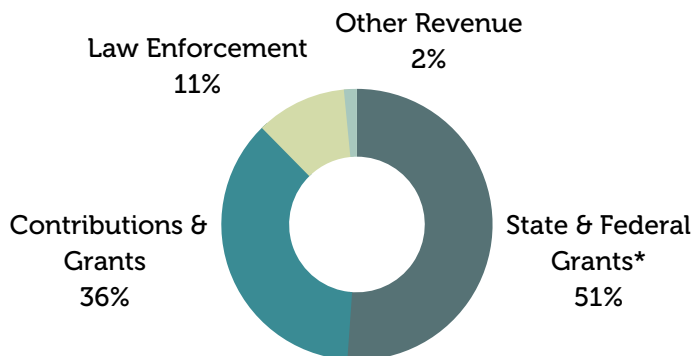
Finances

October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023

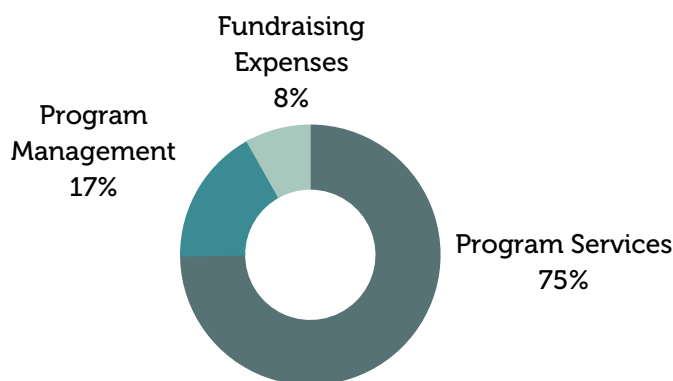
Condensed Statement of Financial Position*

Assets	
Current Assets	\$325,600
Property and Equipment (Net)	\$2,506,152
Other Assets (Promises to Give)	\$262,136
Total Assets	\$3,093,888
Liabilities & Equity	
Current Liabilities	\$81,261
Long-Term Liabilities	-
Equity	\$3,012,627
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$3,093,888

Revenue:



Expenses:



*This project is supported by the Victims of Crime Act, awarded by the State of Michigan and administered by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services – Division of Victim Services. Points of view or opinions contained within this document do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the State of Michigan or the MDHHS-DVS.

This is an unofficial financial report, for an audited financial report please email djohnston@cac-kent.org

Circle of Care members provide sustaining support to children on their journey to healing through a pledge of an annual gift for five years.

The following have made a Circle of Care gift during FY23

Dawn and Mark Kibben	Lyndsay Westdale
Douglas and Alix Thompson	Tracy Breihof
Erin Hoffmann and Elissa Stormo-Hoffman	John Boeschenstein
Ron and Patty Miller	John and Vicky Weller
Melissa Vigh	Doug Bellah
Linda Hoemke	Robert and Nancy Bierenga
Walter and Roxann Monroe	Jane Gietzen
Davin and Rashelle Reust	Twink Frey
JD Loeks	George and Susan Heartwell
Win and Kyle Irwin	Deborah McNabb
Fran and David Miller	Tonya Porter
Gail and David Scott	Amanda and Justin Fielder
Joan Panopoulos	Karen Kania & Peg McClure
	Dr. Michael and Rebecca Vredenburg

The following supporters have committed to a legacy gift in their estate plans

Robert and Nancy Bierenga	Sue A. Kern
John Boeschenstein	Carolyn Otzman

For a full donor listing, please visit our website.

Thank You to Our Foundational Ambassadors

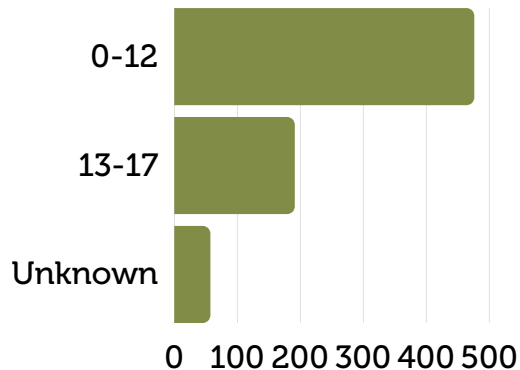


Pepè & Leah Ortiz

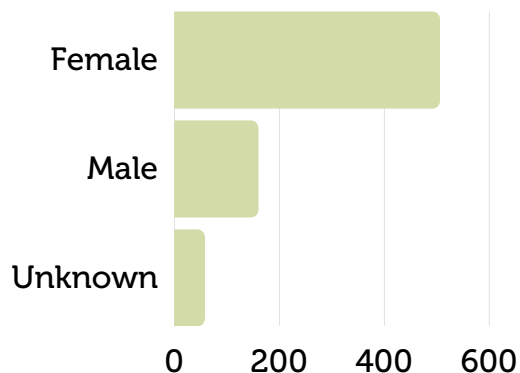
Clinical Impact

724 children and 557 caregivers
received services

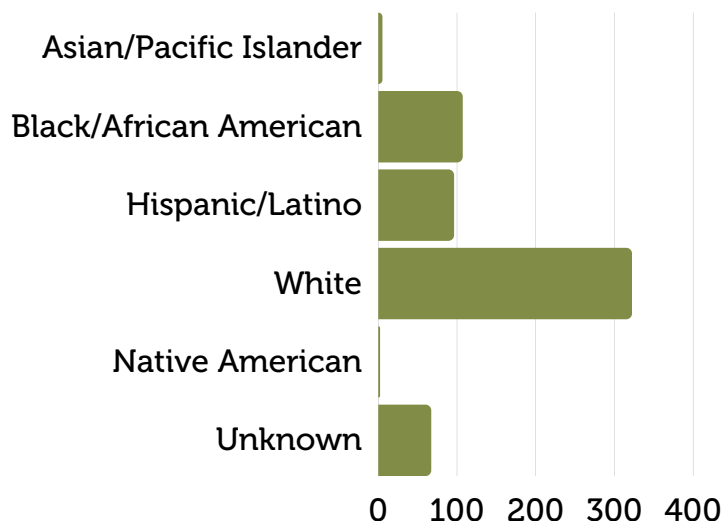
516
Forensic
Interviews



128
Case
Management
Sessions



89
Clients
Received
Court
Support



2611
Therapy
Sessions

292
Caregiver
Therapy
Sessions

Ways You Can Support the Center



Host a fundraiser



Volunteer your time or talents
through maintaining a welcoming
environment for our clients



Shop our wishlist of items that
support our clients



Donate to the Center



Kids Have Rights

School Year in Review



Our Kids Have Rights team provided body safety education in **18 public schools and 12 private and charter schools** serving **25,948 students** in kindergarten-fourth grade.

99% of school staff reported lessons were engaging, developmentally appropriate, and effectively delivered.

This program and topic are so important. The lesson was clear and students had the opportunity to participate and actively learn. I look forward to teaching the follow-up lessons and helping reinforce this important learning throughout the year!

-1st Grade Teacher



Empowering Communities



"The Center sat with me to give me information about what to expect, how to support my child and most importantly how to support myself through such a hard time."

-Caregiver of a survivor

967

people received training on how to recognize, respond to, and report child sexual abuse

373

volunteer hours provided by community supporters



Board of Directors

Gail Scott

Board Chair
Retired, Founder & CEO of MorningStar Health, Inc.

John Boeschenstein

Immediate Past Chair
Chief Executive Officer, Davalor Mold Company, LLC

Mary McLoughlin

Vice-Chair
Retired Owner/Principal, McLoughlin
Communications & Public Relations

Kim Krause

Secretary
VP/General Manager, WXMI FOX17

Ed Elsner

Treasurer
Chief Financial Officer, Controller, Consolidated
Resource Imaging, LLC

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Partner, Warner, Norcross, & Judd

Andrew Fuelling

Senior Marketing Underwriter, Severson Ridge
Environmental Underwriters

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Owner, Therapist, Healing Minds Counseling Services

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Chief Kimberly Koster

Chief of Police, Wyoming Police Department

Sheriff Michelle LaJoye-Young

Sheriff, Kent County Sheriff's Department

India Manns

Community Advocate

Fran Miller

Community Advocate

Savator Selden-Johnson

Retired-Former Kent County Child Welfare Director

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Director, Kent County Department of Health & Human
Services

Kelli Smith, CFRE

President & CEO, UMRC - Porter Hills Foundation

Mercedes Toohey

Retired Educator

Chief Eric Winstrom

Chief of Police, Grand Rapids Police Department

Core Staff



*Not Pictured: Our dedicated multidisciplinary team partners

Leah Ortiz, LMSW-Clinical, J.D. President & CEO

Misti DeVries Administrative Services Coordinator

Daneil Johnston Business Manager

Katherine Lange Development & Communications Director

Marian Anderson, LLMSW Family Services Supervisor

Kelsey Klumpstra Intake & MDT Coordinator

Emily Jones Family Advocate

Monica Lopez, BA Family Advocate

Jessica Turk Family Care Coordinator

Augustena Baar, BSW Forensic Services Supervisor

Onalee Roberts, LLMSW Forensic Interviewer

Marcia Van Soelen, LLMSW Forensic Interviewer

Alicia Cadena, LMSW Clinical Supervisor

Amber Jarve, LLMSW Therapist

Samantha Klockert, LMSW Therapist

Melanie Mays, LPC Therapist

Katie Proctor, LMSW Therapist

Andrea Woller Prevention Services Supervisor

Sarah Claus Kids Have Rights Educator

Paula Visser Kids Have Rights Educator

Lisa Wodarek Kids Have Rights Educator

Special thanks to our incredible volunteers, including Kent Garden Club for maintaining our Healing Garden.

Stay Connected

17th Annual Believe the Child Luncheon

May 7 | 12-1PM



For more information, please visit cac-kent.org or
email us at info@cac-kent.org

Donors



We are sincerely grateful and honored to acknowledge the following donors who have given to the Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County between October 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023. We have made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of this information. If you have any questions regarding the following list, please contact info@cac-kent.org.

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Kerith Ackley-Jelinek
Joseph and Judy Adamski
AEBetancourt
AFAB Warehouse
Dr. Kirk and Kathy Agerson
Brendan Albert
Amazon Smile
American Legion Post 459
Ameriprise Financial
Amway
Marian Anderson
John Apol
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Erin Jeffrey
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Kent Garden Club

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