



Leading the effort against child sexual abuse.

cac-kent.org

Wendy Dyer - Retired Detective, Grand Rapids Police Department

In 1997, I walked into the Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County as the new executive secretary. I was answering phones, scheduling interviews, organizing donations—doing my part. But something about the place changed me.

I had come from a background in domestic violence and juvenile justice work, and later earned my degree in criminal justice. I was no stranger to the trauma children and families can endure. Still, I was struck by the strength of our young survivors—and by the unwavering compassion of the people who walked beside them: detectives, advocates, forensic interviewers, counselors, nurses, child protective services and the prosecutors office.

I didn't know it then, but that job would set me on a path that would shape the rest of my life. An intern position at the Grand Rapids Police Department opened in 1999, I applied and was given the job. This was the beginning of an exciting and rewarding career. I worked road patrol, the *Kids & Cops* program (now *Youth Commonwealth*), the VICE Unit, and more. But I never let go of the one goal: to return to the Center—this time, as one of the detectives I had once admired.

And I did.

For years now, I've been investigating some of the most heartbreaking crimes you can imagine—helping children who have experienced the unimaginable. I've listened as victims bravely told their stories. I've watched families try to make sense of their pain. And I've worked alongside some of the most dedicated professionals you'll ever meet.

The Center is not just a building—it's a lifeline. For families in crisis, it's a safe place to begin healing. For kids who've been hurt, it's where they finally hear: **We believe you. It wasn't your fault.**

Now, here I am retiring from the very place I decided to go into police work, I'm reflecting on this full-circle journey. I'm proud of the work we've done. But there is always more to do.

When you give to the Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County, you're not just supporting a program. You're giving a child a safe space to speak their truth. You're giving a family hope. You're helping investigators, and the entire collaborative team at the Center do work that changes lives.



What Our Community Looks Like With the Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County

Without the Center



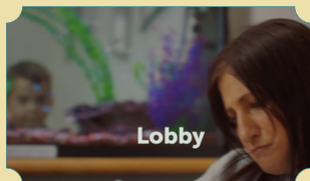
With the Center



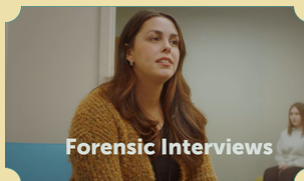
We bring together under one roof all the resources a sexually abused child might need, so they don't have to repeat their story to multiple people in multiple places. To support children and families, we combine the efforts of a multidisciplinary team (MDT) to build trust and provide life changing services that promote hope and healing. In Kent County, our MDT consists of partnerships with 10 law enforcement agencies, Children's Protective Services, the Kent County Prosecutor's Office, and the YWCA. It also comprises our internal team of forensic interviewers, therapists, and family services staff.

What happens when a child arrives at the Center

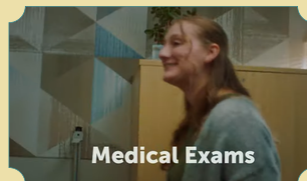
When families arrive, they're greeted by our welcoming staff. The lobby is thoughtfully designed with children in mind, offering a comfortable, trauma-sensitive space.



Our forensic interview rooms allow children to share their stories with trained professionals. Law enforcement and CPS observe so a child can tell everyone who needs to hear at the same time. These interviews help guide the next steps, like therapy or advocacy.



On-site forensic medical exams are provided by trained sexual assault nurse examiners. These exams not only address medical concerns related to the abuse, but also affirm a child's strength and resilience, reinforcing that healing is possible.



We offer evidence-based therapy, designed specifically to help children recover from trauma and rebuild their confidence.



Our mock courtroom gives children the chance to practice and become familiar with the court process. From using a live mic to trying on a judge's robe, we prepare them to face this challenge with courage.



Lastly, law enforcement and CPS collaborate closely to investigate cases of child sexual abuse and take action to protect children from further harm.



All of these services are provided free of charge, because no child asked to be a victim, and no family should have to pay for the trauma informed help they need.



**Interested in a tour?
Check out this video
and contact
kleonard@cac-kent.org**



The Importance of the Multidisciplinary Team

Our Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) is the cornerstone of Center’s coordinated response to child sexual abuse. By bringing together professionals from law enforcement, child protective services, the Prosecutors office, and the YWCA, the MDT ensures that children and families receive comprehensive, trauma-informed care. This collaborative approach allows a child to only tell their story once, it improves communication, and promotes informed decision-making—ultimately minimizing trauma to the child while strengthening investigations and outcomes.

Through shared expertise and a unified commitment to child safety, the MDT enhances accountability, supports healing, and ensures that every child’s case is addressed with compassion, efficiency, and best practices.



On-site Law Enforcement Partners

Kent County Sheriffs Office:

Nicholas Looyenga
Joseph Saladino
Mike Tanis

GRPD Detectives:

Kayla Oxender
Briana Pierson
Steve Wiersema

Wyoming Police Department:

Anthonee Carringer
Tiffany Thalmayer



On-site Child Protective Services

CPS Supervisors

Cara Dull
Joseph Mattone

CPS Investigators

Lauren Cooper
Hannah Hovanec
Hannah Lenz
Justin Lorenz
Carissa Makielski
Leah Van Vels



YWCA Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners

Angela Castello
Kristin Reinink
Cheryl Stevenson
Stephanie Solis



Kent County Prosecutors Office

Prosecuting Attorney

Christopher R. Becker

The Center also partners with all municipalities in Kent County

East Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids, Grandville, Kentwood, Lowell, Rockford, Sparta, Walker and Wyoming

In addition the Center is utilized by the FBI and Homeland Security

Finances

October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025

Condensed Statement of Financial Position*

Assets

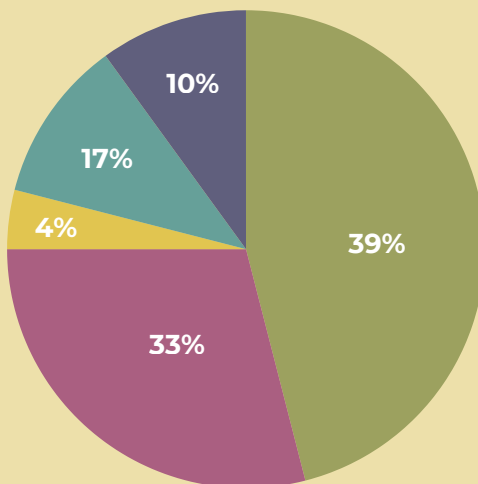
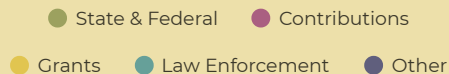
Current Assets	\$1,397,958
Property and Equipment (Net)	\$2,272,488
Other Assets (Promises to Give)	-
Total Assets	\$3,667,746

Liabilities & Equity

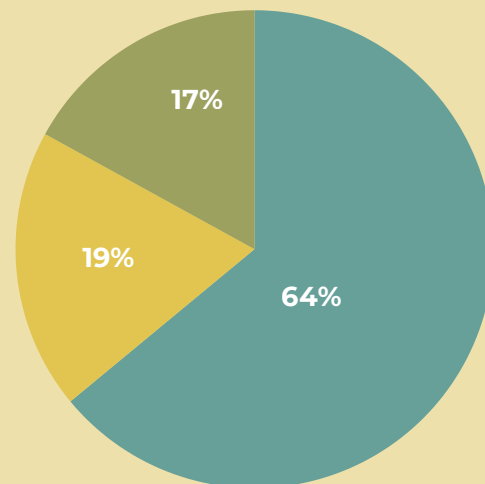
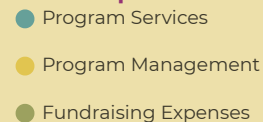
Current Liabilities	\$220,527
Long-Term Liabilities	-
Equity	\$3447,219
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$3,667,746

*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.

Revenue



Expenses



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

"Everyone was very helpful and comforting. They were very respectful and sensitive of mine and most importantly my child's needs. I feel much better after our first visit." - Parent/Caregiver



FY25 Clinical Impact

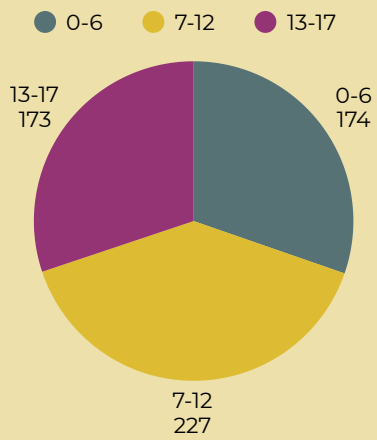
The Center created a safe space for **477** children to share their stories for a total of **365** hours of forensic Interviews.

Without advocacy, child victims and their families would be left to navigate trauma, legal systems, and healing completely alone. The Center provided **607** Families with Advocacy.

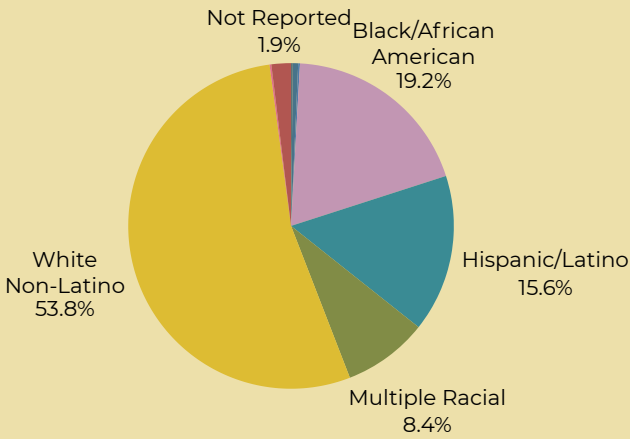
Healing from trauma requires skill, experience, and compassion. Our therapy team provided **883** Therapy Sessions.

Caregiver support services are designed to strengthen and stabilize families by supporting the adults who care for children. **663** Caregivers received these Center services.

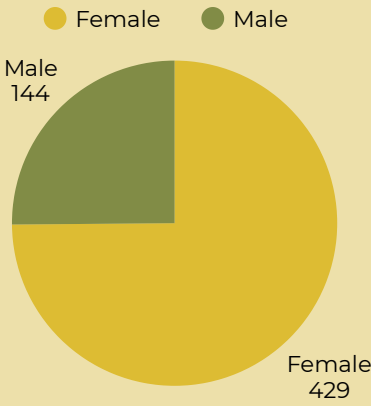
Age of Children Receiving Services



Services by Race



Services by Gender





Thank you to our donors

Ambassadors of the Center have an opportunity to make a lasting difference in the lives of Kent County children and families and mitigate the long-term public health impacts that child sexual abuse carries throughout our entire community. The Commitment: Contributions of \$1,000 or more annually.

Calvin Beeke
Michael and Carol Betz
Scott and Melissa Bishop
John Boeschenstein
Mr. and Mrs. Randall S. Boss
Tracy Breihof
Jodi and Mark Brown
David and Angela Burke
Sara Smolenski and Linda Burpee
Lisa Cicinelli
Dr. Edward and Linda Cox
Julie Currier
Jamie and Mike D'Agostino
Sheila Kinney and Robert Diamond
Lawrence and Jennifer Duthler
Tim and Gail Emmitt
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Twink Frey
Carrie Boer and Tina Garland
Garza Labor, Marcia Garza
+ Marjorie Goebel

Patricia Griswold and Kevin Haviland
Lori Hawkins
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Ken and Jane Hilbert
Kim and Kent Hildebrand
Linda Hoemke
Matthew and Joey Hooker
Bryan Houck
Kim Krause
Michelle LaJoye-Young
Shirley Lurtsema
Bill and India Manns
Thomas McDonald
David and Fran Miller
Ron and Patty Miller
Walter and Roxann Monroe
Deborah Nykamp
Keith and Deanne Oosterbaan
Judy Ostrander
Nate and Sarah Phillips
Fred and Jan Sabin
Christian Scott

Gail Scott
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Kelli Smith
Ed Stuursma
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Joan VanSolkema
Kathleen & Phillip Vogelsang
William and Patricia Waanders
Aisha Coulson-Walters & Walter Walters
Cheryl Westdale
Robert and Deborah White
Larry and Kathy Wildt
C. John Gill and Rita Williams
William and Leilani Winstrom
Bob Wolford
Kate Pew Wolters

+ *posthumous gift*



Thank you to our Corporate and Foundation supporters

Allan R and Claudia A Carlson Advised Fund of the
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CDV5 Foundation
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Steelcase Foundation
The Steve & Amy Van Andel Foundation and Amy Van Andel
Foundation
Sun Title
The Wege Foundation



Shop our Amazon Wish List at
cac-kent.org/client-wish-lists
for items that would benefit
our clients and the Center.



*"I feel like the center is very
comforting place to be in. Honestly,
the dog has helped both our kids and
us to look forward to being here
instead of feeling another sense of
dread in this long, difficult process."
- Parent/Caregiver*



The Sinclair Family Playground

The new play space at the Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County gives the children who come to our Center a place to feel safe, supported, and free to just be kids.

Play is a powerful tool that helps children express emotions, process trauma, and build trust—often without needing words.

This space was created by the team at Sinclair Recreation with the needs of children at the heart of it. They have made a space beyond our imaginations - a place for healing, joy, and hope for the families we serve.

We are grateful and proud to have dedicated this space as The Sinclair Family Playground in September of 2025.



Kids Have Rights™ - 2023-2024

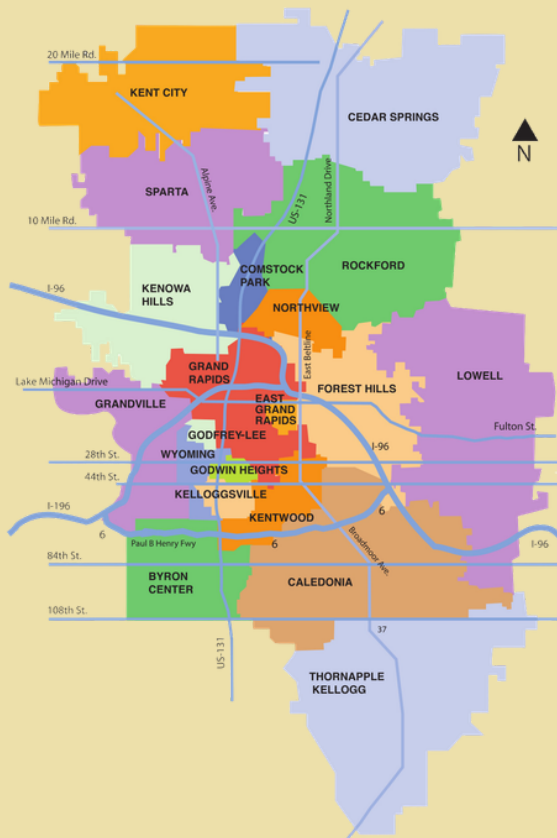
1,112
Body Safety
Education Lessons

24,389
Students
K-4th



Following Kids Have Rights™ body safety lessons **25** students disclosed sexual abuse or unsafe behavior to Kids Have Rights educators.

Kids Have Rights™ Schools



BYRON CENTER

Brown
Countryside
Heritage
Marshall

CALEDONIA

Caledonia El
Dutton
Emmons Lake
Kettle Lake
Paris Ridge

CEDAR SPRINGS

Beach
Cedar Trails
Cedar View

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Child Discovery Center
New Branches
William C Abney Academy
WMAES

COMSTOCK PARK

Pine Island
Stoney Creek

EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Breton Downs
Lakeside
Wealthy

Forest Hills

Ada
Knapp Forest
Meadow Brook
Orchard View
Thornapple

GRANDVILLE

Century Park Learning
Center
Cummings
East Grandville
Grand View
Grandville Central
South Grandville
West Grandville

GODFREY-LEE

Godfrey ECC
Godfrey Elementary

GODWIN HEIGHTS

North Godwin
West Godwin

GRPS SCHOOLS

Aberdeen
Brookside
Buchanan
Burton
CA Frost
Campus
César E. Chavéz
Coit
Congress
Dickinson
Gerald R. Ford
GR Montessori
Harrison Park
Kent Hills
MLK Jr.
Mulick Park
North Park Montessori
Palmer
Shawmut Hills

GRPS SCHOOLS

Sherwood Park
Sibley
Southwest

KELLOGGSVILLE

Central Kelloggsville
Southeast Kelloggsville
West Kelloggsville

KENOWA HILLS

Alpine
Central-Kenowa Hills
Zinser

KENT CITY

Kent City

KENTWOOD

Bowen
Brookwood
Challenger
Discovery
Endeavor
Explorer
Hamilton
Glenwood
Meadowlawn
Southwood
Townline

LOWELL

Alto
Bushnell
Cherry Creek
Murray Lake

NORTHVIEW

East Oakview
North Oakview
West Oakview

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

AnchorPoint Christian
Grand Rapids Christian
GR Christian - Evergreen
Grandville Christian
Living Stones Christian
Potter's House

ROCKFORD

Belmont
Cannonsburg
Crestwood
Edgerton Trails
Lakes
Meadow Ridge
Rougewood
Valley View

SPARTA

Applevue
Ridgeview

WYOMING

Gladiola
Oriole Park
Parkview-Wyoming
West-Wyoming

Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County - FY25 Board of Directors

Thank you to the Board Members who served their final term in FY25 Chief Kimberly Koster, Gail Scott, Damika Houston, Kyle Irwin, Savator Selden-Johnson, Tracey Silas, and Mercedes Toohey. We extend our sincere appreciation for your dedicated service, leadership, and commitment.



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Interim Chair



Lance Werner
Vice Chair
Executive Director
Kent District Library



Kelli Smith
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President & CEO
UMRC - Porter
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Limited



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Resolve Coaching &
Consulting, LLC



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**Sgt. Matthew
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Kent County
Sheriff's Office



Damika Houston
Therapist/Owner
Healing Minds
Counseling



Kyle Irwin
Community
Advocate



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Kent County
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Advocate



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Community
Advocate



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VP & Chief Program
Officer, Urban League
of West Michigan



Gail Scott
Retired Corporate
CEO



Tracey Silas
Director Kent County
Child Welfare
MDHHS



**Savator Selden-
Johnson**
Retired- Former Kent
County Child Welfare
Director



Chief Eric Winstrom
Grand Rapids Police
Department

Looking Ahead...

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with both gratitude and optimism. Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated meaningful milestones, and continued to advance our mission with purpose and integrity. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our staff, the guidance of our board, and the unwavering support of our partners, donors, and community.

Looking ahead, we are energized by the opportunities before us. The needs we serve remain significant, but so does our drive to meet them. With a clear vision and a strong foundation, we are well-positioned to deepen our impact for the families we serve in Kent County.

Thank you for your continued trust and commitment. I am confident that, together, we will move forward with resilience, compassion, and hope.

Kim Krause - Interim Board Chair

Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County Leadership Team



Ellen Zoellner
Interim President &
CEO



Kendra Anderson,
BSW, MDT & Intake
Supervisor



Augustena Baar,
LMSW, Forensic
Supervisor



Misti DeVries
Office Manager



Kyle Leonard
Development &
Communications
Director



Megan Van Wyhe,
LMSW, Clinical
Supervisor



Andrea Woller
Prevention
Supervisor