



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER
OF SMITH COUNTY

2021 Annual Report

Letter from the CEO

Growth. This has been the story of the past 9 years. In 2013, we forensically interviewed 331 children who told their stories of abuse. When we closed the doors on 2021, we had seen 1,116 children for interviews.

Because forensic interviews are typically the first service a child receives at the Children's Advocacy Center of Smith County (CACSC), the growth has trickled down to our medical, mental health and case management services resulting in expansion of every team that provides services for our clients.

The past two years were unprecedented in many ways. During closings, CACSC responded to COVID and to the governor's declaration that we are an essential service by staying open every single day, implementing tele-therapy and offering emergency pediatric sexual assault examinations to keep our children out of the ER and free up beds for the critically ill.

When school reopened, our prediction became reality: children came forward in unprecedented numbers to tell their stories of abuse during shutdowns. Shelter in place, which seemed like a safe directive was for far too many of our children, anything but safe.

While this huge increase tested our staff and our partners in law enforcement, Child Protective Investigations and at the District Attorney's office, the challenges were met, and our brave clients were served.

When the days of 2020 and 2021 made our need for additional space more critical, we made positive and concrete steps to accommodate our growth by purchasing a building, which is undergoing renovation and will soon be the new home of the Children's Advocacy Center of Smith County.

Our ability to grow is critical for the children we serve because every child deserves every service as they walk the road of healing, safety, hope and justice.

Growth. We have met it head on, and we will continue because it is our privilege to make every effort to provide and walk beside the most vulnerable young ones who need the incredible staff of Children's Advocacy Center of Smith County.

Gratefully,



Terri Smith
Chief Executive Officer



Mission

The mission of the Children's Advocacy Center of Smith County (CACSC) is to protect and restore the lives of abused children through team investigations, healing services, community outreach and strategic partnerships.

Highlights

In 2021,

Children's Advocacy Center of Smith County (CACSC) completed a record-breaking 1,116 forensic interviews of children who made outcries of abuse or were reported to have been abused.

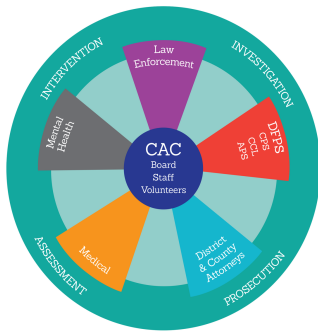
To address the need for more physical space for our expanding programs and staff, Children's Advocacy Center purchased the former TCA Cable Building at 3015 SSE Loop 323. This 39,000 square foot building provides almost five times the space of the current CACSC facility, to accommodate current growth and expand future services to thousands of Smith County's children. We anticipate moving into our new home in early 2023.

CACSC began offering Problematic Sexual Behavior Therapy to address children, ages 7-12, who exhibit hyper sexualized behaviors. With a recidivism rate of 2-3% after this therapy, this is a highly effective treatment in stopping this behavior.

CACSC began the first Sexual Abuse Nurse Practitioner Peer Review in the state of Texas.

Trauma Informed Schools added a Trauma Informed Strategist to work with classroom teachers addressing specific needs within their classrooms.

Programs



Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

This team is the core of what makes the CAC successful. Professionals from law enforcement, CPS, the District Attorneys Office, medical professionals and professional staff (forensic interviewers, therapists and family advocates) at the CAC comprise this group and work together toward the efficient disposition of children's cases brought to the Center by law enforcement or CPS.

Forensic Interview

The forensic interview allows a child time to tell his or her story of abuse in a child-friendly environment to a specially trained CAC employee, the Forensic Interviewer.

This recorded forensic interview is given to law enforcement, Child Protective Services and the District Attorney's office for to ensure the child's safety and for case investigation and prosecution.



Family Advocacy

The Family Advocate works with the family to assess immediate needs and provide assistance with resources which may include counseling, medical care, housing, employment, clothing and other basic living needs. Their relationship continues until the disposition of the case and/or until the family is strong enough to navigate on their own.



Therapy

The primary therapy provided is an evidence-based treatment proven to be a highly effective intervention for child victims of abuse, Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). Other modalities are used when a client's needs indicate the need for a different approach. Therapy is provided onsite at the CAC and also at Lindale High School.



Medical Forensic Health Exam

Medical Forensic Health Exams are performed at the CACSC in a child-friendly room by Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, who have received specialized training to recognize trauma, medically evaluate the child and provide information to the team working the case.



Community Education

The CAC offers community education for ages 4 through adult to teach children and youth about personal safety and the dangers of the internet and to teach adults how to recognize and report child abuse.



Trauma Informed Schools

In an effort to reach every child affected by abuse and the ensuing trauma, and who might not otherwise tell their story, the CACSC began partnerships with area school districts to provide training to teachers and staff so that adults in the school are prepared to recognize and respond to those impacted by traumatic stress and provide them tools to cope and create a culture of respect and support.



Court Education

Kids in Court is a court education curriculum in used to prepare young witnesses for the experience of providing testimony in a courtroom.



Rainbow Room

The Rainbow Room is an in-house emergency resource center for clients of Department of Family & Protective Services Child Protective Services, law enforcement agencies and Children's Advocacy Center. The Rainbow room meets the basic needs and is available for a family in crisis by supplying clothing, shoes, diapers, formula, car seats and cribs .



2021 By the Numbers

2021 Operating Financials*

Operating Income

Government Funding & Other Grants	1,872,150.64
Individuals, Corporations, Foundations, Organizations	1,110,108.08
Special Events	278,312.95
Other	89,244.32
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Total	3,349,815.99

Operating Expenses

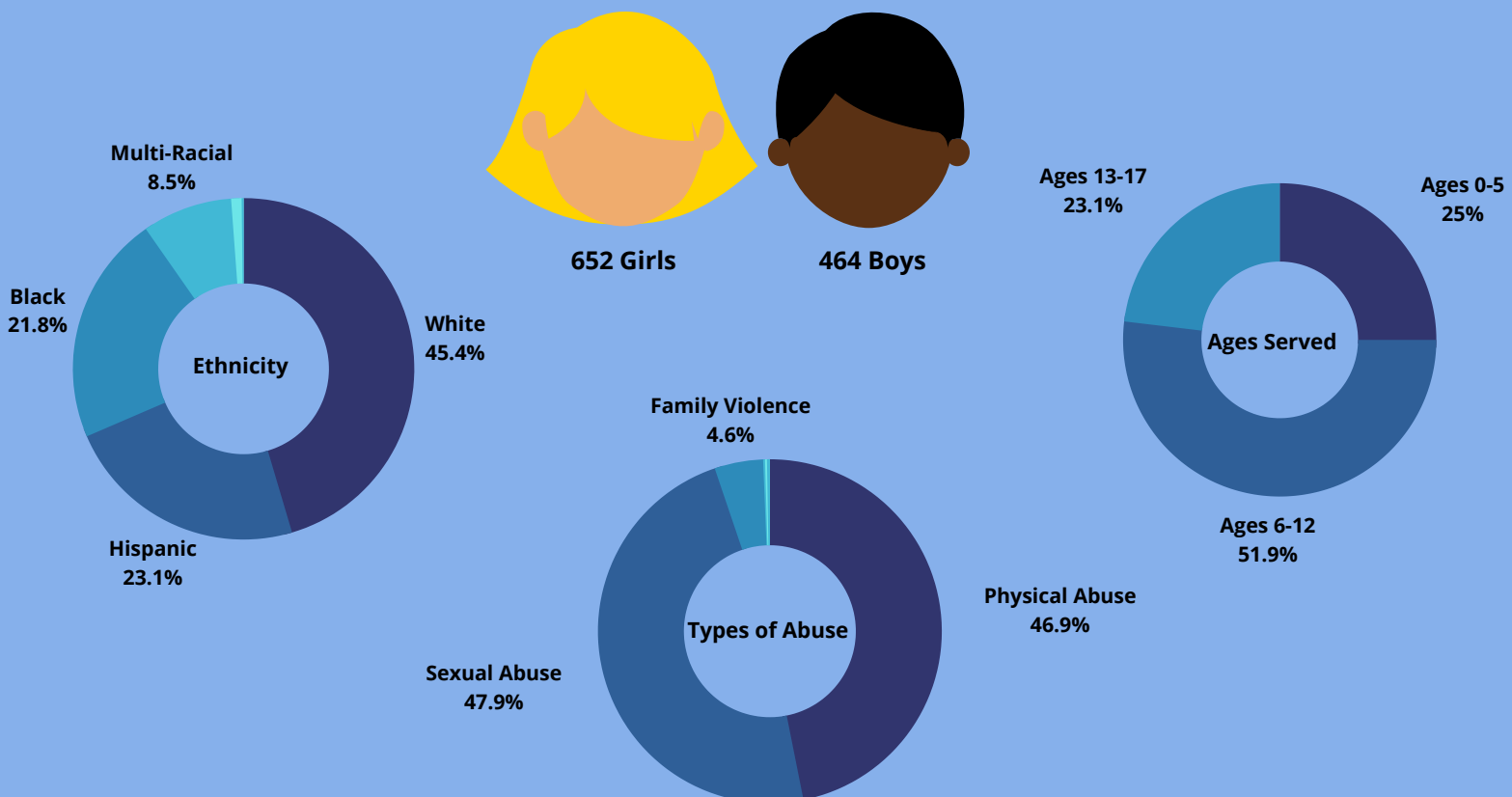
Program Services	1,832,620.00
Administration	448,925.00
Fundraising	351,414.00
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Total	2,632,959.00

Net Surplus

716,856.99

*Unaudited Financials

Who We Served



2021 Board of Directors



Brad Bays
President
Partner, Trinity Capital Management



Anthony Brooks
Vice President
CEO, Azalea Orthopedics



Rusty Bundy
Treasurer
Shareholder, Henry & Peters, P.C.



Pam Greer
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Immediate Past President
Owner, JayMize Holdings, LLC



Courtney Loggins
Executive Committee
CEO, Herd Family Office



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Executive Committee
Owner, WP and Company

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Attorney, Roberts & Roberts Law Firm

Kelley Brownlow
Community Volunteer

Jacqueline Cavender
Community Volunteer

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Program Director, Dept. of Family & Protective Services

Sherry Conser
Clinical Account Manager, Sobi-North America

David Enright
The End-Right Foundation

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Orthodontist, Hutto Orthodontics

Lindsey Harrison
Vice President of Sales, Nanovibronix

Jill Hossley
Attorney, HossleyEmbry

Brent Jasper
President, Jasper Ventures, Inc.

Jim Nipp
President, The Genesis Group

Jacob Putman
Smith County Criminal District Attorney

Tracie Rand
Principal, Lindale Junior High School

Brendon Reily
Director, Chick-fil-A Lindale

Larry R. Smith
Sheriff, Smith County Sheriff's Office

Jimmy Toler
Chief of Police, Tyler Police Department



And so we forge ahead...

2021 was a year of incredible growth,
but we still have work to do.

The Children's Advocacy Center of Smith County strives
to care for the innocent and the precious, love in action.

And our goal is zero.

Zero children experiencing what no child should ever have
to go through, left hurting and wondering
if anyone will help them.

With the generous support of friends like you,
we can continue to grow and reach for that goal.
Thank you for standing with us on behalf of the smallest
of voices that deserve to be heard.



Artwork created by a child who received services at the Children's Advocacy Center of Smith County



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OF SMITH COUNTY
HEALING • SAFETY • HOPE • JUSTICE

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