


Our mission is to champion the needs of sexually and severely physically abused children through prevention, intervention, therapy and collaboration

Dear Friends,
I never imagined when I first joined the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy that my journey with the Center would be one paved with children having much more courage than fear, and more joy than grief. And most importantly, one which gave thousands of children brighter futures filled with endless possibilities

These possibilities have been shaped by our expert staff, an enthusiastic Board of Directors, and thousands of caring individuals like you inspiring us along the way. Knowing that connections matter, we lean on each other, and also look to our countless partners to construct improved responses to childhood trauma. We are grateful for your support, which lends us this collective ability. Underneath the provoking headlines, it is this collective effort happening every day that allows our kids to reimagine their futures

With a new decade ahead, we are excited to share that after months of research and consideration, we have selected a new and larger location for our Fulton Center at the MET Atlanta. Our future space will significantly expand our ability to serve Georgia's most vulnerable children through a new, specialized facility designed with them in mind. We've launched our capital campaign, Reimagining Impact: A Campaign for Georgia's Children, and construction has already begun. Looking forward, our new home will give us all the capacity to create even more possibilities for children and families in need

Thank you for supporting me and the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy along this momentous, critical journey. As you read the rest of our 2019 Annual Report, know the importance of your involvement and how it empowers all of us to give children more hope year after year.

Warmly,
ShlarRuw
Sheila Ryan
Chief Executive Officer

## Intervention

We conduct forensic interviews for children living in DeKalb and Fulton counties. Following an allegation, the forensic interview is a developmentally and culturally appropriate conversation that gives a child the opportunity to share their account with a trained professional in a confidential, safe and supportive environment. This model works to reduce the trauma a child experiences both from the incident itself and the response they receive upon disclosure. We also serve as the critical conveners of state agencies and partners during the case management process through bi-weekly multidisciplinary team meetings and our family advocacy services

After spending much of 2018 laying the groundwork, we were able to solidify our professional service offerings last year by expanding our supervision and consultation around the state. We are honored to have consulted with some of Georgia counties on their first cases of human trafficking - sharing
our expert knowledge with others in the fight against child abuse. Several people participated in advanced training on topics like providing expert testimony, presenting evidence in court, and serving Commercially Sexually Exploited Children.

"They were understanding, kind and sensitive to my feelings. They put us at ease and informed us of numerous resources that we were not aware of:


729
FORENSIC INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED 582 FAMILIES ASSISTED during crisis INTERVENTION

## REIMAGINING IMPACT

Once in our new home, we will be able to offer
families and partners one additional interview
room, monitoring room, and family advocacy room increasing our ability to reach more children in need.


UNITS OF SERVICES FOR TRAFFICKED YOUTH

## 3,000 <br> TRAINED IN

 THINK TRAUMA
## Clinical

Beyond the crisis response, we are committed to the child's long-term healing and provide them the tools they need for a healthy future.

Because our therapy services are free and on site, we are reaching those most at risk for suffering negative impacts who would not otherwise be able to afford evidence-based, trauma-informed mental health treatment. Our Ph.D. and Masters' level licensed therapists are trained in modalities that address childhood trauma, physical abuse, and problematic sexual behaviors. Our Clinical team also delivers specialized programming to improve the lives of child survivors of sex trafficking, also known as Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) through Project Intersect and the Envision Project. Through the partnership with the Junior League of Atlanta, the Envision Project provides educational support, intensive case management and employment readiness, independent living and personal growth programming to trafficked youth.

Therapists participated in a year-long training collaborative for Problematic Sexual BehaviorCognitive Behavioral Therapy (PSB-CBT). Currently, we are the only provider in Georgia to deliver this evidence-based treatment for youth who are displaying problematic sexual behaviors. Our PSB Group is a crucial outpatient option to help both the child and the family address and change at-risk
behaviors, as well as design safety plans to help the family maintain a safe environment.

In May, the Clinical Team accepted twelve new organizations into its Foundations Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Learning Collaborative; these organizations collectively conducted 3,086 TF-CBT sessions to 301 youth in 2019.

## REIMAGINING IMPACT

We will now offer designated waiting areas for our families visiting us for therapy services to increase privacy among our clients who are at different stages of the healing process. We will also have an area to honor the transformational work of our clients by including a "Hallway of Hope" that will display special projects and art that lend to wellness and support.

## Prevention

Our statewide Prevention Program aims to prevent child sexual abuse, reduce childhood trauma, and promote healthy outcomes in Georgia through a collaborative effort that equips adults with awareness, education, and resources to take action. Since 2006, this initiative has built public awareness by conducting trainings and engaging communities at the local level - facilitating the training of over 150,000 adults in 150 out of the 159 Georgia counties using Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children. In addition to six new counties across the state, the entire region of Northeast Georgia (Region 2 encompassing 14 counties) reached a tipping point, training 5\% of their adult population. Our Hispanic Outreach Program continues to demonstrate success - now training 2,054 Spanish-speaking adults, and establishing meaningful partnerships with Hispanic/Latinx youth-serving organizations throughout Metro-Atlanta.


ADULTS TRAINED IN DARKNESS TO LIGHT'S STEWARDS OF CHILDREN

## 2,389

K-5 STUDENTS TRAINED IN CHILD SAFETY MATTERS

Director of Prevention Services served as the 2019 President of the National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse \& Exploitation - increasing our presence on the national stage. In partnership with Prevent Child Abuse Georgia, we piloted and adopted Connections Matter Georgia; this training is based upon the intersecting topics of

Adverse Childhood Experiences, trauma brain development and resilience, and shows how caring connections serve as a primary ouffer against the long-term negative health outcomes. We are excited to offer this trauma-informed training statewide with parents, youth-serving providers and community members.

## REIMAGINING IMPACT

Our future training room will give us enough space to host large trainings and meetings that will elevate every department's work. This is where Connections Matter Georgia will help build community resilience, where youth survivors of trafficking will receive personal development skills through Envision Workshops, where foster parents will learn skills to enhance their strengths as parents through an ntensive Project Intersect training, and where promises of brighter futures with endless possibilities for kids will thrive

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Thanks to the generous contributions of our supporters, we are able to provide our specialized services at no cost to the children and families we serve. Because of you, hope and healing for these children and their families is possible.
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4th Wednesday of each month
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