

# Building a Better World One Child at a Time



GEORGIA CENTER FOR CHILD ADVOCACY

2016 Annual Report



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

Dear Friends,

What an incredible year 2016 was for Georgia Center for Child Advocacy! When we think about the number of children you have helped start their journey to heal, we are overcome with gratitude. There were 629 children that received interviews allowing them to tell their story only one time so they could begin to move past the trauma. Our therapist also provided 1,482 therapy sessions.

This report highlights the impact you have helped to make in our first full year of operating the Fulton facility along with our second location at the DeKalb Family Protection Center.

In addition to providing direct services to victims of abuse, we trained more than 20,000 adults, including 7,323 school personnel, across the state to recognize the signs of abuse and react responsibly. Because of you, our communities are better able to protect our children.

Our impact goes far beyond the walls of our centers. We were able to train 183 Department of Family and Child Services case managers in critical skills for gathering information from children and assess for concerns of child maltreatment. Clinical staff provided Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy training to 24 clinicians from 18 different organizations and provided training to 37 clinicians from 20 organizations in advanced Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

With your help, we are healing children from the effects of abuse one child and one family at a time. We are grateful for your trust and confidence in Georgia Center for Child Advocacy. We are humbled by your financial gifts, your partnership and your generous gifts of time and resources. We could not have had this impact on children, families and the community without you.

Warmly,

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Sheila Ryan Chief Executive Officer

# Intervention

### Forensic Interviews

It is believed that less than 10 percent of children victimized by physical or sexual abuse will ever tell anyone about the abuse. Georgia Center for Child Advocacy believes that breaking the silence of abuse is the first step towards healing.

Georgia Center for Child Advocacy is a safe, friendly place where children can speak with trained therapists about these difficult issues. Child abuse can be devastating on a child, but it doesn't have to define a child's life. Children who feel believed and protected are better able to cope, heal and move forward in their lives with hope for a brighter future.

### Family Advocacy

How well a child may do following the disclosure of abuse has much to do with the support of the child's nonoffending caregivers. When that support is compromised, children often suffer long-term emotional consequences.

Our family advocates work to ensure that a child's caregivers feel supported and informed throughout the investigation process, and that they are aware of the community resources available to help. The job of the family advocate is to listen and support the caregiver.

"Georgia Center for Child Advocacy supports the work of law enforcement, the District Attorney's office, and so many other agencies. These are the most challenging cases to work and prosecute because no one wants to think this happens to children, especially at the hands of those that are supposed to love and protect them. Georgia Center for Child Advocacy is a leader in the community as a service provider, and also as an advocate for abused children."

Susan Paa Director of Forensic Services Fulton County District Attorney's Office



In 2016

children interviewed by our forensics team at our two centers

700 case managers, law

enforcement officers, and prosecutors trained

In 2016 children & caregivers served

1,482 child & caregiver sessions



# Therapy

Georgia Center for Child Advocacy also provides highquality therapy free of charge to the children and families we serve. Therapy services at our centers are traumainformed and evidence based, meaning our therapists understand the impact of trauma on children and families and utilize therapy approaches that are effective in helping children and families recover from their experiences. Our therapy services flexibly address a wide spectrum of concerns common in children who have experienced sexual abuse or other trauma.

"Georgia Center for Child Advocacy sees some of the most vulnerable children in our city; the ones who are often poor and neglected. By opening the Dekalb center last year, the number of children we serve has gone up nearly 50 percent this year in Dekalb County. Those families would still be in crisis without Georgia Center for Child Advocacy."

Dana McKenzie **Board Member** 

# Prevention

Child sexual abuse is a problem that an entire community must address together. Through a partnership with Darkness to Light, Georgia Center for Child Advocacy is leading a statewide initiative to educate adults across Georgia to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. We are working to bring Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children training program to every county and city in Georgia. Working with communities, Georgia Center for Child Advocacy implements a regional network of coordinators who develop and oversee community prevention coalitions, support facilitators, and build activities toward a set of specific training goals in each county. We currently have six Regional Coordinators working hard to bring child sexual abuse prevention to their counties. Since 2006, over 100,000 Georgia adults, representing 133 of Georgia's 159 counties, have participated in the Stewards of Children training.

"Child sexual abuse is the root cause of many societal symptoms including addiction, mental illness, homelessness, teen pregnancies, and child trafficking. By preventing child sexual abuse from happening, and intervening early when it does, we can reduce the suffering for the survivors and their families, as well as reduce the pipeline to the expensive symptoms that accompany the suffering later in life."

Lynn Pattillo President, Pittulloch Foundation



# 2016 Supporters

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.

### Individuals

### \$250+

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## Financials

### Income

Federal Grants\$1,036,000
Release from Restricted\$576,000
Special Events \$249,000
Program Materials \$164,000
Foundations\$112,000
Program Income \$100,000
Contributions \$85,000
State Grants \$50,000
Local Gov't Grants \$27,000
Organizations /Corporations \$22,000
Total \$2,421,000

### Expenses

Program Services	\$1,937,000
Fundraising	\$291,000
Management & General	\$193,000
	Total\$ \$2,421,000





"Thank you for taking the time to listen and understand."

# 2016 Board Officers

Karla Sadler, Chair Community Volunteer

Linda McMurray, Vice Chair Senior Vice President of Claims & Medical Management, Builders Insurance Group

Mark J. Murgash, CIH, CSP, Secretary Director, U.S. Oil Holdings, LLC

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Community Volunteer

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### Prevention

Tiffany Sawyer Director of Prevention Services

Nikki Berger, LPC Prevention Program Manager

Briana Bivens **Regional Prevention Coordinator** 

Steve Collins

Steve Fallin

### **Forensic Services**

Mary Beth Nelson, LCSW Director of Forensic Services

Jessalyn Rushin, MPA Program Manager / Family Advocate

Rebecca Justice Program Manager / Forensic Interviewer

Michelle Elias, BSW Forensic Interviewer

Jillian Oates Intake Coordinator

### **Clinical Services**

Kelly Kinnish, PhD Director of Clinical Services

Rebecca Ahmadi, LAPC Psychotherapist

JaKarynn Conyers, LPC **Psychotherapist** 

Maggie Huddle, MSW Psychotherapist

Meghan Ready, LAMFT Psychotherapist

Keldric Thomas, PhD **Psychotherapist** 



"Sensitive, caring and set us at ease, every person from the front through the entire process. Thank you for this important work you do!"

Sandy Chavarria Program Support Coordinator

**Regional Prevention Coordinator** 

**Regional Prevention Coordinator** 

Krista Gonce, MA **Regional Prevention Coordinator** 

Katherine Jones **Regional Prevention Coordinator** 

Carol Neal-Rossi **Regional Prevention Coordinator** 

Tamara Glover. MA Forensic Interviewer/ Family Advocate

Monet Patrick. MSW Intake Coordinator

Jennifer Hossler, MSW Project Intersect Program Manager

Camille Kramer, BS **CSEC** Project Coordinator





#### GEORGIA CENTER FOR CHILD ADVOCACY

### To Learn More...

# Attend a Stewards of Children Training

4th Wednesday of each month 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

### Attend a Center of Change Tour

4th Wednesday of each month 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.



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