



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

Dear Friends,

The Georgia Center for Child Advocacy concluded 2018 serving more families than ever before – changing the course of over 800 children's lives for the better. As an organization, we experienced change of our own last year. We entered the first year of our 2018-2020 Strategic Plan, which gave way to some serious contemplation about our role in improving the quality of life for all kids throughout Georgia.

Because of your generosity and support, we were able to dedicate last year to several new projects which are changing the way we think about the effects of childhood trauma and abuse; and more notably, how our response as a child advocacy center can shape healthier communities for our future. We elevated our family advocacy services by creating a Community Family Advocate who manages families with complex needs. We strengthened our response to child pornography and trafficking victims by not only having our staff trained, but also by sharing our knowledge and conducting targeted trainings across our state. We expanded our preventative trainings to include two child-focused programs, which provide kids the tools they need to protect themselves – raising awareness and building resilience among youth. We are proud to have been selected by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network as their pilot site to test its Trauma-Informed Organizational Assessment, advancing our commitment to ongoing evaluation of best practices and standards within our field. We are grateful for the groundwork which 2018 afforded us as it continues to spark innovative ideas and change.

To our generous donors, supportive partners, and invested community members – thank you for being a part of the culture that both protects children from harm and then believes them when they speak out. We are all creating a collective impact to promote better outcomes for children who have experienced trauma and abuse. I hope you enjoy the remainder of our report and learn more about how your involvement generates positive change among our clients, felt throughout our community.

Warmly,

Sheila Ryan

Chief Executive Officer

Intervention

Forensic Interviews

Following an allegation, children are referred to the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy so that one of our trained professionals can conduct a forensic interview. Our Center greets each child in a kid-friendly, inviting, and most importantly, safe environment. We provide them the space to share their personal experience, at their own pace, using their own voice. In 2018 we continued to see a steady increase responding to over 780 children and their families who received not only an effective, coordinated model of care, but also the hope and skills to succeed beyond our walls.

Family Advocacy

We recognize that family structure is a critical component of a child's success. Our Family Advocates help remove barriers to services and work to ensure the overall safety and well-being of the child and family. We help connect our clients with concrete services to provide housing, protective orders, domestic violence intervention, food, transportation and public assistance when needed. We have strong, long-standing partners who are also invested in the lasting health and safety of the children we see. A key aspect of our model of care is coordinating weekly case management meetings with our Fulton and DeKalb County partners to address the progress of each case. The Georgia Center for Child Advocacy serves the most vulnerable members of our community using an effective approach—building a promising future for victimized kids of all ages.

"The people who provided services were so kind and respectful and helpful to me and my son."



In 2018 sessions conducted 125 children served

Clinical

Therapy Services

We respond as immediately as possible to the needs of child victims and their families in order to reduce the impact of their trauma and provide them the tools to heal. One of these tools is offering free, high-quality therapy specific to the child's needs. Our therapists are skilled in evidence-based treatments that address childhood trauma and improve child safety and well-being. We incorporate family members into our treatment services because children improve most when caregivers and families are healthy and equipped with tools to move forward. Our clinical team conducted 949 therapy sessions with 125 children and their families in 2018.

Services for Trafficking Victims

Specialized federally funded grant programs enhance our interventions with commercially sexually exploited and trafficked children and their families. Project Intersect is part of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (SAMHSA) and focuses on mental health treatment and the training of professionals across child-serving systems to better recognize and respond to the needs of exploited children. The Envision Project (DOJ-OVC), in partnership with the Junior League of Atlanta, supports intensive case management and family advocacy as well specialized youth programming on employment readiness, educational support, independent living skills, and personal growth and development (new in 2018) to reduce revictimization and additionally support the well-being of commercially sexually exploited clients. Our Grants team trained over 1500 professionals in traumainformed care, trauma-focused treatment and CSEC awareness in 2018 and provided specialized programming to 35 trafficked youth.

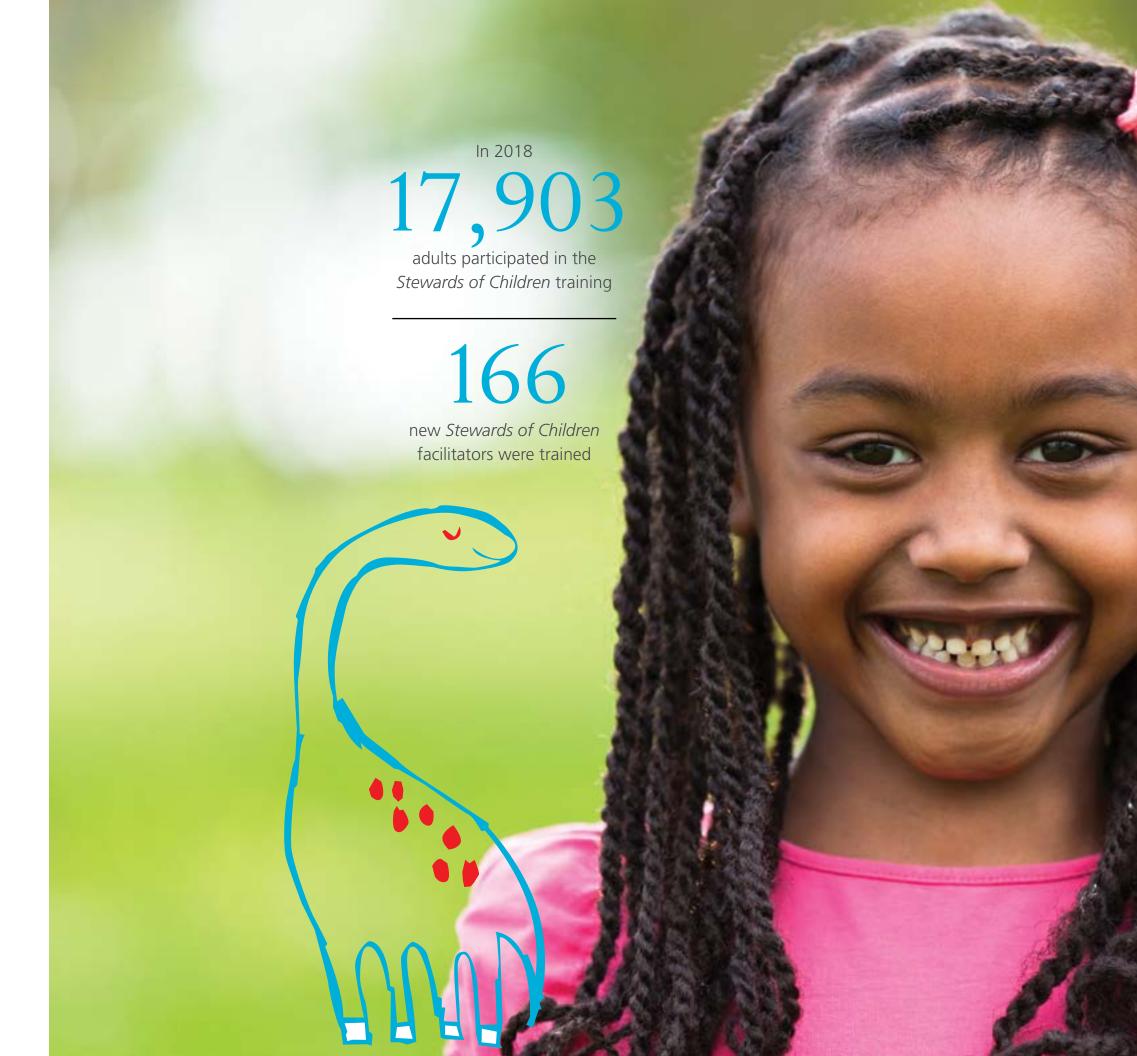
"I feel (this) place is welcoming and very helpful. The place is very nice. They have a lot of resources in place."

Prevention

Unfortunately, 1 in 10 children will be sexually abused before the age of eighteen regardless of economic, racial, social, or ethnic status or religious affiliation. Our prevention initiative 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 we have trained adults using Darkness to Light's evidence-informed curriculum, *Stewards of Children*. This initiative has built public awareness by engaging communities at the local level – **training over 130,000** adults in 148 of the 159 Georgia counties.

Equipping youth-serving agencies, faith-centers and school systems with comprehensive abuse prevention training is essential to the overall health of any community. The six regional coordinators work to build community prevention coalitions which encourage and empower all adults within a community to take ownership of protecting children. We prescribe to the tipping point theory, which suggests that once five percent of the population changes a practice, the rate of adopting that change increases. Our results are encouraging, with 18 counties reaching tipping point, contributing to a 35 percent statewide tipping point. Our Hispanic Outreach Coordinator has strengthened partnerships within the Hispanic/Latino community.

In 2018, with the passage of *Erin's Law*, requiring all public schools to provide annual, age-appropriate sexual abuse prevention education in grades K-9, GCCA, along with statewide partners through the Human Trafficking Task Force, released a **Technical Assistance Resource Guide on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention**. This comprehensive guide provides best practices in developing a prevention plan, age appropriate teaching suggestions, an analysis of programs, and guidelines for implementation and evaluation. We also added two child-focused courses to our portfolio of services, **Monique Burr Foundation's** Child Safety Matters and Love 146's Not a #Number. We provided course implementation in eight schools and several community-based youth programs. Child abuse prevention programs help increase protective factors, strengthen communities and create a more equitable, societal commitment to the overall well-being of children.



2018 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.

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of Georgia Inc.*

Financials

Income

Grant Revenue	\$1,426,241	50%	
Contributions (restricted)	\$662,736	23%	
Special Events (net)	\$301,933	11%	
Program Income / Materials	\$274,244	10%	
Contributions (unrestricted)	\$206,658	7%	
	Total \$2,871,812		

Expenses				
Program Services	\$2,624,523	91%		
Fundraising	\$168,255	6%		
Management & General	\$102,031	4%		
	Total \$2,894,809			



"The social and economic consequences of abuse affect everyone. With each child we save, and each abuser we stop, our city and our neighborhoods are safer, our children are stronger, and our future is brighter. The Georgia Center is a leader in the fight to stop childhood sexual abuse in our community."

Lawrence Kasmen **Board Chair**

^{*} Change Maker Society members

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"GCCA's vision is a community without child abuse where every child feels safe and I think we did just a little bit more to achieve that vision. We expanded our service offerings, reached more supporters and children, and we are moving towards our vision."

Pascal Lewis 2019 Board Vice-Chair

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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.

678-904-2880 P.O. Box 17770, Atlanta, GA 30316

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