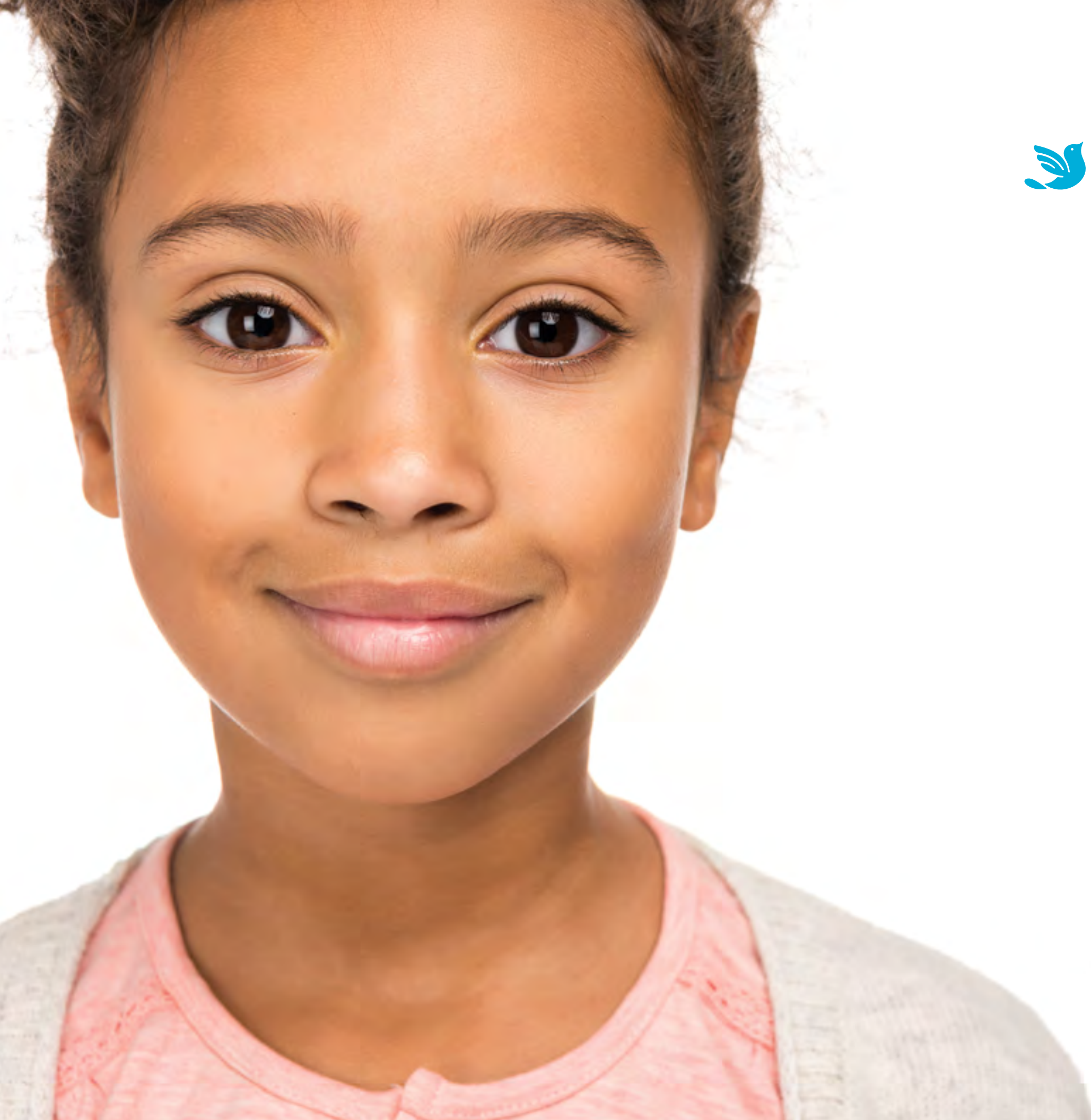


Building a
Better World
One Child at a Time



GEORGIA CENTER
FOR CHILD ADVOCACY

2020 Annual Report



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

For me, reflecting on 2020 has been a surreal undertaking. Without a doubt, it has been a year of finding our **resilience**. When we were faced with tremendous challenges, it was our resiliency that helped shepherd our families with hope and healing. As CEO, I am thankful to have been a part of such a life-altering journey with my team and offer my reflections of the past year at the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy.

During the initial weeks of the pandemic, our staff faced extraordinary obstacles. We held multiple meetings each week to ensure all of our programs were adapting well to serve child victims, families, and partners. In addition to changes resulting from COVID-19, we were also moving forward with the relocation of our Fulton site by summer. Every conversation, unique solution, or decisive action we made always came back to the same sentiment – **whatever it takes**. Where there had been challenges, we started witnessing positive transformations.

Your unwavering financial contributions helped propel us through this crisis. The community rallied around our cause like never before to champion the needs of vulnerable children. Board Members anticipated our needs, donors and volunteers listened to our priorities, and partner agencies patiently understood our adjustments. Most importantly, our staff supported each other daily, without hesitation. By first taking care of one another, we were then able to better serve for our families in crisis – providing quality care and effective improvements.

Thank you for being a part of the GCCA family, and for supporting me through some of the most trying months I've experienced as a leader. Enjoy the remainder of our 2020 Annual Report to learn how each program tackled this challenging, yet transformational year.

Warm Regards,

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.

TRANSFORMATIONS

Our forensics team faced unique challenges in performing direct services while adhering to CDC guidelines – how do we conduct strong interviews with kids, maintain cohesion with MDT, build trust with caregivers, and keep ourselves safe?

- **Addressed COVID-19 health and safety concerns**

Forensics staff now limit the number of individuals present and the number of rooms used during the interview process. Increased use of iPads and virtual platforms for MDT meetings and family advocacy services. Equipped staff and clients with hand sanitizer, sneeze guards, air purifiers and masks.

- **Launched Caregiver Support Group**

The Community Family Advocate noticed that caregivers were lacking social outlets amid the pandemic and implemented a

weekly virtual group. This enhancement encourages conversation and healing for both the adults and children working through trauma.

- **Established On-Call Service**

Staff now monitors calls outside regular office hours. This new addition enriches our family support services - helping alleviate stress for outside partners during this critical time as the pandemic persists. While this is not advertised as a crisis hotline, it is transforming our ability to respond to families in need.

525

FORENSIC INTERVIEWS
CONDUCTED

13,751

UNITS OF SERVICE
TO ENSURE ONGOING
SAFETY & WELL-BEING

759

REFERRALS FROM 54
UNIQUE SOURCES

480

OF ONGOING CASES OF
ABUSE MANAGED ACROSS
43 MDT MEETINGS

“The staff is awesome. They were friendly and made me feel very safe. This place is welcoming, helpful, and has a lot of resources for me to get through this process and protect my children.”





18,000+

CHILD MALTREATMENT
& CHILDHOOD TRAUMA
PREVENTION EDUCATION
& OUTREACH

9,142

SUPPLEMENTAL TRAININGS
ON SPECIAL TOPICS TO
PROTECT CHILDREN

2,141

ADULTS TRAINED
IN CONNECTIONS
MATTER GEORGIA

155,199

ADULTS TRAINED IN
DARKNESS TO LIGHT'S
STEWARDS OF CHILDREN

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. This initiative raises awareness by conducting trainings and engaging communities at the local level. Since 2006, this program has transitioned from a single-focused program to now a comprehensive, multi-dimensional program that performs a variety of services - recognizing how layering our efforts results in enriched protections for children.

TRANSFORMATIONS

After a successful pilot phase, we were excited to officially launch **Connections Matter Georgia** slated for April 2020. Those plans were abruptly halted following the onset of COVID-19. The team quickly shifted its attention from conducting in-person trainings, to coordinating critical needs like food, childcare and shelter. Prevention's looming challenge - how do we mitigate the inevitable consequences of children living in social isolation?

- **Promoted Safety Measures**

Created guides to equip school bus drivers who were now delivering food to families and frontline workers interacting with children with ways to identify abuse. Without regular contact with mandated reporters and trusted adults outside the home, the team researched and developed methods on how to identify abuse through online interactions.

- **Provided Resources & Support for Parents**

Developed and shared online learning tools, hosted Facebook Live sessions on how to keep kids safe online, and provided mental health education resources.

- **Strengthened Resources for Spanish-Speaking Families**

COVID-19 presented distinctive challenges for the Hispanic and Latinx communities. Seeing a lack of resources in Spanish, our Hispanic Outreach Coordinator created a Spanish Facebook page: Georgia Center for Child Advocacy - Alcance Hispano. She hosted FB Live events about online safety with the Latin American Association, disseminated COVID-19 Fact Sheets in Spanish, and referred bilingual tele-therapy agencies.

Therapy

Beyond the crisis response, we are committed to the child's long-term healing and provide them with the tools they need for a healthy, successful future. We know that when therapy is offered on-site at a child advocacy center, the child is more likely to attend the first session, and subsequent sessions for a longer duration. 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, sexual abuse and problematic sexual behaviors.

TRANSFORMATIONS

Therapists were quickly trained in tele-mental health, giving them the green light to deliver therapies virtually. Their challenge was that now, instead of centering sessions on trauma from abuse, they had to additionally navigate kids' stressors and needs related to the pandemic.

- **Removed Barriers to Service**

Therapists became certified in tele-mental health, making therapy more accessible. Sent therapy kits to increase engagement, and for those lacking tools, provided iPads, headphones and keyboards. Collaborated with parents to virtually celebrate graduation from therapy and recognize their healing journey.

- **Met Expanded Scope of Needs**

Job, food and housing insecurity became a worry for many families, so therapists coordinated certain resources that typically go through the school system including

COVID-19 testing sites, accurate CDC guidelines, and affordable internet access. Therapists enhanced their crisis consultation and support for forensics.

- **Faced Larger Number of Cases of Abuse Involving Technology**

75% of therapy clients reported that technology played a role in their sexual abuse. With kids spending even more time online, therapists heightened their education for parents and partnered with BARK, an app to equip parents with an additional tool to protect children.



963

—
THERAPY SESSIONS

68%

—
GRADUATION RATE

Nearly doubled number of sessions each child attended

28

—
CRISIS CONSULTATIONS
FOLLOWING A FORENSIC
INTERVIEW

Improving the Lives of Trafficked Children

More than 90% of children who are commercially sexually exploited have been sexually abused in the past. Unfortunately, 25% of child pornography content is produced by a neighbor or family friend - with 18% produced by the parent or guardian. Nearly 50% of runaway and homeless youth report being physically abused, 38% report being emotionally abused, and 17% report being

forced into unwanted sexual activity by a family or household member. Unfortunately, these are the children who are most vulnerable to the trappings of a sex trafficker and of being commercially sexually exploited. These are the children we treat every day. Beyond our core services, we provide some additional services and education to combat the trafficking and exploitation of minors.

“GCCA is an inspiration here in Georgia. The team at GCCA dreams big in their fight against child abuse in Georgia and they consistently deliver amazing results. Every GCCA team member is also willing to share their knowledge with the rest of the Georgia Network of Child Advocacy Centers, so that we can all be the best and provide hope for healing consistently across the state.”

CEO, Children’s Advocacy Centers of Georgia, Inc.

2020 COALITIONS & WORKGROUPS

GCCA’s participation helps create a collective impact to promote better response and outcomes for children who experience trafficking, abuse and trauma.

CACGA CSEC Response Team
Child Fatality Review Board
Children’s Advocacy Centers of Georgia, Inc.
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Human Trafficking Task Force
Georgia Coalition to Combat Human Trafficking
Georgia Department of Education
Georgia Department of Public Health
Georgia Essentials for Children
Gwinnett County Child Sexual Assault Prevention Committee

Latino Coalition for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse
National Child Traumatic Stress Network
National Children’s Alliance
National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse
NCTSN Child Sex Trafficking Collaborative
Prevent Child Abuse Georgia
Resilient Georgia

IMPACT

LOCAL

- **1,293 units of services** provided by our CSEC Specialist Family Advocate for trafficked youth.
- **68 events totaling 445 youth** participation in residential treatment and group home settings with the Envision Project
- **11 Junior League of Atlanta volunteers** joined Envision cohort
- Collaboration with Wellspring Living on the Resource Parent Curriculum where foster and adoptive parents learn about how best to care for at-risk children with trauma

NATIONWIDE

- San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment
 - “Addressing Risk of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Trauma-Informed Foster Parenting”
- International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies
 - “Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with Commercially Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Youth: Clinical Outcomes and Training Strategies”
- Charleston Child Trauma Conference
 - “The Envision Project: Specialized Services for Victims of Child Sex Trafficking”
- Visit and Presentation with the Attorney General Barr, Special Advisor to the President, Department of Justice Staff, and the office of Governor Kemp on the Envision Project and our work addressing CSEC
- Reporting in a Virtual Environment and Protecting Children During a Crisis Presentation
- On Deck: Preparing for the Return of Children from Social Isolation and partnered with Department of Education

STATEWIDE

- 5,000+ TF-CBT Learning Collaborative sessions to 500 youth
- 250+ therapists trained from 100+ different organizations in TF-CBT
- 10,000+ GA students trained in Love 146’s Not A Number sex trafficking prevention & MBF’s Child/Teen Safety Matters Curriculum
- The CSEC Statewide System of Care Contract was awarded to Children’s Advocacy Centers of Georgia, which will now support and improve the multi-disciplinary response to child sex trafficking.
- 21 forensic interviews conducted by GCCA at the Wellspring Living Receiving Hope Center, the state of Georgia’s first residential intake center for trafficked youth
- Director of Response Training educated 527 professionals across the state through Child First & MDT Team trainings, technical assistance, and ongoing supervision.
- 60 consultation/technical support calls were conducted with representatives around the state including forensic interviewers, GBI Investigators, Attorney General’s Office investigator, Children Advocacy Centers of GA staff, and Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.





OUR NEW HOME AIDS US IN OUR FUTURE GROWTH & LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO SERVING THE NEEDS OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN. INCREASING OUR CAPACITY TO:

- 1000+ forensic interviews annually
- 1400+ therapy sessions annually
- 800+ family advocacy sessions annually
- On-site group and family therapy
- On-site training facility for prevention education
- Collaborate with child protection services on 100% of all CPS involved cases



Reimagining Impact A Campaign for Georgia's Children

GCCA has grown substantially over the last five years. We have seen an overall 31% increase in number of children served. This growth has sparked new opportunities, as we relocated our Fulton space to the MET Atlanta in the Summer of 2020. A total of \$1.9 million was raised to support the build-out and furnishings of our new Fulton County office space at The MET. The community's overwhelming support of our capital efforts has helped position our center as one of the leaders in the nation –helping to lead both the response to and conversation around childhood trauma and abuse. This new space will give us an opportunity to enhance our collaborative partnerships, and to better connect families with all the services they need to stay safe.



“The GCCA continues to lead the fight against the sexual abuse of children in our community. The impacts from these crimes can last a lifetime. The GCCA team along with its generous donors make the community a safer place for our children by stopping the abusers and giving the victims a chance to recover in a safe, supportive environment. We're extremely thankful for all those that contributed to the opening of the Fulton office. The new facility will allow the Center to continue and expand its good work for years to come.”

Scott Bomar
Board Chair

Capital Campaign Donors

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2020 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. We also appreciate the numerous agencies that choose to partner with us and entrust us to provide professional services – helping reduce program costs. Because of you, hope and healing for these children and families is possible.

Individuals

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* *Change Maker Society members*

Organizations

A Friend's House: Forsyth County Children's Advocacy Center*
Active Production and Design, Inc.
Adults Protecting Children Inc.*
Amazon Smile
Amerigroup Community Care*
Anthem Foundation*
Appalachian Children's Center
AT&T
Atlanta Smiles & Wellness
Berman Fink Van Horn, P.C.
Bibb Community Partnership*
Big! Lots Foundation*
Bobbie Bailey Foundation*
Campfire Branding
Carroll County Child Advocacy Center*
Cherokee Child Advocacy Council*
Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia*
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta: Hughes Spalding*
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta: Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children*
Choate Construction
Ciena Cares*
Citibank*
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center*
Cobb Community Collaborative Inc.
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (C17-8-249, C18-8-377, C19-8-047, C51-8-010, C51-8-015, U21-8-005, V19-8-054, V20-8-054)*
Darkness to Light*
Decatur County Family Connection

DeKalb County Human Services Department*
DeKalb School Employees Foundation
Dunwoody Woman's Club
Early Learning Property Management, Inc.*
Edge Design Group
Elite Studios LLC*
eNewton Design
Family Support Center*
Fayette County Board of Education*
Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta*
Frances Wood Wilson Foundation, Inc.*
Friends of the Greenhouse Inc
Fulton County Community Services Program*
Georgia Department of Human Services*
Georgia State University
Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society*
Greystone Power Foundation*
GTLA Women Trial Lawyers
Help for Children*
Hemispheres Wine Distribution
IBM Employee Charitable Contribution Campaign*
Initiative to Prevent Sexual Abuse*
Jerry-Grace Sadler
Jesse Parker
Williams Foundation*
John & Leslie Irvine
John and Polly Sparks Foundation*
John H. & Wilhelmina D. Harland Charitable Foundation*
Junior League of Atlanta*

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 The RFP Fund, Inc*
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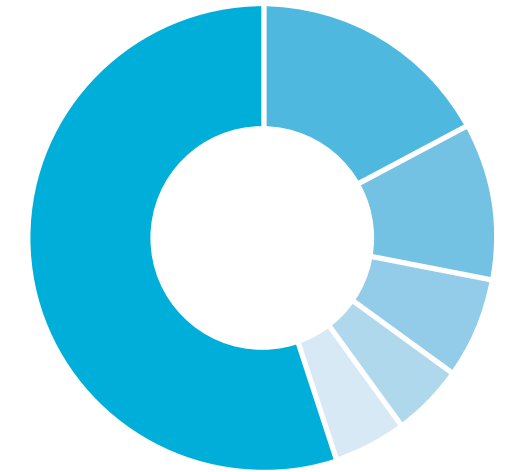
Theisen Consulting
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 Kirbo Charitable Trust*
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 U.S. Department of Health
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 UPS Southeast Hub Facility*
 Vashti Center, Inc.
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 Your Rocktioneer
 Youth Villages Inner
 Harbour Campus

* *Change Maker Society members*

Financials

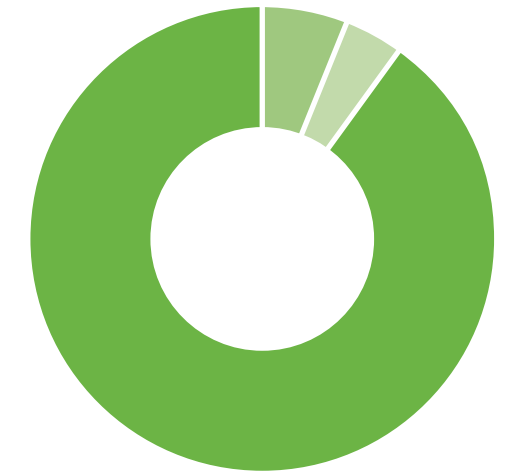
Income

Grant Revenue	\$1,852,107	■ 55%
Contributions (restricted)	\$583,000	■ 17%
Forgiven PPP Loan	\$374,000	■ 11%
Contributions (unrestricted).....	\$237,720	■ 7%
Program Income / Materials.....	\$183,749	■ 5%
Special Events (net)	\$144,481	■ 5%
	<hr/>	
	Total	\$3,375,057



Expenses

Program Services	\$2,933,558	■ 90%
Management & General.....	\$195,571	■ 6%
Fundraising	\$130,052	■ 4%
	<hr/>	
	Total	\$3,259,509



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“The Georgia Center for Child Advocacy provides the safe space children suffering from abuse in our community need for their voices to be heard and the resources for their healing to begin. Their work is essential to ending trauma and ensuring safer, healthier generations of children.”

Lauren McAuley
 Fulton County Deputy District Attorney, Crimes Against Children

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Forensic Interviewer

Jorge Mendoza
Forensic Interviewer

Jillian Oates
Forensic Interviewer

Monet Patrick, LMSW
Forensic Interviewer

Jessalyn Rushin, MPA
DeKalb Community Family Advocate

Natalie Segovia, APC
Forensic Interviewer

Sophia Thomas, MSW
Intake Coordinator

Clinical Services

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Director of Clinical Services

Le’Keldric Thomas, PhD
Clinical Program Manager

Giselle Balfour, PhD
Envision Project Coordinator

JaKarynn Conyers, LPC
Psychotherapist

Jennifer Hossler, MSW
Project Intersect Project Manager

Margaret Huddle, LMSW
Psychotherapist

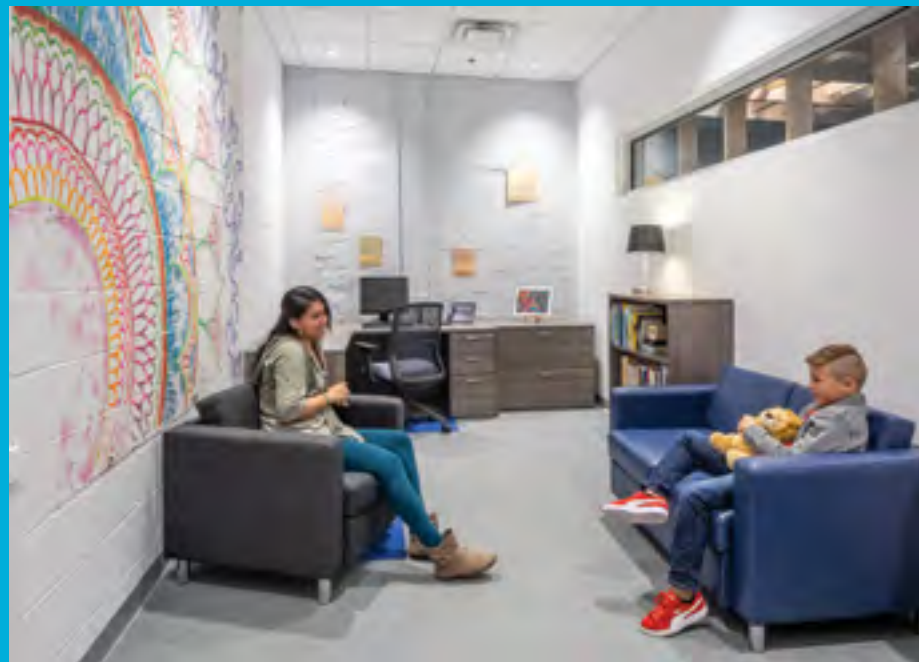
Camelia Narez, MSW, ACSW
Psychotherapist

Amy Shipp, LCSW
CSEC Specialist Family Advocate



“Now more than ever the GCCA is needed in our communities to protect our children from the atrocity that is sexual child abuse. All of our children have a right to a safe community and we have a responsibility as community members to help the GCCA with their mission.”

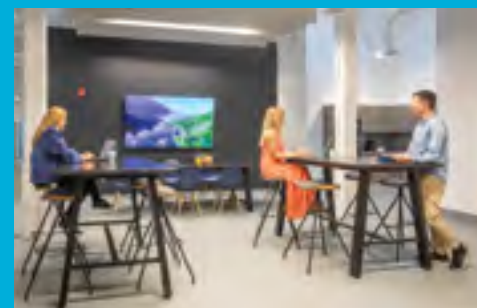
Pascal Lewis
Board Vice Chair



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The Georgia Center for Child Advocacy presents the following trainings:

Stewards of Children

Educates youth-serving adults how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse and exploitation. (2.5 hours, \$15 per person)

Circles of Safety Understanding the Role of Healthy Sexual Development

Highlights child sexual abuse facts, opportunities to practice safety planning strategies and what steps they can take to promote healthy sexual development. (2.5 hours, \$15 per person)

Circles of Safety Understanding & Responding to Boundary Violations

Focuses on recognizing inappropriate or harmful behaviors in adults as well as children and situations that increase risk of sexual harm to children. (2.5 hours, \$15 per person)

Specialized Training Topics

- Human Trafficking/Sex Trafficking
- How to Talk to Children about Safety from Sexual Abuse
- Child Protection Policy Development
- Mandated Reporter Training
- Building Resilience in Children in a Post COVID World
- Child-Focused Curriculum Implementation in Schools
- Georgia’s Technical Assistance Resource Guide for Schools

Link to register

bit.ly/GCCAPreventionTrainings

Email or call for more information

Prevention@gacfca.org / 770-830-4016

To volunteer on our Special Events Committee, email SpecialEvents@gacfca.org



GEORGIA CENTER FOR CHILD ADVOCACY

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