

Dear Friends,

2022 marked the **Georgia Center for Child Advocacy's** 35th Anniversary. Our CAC – once a novel idea - has shaped a path for thousands of child victims to recover from abuse and trauma. This path was not made with a single footstep because recovery is not met by a single moment. Nearly 20,000 tiny footprints spanning across thirty-five years leave behind the power of the journey – teaching us healing hurts right now, but the life that awaits is worth it.

Along this journey, we have fumbled and triumphed, but we have never doubted that our model is rooted in the best interest of children. By supporting CACs like us, you too have fought for safe spaces, increased protections, and children's rights.

I am proud to be among our network of protectors, advocates, and friends like you who prioritize the future for all youth across Georgia. Beyond recovery lies the other side of ordinary life – where children are stronger and more resilient than before.

Your investment supports all the paths along the journey to recovery. The first time a victim no longer feels alone. An entire hour a child spends without thinking about what happened. The week they gained their appetite back. All these moments unlock mental pathways toward a future where a child now has room to be playful, spirited and whole.

Thank you for helping make this milestone possible. I hope you enjoy reading our **2022 Annual Report** to learn more about how your investment continues to forge pathways for hundreds of families every year.

Sheila Ryan

Chief Executive Officer

is founded in Dekalb County

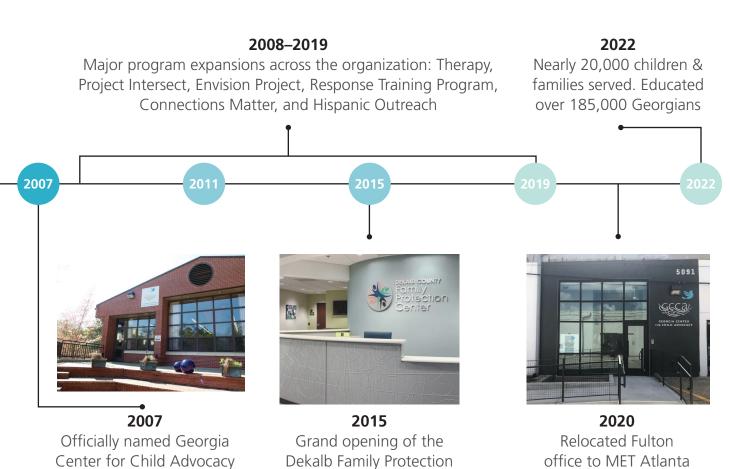
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Our mission is to champion the needs of sexually and severely physically abused children through prevention, intervention, therapy and collaboration.





In Dedication of
Linda McMurray-Miller
whose passion, dedication, and vibrant
spirit gave children a voice and provided
hope for a better future.



Intervention

We conduct **forensic interviews** for children primarily 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 serve as critical conveners of state agencies and partners during the case management process through bi-weekly multidisciplinary team meetings. Our interviewers are also summoned to provide expert testimony in court proceedings.

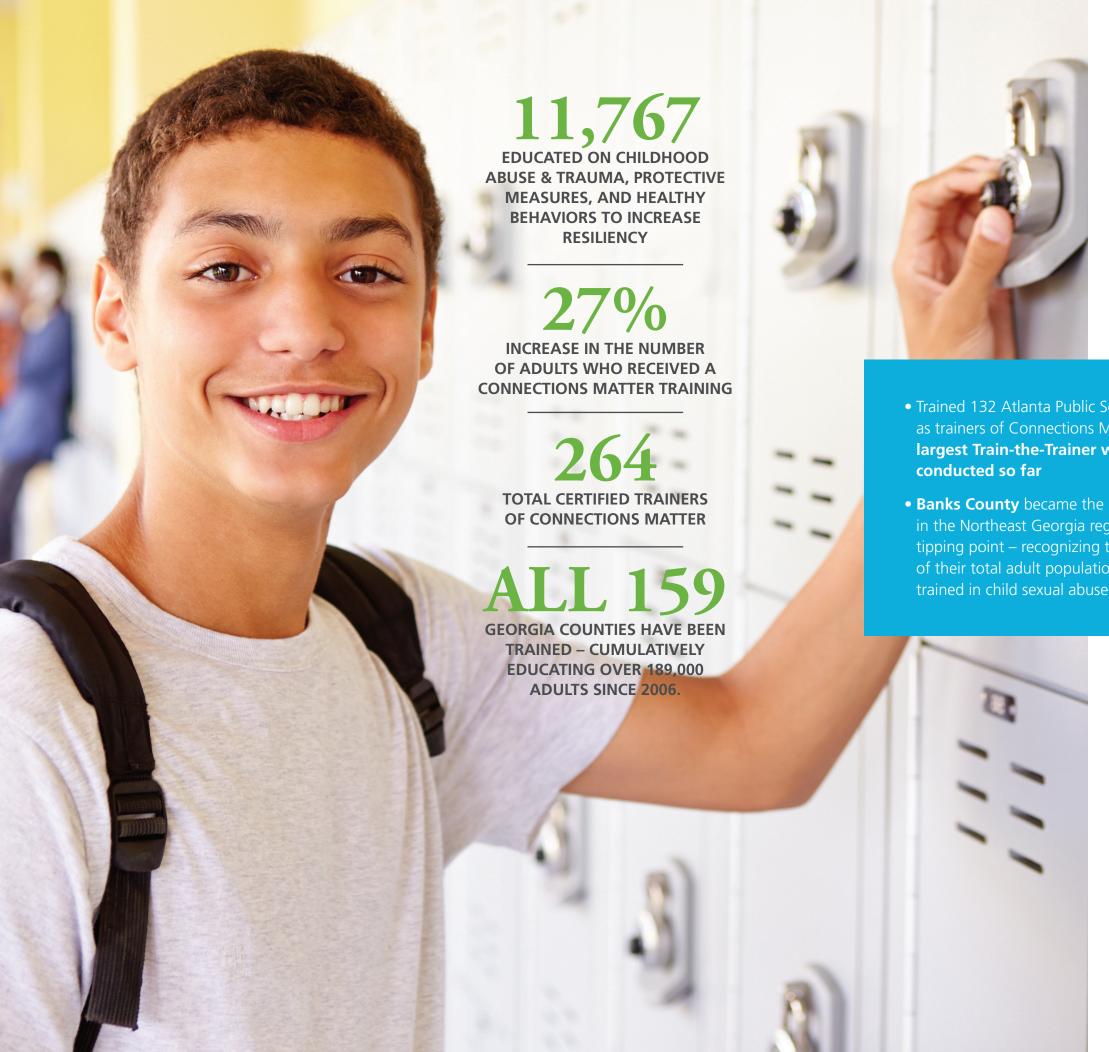
- 71% of primary caregivers were the biological mother
- 68% of our forensic interviews involved allegations of child sexual abuse or assault
- 8% increase in physical abuse and other violence related victimizations – signaling signs of growing unrest in our community

• Returned focus on professional development – participating in 39 trainings covering a range of topics like trafficking technology and exploitation, children with autism, and sports in social work

"The work of the GCCA is critical to our mission of ensuring justice for our child victims. They provide extremely competent and professional services and are always willing to go above and beyond to ensure the best results for each child. We are thankful for their partnership and always know that their interviews and trial testimony will be best in class."

> Edward Chase Director of Special Victims Unit





Prevention & Education

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.

- Trained 132 Atlanta Public Schools staff as trainers of Connections Matter – the largest Train-the-Trainer workshop
- Banks County became the 10th county in the Northeast Georgia region to reach tipping point – recognizing that now 5% of their total adult population has been trained in child sexual abuse prevention
- Developed Spanish versions of the trainings **Human Trafficking: Preventing** the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of **Children (CSEC) and Becoming a More Resilient Parent**

"Atlanta Public Schools seeks to be a fully trauma informed district and build the capacity of school-based staff, teachers, and bus drivers to understand and respond, with empathy, to the impact of student trauma; therefore, it was only logical that we partner with the GCCA to guide us in this path. I have found the GCCA to be responsive to our needs, and thought partners to help us bolster our goals. By the end of this school year, all school staff, teachers, and bus drivers will be better equipped to serve and support our students, and for that, we are grateful."

> Shannon D. Hervey APS Director of Student Support & Interventions

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. 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 (PSB).

- 96% of youth who completed treatment experienced a significant reduction in trauma symptoms – demonstrating meaningful signs of recovery from PTSD
- Piloted project **Mental Health Screening Intervention** – increasing access for mental health services the day of the forensic interview
- Experienced an increased demand for **Leaps & Bounds** statewide, providing consultation across 23 Georgia counties interest demonstrates a shift in the culture that wants to reduce the incarceration of juveniles and keep families together

"The therapist went above and beyond to help my granddaughter. She has come so far and truly trusts the therapist. There aren't words that can express the gratitude I have in my heart."

Caregiver



Child & Family Advocacy

In January 2022, we introduced **Child & Family Advocacy Services** to meet the growing, complex needs among our families - initially exhibited during the pandemic. Now expanded out from intervention services, this enhanced program is building our capacity to give more at-risk families the specialized care they deserve. By creating a team comprised of a Program Director, a Trafficking Specialist Family Advocate, and two Community Family Advocates, we are able to better **address the intersection of trauma response and meeting families' basic needs**. After starting to receive referrals in May, the team has made remarkable progress during its first year.

2,285 units of services performed
266 families served
167 family advocate meetings held
26% requested services for housing, family planning, grief support, domestic violence resources, and family therapy

- Monthly service provision increased by 254% from May to December
- 41% cases involved the alleged offender sharing the home resulting in greater stressors surrounding family needs
- Understanding how collaboration is key, the team met with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, youthSpark, CACGA, the Fulton & DeKalb DA's Offices, Atlanta Legal Aid, and DeKalb Pro Bono
- Focused on staff development and attended trainings including: CACGA Standards of Care Boot Camp, Collaborate Database, Helping Human Trafficking Survivors through Trauma-Informed Care, Child First Training, and CJCC Victims Compensation



Educating The Frontlines of Justice

The Response Training Program enhances local community's response to childhood trauma through trainings, supervision, peer review, and consultation. This supports CACs, District Attorney's Offices, lawyers, DFCS, Law Enforcement, and other frontline professionals working with at-risk children across Georgia.

- Child First Trainings intensive nationally recognized forensic interview training program offered at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels
- Works with the CACGA CSEC Response Team to deliver this education Conducting High Risk Forensic Interviews & Conducting CSEC Forensic Interviews
- Peer Review & Ongoing Supervision following an initial forensic interview training yields dramatic improvements on the quality of interviews and court testimony. Leads three separate forensic supervision groups, each meeting once a month for approximately three hours
- Expert Consultation & Testimony assists District Attorney's Offices in GA so that jurors understand FI, process of disclosure, and children's responses to abuse.
- **CSEC Forensic Specialist** conducts forensic interviews for the Receiving Hope Center for trafficking victims, and delivers CSEC-focused trainings across the state

113 professionals representing 42 distinct districts attended an intensive Child First training

238 participants representing 36 CACs across the state engaged in monthly supervision, skill-building, and peer review groups

300 professionals at annual
Prosecuting Attorneys Council
Conference attended our presentation
"Suggestibility: What It Is and When
to Push Back"

"GCCA is an essential partner for the work the Crimes Against Children Unit does at the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. The staff are experts in their field and assist prosecutors by educating juries and leading them through the child's forensic interview. Further, their knowledge and expertise assist our professionals in serving our children in trauma-informed best practices to ensure justice is served."

Lauren McAuley Deputy District Attorney

Improving 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. These children are the most vulnerable of being commercially sexually exploited. These are the children we treat every day. Youth who experience sex trafficking and other forms of exploitation experience high degrees of trauma and are at a very high risk for a range of adverse outcomes. We provide specialized services and education to combat the trafficking and exploitation of minors, also known as CSEC.

180 trafficked youth and their caregivers served through these special projects

57 events held to promote healthy behaviors and self-empowerment

240 educated in CSEC trauma response

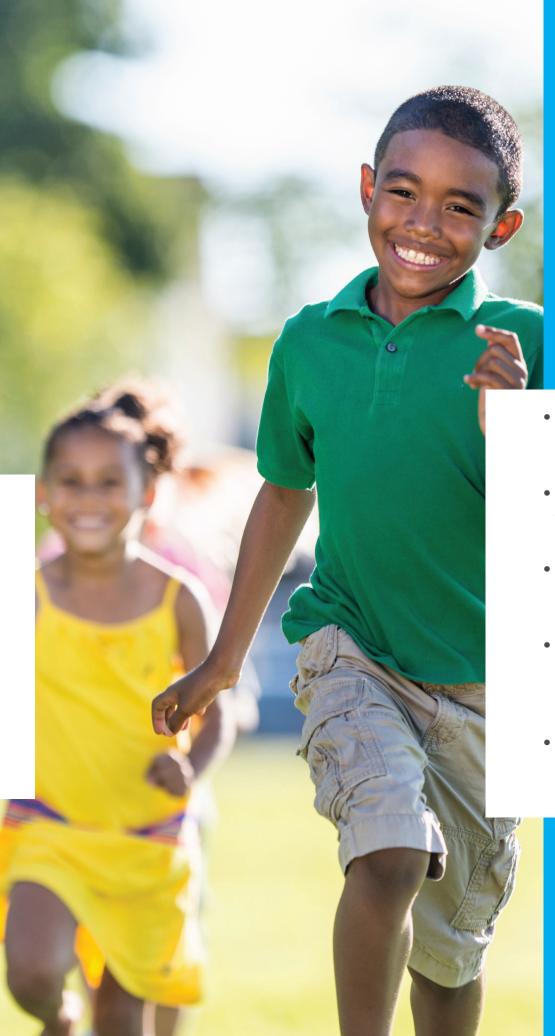
281 units of service delivered through Envision's Bridge to My Future – Advanced 2.0

All 13 DFCS Regions in Georgia received CSEC Awareness through Project Intersect

PROJECT INTERSECT PROVIDES

trauma-focused trainings for mental health providers and caregivers of trafficked youth across Georgia. This project educates adults on the impact of trauma on youth development and behaviors, how to respond to the challenges of traumatized youth, and offers a support system to address their shared experiences.

THE ENVISION PROJECT provides individualized care management, employment readiness, educational readiness, educational support, independent living skills, and personal growth programming to support the well-being of trafficking youth.



Fostering with Equity and Inclusion

As a child advocacy center, we naturally build our programs through the equity lens. Equity-focused programming recognizes that all children deserve the same opportunity to recover from trauma, but that some children face greater barriers and require specialized responses so that healing can begin. Equity requires us to listen to and work alongside our families. Learning from families elevates their voices and recognizes how the best solutions often lie with the caregivers and youth themselves. Two staff-driven committees – A-Team & DEI Committee – spearhead these efforts to promote and elevate trauma-informed practices across our organization.

- Updated and finalized GCCA's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Antiracist Policy, Onboarding Process, and Cultural Competency Plan
- **A-Team** concluded its focus on Secondary Traumatic Stress Domain resulting in quarterly mental health days, lower co-pays for mental health visits, and Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for staff
- Conducted the 2022 Employee Engagement Survey resulting in action plans to improve Company Culture, Employee Satisfaction, Performance Reviews, and Strategic Plan Reporting
- Created monthly Community Circles to bring education and awareness to GCCA staff on issues related to oppressed and marginalized group in order to more effective serve our clients and community
- Focused on installing intentional artwork and branding features to create a trauma-informed, inclusive, and welcoming space for our families

"Thank you GCCA for helping us build our capacity to respond to our children and families affected by trauma by creating a healing environment that promotes safety, resiliency, and meaningful social connections!."

Shelly Spizuoco ulton County Juvenile Court Director of Behavioral Health

2022 Supporters

Individuals

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.

Cortez and Nicole Jenkins*

marviduais
Cameron and David Alkhazraj
Kasey Asarch
Tawanna Atwater
William L Ballard*
Chris Baumgartner
Catherine Baxter
Dawn Benton
Linda Blount
Mindy Boggs
Scott and Sheryl Bomar*
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Benjamin Brantly*
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Scarlet Pressley-Brown
and Wendell Brown
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Katie Calvert
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and Ron Hilliard*
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Ms Paula Mossaides

Mark and Tracy Murgash* Mary Beth Nelson Lane and Merrick Olives* Michael Palacio* Nvcole A Patterson* Holly Portier and Bailey Webb **Blair Powell** Margaret Randels* Christian Rhodes Sheila and Chip Ryan* Christina Saad* Bruce and Jerry-Grace Sadler Karla and Brian Sadler* Leslie Schreiner Caryl Shepherd* Victoria Simitses Andrea N Smith Ruth Smith* Ellen Softness Robert Stanley Lane Steinberger Karl Steinichen Lisa Stoner and Dan Kramer* Gena Taylor Robyn Taylor Dawn and Eric Tresh Christopher Tully* Carrah Turner* Ray Uttenhove* William H and Elizabeth Verner* Moira Vetter* Sarah and Brent Walker* Pete and Gabrielle Ward Rebecca F Wasserman Cathy Weil Seth Weiner Dr. Mitzi Williams-Brown Robert E and Lynda Wilson* Michael Woodard Natalie Woodward Bill and Angela Young*

*Change Maker Society members

Organizations 20th Century Fox Film Corp.* A Child's Voice Children's Advocacy Center **Active Production** and Design, Inc. Aksala Wealth American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children* Amerigroup Community Care* Anonymous Family Foundation * Atlanta Annunciation Philoptochos Atlanta Party Rentals August Moon Augusta University* Barrow County School System Bibb Community Partnership BIS Benefits, Inc. Bobbie Bailey Foundation* Breakdown Productions, LLC* British Consular Services, Atlanta* **Bryant & Associates** C.D. Moody Construction Company, Inc.* Carrollton Board of Education* Cherokee Child Advocacy Council* Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia* Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Choate Bridges Foundation* City of Lawrenceville Coastal Children's Advocacy Center Coca-Cola United Columbia County **Community Connections** Communities in Schools of Atlanta Community Foundation Northwest Georgia Courts Foundation, Inc.*

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council * (B50-8-193; C20-8-062; C22-8-028; C80-8-026: U22-8-005:U23-8-005: V21-8-054;X50-8-213;X50-8-214) **Dekalb County District** Attorney's Office DeKalb County Human Services Department* DeKalb County Youth Safety & Violence Prevention Program* Dickerson Family Fund* Dynami Group Edge Design Group Edmondson-Telford Center for Children Elizabeth Baptist Church Fairburn Baptist Association FAITH Powerhouse For Kids* Family Support Council* Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta* Frances Wood Wilson Foundation, Inc.* **Fulton County Community** Services Program* Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)* Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Program * Georgia Department of Human Services (OPFS)* Georgia State University* Gordon County Child Advocacy Center Grevstone Power Foundation* Guide, Inc. Harmony House Child Advocacy Center Henry County District Attorney Office* Huff and Woods, PC

Intown Stars Gymnastics J.B. Fugua Foundation* Jesse Parker Williams Foundation* John and Polly Sparks Foundation* John H. & Wilhelmina D. Harland Charitable Foundation* Joi Life Wellness Group Junior League of Atlanta Kansas Children's Service League* Kirby Smart Family Foundation* Kiwanis Foundation of Atlanta, Inc.* Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers* Mary Allen Lindsey Branan Foundation* Mayberry Electric, Inc.* McKinsey & Company, Inc.* Mesquite Productions, Inc.* Miller Avenue Productions, LLC* MIS Solutions, Inc* Moving in the Spirit National Children's Advocacy Center, Inc. National Children's Alliance* National Latino Behavioral Health Association Northside Hospital* Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinguency Prevention* Our House Packard Capital LLC* Penn Law LLC*

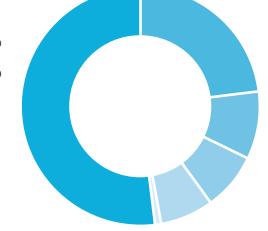
Perkins&Will* Pike County Board of Education Pittulloch Foundation* Prevent Child Abuse Habersham Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.* RanDMC Photography Receiving Hope Center of Wellspring Living Reilly Family Fund* Resilient Gwinnett Robert and Polly Dunn Foundation* Rome-Floyd County Commission on Youth and Children Roth Family Fund* Royal Hearts Foundation Ruth's Cottage & Patticake House CAC* SafePath Children's Advocacy Center, Inc. Salesforce Savannah Distributing Co. Inc.* Sexual Abuse Speak Out Sincerely Scarlet, LLC SK Commercial Realty, LLC. Speed+King The Atlantan - Modern Luxury The Community Restoration Project Corp* The Cottage Sexual Assault CAC The Fraser-Parker Foundation The Schenck School The Sunshine House* The Tree House Theisen Consulting LLC*

Thomas & Irene B. Kirbo Charitable Trust* Total Retail Group* Towaliga Judicial Circuit Office of the District Attorney Transamerica Foundation* Trinity Center for Spiritual Living Truelio Tull Charitable Foundation* Turnbull, Holcomb, & LeMoine, P.C.* Twin Cedars Youth and Family Services* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services* U.S. Department of Justice: Office of Justice Programs* United Way of Chattahoochee Valley United Way of East Central IA United Way of Greater Atlanta, Inc. UPS* Utley Chiropractic* Vashti Center, Inc. Walmart Foundation Walter G. Canipe Foundation* Weekend Rescue* Wellroot Family Services Wipfli Financial Advisors WSB-TV Youth Villages Inner Harbour Campus Zion Hill Baptist Church

Financials

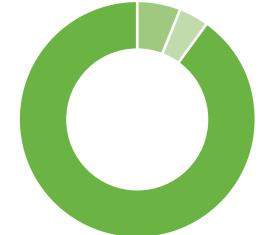
Income

52%	
23%	
9%	
8%	
7%	
1%	
•	
	52% 23% 9% 8% 7% 1%



Expenses

Program Services	\$3,224,415	90%
Management & General	\$214,961	6%
Fundraising	\$143,307	4%
	Total \$3,582,683	





"The GCCA Advocacy makes a real difference in the battle against sexual abuse, physical abuse, and human trafficking in Georgia. GCCA's staff and services provide children with safe environments, support, and care that help survivors heal and recover. Providing to GCCA ensures that every child in Georgia receives the safe space and support they deserve."

Elizabeth Ledet GCCA Board Treasurer

^{*}Change Maker Society members

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"For over 35 years, the GCCA's positive impact in preventing and caring for sexually abused children is inspiring. They provide prevention, therapy, training, but most of all, they provide hope when it's most needed. Hope for the children, their caregivers, and the entire community."

Bill Young
GCCA Board of Director



Staff

Sheila Ryan Chief Executive Officer

Yolanda Gaskin Executive Assistant/Office Manager Tisa Barnave
Client Service Coordinator

Edrica Ferguson Client Service Coordinator Zobida Dat
Director of Development

Marci Healy Grants Manager

Prevention

Tiffany Sawyer
Director of Prevention Services

Nikki Berger, LPC

Prevention Program Manager

Sandy Chavarria
Hispanic Outreach Coordinator

Steve Collins

Regional Prevention Coordinator

Alex Cory

Connections Matter Coordinator

Lea Fantom

Regional Prevention Coordinator

Krista Gonce

Regional Prevention Coordinator

Forensic Services

Rebecca Trotta

Director of Forensic Services

Mindy Paylor

Assistant Director of Forensic Services

Jillian Oates

Lead Forensic Interviewer/
MDT Coordinator

Monet Patrick, LMSW Lead Forensic Interviewer/ MDT Coordinator

Tammy Bowers
Intake Coordinator

Charity Olocha
Forensic Interviewer

Jorge Mendoza
Forensic Interviewer

Jordyn Parks Intake Coordinator

Mary Beth Nelson, LCSW Director of Response Training

Clinical Services

Le'Keldric Thomas, PhD Director of Clinical Services

Jennifer Hossler Project Intersect Manager

JaKarynn Conyers, LPC Project Envision Director

Cortney Davis

Envision Specialist Case Manager

Margaret Huddle, LMSW

Psychotherapist

Sydnee Keys Psychotherapist Jonie Lewis

Family Advocate/PSB Specialist

Camelia Narez, MSW, ACSW Psychotherapist

Child & Family Advocacy Services

Amy Shipp Fatima Ceesay
Director of Advocacy Services Family Advocate

Nicole Ardiles
Family Advocate

Sophia Thomas

Family Advocate/Trafficking Specialist



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)

Connections Matter Georgia

Focuses on effectively educating communities about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), trauma and resiliency to develop a healthier, stronger community. (4 hours, \$20 per person, group rate available)

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)

Specialized Training Topics

- Human Trafficking/Sex Trafficking
- How to Talk to Children about Safety from Sexual Abuse
- Child Protection Policy Development
- Mandated Reporter Training
- Georgia's Technical Assistance Resource Guide for Schools
- Becoming a More Resilient Parent
- The Triple P Positive Parenting Program

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



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GeorgiaCenterForChildAdvocacy.org















