



# Building a Better World

One Child at a Time



GEORGIA CENTER  
FOR CHILD ADVOCACY

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2017 Annual Report



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

Dear Friends,

Thank you for helping mark our **30th Anniversary** in 2017 as we shaped yet another remarkable year for the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy! This milestone has been made possible because of friends like you who strive for a community where every child feels safe. Together, we have been able to offer a safe haven for children who have been victimized for three decades—serving over 16,000 children and their families since 1987.

As we reflect on our modest beginnings, we are privileged to now stand as the largest Child Advocacy Center in Georgia. I am deeply honored to serve as the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy's current CEO and give special appreciation to the leaders who have come before me.

As you continue reading this report, I hope you feel the impact you have made on our progress and share in our successes. In 2017 our dedicated and talented staff were able to provide 757 children with a forensic interview and family advocacy services, conduct 1,461 therapy sessions for 170 children and their families, and train 16,595 individuals through our Prevention Initiative—now reaching over 113,000 cumulatively. With your help, we were also able to expand staffing to meet the 21 percent increase in the demand for our services—ultimately helping more kids in our community heal.

Through the committed and guided efforts from our Board of Directors, we seized 2017 as an opportunity to develop our 2018–2020 Strategic Plan, which was approved in January. As we embark on this next chapter, we remain grateful for our generous donors, committed partners, and supportive community members.

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 story, at their own pace, using their own voice. In 2017 we experienced a 21percent increase responding to over 750 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.

*“Thank you all for being a beacon of hope in a dark time in our life.”*



In 2017  
**757**  
children interviewed  
by our forensics team  
at our two centers

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**940**  
case managers, law enforcement  
officers, prosecutors, and  
professionals trained

In 2017  
**1,461**  
sessions conducted

**170**  
children served

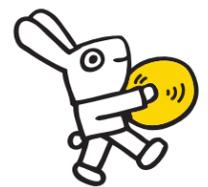
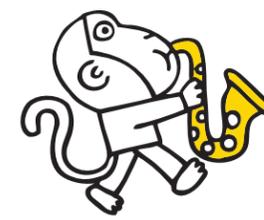


## Therapy

We respond as immediately as possible to the needs of child victims 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 therapies specific to the child's needs. Our therapists are skilled in therapies that address childhood trauma, problematic sexual behaviors, and physical abuse. We incorporate the family into our treatment services because it is important that the primary caregiver(s) understand the impact of trauma and be equipped with their own skills to help their child move forward. Our clinical team conducted 1,461 therapy sessions for 170 children and their families in 2017.

Our team is also focused on improving the well-being of commercially sexually exploited and trafficked children through Project Intersect and the Envision Project. These projects provide specialized treatment services, case management, and youth programming to sexually exploited and trafficked youth as well as specialized training to professionals.

*“The staff was very helpful and knowledgeable on information that I need to get through this process.”*



## 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 reduce the occurrence of child sexual abuse by educating adults to prevent, recognize and report child sexual abuse using Darkness to Light's *Stewards of Children* curriculum. The Georgia Center for Child Advocacy has now cumulatively trained over 113,000 adults across 144 of the 159 Georgia Counties.

With our hiring of a Hispanic Outreach Prevention Coordinator last year, we have already increased the number of adults taking this course in Spanish by 34 percent and using this momentum, plan to expand our outreach with this population.

Equipping our youth-serving agencies, faith-centers and school systems with comprehensive abuse prevention training is essential to the overall health of any community. Each of our six regional coordinators works to build community prevention coalitions which unite residents to lead and carry out prevention efforts. Establishing a coalition encourages and empowers not only the leaders, but 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 the change increases. Since we began our regional approach, the response has been encouraging with fifteen of these counties reaching tipping point, contributing to a 29 percent statewide tipping point. This method has proven effective in carrying out our work in preventing child sexual abuse throughout Georgia.

"I like that fact that I, as an adult who had experienced the same thing, was able to get some important information for myself. Thank you guys so much."

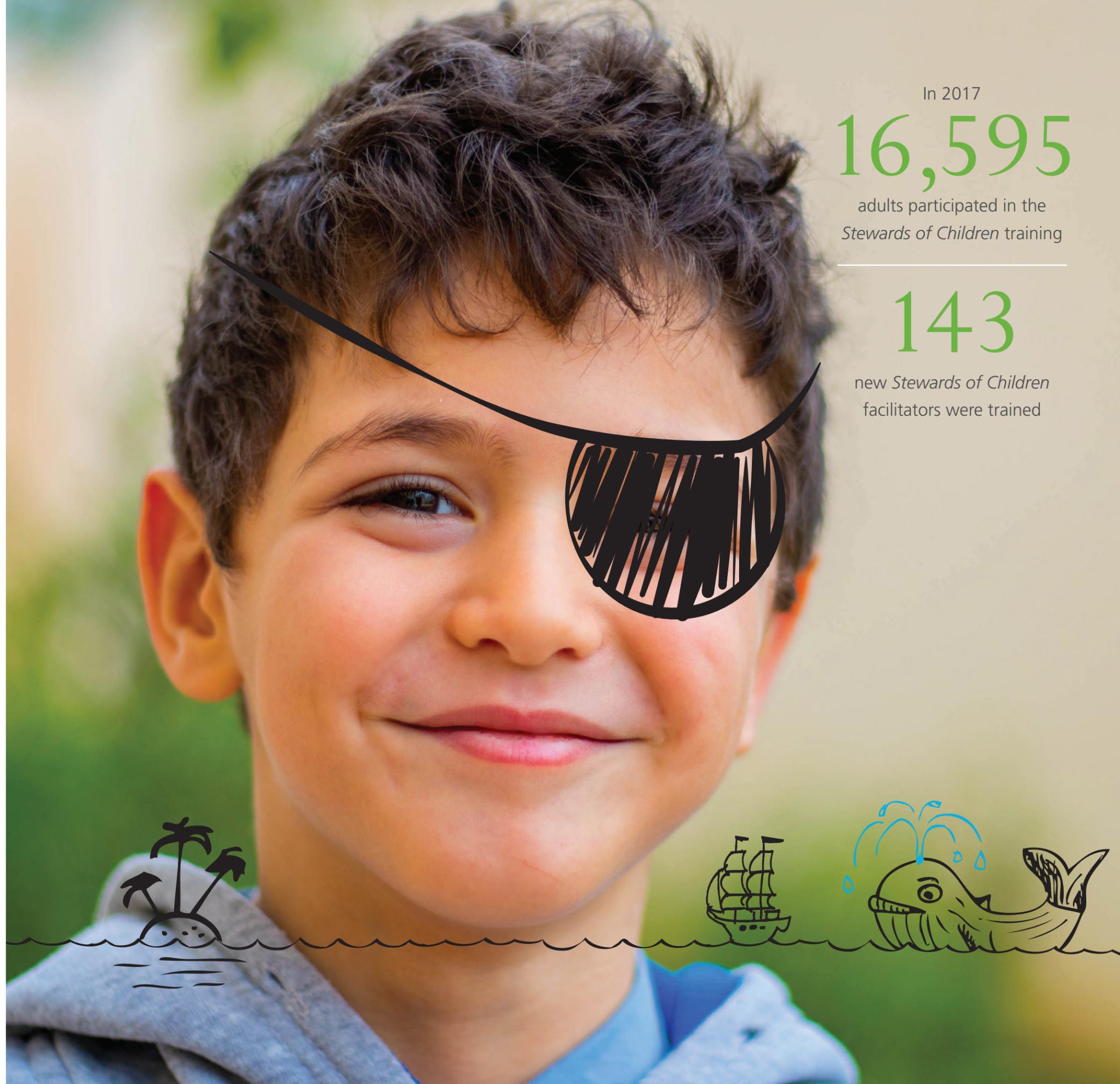
In 2017

16,595

adults participated in the *Stewards of Children* training

143

new *Stewards of Children* facilitators were trained



# 2017 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

Phyllis Abramson  
Rebecca Ahmadi  
David & Cameron Alkhazraji\*  
Alan Anderson  
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Steven Velte



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Chris Warren  
Karen Wilbanks\*  
Sally Williams  
Sharon Williams  
Robert & Lynda Wilson\*  
Michael Woodard\*  
Jennifer N Wright  
Steven &  
Hillary Yarmowich

\* Change Maker Society members

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Absolute Compcare RX\*  
 Active Production and Design, Inc.  
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 (C16-8-019, C15-8-204, X16-8-017)\*  
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 Workplace Philanthropy\*  
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 Georgia Natural Gas\*  
 Georgia State University-Center  
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 Help for Children\*  
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 National Commission  
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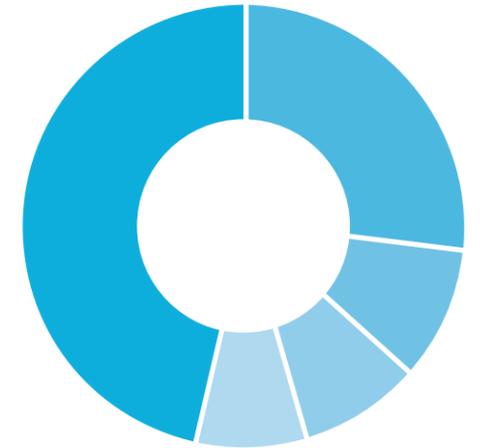
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 U.S. Department of Justice;  
 Office of Justice Programs\*  
 United Way of Greater  
 Atlanta, Inc.\*  
 United Way of Greater  
 Lorain County\*  
 UPS Foundation\*  
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\* Change Maker Society members

## Financials

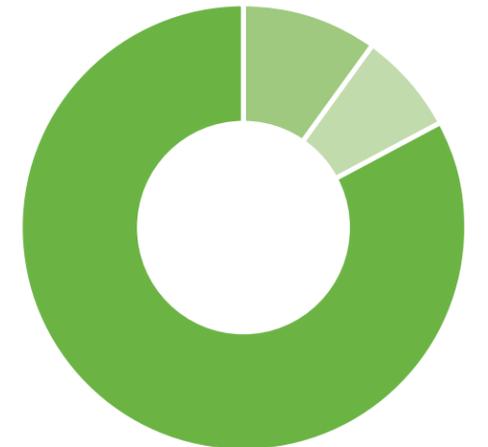
### Income

Grant Revenue .....	\$1,425,556	■ 47%
Contributions (restricted) .....	\$815,405	■ 27%
Special Events (net) .....	\$295,027	■ 10%
Program Income / Materials.....	\$266,482	■ 9%
Contributions (unrestricted).....	\$244,879	■ 8%
<hr/>		
Total		\$3,047,349



### Expenses

Program Services .....	\$2,297,621	■ 83%
Fundraising .....	\$276,822	■ 10%
Management & General.....	\$193,775	■ 7%
<hr/>		
Total		\$2,768,218



“Success is measured in the face of a smiling child when they hug their bear, the relief on a parent or guardian's face when they realize they are not alone in their efforts to secure healing for their child and recognition by all involved that another predator has been held accountable for their actions.”

Linda McMurray  
 Board Chair

## 2017 Board Officers

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

Lane Olives, Vice Chair  
Management Consultant

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

Dana McKenzie, Assistant Secretary  
Community Volunteer

Ruth Smith, Treasurer  
Community Volunteer

Pascal Lewis, Assistant Treasurer  
Director Global Sales, Delta Global Services

## 2017 Board Members

Cameron Alkhazraji  
Community Volunteer

Renee Barnstone  
Independent Financial Consultant

Jana Chesley  
Community Volunteer

Alexandra Cole  
Attorney, Penn Law LLC

David Dubroff  
VP, National Sales, Genex Services

Preston Holloway  
Attorney, Swift Currie

Michael Marsau  
Senior Vice President of Sales  
Go T&T

Cherise Mlott, Director  
Corp. Real Estate SE, Portfolio  
Management, AT&T Services, Inc.

Cheryl Monkhouse  
Global Communications Manager,  
InterContinental Hotel Group

Dan O'Neill  
Managing Partner,  
Columbia Properties

John Tarbutton  
Practice Area Lead,  
Slalom Consulting

David Tennery  
Managing Director, Jones,  
LaSalle, Lang

Jeff Tyner  
Architect, Perkins & Will

Lia Webster  
Director of Shareholder Operations,  
Federal Home Loan Bank

## Staff

Sheila Ryan  
Chief Executive Officer

Zobida Dat  
Development Director

Yolanda Gaskin  
Executive Assistant  
to CEO / Office Manager

Tisa Barnave  
Client Service Coordinator

Marci Healy  
Grants Manager

Ashley Maolud  
Client Service Coordinator

## Prevention

Tiffany Sawyer  
Director of Prevention Services

Nikki Berger, LPC  
Prevention Program Manager

Sandy Chavarria  
Hispanic Outreach  
Prevention Coordinator

Steve Collins  
Regional Prevention Coordinator

Steve Fallin  
Regional Prevention Coordinator

Krista Gonce, MA  
Regional Prevention Coordinator

Katherine Jones  
Regional Prevention Coordinator

Carol Neal-Rossi  
Regional Prevention Coordinator

Chanta Wilson  
Prevention / Development  
Program Support Coordinator

## Forensic Services

Mary Beth Nelson, LCSW  
Director of Forensic Services

Jessalyn Rushin, MPA  
DeKalb Program Manager

Rebecca Justice  
Fulton Program Manager

Tamara Glover, MA  
Forensic Interviewer /  
Family Advocate

Michelle Elias  
Intake Coordinator

Latoya Mitchell  
Forensic Interviewer /  
Family Advocate

Jillian Oates  
Intake Coordinator

Monet Patrick, MSW  
Forensic Interviewer /  
Family Advocate

Mindy Paylor  
Forensic Interviewer /  
Family Advocate

Natalie Segovia  
Forensic Interviewer /  
Family Advocate

## Clinical Services

Kelly Kinnish, PhD  
Director of Clinical Services

Rebecca Ahmadi, LAPC  
Psychotherapist

JaKarynn Conyers, LPC  
Psychotherapist

Margaret Huddle, MSW  
Psychotherapist

Jennifer Hossler, MSW  
Project Manager

Camille Kramer  
Project Coordinator

Le'Keldric Thomas  
Clinical Program Manager



*“The tireless commitment of its staff and the generosity of its donors, foundations and board members allows the Center to provide the critical services that enable child victims to become survivors.”*

Lawrence Kasmien  
2018 Board Vice-Chair



**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.

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

[georgiacenterforchildadvocacy.org](http://georgiacenterforchildadvocacy.org)



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MEMBER



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Centers of Georgia  
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