



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER
OF BENTON COUNTY



BETTER TOGETHER

Children's Advocacy
Center of Benton County
Impact Report 2020



cacbentonco.com

A Message From Our Executive Director

Better Together

Through times of uncertainty, it has never been more clear that we are simply *better together*. We were never designed to navigate life alone. Over the past year, humanity has been tested through ordered isolation and the perceived loss of identity behind a mask. The mission of the CAC is to empower children to find their voice – something seemingly more difficult when a child and professional must wear a mask for physical health and safety reasons. Though circumstances have changed beyond our control – the quality of services a child receives at our Center have never wavered. We continued to provide the highest of standards and excellent service that has been done over the past 20 years and, therefore, this past year was no different. In 2020, 970 children and their families were served because we were in this together. Upon hiring, each staff member adopts the mission of the CAC as their own, knowing that the process of trauma is difficult and that each child's journey is unique – however, our team of professionals understand the priority to ensure that the child is heard, surrounded, and supported throughout their entire healing journey. Not only is this work done by our professionals on staff and our Board of Directors, but also in collaboration with our multidisciplinary team of professionals such as law enforcement, child protective service professionals, social workers, prosecutors, and many others who care for the well-being and protection of our most precious gifts – our children.

Furthermore and most importantly, our work in the community has little to do with us and everything to do with you. You show up in great ways to support children and their families by advocating for the protection of children and speaking up when there are concerns for their safety. You also generously support children in their greatest times of need through financial giving. What greater gifts are there? We are so thankful that, through one of the most difficult years our nation has faced, you continue to show up for kids. There is no more noble cause for us than to work together for the protection of children. Your support continues to empower children to find their voice and prove that – no matter what is going on in the world around us – we are always better when we do it together.

Sincerely,

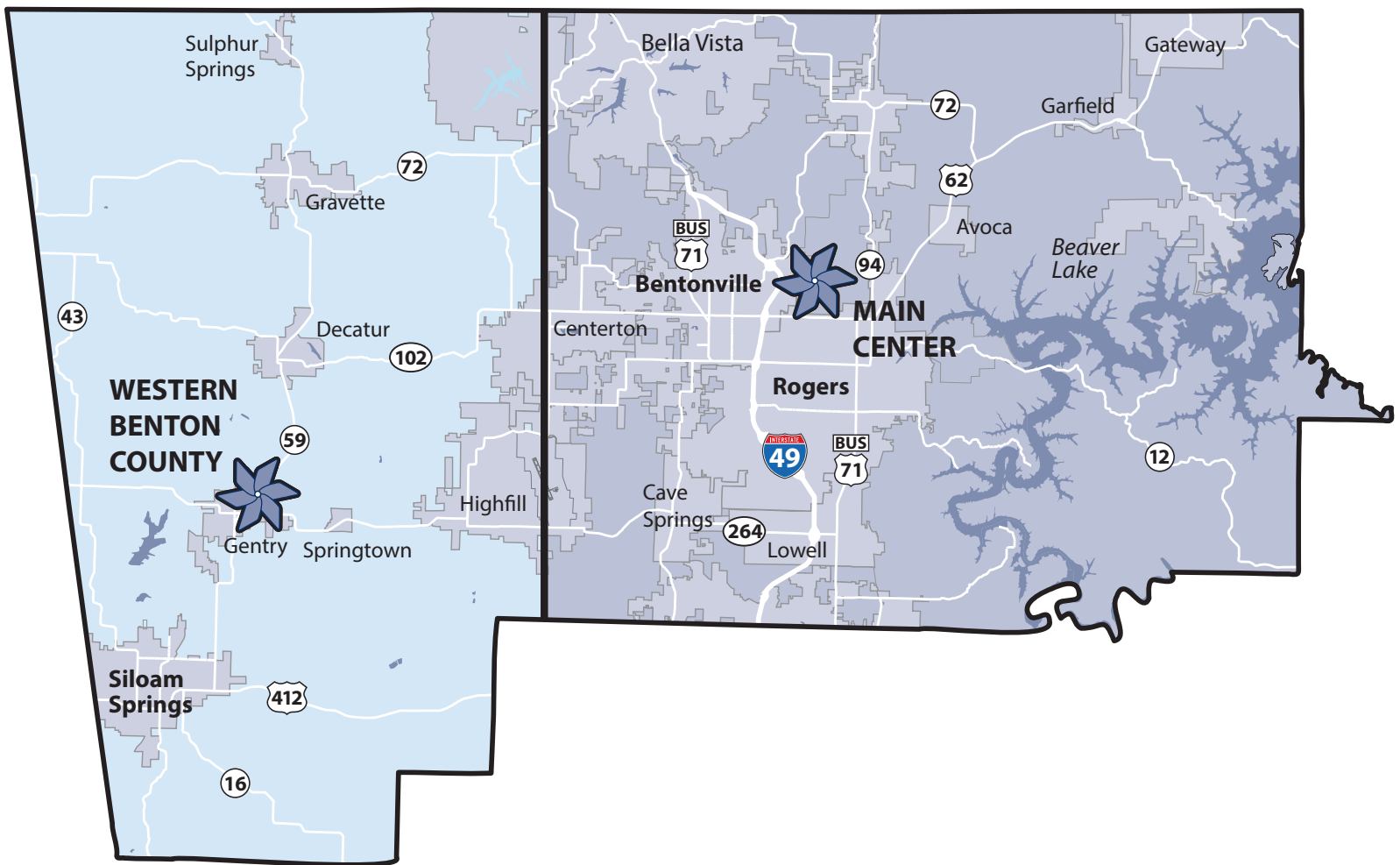
Natalie Gibbs



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER
OF BENTON COUNTY

Better Together

The CAC strives to serve two entities: the children and families of our county and our multidisciplinary team. We serve children and families exactly where they live in Benton County and work collaboratively to ensure that a child's needs are being met. The Children's Advocacy Center of Western Benton County allows us to expand our presence of providing services in the community and give the opportunity to truly break the cycle of abuse to children and families who would have otherwise gone without.



**Children's Advocacy Center
of Benton County**
2113 Little Flock Drive
Little Flock, AR 72756

**Children's Advocacy Center
of Western Benton County**
1555 Shankles Road
Gentry, AR 72734



Better Together

Celebrating Growth

The CAC realized, after our first year of inception, that Western Benton County needed a satellite location to better serve the needs of children and families in that part of our county. In 2020 we were able to see this dream become a reality.

March 2020

Groundbreaking with staff, board, donors, and community members marked the beginning of construction for this dream facility.



April 2020

The foundation was poured, and framing had started! We saw the facility begin to take shape!

June 2020

CAC staff, board members and the Shewmaker family went out to bless the facility and write hidden notes of encouragement to all the children who will walk through the doors of CAC West.

July 2020

Siding and trim were finished, and decorative rock was laid around the facility.

September 2020

Outdoor work began to complete the parking lot, basketball court, playground area and overall landscaping.

October 2020

The time finally arrived, and we were able to move in office furniture to make the center feel like home! Installation of the Campaign Donor Wall featuring all our generous donors who made this facility possible was the final touch! On October 29th, we held our ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of this project!



November 2020

The Children's Advocacy Center of Western Benton County opened its doors to be able to better serve children in Western Benton County. By the end of 2020 we were able to serve 59 children at our satellite facility because of YOU!

2020 Statistics

Our typical child is an 11-year-old girl who was sexually abused by someone she knows and trusts.

77%

of the children we saw were new clients.

23%

of the children we saw were returning clients with new allegations of abuse.

970

Children and their non-offending family members were seen at the CAC for initial services.

13%

of those children were seen after hours.

5,906

Clients in each program



Sustaining Services

Amidst a pandemic, one thing remained the same - children in Benton County still needed a place to feel safe and heard. Because of the support of our community, the CAC was able to continue offering services that were desperately needed. While everyone was forced to stay at home where most people were the safest, this wasn't the case for many of the children we serve. The CAC knew that our services couldn't stop. The CAC staff excelled at finding new ways to continue offering our critical services in such a time of uncertainty.

This year our Medical team added 5 SANE's (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) to have a team of 10, which allowed them to staff 2 nurses during the day shift.

Education

81 Total trainings **5,906** Persons trained

47 In-Person **2,644** Adults

19 Live Webinar **3,262** Children

15 Recorded Webinar *42% of our trainings were done virtually in 2020

About 20% of our trainings were state and national level.

Due to the pandemic, there was a huge need from educators and child professionals to educate themselves in how to respond to trauma and promote resiliency. The CAC conducted 17% of our trainings over the topic of trauma compared to only 3% from last year.

Medical

95 Medical exams

Of those, 11% were physical abuse exams and 89% were sexual abuse exams.

Mental Health

2,005 Counseling sessions for the year

51% Of services from March to Dec. were done through telehealth.

254 Individual clients had contact with MH professional at our center

The average counseling client was a Caucasian female, between the ages of 5-9.

We were able to provide 18 sessions at WBC since its opening in November.

Advocacy

970 Children and their non-offending family members were served at the CAC.

Our Advocacy team was able to help over 10 families find the resources needed to pay and stop either an eviction notice or shut off notice this year.

In just 2 months (November and December), 59 children were seen at Western Benton County.

Of November and December's cases, this was 38% of the total number of children seen in those two months.

9yo girl: "I was nervous to come here because I was worried that you wouldn't understand what happened. But you do understand me, so I feel a lot better."

Forensic Interviews

910 Forensic interviews

Throughout the pandemic, we continued to conduct 100% of our forensic interviews in person at the CAC with safety precautions that aligned with local, state, and national guidelines.

This year, we were able to fulfill a longtime dream of expanding our forensic interviewing team! The CAC hired 4 new, full-time forensic interviewers (one bilingual) to work between both centers.

14yo male: "I've never been able to talk about this out loud until today...it feels really good to get it out."

16yo female: "I've never been happier to be somewhere in my life. It feels so good to be here. I'm ready to talk."

Our Partners

Benton County Multi-Disciplinary Team

The mission of the Benton County MDT is to collaborate using a holistic approach for the safety and well-being of children in our community.

**Bella Vista
Police Department**

**Bentonville
Police Department**

**Bethel Heights
Police Department**

**Cave Springs
Police Department**

**Centerton
Police Department**

**Decatur
Police Department**

**Gentry
Police Department**

**Gravette
Police Department**

**Highfill
Police Department**

**Little Flock
Police Department**

**Lowell
Police Department**

**Pea Ridge
Police Department**

**Rogers
Police Department**

**Siloam Springs
Police Department**

**Sulphur Springs
Police Department**

**Administrative
Office of the Courts**

**Benton County
Sheriff's Office**

**Juvenile
Probation Office**

**Arkansas Dept. of Corrections
Division of Community Corrections,
Probation & Parole Sex Offender Services**

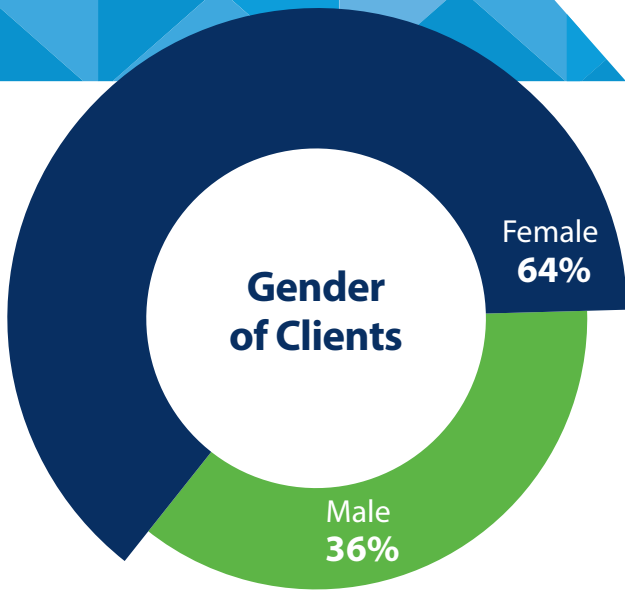
**Arkansas State Police
Crimes Against Children Division**

**Benton County
Department of Human Services**

**Benton County
Prosecuting
Attorney's Office**



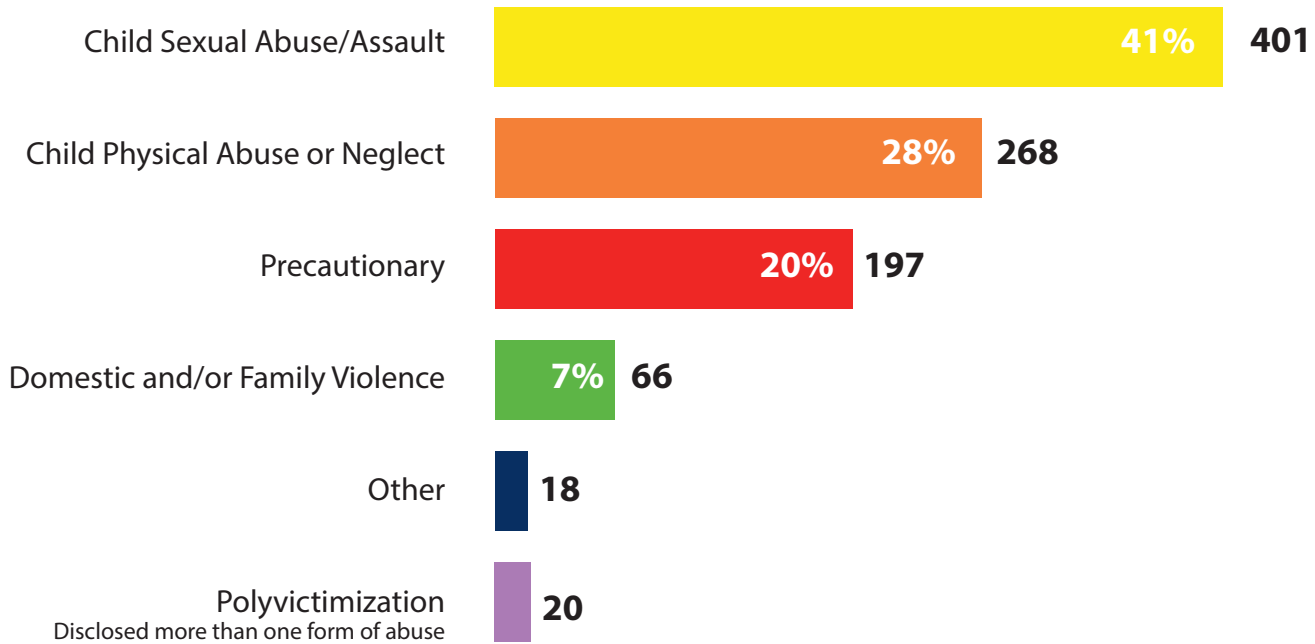
Our Year in Numbers



Someone
the child
knows



Primary Allegations



Empowerment Partners Giving Club Members

A special thank you to the
Empowerment Partners Giving
Club Members, who have
committed to reoccurring giving.

Friend Level

Amy McCann
Andrew and Teresa Fano
Bella Vista Lutheran Church - Women's
Missionary League
David and Beverly Engle
John and Katy Buck
Judy Lewis
Ron Petrie
Sharon Ledbetter
Trent Lamers
Layne Presley
Dr. Steve and Susan Goss
David Whitaker
Paula Proppe
Kathy Farrell
Josh Bishop
Rusty and Erica Sturgeon
Tom and Vicky Harp
Marnie Jackson
Leslie Shewmaker

Protector Level

Barbara Smith
Drew and Nancy Collom
Paul and Georgia Cantrell
Larry Johnson
Roland and Betty Julian
Altrusa International of Rogers
Eloise Odgers
Jerry Miller
Michael and Emily Stephenson
Ronnie and Suzanne Ellington
Chuck and Brian Hyde
Vickie Price
Richard Johnson
Jessica Ginger

Crystal Davis
Shawn and Hannah Flannigan

Advocate Level

Adam and Stephanie White
Andrea Goucher
Highlands United Methodist Women
Jeffery and Jennifer Brust
Jolana Bostwick
Presbyterian Church Of Bella Vista
Rosemary Alberty
Lana Hampton
Hal and Shauna Douglas
Guy and Elizabeth Cable
Kellen and Rori Frank
Jackie and Frieda Crabtree
Bethanny Lyons
Kim Mapes
Allisha Watkins
Tom and Lisa Mertensotto
Emily Smith

Guardian Level

Adam and Traci Holland
Andy and Stacy Barron
Brock and Crystal Hoskins
Bruce and Kerrie Boettner
Cheryl Hull
Greg and Valerie Chandler
John and Andrea Mertz
John and Karen Scholes
New Home Church
Steve and Jacque Zimmerman
Saint Bernard Catholic Church
Women's Club
Living Word Lutheran Church
Mark and Lisa Huffman

Natalie and Lance Weathers
Aaron and Rebecca Gaffigan
Scott and Tessa Carter
Kevin and Natalie Tibbs
Josh and Jill Bryant
Chad Roberts
Rita Hitt

Champion Level

Ted Fox

Hero Level

Bill and Markita Rogers
Debra Pianalto
Lori and Steve Collins
Bobby and Margie Martin
Jason and Kathryn McLay
David and Dana Bing

Awareness Level

Embassy Suites

Corporate Partners Level

The Farrell Foundation, Inc.
Carl & Aileen McKinney Charitable Trust
The Glass Family Foundation
Walmart Foundation

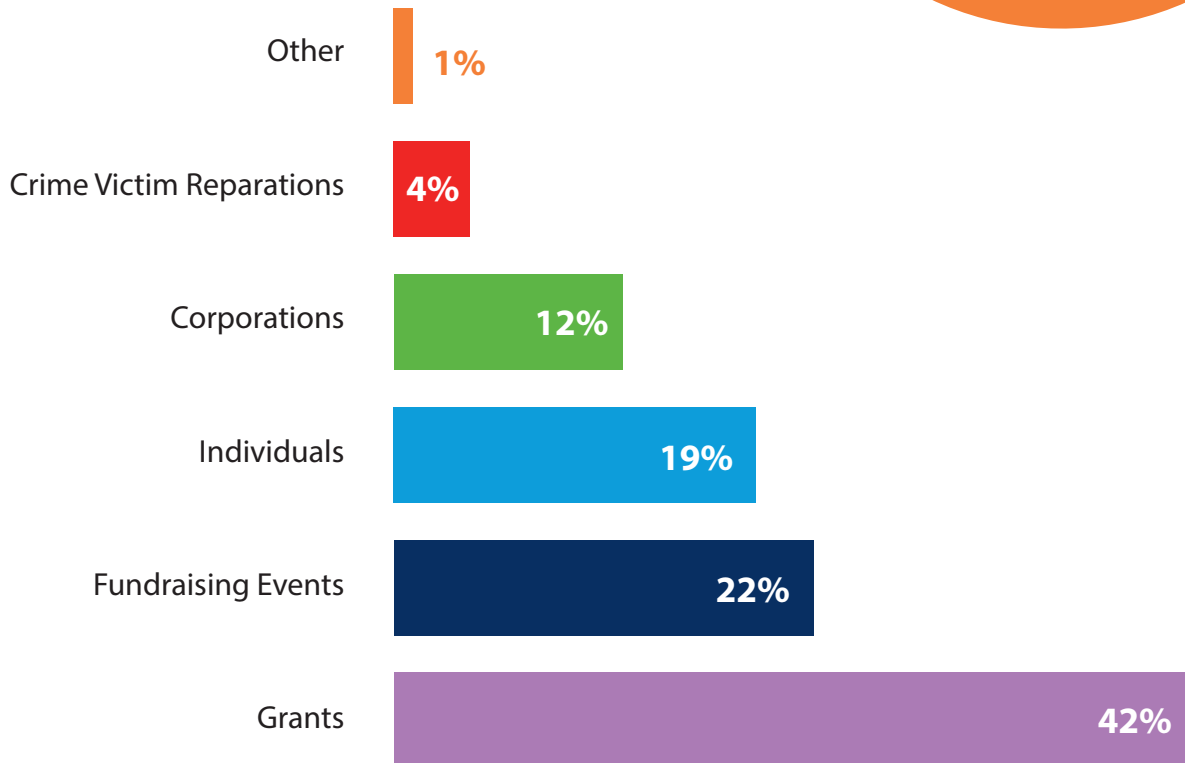
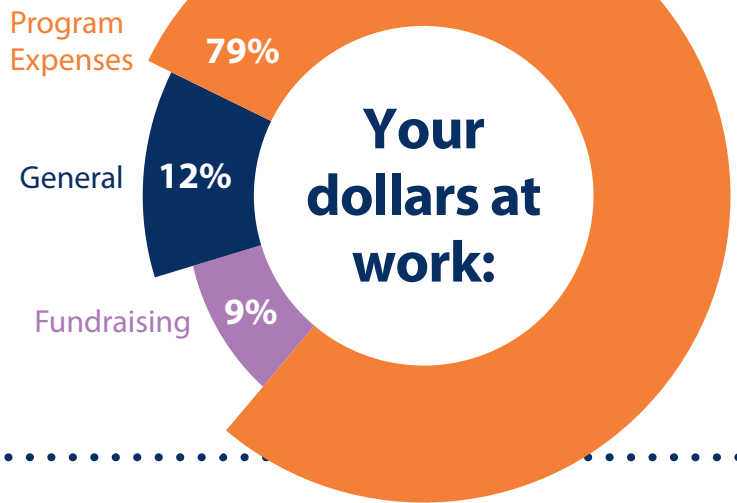
Sustaining Individual Level

Don and Ginger Whitaker
Lamar and Shari Steiger
Doug and Shelley McMillon

Financials

Income and Expenses

The Children's Advocacy Center of Benton County relies on community support to fulfill our mission. Each year, many individuals and businesses help us provide services to abused children. More than 115 volunteers provided over 430 hours of service during 2020. Others provided monetary help through corporate sponsorships and annual fund donations. On behalf of the children served and staff, thank you for supporting this critical work.



Board of Directors

Lori Collins, Chairman
Markita Rogers, Vice-Chairman
Dr. Cheryl Hull, Secretary
Denise Wright, Treasurer
Tommy Coughlin
Adam Holland
Chuck Hyde
Onika Williams
Eric Rowlee
John Scholes
John Scudder
Chad Raith

Board Member Emeritus

Ron Branscum
Guy Cable
Sallye Hof
Susan Hutchinson
Garrett Lewis
Margie Martin
Shelley McMillon
Laah Tucker

Board Advisors

Bob Balfe
Timothy Hutchinson
Kerry Kotouc

Medical Director

Dr. Daniel Weeden

Advisory Board

Kim Dixon, Counselor – Mathias Elem.
Beverly Engle, Founder of CAC of Benton County
Rita Farrell, Zero Abuse Project
Chief Jesse Martinez, Little Flock Police Dept.
Stephanie Morris, Northwest Arkansas Community College
Tammy Dulany, Arkansas State Police
Shanna Robertson, Department of Human Services
Rod Schmalhous – Community Member - Walmart
Nathan Smith, Prosecuting Attorney – Benton Co.
Prosecuting Attorney’s Office
Marisa Snow, Counselor – Barker Middle School
Megan Taylor, Gap Relief

CAC Staff

Natalie Tibbs
Executive Director

Erin Kraner
Director of Operations
Forensic Interviewer

Brooke Boles
Director of Development

Kathy Fisher
Director of Finance and
Administration

Early Mallow
Director of Partner Services
Bilingual Forensic
Interviewer

Meaghan Ranz
Forensic Interview
Coordinator

Edith Wineland
Bilingual Forensic
Interviewer

Emily Martin
Forensic Interviewer

Nicole Burden
Forensic Interviewer

Madison Doerstling
Forensic Interviewer

Brooke Taylor
Advocate

Peyton Rudisill
Advocate

Cindy Menjivar
Bilingual Advocate

Melanie Halbrook
Community Outreach
Coordinator
Forensic Interviewer

Holly Clarke
Event Coordinator

Lindsay Aycock
Development Coordinator

Rachel Toomer,
MS, LAC, LAMFT
Mental Health Coordinator

Lulu Burkhauser,
MEd, LAC
Counselor

Kirsten Hepp, MS, LAC
Counselor

Iris Negrón, MS, LAMFT
Bilingual Counselor

Marsha Williams, MS, LAC
Counselor

Kacie Parrish, RN, BSN,
SANE-A, SANE-P
SANE Coordinator
Contract Sexual Assault
Nurse Examiner

Amber O’Malley, MSN,
RN, SANE-A, SANE-P
Contract Sexual Assault
Nurse Examiner

Regina Welch, RN, BSN
Contract Sexual Assault
Nurse Examiner

Emily Black, RN, BSN
Contract Sexual Assault
Nurse Examiner

Rebecca Isaac, RN
Contract Sexual Assault
Nurse Examiner

Christi Turnage, APRN,
MSN, FNP-C
Contract Sexual Assault
Nurse Examiner

Anita Brett, RN
Contract Sexual Assault
Nurse Examiner

Heather Mize, RN
Contract Sexual Assault
Nurse Examiner

Barbara Ervin, RN, BSN
Contract Sexual Assault
Nurse Examiner

Morganne Masters,
RN, BSN
Contract Sexual Assault
Nurse Examiner

ARKANSAS CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE
1-844-SAVE-A-CHILD

THANK YOU

For Being A Part Of Our Story

2 
YEARS

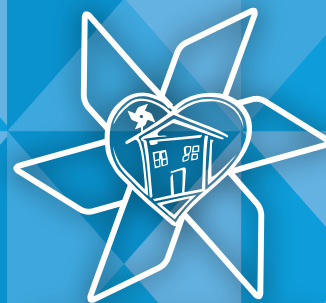
OF EMPOWERING KIDS

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