



# The Children's Assessment Center

Annual Report | 2023

Collective Impact



**The mission of The Children's Assessment Center (The CAC) is to provide a professional, compassionate and coordinated approach to the treatment of sexually abused children and their families and to serve as an advocate for all children in our community.**

\*In this Annual Report, we offer a comprehensive overview of The CAC's activities during the past fiscal year (from October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023) and highlight the results achieved. Our progress would not have been possible without our dedicated staff, MDT partners, civic leaders, donors, and volunteers, who actively participate in our shared responsibility to safeguard children.

# A Message from The CAC Executive Director



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As the sole advocacy center in Harris County serving sexually abused children and their families, The CAC remains committed to excellence. In 2023, the organization experienced tremendous growth and introduced exciting new initiatives.

We are living in a time when the world has taken notice of the need for quality, affordable mental health services. I am proud to share that in 2023, The CAC provided over 10,000 mental health services to children, siblings, and non-offending caregivers, all free of charge. We know that children who enter adulthood with unresolved trauma are more likely to experience negative outcomes such as drug addiction, mental health issues, unwanted pregnancy, poor health, and interactions with the criminal justice system. Our children deserve better, and our mental health services give them the tools they need to manage trauma and lead happy, productive lives.

In 2023, the Harris County Commissioner's Court provided us with the resources necessary to adopt Children's Court Services, an entity that has existed for 40 years, providing support to children as they prepare to testify in court. As you can imagine, facing your abuser can be a terrifying experience. These caring professionals are available in court to provide emotional support. The value their support has to our children and families is immeasurable, and we are grateful to have them on our staff.

Looking forward, we envision a world free of child sexual abuse. Simply put, we want to put ourselves out of a job. We strongly believe, and research shows, that the way to do this is through prevention training for both children and adults. One of our greatest accomplishments of 2023 was a significant increase in our Training and Education Department. With the support of Harris County and a generous grant, we were able to double our training staff, allowing us to provide training to almost 38,000 people in our community, including 25,000 children.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our mission.

Kerry McCracken,

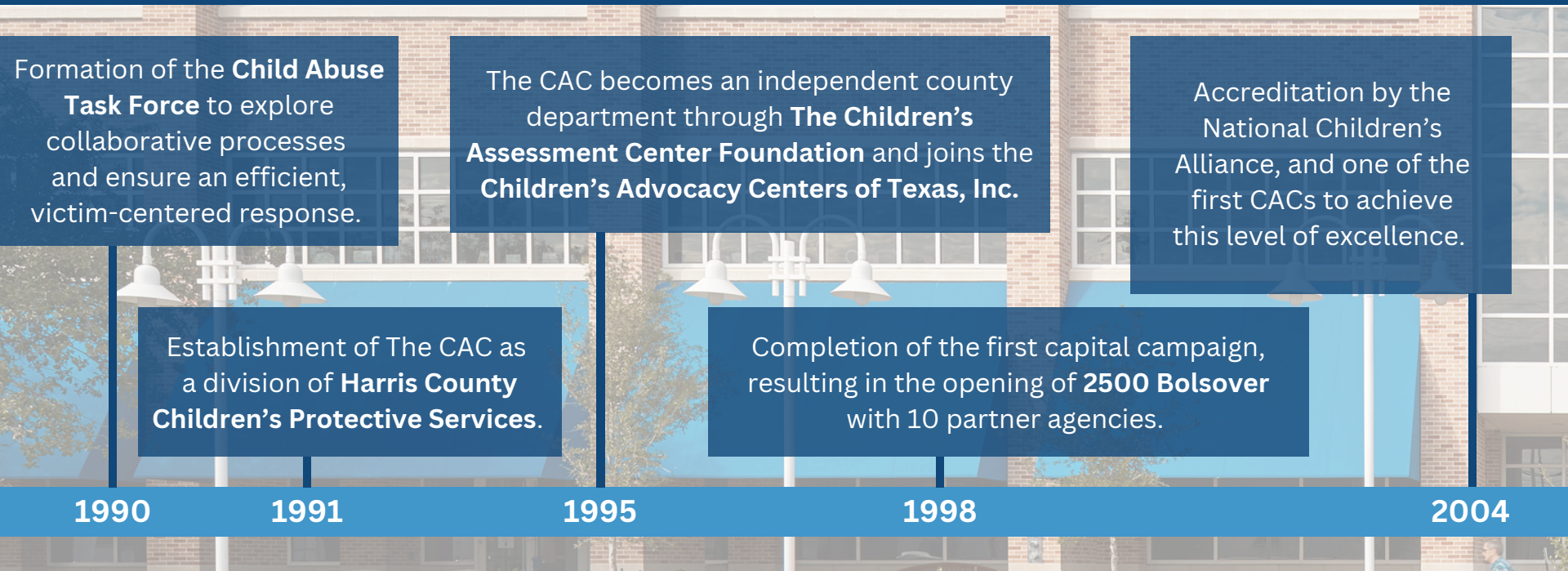
A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "KMcCracken". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Executive Director*

**The Children's Assessment Center**

# Our Story

The Children's Assessment Center in Harris County has been a cornerstone in the fight against child sexual abuse for over three decades. The history and services provided reflect an organization deeply committed to its mission. Key milestones and core principles include:



The CAC's commitment to its mission has made it a beacon of hope and support for those who have experienced such trauma. By offering a safe haven and leadership in the child advocacy movement, The CAC not only aids in the healing process but also works towards preventing future abuse and raising awareness about these critical issues. The work of The CAC is a testament to the power of community collaboration and the positive impact that dedicated support services can have on the lives of vulnerable individuals.

The CAC remains a remarkable example of a comprehensive, collaborative effort to protect children, heal families and prevent child sexual abuse. The core services provided by The CAC are integral to its mission:

- Forensic Interviews
- Trauma-Focused Therapy
- Multidisciplinary Case Reviews
- Victim Support and Advocacy
- Medical Evaluations
- Joint Investigation Coordination
- Prevention, Training and Education



Launch of the **Capital Campaign “Restoring Hope-Rebuilding Lives”** with 45 partner agencies.

**Completion of The CAC expansion**, partnering with 53 multidisciplinary agencies to provide comprehensive services.

**The CAC collaborates with 60 MDT partners, delivers over 10,000 mental health services county-wide, and engages almost 40,000 individuals in education and prevention training.**

2012

2017

2023

With nearly 40,000 reports of child abuse received annually in Harris County and almost 3,400 children sharing their disclosures of abuse at The CAC, the center’s role in the community is both significant and impactful. By offering these services in one central location, The CAC ensures that children and families have access to coordinated care tailored to their unique needs, fostering a path towards healing and recovery.

# What We Accomplished Together

**1** Advocacy center serving Harris County

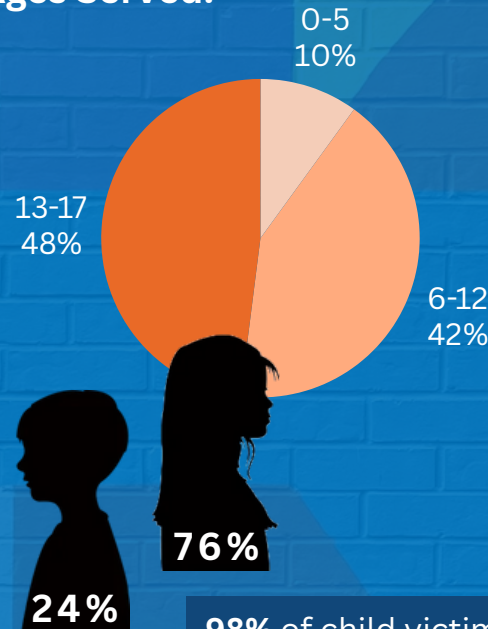
**60** Community partners

**100** Dedicated staff members

**6,350** Children and families served

**8%** Increase from FY22 to FY23

## Ages Served:



## Types of Abuse:

- 83%** Sexual abuse
- 8%** Victims of neglect
- 6%** Physical abuse
- 1%** Both sexual and physical abuse
- 1%** Surviving children in a child fatality
- 1%** Other victimization
- .4%** Child witness to abuse

**98%** of child victims knew their alleged perpetrator.  
**20%** of alleged perpetrators were **under 18 years old.**

These statistics are a testament to the critical role The CAC plays in providing services to children affected by various forms of trauma. The data also highlights the importance of tailored services to meet the needs of different age groups and the prevalence of abuse by individuals known to the victims.

The Children's Assessment Center has achieved remarkable milestones in FY2023 across its six core specialized services.

**Joint Investigation Coordination**

A total of **38,136** DFPS reports of abuse and neglect were reviewed. This includes **10,799** reports related to child sexual abuse and child sex trafficking.

**Forensic Interviews**

**3,375** children underwent forensic interviews, a critical step in the investigative process.

**Family Advocacy and Victims Support**

**2,537** families benefited from **5,281** family advocacy services, providing essential support during challenging times.

**Trauma-Focused Mental Health**

**10,500** mental health services were provided, which reached 893 children and 254 adults.

**Medical Evaluations**

**1,039** children received medical evaluations, ensuring health and wellbeing following abuse allegations.

**MDT Case Review**

The Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) formally reviewed **306** cases, facilitated by The CAC, to ensure comprehensive care and support.

# What We Do

The core programs of The CAC are meticulously designed to foster a collaborative environment that reduces trauma, interrupts the cycle of abuse, and equips families with the tools to safeguard their children. The CAC delivers a range of services tailored to address the comprehensive physical and psychological needs of children who have experienced sexual abuse, as well as their siblings and non-offending caregivers. These core services are accessible through specialized divisions, including Multidisciplinary Team Services, Forensic Services, Family Advocacy and Victim Support, Medical Evaluations, and Therapy and Psychological Services. Additionally, The CAC extends further support services like Children's Services, Children's Court Services, Community Outreach, Education and Prevention, and Child Sex Trafficking initiatives, all aimed at bolstering the provision of services to children and families affected by child sexual abuse.

**Protect children.**

**Heal families.**

**Prevent abuse.**



# Multidisciplinary Enhancement Initiative

The CAC's Multidisciplinary Enhancement Initiative (MEI) has been pivotal in enhancing the collaboration among law enforcement and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. This initiative has been instrumental in:

**Strengthening the Multidisciplinary Team:** Ensuring all children have timely access to the complete range of services offered by The CAC.

**Improving Communication:** Facilitating effective communication, coordination, and collaboration at every stage of service delivery.

**Promoting Safety, Justice, and Healing:** Aiming to provide child sexual abuse survivors and their families with the necessary support for recovery.

adaptable

**38,136 Statewide Intakes received and reviewed,**  
including 10,799 specific to child sexual abuse.

**2,223 Coordinated joint investigations conducted.**

**306 Case Reviews completed.**

The integration of child abuse reports from the child abuse hotline directly into the new case management system in 2023 marks a significant improvement in the efficiency of The CAC's operations. This advancement ensures that:

- The CAC receives this critical information **promptly**.
- The assessment of cases fitting CAC service criteria is **more efficient**.
- There is a reduction in manual data entry, **saving time** for staff.
- CAC staff can dedicate **more time to serving children and families**.

purposeful

# Multidisciplinary Team Partners

The Harris County Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) plays a crucial role in addressing child abuse and exploitation.

**MDT Approach.** The MDT approach involves professionals from various fields working together to support child victims of sexual abuse and child sex trafficking. These professionals collaborate with The CAC staff to ensure an effective and coordinated response. Their goal is to minimize trauma for children and families while respecting the rights and responsibilities of each agency involved.

**Interagency Collaboration.** The MDT fosters collaboration among law enforcement, medical and mental health professionals, nonprofits, and governmental investigative entities. By working together, the MDT enhances the quality of care provided to child victims. This collaboration is essential for a comprehensive and compassionate response.

**Mission.** The Harris County MDT's mission is to provide the best possible response for every child victim. Insight from each MDT representative contributes to an environment that fulfills this mission.

“The Children’s Assessment Center Multidisciplinary Team enhances our ability to prosecute child sexual abuse cases more effectively. The expertise contributed by professionals from various fields and the knowledge that they share with us is crucial to our work, ensuring trauma-informed services that we provide to survivors.”



**Denise Nichols**, *Chief of Crimes Against Children*  
Harris County District Attorney's Office

# The CAC's 60 Partner Agencies

Aldine ISD Police Department

Alief ISD Police Department

Baylor College of Medicine and Texas  
Children's Hospital

Baytown Police Department

Bellaire Police Department

Child Advocates, Inc.

Communities In Schools, Houston Inc.

Crime Stoppers of Houston

Cypress Fairbanks ISD Police Department

Deer Park Police Department

Domestic Relations Office

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

Friendswood Police Department

Galena Park Police Department

Goose Creek ISD Police Department

Harris County Constable Precinct 1

Harris County Constable Precinct 2

Harris County Constable Precinct 3

Harris County Constable Precinct 4

Harris County Constable Precinct 5

Harris County Constable Precinct 6

Harris County Attorney's Office

Harris County District Attorney's Office

Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences

Harris County Juvenile Probation Department

Harris County Resources for Children and Adults

Harris County Sheriff's Office

Hedwig Village Police Department

Homeland Security Investigations

Houston Area Women's Center

Houston ISD Police Department

Houston Metro Internet Crimes Against Children  
(ICAC) Task Force

Houston Police Department

Humble Police Department

Jacinto City Police Department

Jersey Village Police Department

Katy ISD Police Department

Katy Police Department

Klein ISD Police Department

La Porte Police Department

Lakeview Police Department

Memorial Hermann Healthcare System

Memorial Village Police Department

Nassau Bay Police Department

Pasadena ISD Police Department

Pasadena Police Department

Seabrook Police Department

South Houston Police Department

Southside Place Police Department

Spring Branch ISD Police Department

Spring ISD Police Department

Spring Valley Police Department

Stafford Police Department

Texas Center for the Missing

Texas Department of Family and  
Protective Services (DFPS)

Texas Department of Public Safety

Tomball Police Department

United States Attorney's Office

Webster Police Department

West University Police Department

# Forensic Services

The CAC provides children a safe place to tell what, if anything, happened to them in a neutral setting to experts who listen to them and help them heal. The goal of Forensic Services is to:

Minimize trauma to children by reducing the number of times a child is interviewed during an investigation of child abuse.

Obtain a child's statement in an objective, developmentally sensitive, and legally defensible manner.

Conduct the highest quality interviews and assessments using forensically sound methods and techniques.

Provide support to the non-offending caregivers during the investigative process.

Assess levels of trauma to children to ensure meaningful and appropriate clinical referrals for ongoing services.

**3,375 Forensic Interviews**  
**106 Extended Forensic Interview and Evaluation Sessions**  
**402 Clinical Assessments**

The CAC's Clinical Assessment program received 756 referrals. 396 assessments were completed, and 301 referrals were submitted for trauma-informed therapy services. Clinicians also completed 58 Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention sessions.

“The ambiance of the center it's pretty relaxing comfortable and safe. The program is the best my child has received and the most effective.”\*



# Victim Support and Advocacy

Family Advocates at The CAC provide victim support and advocacy services to all clients and their caregivers as part of the multidisciplinary team response. The focus of advocacy is to reduce trauma to children and families, improve outcomes, and facilitate access to comprehensive support services. Our team of master's level social workers are available to assist families in crisis and support and encourage participation in comprehensive services.

**Most notably, Family Advocacy saw an increase of 6% in client services, while follow-up advocacy services increased 19%.**

**5,281 family advocacy services provided  
2,537 families received services**

committed



The advocate made me feel comfortable, safe and relaxed. She explained everything and told me I was doing an amazing job with my child. I know lots of times I fail, but she made me feel like I am enough.”\*

*\*Outcome Measurement Survey (OMS) – Caregiver Feedback 2023*

compassionate

# Medical Evaluation

Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital play a crucial role for the community by providing exceptional care at The CAC to children impacted by child sexual abuse. Under the direction of Dr. Reena Isaac, MD, children are treated by highly qualified physicians and certified advanced practice providers (APPs) who are specially trained to handle sensitive cases.

The medical team conducts specialized evaluations in a setting that is designed to be child-friendly and non-intimidating, significantly reducing the discomfort and fear a child might feel during such procedures. These medical exams are crucial for any child with allegations or concerns of abuse, as they serve multiple purposes:

Assessing the child's overall well-being, health, and safety.

Collecting evidence and documenting any signs of trauma.

Screening for sexually transmitted infections, injuries, and pregnancy.

healing

Above all, the medical evaluation seeks to provide reassurance to both the child and their family, affirming the child's physical well-being. 2023 statistics underscore the program's unwavering commitment and its profound impact on the lives of vulnerable children.

**1,039 children received medical evaluations**

**535 sexual assault exams completed**

**504 patients deferred exams**

“Everything was thought out to be a child centered place where my child felt comfortable opening up and talking about her experience in a safe place.”\*



# Children's Services

The primary goal of the Children's Services Division is to support the services provided by The CAC by providing children a safe, nurturing place to play and interact with peers before and after services. The Children's Services Division includes the Activity Center, a volunteer and intern program, the Rainbow Room, art activities, holiday gift and clothing drives, and an annual back-to-school program. Additionally, Children's Services hosts the annual children's holiday party, back-to-school event, and many other child-friendly fun activities throughout the year. The CAC's on-site Activity Center, which is staffed by four CAC staff members and specially trained volunteers and interns, provides a safe haven for children while awaiting services or during a lengthy investigation of alleged abuse.



safe haven

vibrant

**5,217 Child Visitors to the Activity Center**  
**1,273 Volunteer Hours**  
**913 Children Served during Spirit of Summer**  
**950 Children Served during Spirit of Winter**

# Trauma Informed Therapy

The Therapy and Psychological Services Division at The CAC provides evidence-based, trauma-informed mental health services to children, siblings and caregivers impacted by child sexual abuse. Specialized treatment is instrumental in caring for the emotional well-being of survivors and includes the following services: crisis intervention, psychological evaluation, psychiatric care, and individual, group, and family therapy. Upon referral, every child is evaluated so that a unique treatment plan may be developed for each child, sibling, and non-offending caregiver. Services are offered in both English and Spanish and at multiple locations including The CAC, telehealth, and in outlying communities.

**empowering**

**100% of caregivers surveyed were very satisfied with the mental health services their child received. Caregiver feedback included:**

**“The best program my child has had.”\***

**“It has taught me a lot about trauma responses and how to navigate them. Also that my daughter is getting the help she needs. I am also getting therapy and the help I need.”\***

**10,500 Mental health services provided**  
**893 Children served**  
**254 Adults served**





# Education and Prevention

The CAC provides professional development and continuing education opportunities for professionals who work with children, health care, school personnel, parents, children and community members who want to learn more about child safety and protection. The goal is to raise community awareness by providing informative and evidence-based trainings and quality prevention programming to address child sexual abuse. Emphasis is placed on identifying signs and symptoms of sexual abuse, Texas reporting laws, trauma-informed care, and preventing all forms of child maltreatment. Trainings are offered virtually, live, and hybrid.

Training opportunities included: Monique Burr Foundation - Child Safety Matters and Teen Safety Matters, Darkness to Light - Stewards of Children, Netsmartz, P.S. It's My Body, Volunteer Training, and MDT Orientation, in addition to a host of professional education opportunities for The CAC staff and partner agencies.

**37,974 Children and adults trained**

**1,664 Total trainings provided**

**1,130 Prevention trainings completed by**

**25,386 children and 501 adults**

In 2023, The CAC collaborated with Spring Independent School District to provide prevention training to Elementary and Middle School students.

796 trainings were provided to 18,693 Elementary School students.

94 trainings were provided to 2,466 Middle School students.



prevent

# Caregivers' Point of View

In 2023, 330 caregivers receiving initial and follow-up services at The CAC responded to our survey. The CAC uses the Outcome Measurement System (OMS) to demonstrate the value of the work The CAC provides to children and families and the success of the CAC model in the eyes of the MDT.

**Key Statistics** The feedback from caregivers about The CAC is overwhelmingly positive, which speaks volumes about the quality of care and support provided.

**Feeling of Safety:** 92% of caregivers agreed their child felt safe at The CAC.

**Timely Attention:** 96% were satisfied with the timeliness of the greeting and attention received.

**Friendly Staff:** 95% strongly agreed that the staff members at The CAC were friendly and pleasant.

**Informed Caregivers:** 93% agreed they knew what to expect after their visit at The CAC.

**“[Therapy] taught me a lot about trauma responses and how to navigate them. Also that my daughter is getting the help she needs.”\***

## Follow-up Survey Results. 100% of caregivers agreed that:

- ✓ Services were helpful to both their child and themselves.
- ✓ Staff members at The CAC were friendly and pleasant.
- ✓ They would recommend The CAC to others in similar situations.



“They helped me to understand the process and more importantly how I can support my child through it.”\*



“My Family Advocate was so patient and kind, and she listened so well and provided very compassionate attention to me. I am so impressed with everyone here and the facility is beautiful. I had no clue there was a place like this. Thank you so much.”\*

\*Anonymous testimonials further reinforce the sentiment that The CAC is a compassionate, child-centered, and effective facility. Caregivers appreciate the patient and kind approach of the Family Advocates and the overall environment of The CAC.

# CAC Employee Wellness Program

The CAC Wellness Ambassadors actively enhance employee well-being through initiatives that promote health, happiness, and a compassionate organizational culture. 2023 events included Bingo on the Rooftop, quarterly Wellness Carts, and Wellness Wednesdays. Additionally, two affinity groups were launched including a running club and a book club. These events fostered camaraderie and provided moments of relief for clinicians and staff. These initiatives reinforced their value and reminded staff that they are not alone.

It is heartwarming to hear how the Wellness Ambassadors initiatives impacted staff:

Building stronger relationships with colleagues.

Fostering excitement leading up to events.

Reminding everyone of the talented, kind-hearted individuals they work with.

“The Wellness Ambassadors initiatives spark joy, motivation, and comradery amongst staff.” \*

Overall, The CAC’s commitment to employee well-being is commendable, and we hope these initiatives continue to make a positive difference.

“I’ve built stronger relationships with colleagues, interacted with staff across different departments, and enjoy the excitement it brings to my days and weeks leading up to the events.” \*

*\*CAC Staff feedback*

# CAC Cultural Competency Committee

With the goal of fostering a vibrant and dynamic organizational culture, The CAC Cultural Competency Committee regularly shares information with their departments to raise awareness. They offer the following trainings for CAC staff members:

**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Training:** This session focuses on understanding the role of cultural competency in both the workplace and clinical settings.

**Cultural Competency When Working With the African American Community:** A specialized training to enhance cultural competence when interacting with the African American community.

**Training Center Information Monitor:** The Training Center displays cultural competency information for staff, partner agency staff, and community visitors.



# Child Sex Trafficking Initiatives

The CAC takes the lead in Harris County's response to child sex trafficking (CST), co-facilitating the Child Sex Trafficking Advisory Council alongside Harris County Resources for Children and Adults. This council coordinates a county-wide network of agencies charged with guiding affected children towards safety, justice and healing through a trauma-informed approach.

The CST multidisciplinary team held 160 trafficking related Rapid Response Team calls and reviewed 67 trafficking cases in 2023.

Furthermore, The CAC extends its full array of services to the CST MDT, including case coordination, care review, forensic interviews, advocacy, medical evaluations, and mental health services for both trafficked youth and their caregivers. Additionally, The CAC provides essential items like hygiene products and clothing to youth upon recovery, prioritizing these referrals. Collaborating with other community organizations, The CAC also offers transportation vouchers and necessary resources to support trafficked youth post-recovery.



## **In 2023, The CAC took significant steps to combat child sex trafficking in Harris County:**

Led revisions to the Child Sex Trafficking Team Care Coordination Protocols, ensuring alignment among agencies on procedures for trafficked children.

Hosted various in-person and virtual trainings on trauma-informed practices and trafficking awareness.

Hosted trafficking related workshops, a press conference, and media interviews during Human Trafficking Awareness month.

Acted as co-care coordinator for all child sex trafficking cases in Harris County.

Engaged in media interviews, attended trafficking conferences, and conducted presentations on child sex trafficking.

# Generosity in Action

The Children's Assessment Center Foundation received \$8,420,583 of funding from public and private organizations and individuals, all committed to protecting children, healing families, and preventing child sexual abuse in our community. ***Your generous support provides hope for a brighter future for children and their families.*** With their permission, we were able to highlight the impact of a few consistent donors.



**American Air Liquide Holdings, Inc.** Air Liquide's steadfast commitment generated vital funds for our healing and protective services through their Spirit of Spring event sponsorships for over a decade. Their contributions have helped us raise awareness about the problem of abuse and impacted the lives of countless children and families.



**EOG Resources, Inc.** EOG Resources has supported multiple initiatives that helped further our mission to empower families recovering from the trauma of child sexual abuse. From joining our Lighting the Path Giving Society to supporting both the 2023 Spirit of Fall Sporting Clays Tournament and Spirit of Winter children's holiday party to spending many hours volunteering at The CAC, EOG and their employees have made a substantial impact on our organization.

**Flowserve Corporation** Since 2021, the Flowserve Cares Day volunteer event has transformed our center's outdoor space into a welcoming, safe space for our children and families. This event ignited a vibrant culture of community service among Flowserve employees who actively participate in our annual holiday toy and school supply drives.



**Halliburton Charitable Foundation** The Halliburton Charitable Foundation graciously invites The CAC to be a beneficiary of their Charity Golf Tournament each year, donating funds and providing a platform for us to advocate for child victims and their families. Their consistent support is vital to removing financial barriers for families and increasing access to our essential services.

**H-E-B** Over the past decade, H-E-B's contributions have helped empower thousands of families as they recover from child sexual abuse. They are dedicated partners in our Spirit of Spring event and through H-E-B's Tournament of Champions, which supports organizations that make a lasting impact on children and education.



**Houston Oilman's Invitational Shooting Tournament** The Houston Oilman's Invitational Shooting Tournament has partnered with The CAC since 1997 and invites us to their annual event to help us raise awareness about our mission. Their consistent support has enabled us to expand our prevention services and equip the community with the tools necessary to protect children.



**James Avery Artisan Jewelry** James Avery Artisan Jewelry's grant for our Safe Spaces Program helped us transform trauma-triggering spaces into sanctuaries where child victims can feel safe in their homes. Their generosity provided bedroom items for nineteen children and their families, helping to reduce their trauma symptoms and bringing relief and joy to families on their healing journey.

**John M. O'Quinn Foundation** Since 1996, The John M. O'Quinn Foundation has provided transformational support to fund our capital campaigns and general operating budget. They assisted our facility expansions which allowed us to serve more families, house our partners onsite, and create a state-of-the-art training center to increase our abuse prevention services in the community.



**John S. Dunn Foundation** Since 2011, The John S. Dunn Foundation has been instrumental in sustaining our mission, particularly our mental health program. Their contributions make it possible for The CAC to provide early intervention for victims of child sexual abuse and restore hope for their future.



**Justin Emory Garcia** Justin Garcia's passion has created a legacy of beauty and engagement that artfully incorporates our staff, clients, and volunteers, fostering a strong sense of community. He has shared his time and talents by artistically enhancing our rooftop with murals, creating an inclusive art piece for our therapy wing, and advocating for our cause in the community.



**Kolache Factory, Inc.** The Kolache Factory toured The CAC and heard about our clients' urgent needs. In July 2023, they immediately launched a Houston-wide shoe drive and contributions from their customers provided 366 children with new shoes, meeting a basic need and removing the financial burden from families focused on healing. Based on the success of the initial drive, they have committed to continue their shoe drive into 2024.



**Spindletop Community Impact Partners** Spindletop Community Impact Partner has sustainably funded our essential programs and child-friendly facility since 1997. Spindletop has consistently underwritten our Back-to-School Children's Party, providing backpacks, serving at the children's party, and bringing hope to survivors.



**Texas Children's Hospital** Texas Children's Hospital is our partner for The CAC's on-site Medical Clinic and has also generously supported The CAC since 2006. Their investment in our programs, capital campaigns, and events has been crucial to reaching more of our community, creating a safe haven at The CAC and providing our children and families with expert care.

**The Nagel Family** The Nagel Family is an inaugural member and pivotal catalyst in founding our Lighting the Path Giving Society. Their unwavering dedication has allowed us to allocate resources to address critical client needs, making a lasting impact by empowering children and families.



**The Powell Foundation** The Powell Foundation is a new partner that passionately champions our mental health services to help us restore each child's sense of self, comfort, and safety after experiencing abuse. They are committed to leveling the playing field to ensure all in need have equal access to our high-quality care.

**United Way of Greater Houston** The United Way of Greater Houston funded our Building Appropriate Sexual Education program, a therapeutic diversion program for youth who have engaged in problematic sexual behavior. This program was previously unfunded until United Way made a three-year commitment, enabling us to grow and formalize this life-changing prevention program.



## Cherish the Child Awards

We select a few outstanding supporters to honor each year with our Cherish The Child Award. These organizations and individuals have exemplified unwavering dedication to ending child sexual abuse and providing hope to families in need. Award recipients past and present are recognized above.



# Vision 2028: Our Strategic Plan

**Every five years,** The CAC engages in a comprehensive strategic planning process. During this process, The CAC gathers input from leadership, MDT partners, staff, and volunteers to identify impactful work. The outcome is six strategic priority areas that shape all CAC projects, guide performance evaluation, and influence our initiatives. Here are our 2023 - 2028 strategic priorities.

## Our Shared Mission

**Expand access to services for children and families.**

**Prevent child sexual abuse through evidence-based strategies.**

**Achieve organizational excellence through engagement of CAC Staff, Board of Directors, volunteers and leadership.**

**Enhance the Multidisciplinary team response and collaboration with partner agencies.**

**Strengthen outcomes for children and families.**

**Improve branding and awareness of The CAC.**

# President's Letter

Dear Friends of The CAC,

In the 1990s, I served as an Assistant District Attorney in Harris County, Texas. In that role, I handled many cases involving the sexual abuse of children and tried quite a few of those cases in front of juries. From that experience, I witnessed first-hand how difficult it is for children to navigate the criminal justice system. Thankfully, those child victims in Harris County are served by The Children's Assessment Center.



The aim of The Children's Assessment Center is to provide services to avoid re-traumatizing children who have been the victims of abuse. The Children's Assessment Center provides forensic interviews, medical services, and ongoing therapy and support services free of charge so that a child's journey through the criminal justice system is as painless as possible. Those support services are also offered to families so that both the child and his or her caregivers have the opportunity to heal.

The Children's Assessment Center also seeks to prevent the abuse of children by providing training in the community to children, families, schools and other organizations. The goal of the training staff is to see a day where no child has to walk through its doors to receive services as a result of being abused.

I am humbled to now serve on the Board of Directors of The Children's Assessment Center Foundation. Our purpose is to raise funds for and advocate on behalf of The Children's Assessment Center. I am thankful for the opportunity to give back to an organization that was so instrumental in helping me advocate on behalf of abused children and that has supported thousands of other children over the years. I hope The Children's Assessment Center can count on your ongoing support so that it may continue to provide critically needed services to child victims of abuse and expand its education efforts to prevent other children from becoming victims.

Sincerely,

**Lori Swann**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Swann". The signature is written in a dark blue or black ink.

*Board President*

**The Children's Assessment Center Foundation**

# Foundation Board of Directors

*President, Lori Swann*

*Secretary, Buckley Morlot*

*Treasurer, Christopher DeClaire*

*Assistant Treasurer, Gail Prather*

*Past President, Kathy Wells*

Mark Anderson	Jason Lacher
Paul Bragg	Consuelo Macpherson
Angie Chen	Lexi Marek
Brady Crosswell	Sam Parikh
Sara Downey	Kim Pinyopusarerk
Melanie Rosin Feldman	Mariana Pope
Tony Gibson	Dr. Joan Shook
Rhonda Graff	Jeff Vaden
Marian Harper	David Williams
David Key	Crystal Wright

## Executive Leadership Team

<i>Executive Director</i>	Kerry McCracken
<i>Assistant Executive Director</i>	Jennifer Hill
<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>	Rob Sanchez
<i>Director of Partner Relations</i>	Lisa Longoria Bourgoyne
<i>Director of Training and Education</i>	Karen Kennard

The achievements reflected in this report were made possible through the commitment of an extraordinary team of dedicated professionals working each day on behalf of our mission and vision as members of Team CAC. We are honored these professionals chose to dedicate their time and talents to ensuring safety, justice, and healing for Harris County children. To learn more about The CAC, please visit [www.cachouston.org](http://www.cachouston.org).



**2500 Bolsover Street Houston, TX 77005**

**(713) 986-3300 | [www.cachouston.org](http://www.cachouston.org)**

**Protect Children. Heal Families. Prevent Abuse.**

