



The Chronicle

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY CENTERS OF GEORGIA

Volume 3, Issue 2, October 2010

*Our Vision: When abuse is reported,
every child in Georgia will have access
to the services provided by a Children's
Advocacy Center.*

2010 World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse

When Victor Rivers speaks, he represents untold numbers of child abuse survivors. He speaks for those whose voices are still silent, and he rallies behind those who have had the courage to come forward. His odyssey — from fear and pain to love and triumph — illustrates that, though abuse is reprehensible, it is not insurmountable.

"A lot of times, you cannot see the light at the end of the tunnel," Rivers said of victims of child abuse. "There is a happy ending, and a lot of people need to know that."

On November 19, Rivers will bring his harrowing tale of survival and inspiration to World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse hosted by Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia (CACGA) and Kennesaw State University's Department of Social Work and Human Services. On this day child advocates from across the state will come together to encourage communities to take a more active role in the protection of our most precious gifts — children.

"We have no higher priority in this world than protecting children and their dreams," said Cynthia Howell, Chief Executive Officer of CACGA. "It is my hope that our 4th annual World Day Conference will continue to inspire individuals and communities to work together on behalf of our children."

As the national spokesperson for National Network to End Domestic Violence, Victor Rivers uses his personal story — one of horrific domestic violence and torturous child abuse outlined in his memoir, **A Private Family Matter** — to educate others on the intricacies and effects of abuse. He sees his work as a way to pay it forward, thanking his living angels by touching the lives of others.

"They saw the potential in me that I did not see in myself," Rivers said of the friends and strangers who loved him out of despair. They gave him guidance. They gave him shelter. They gave him the "greatest gift" of just listening to him, he said.

He went on to excel in college and professional football, landed acting gigs in movies such as Zorro, and took on his most-powerful role yet — a husband and father.

Countless people tell Rivers that his story is like theirs. Advocates mention the heart-wrenching and overwhelming nature of their work. Silent survivors — some are advocates themselves — don't say anything at all, but they are listening.

"Many times, in your work you're not going to see the end result," Rivers said. "You can't save everybody, but you'd be surprised at how many people you're impacting."

Advocates help connect the dots for survivors, families, and the public, who may not understand the gravity of abuse. *(continued on page 5)*



Victor Rivers is keynote speaker at World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse on November 19th.

Women's World Summit Foundation launched World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse in 2000 to create a culture of prevention on a family, local, national and international level. It is observed by more than 700 organizations in more than 130 countries.

CACGA held its first World Day event in 2007. The Georgia event attracts some 200 committed child advocates from across the state for a day of inspiration, dialogue and education.

The conference is free, however attendees must register by November 12. Seating is limited. Also, the deadline for special hotel rates is October 30. Get more information on the event and registration online at www.cacga.org.

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upcoming events

November 4, 2010

Board of Directors Meeting
Dahlonega

November 5, 2010

Quarterly Member Center Meeting
Dahlonega

November 19, 2010

World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse
Kennesaw

February 15, 2011

Board of Directors Meeting
Atlanta

February 16, 2011

Legislative Day
Atlanta

Chairman's Message



D. Lee Garrett

It was a busy summer for our Chief Executive Officer Cynthia Howell and the Center and Membership Development Committee. CACGA completed 16 site reviews of CACs statewide.

In light of the ever-changing scrutiny and legal processes all of our CACs are under, I cannot stress the importance of remaining engaged with CACGA and understanding the upcoming changes to the membership standards. It is vital that your local board of directors understand the CAC model and champion this model in your center. This combined with budget concerns and likely fewer staff, your local board's knowledge and engagement are of utmost significance. CACGA continues to actively work to diversify its funding base and recognizes the need to reduce dependence on state funding to assist the CACs. In that regard, we are actively seeking a fund developer to manage the branding, marketing and fundraising aspects of CACGA.

As we enter the fall, our biggest event of the year is at hand. This event and hopefully more to come will help put a face on child abuse. The Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia and Kennesaw State University are pleased to host our 4th annual World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse. The theme of this year's conference is "Protect Our Children and Their Dreams."

We will once again assemble professionals involved in various phases of the child welfare process from investigation to prosecution. The ultimate goal of the conference is to emphasize a spirit of community collaboration, create effective multidisciplinary teams, and develop strategies for effectively advocating for the safety and well-being of all children.

The conference will feature some of the leading experts in the field of child abuse who will present key information on a variety of topics. These topics include:

Protecting Every Child's Dream

Developing strategies for enhancing the availability of cultural competent and diverse services for victims of child abuse

Advocating for Children: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Policy Implementation

Raising awareness, creating and enforcing relevant legislation in the fight against child abuse and neglect

Internet Crimes Against Children

Using a team approach to protect children from crimes taking place in the virtual realm of cyberspace

It Takes a Village:

A Community Response to Child Abuse

Highlighting additions and changes to the state's new Model Child Abuse Protocol

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors - Breaking the Chains

Creating practical and viable options for combating child sexual exploitation and empowering victims to exit unsafe and abusive lifestyles

Healing: Continuing the Dream

Exploring treatment strategies for children who are victims of abuse.

You can download registration from our website at <http://www.cacga.org/news/events/>

We hope that you will join us on November 19th as we meet to share ideas, experiences, and practices in protecting our children.

Thanks to all of our centers. The work you do is of great importance.

As this year's board chairman for CACGA, D. Lee Garrett is committed to building on the outstanding work of Children's Advocacy Centers across Georgia. In 2006, he helped launch a local CAC for Walton and Newton counties. He also served on the Walton County Grand Jury, where he experienced the sadness of child abuse and the difference that advocacy centers make for children everywhere.

Chief Executive Officer's Report



Cynthia D. Howell

Children's Advocacy Centers in the state of Georgia are currently facing serious financial challenges.

This is the same scenario faced throughout the nation by state and local governments, companies and nonprofit

organizations. Although state revenue has risen, foundation and individual donations have not. These conditions are forcing boards to realistically examine the financial situation of their Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) and make tough decisions on how they will continue to operate. We must remember that we are in the midst of the worst recession since the Great Depression and at a low ebb in the business cycle. History has shown these trends tend to be cyclic, and that conditions will improve. **We must develop and implement sound financial plans which will allow us to weather the storm but still retain our guiding principle — CHILDREN FIRST.**

In recent months, I have received a number of phone calls from CAC board members from across the state. In most instances, the conversation goes something like this:

The president of our board asked me to call you because we need to make some budget cuts as soon as possible. As a matter of fact, we are meeting at the end of the week. In order to assist us, we need you to answer a few questions.

1. *What is the minimum amount of services that we need to provide to continue getting funding from you?*
2. *Do we need a full time director or can someone from the District Attorney's Office, like the victim advocate, serve as the program coordinator?*
3. *What about the National Children's Alliance? Do we really need to continue our membership with them?*
4. *Is a separate facility necessary? Can't we conduct interviews at the DA's office or even the Sheriff's office?*

5. *We understand that you are now requiring all centers to have an annual independent financial audit conducted regardless of annual revenues. My board feels that this is an unnecessary expense and not worth maintaining our membership in CACGA or NCA. What should I tell them?*

My initial response to callers is to issue a word of warning and remind them of the complexity of the decision-making process. I applauded the board members for evaluating the center's administrative and logistical requirements to ensure that they are absolutely essential for near-term and long-term sustainability. However, I caution board members from viewing some expenditures (i.e., state and national memberships, part-time center director, independent audits, etc.) as discretionary because their benefits may not be readily apparent, but they are truly vital. Elimination of memberships in organizations such as the Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia and consciously choosing not to comply with research-based standards or use best-practice techniques may work in the short run but can put you on a slippery slope when it comes to effectively investigating child abuse cases and treating victims of child abuse.

Additionally, the center will always need allies such as CACGA and NCA to enhance the CAC's credibility. The center director is an absolutely essential position and should not be considered as an additional duty. The center director keeps it all together! Reducing the position to a side job will result in a decrease in focus and effectiveness. With the ever-increasing emphasis on accountability and transparency, external audits provide the verifiable financial data foundations, governmental agencies and potential donors need before they provide any requested grants or donations. *(continued page 4)*

CACGA's chief executive officer since 2005, Cynthia D. Howell devotes her time and energy to help ensure that all of Georgia's children have access to the critical services they need to overcome the trauma of abuse. She is committed to expanding the reach of Children's Advocacy Centers, so children can feel safe, happy and loved.

Elimination of memberships in organizations such as the Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia and consciously choosing not to comply with research-based standards or use best-practice techniques may help finances in the short run but can put you on a slippery slope when it comes to effectively investigating child abuse cases and treating victims of child abuse.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

(continued from page 3)

Although we acknowledge that boards will have to make difficult financial decisions, we must all remind ourselves that the CAC structure is a model based on the best-practice approach to investigating, managing, and prosecuting cases of child abuse. You cannot just address individual requirements, procedures and costs as if they could be isolated but must consider them within the overall context of the model. There is a significant amount of overlap and interdependence. A cost reduction in one area could very well increase the cost in another area and more importantly may result in a degradation of services. We must always advocate for maintaining a "Child First" doctrine, focusing always on the best interest of the child.

I recommend that you use the following principles when developing contingency plans and making financial decisions:

1

Vow to Protect Core Services

The challenge of the board is to reduce expenditures while at the same time maintaining quality of services. A Children's Advocacy Center is more than just a location to conduct forensic interviews. Child abuse is a multifaceted community problem and no single agency, individual or discipline has the necessary knowledge, skills or resources to serve the needs of all children and their families. The CAC model is a child-focused, facility-based program in which representatives from many

disciplines — law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical and victim advocacy — work together, conducting joint forensic interviews and making team decisions about the investigation, treatment, management, and prosecution of child abuse cases.

2

Prior to Major Decisions - Ensure the Board Understands CACGA Standards for Children's Advocacy Centers

Every board member should be able to articulate the mission, vision, and role of the Children's Advocacy Center in their community. In addition, the board should understand and ensure that the CAC complies with requirements as prescribed by CACGA. CACGA membership standards are based on evidence-based research and practices in the following areas:

- Multidisciplinary Teams
- Cultural Competency and Diversity
- Forensic Interviews
- Victim Support and Advocacy
- Medical Evaluation
- Mental Health
- Case Review
- Case Tracking
- Organizational Capacity
- Child Focused Setting

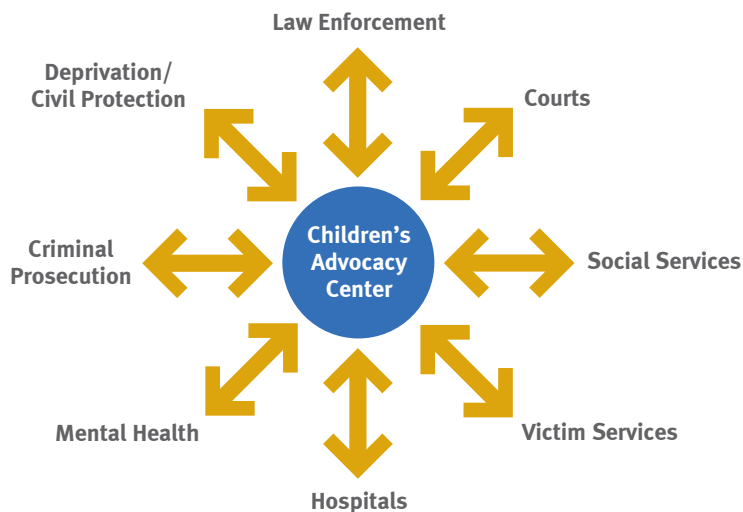
Encourage your board to visit other CACs and speak with their board members and directors. It will help them understand the different ways a CAC may function.

3

Seek Opportunities for Partnerships and Collaboration

Forming partnerships is one of the most powerful approaches that a CAC can use to control costs and generate revenue. A strategic partnership can result in access to in-kind resources and increase your eligibility to apply and receive funds from other funding sources. Forming and sustaining successfully partnerships is difficult and takes time, but the outcome can be invaluable. Collaborating and sharing costs is another strategy that should be considered. Think about sharing overhead and other expenses with another Children's Advocacy Center such as the cost of a regional director.

How a child victim travels through a CAC Model Team System



4

Remember that Children's Advocacy Centers are Grassroots Organizations

In most cases, the Children's Advocacy Center was started because the community saw the need. A CAC cannot stand up by itself. It will take the support and involvement of all members of the community to assist the CAC in getting through this critical time.

As the CEO of CACGA, I must thank you for your untiring efforts in managing your centers with limited funding. You have and continue to make the difference in the lives of thousands of children. There are tough times ahead and difficult decisions to be made. I have full confidence in your abilities and dedication to get the job done. We do not have the luxury of trial-and-error management. We must have good, thoughtful planning. The stakes are too high — our children. I think that we all realize that our actions are important, but it is also vital we remember that our financial decisions should ultimately be made based on what provides the greatest positive impact to services that we provide to the victims of child abuse and their families. CHILDREN FIRST!

World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse

(continued from cover story) Abuse happens, and it happens at homes, at schools and on neighborhood streets, Rivers added. CEO Howell, who leads an umbrella association of 40 Children's Advocacy Centers across Georgia, knows this, as well. Working on behalf of advocates and children, she realizes that abuse is an extensive problem that needs far-reaching solutions.

"It takes an informed community and a coordinated and collaborative effort among individuals and organizations to create an environment where children live safe and healthy lives – free of abuse," she said.



"We have no higher priority in this world than protecting children and their dreams."

– Cynthia D. Howell, CEO, Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia

News & Announcements

CACGA welcomes our newest Center Directors:

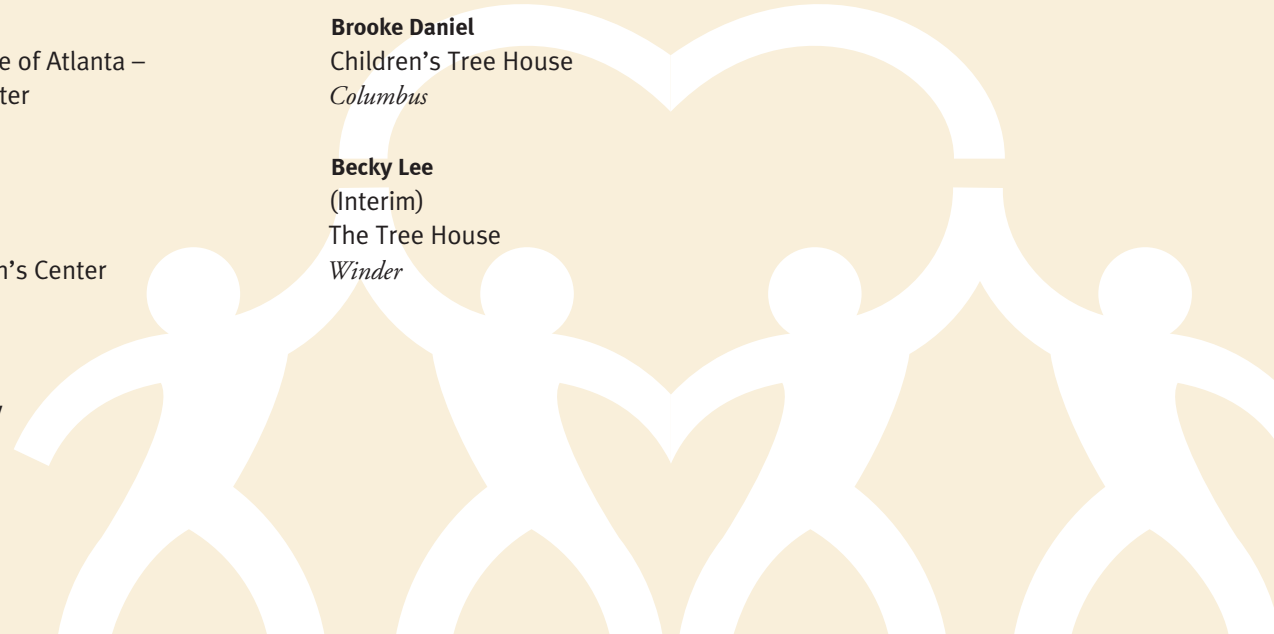
Sonia Shah
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta –
Child Protection Center
Atlanta

Sherry Boyd
(Interim)
Golden Isles Children's Center
Brunswick

Jennifer Crews
CAC of Grady County
Cairo

Brooke Daniel
Children's Tree House
Columbus

Becky Lee
(Interim)
The Tree House
Winder



Atlanta, Georgia

Georgia Center for Child Advocacy



The Children's Memorial Flag honors the lives of children who have died at the hands of a caregiver.

In conjunction with National Child Abuse Prevention Month this past April, the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy raised its first Children's Memorial Flag to honor the lives of children of Fulton and DeKalb counties who have died at the hands of a caregiver. The Children's Memorial Flag Day initiative received an inspiring show of solidarity and support from the Office of the Governor, which issued an official proclamation, and state representatives, who voted to make the memorial a statewide initiative. The effort also received support from the Atlanta mayor's office, DeKalb County commissioners, social service agencies, Atlanta Public Schools, the district attorneys of Fulton and DeKalb counties, local law enforcement, and others.

A second flag-raising was held this July for two children who also died as a result of abuse. We

hope that these flag-raising will serve as a reminder that it is the responsibility of every adult to protect children from harm.

The Children's Memorial Flag Initiative began in 1998 by the Child Welfare League of America as a public awareness campaign to direct attention to the tragedy of violent child deaths as part of a national initiative to reduce child mortality. The flag, originally created by a teenager, honors each lost child and raises public awareness about the continuing problem of violence against children. It has become the recognizable symbol of the need to improve our efforts to protect children.

For more information about the Georgia's Children's Memorial Flag initiative contact Nancy Chandler at nancyc@gacfca.org or 678.904.2880 x204.

Blakely, Georgia

Pataula Center for Children



Artwork adorns the walls of the center to help children feel more comfortable after traumatic events.

The Pataula Center for Children (PCC), located in Blakely, Ga., serves the Pataula Judicial Circuit. The local hospital authority provides our building, where we are located with a community medical agency. The seven counties served — Clay, Early, Miller, Quitman, Randolph, Seminole, and Terrell — include some of Georgia's poorest and most rural counties. Many border Alabama in the southwest corner of Georgia.

The Pataula Center began providing forensic interviews in September 2008 after Miller County Sheriff H.E. "Buddy" Glass provided funds for three people to attend Finding Words in Macon, Ga. The center provides an average of four interviews a month. Interviews are provided by a contracted provider, and the center director provides crisis intervention, advocacy and support services to the parent. We also plan to offer training to law enforcement on how forensic interviews impact child abuse investigations.

Multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) meet regularly in all seven counties. This is usually immediately following other mandated meetings for MDT members. Tying the meetings together has been effective in keeping attendance up at MDT case review. In the first half of 2010, 149 child cases were reviewed during these meetings.

Currently medical exams are provided at the Lily Pad in Albany, Ga., which is 52 miles from

our center. PCC plans to continue talks with the local hospital about housing medical equipment and providing nurses for SANE exams.

Thanks to the support of U.S. Representative Sanford Bishop, PCC received a federal grant for \$75,000 over a three-year period. Part of the money is being used to train MDT members in investigations and awareness of child abuse. Seven MDT members from six different counties were sent to the National Symposium in Huntsville, Ala., in March, and plans are being made to send others in 2011. The district attorney's office sponsored the center director's attendance at the symposium. Plans are being made to provide further training locally to MDT members in our circuit and surrounding areas and to community volunteers during the grant period.

PCC also received a grant from the Plum Creek Foundation to train community volunteers in Darkness to Light, an evidenced-based adult-focused child sexual abuse prevention program.

PCC participates in community events in the circuit and hosts fundraisers throughout the year. For example, PCC provided coloring sheets to approximately 800 children in all Head Start programs in the judicial circuit to emphasize Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. The center also provides pencils for the back-to-school bashes in all counties.

*Blairsville, Georgia***Enotah Child Advocacy and Family Visitation Center**

The Enotah Family Visitation Center was established in September 2003 with the implementation of the supervised family visitation center, and then in October of 2005 we added the child advocacy component and became the Enotah Child Advocacy and Family Visitation Center (ECAFVC). The ECAFVC serves the communities of Towns and Unions Counties in the Northeast Georgia mountains. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 32,262 people live in these rural communities. Although housed in one child-focused building, the ECAFV has two very distinct programs — Family Preservation and Supportive Services, a

The center is a secluded, child- and family-friendly facility, where those receiving services can feel comfortable and safe as they work through traumatic personal events.

placement prevention program, and Time Limited Reunification, where there is supervised family visitation. The house is nestled in a secluded environment to allow families privacy and anonymity. The Family Preservation and Supportive Services includes forensic interviews, individual therapy, advocacy, adult educational group, child educational group, follow-up, education for non-offending caregivers, childcare during services provided, and more. A referral made to the placement prevention program comes from the county Department of Family and Children's Services or law enforcement. Currently the program manager, Katie Rankin, provides the forensic interviews, follow-up and case management services. Therapy, adult groups, education for non-offending parents, follow-up, and case management is provided by the program therapist, Janet Kowalski. The child advocates for the organization provide the family with advocacy

at the time of the forensic interview. These forensic interviews are conducted in one of two forensic interview rooms, which are designed with the child's age in mind. The other parts of the house are designed to be as non-threatening and homelike as possible to create an environment that allows the families to feel comfortable while they are in our services.

Time Limited Reunification is our supervised, family visitation program. It operates in a family-like atmosphere with a table for dining, comfortable couches and chairs for reading, and plenty of room for car races and dress-up. This relaxed setting allows the therapist to work with the family on parenting skills in a non-threatening environment to assist reunification. Within this program there is a licensed therapist, who provides individual therapy, supervised family visitation, individual parenting skills, group education, advocacy, follow-up, case management, family assessments, transportation when needed, and more. The program manager acts as a back-up for the adult and children's education classes, family assessments, follow-up, and information and resources to staff and clients of the program.

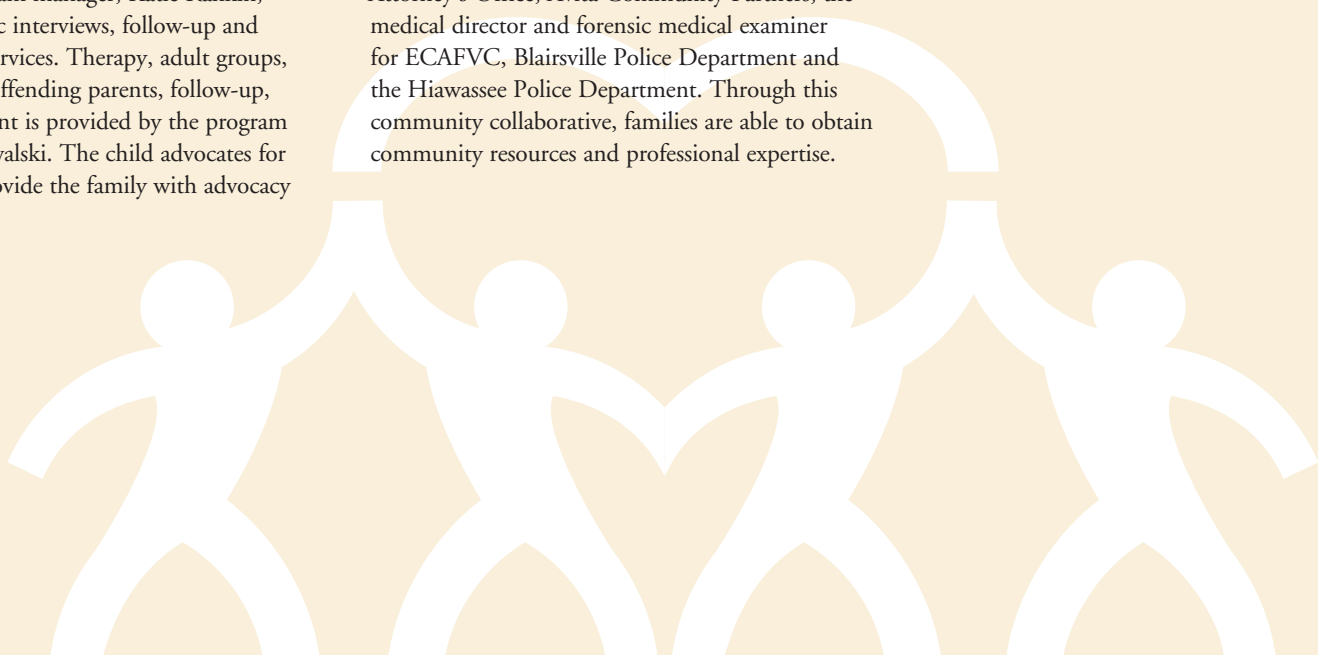
Currently, the ECAFVC has an active multidisciplinary team, which meets monthly to track and review cases of children and families receiving services through our programs. Multidisciplinary team partners are Union/Towns County Department of Family and Children's Services, Union County Sheriff's Department, Towns County Sheriff's Department, Union County School System, Towns County School System, Union/Towns County Department of Juvenile Justice, Enotah District Attorney's Office, Avita Community Partners, the medical director and forensic medical examiner for ECAFVC, Blairsville Police Department and the Hiawassee Police Department. Through this community collaborative, families are able to obtain community resources and professional expertise.



Child-sized chairs and tables provide the perfect interview setting for our youngest clients.



The space for supervised family visits is complete with a dining table, chairs and couches and plenty of room for healthy interaction.



Augusta, Georgia

Child Enrichment's Child Advocacy Center



Child Enrichment's team includes a tight-knit group of dedicated professionals.

Pictured left to right:

Laraine Fraijo
Forensic Interviewer and Therapist

Ginette Messer
CAC Director

Maggie Tucker
Therapist and Victim Advocate

Danielle Causey
Therapist

Kimberly Lee
Director of Forensic Interviewing

Child Enrichment began serving abused children in the Augusta area through an emergency shelter in 1978. In 1986, the organization added the Child Advocacy Center, an offshoot of the Child Protection Team at University Hospital in Augusta, Ga. Later, Court Appointed Special Advocates joined our effort. This combination created a comprehensive continuum of care for abandoned, abused, neglected, and sexually abused children of this region in Georgia.

Child Enrichment's Child Advocacy Center has served more than 9,000 children since 1986, and 326 forensic interviews were conducted last fiscal year. In addition, 817 counseling sessions and multiple teen and non-offending parent groups were conducted. For two years now, Child Enrichment's Child Advocacy Center has conducted forensic evaluations.

Our staff of caring professionals includes licensed social workers, therapists, a victim advocate and forensic interviewers. We pride ourselves on achieving results and providing excellent services, while addressing critical issues. Together with our multidisciplinary team partners we maintain a strong and rich history of excellence in dealing with child victims and allegations of sexual and severe physical abuse.

The district attorney; all law enforcement agencies in the Augusta Judicial Circuit, most notably, Richmond and Columbia County Sheriff Departments; Rape Crisis and Sexual Assault Services; CASA; community mental health; and our long-time ally, Dr. Maureen Claiborne of the Medical College of Georgia make a very strong investigative, prosecutorial, and expert team of witnesses. It is a privilege to work with these dedicated professionals.

Child Enrichment also serves the Augusta Judicial Circuit through our CASA program, which served 290 children last fiscal year. In addition, the Clothing Closet for Foster Youth provided more than 520 complete outfits for 182 foster children last year, and today we have more than 16,000 nice, clean pieces of clothing ready to deliver to foster children who need them.

All Child Enrichment services are free to child victims of abuse and neglect. As a nonprofit charity, funding is always a challenge. Grants, private donors, affiliated organizations, special events and civic clubs provide most of the funding to keep Child Enrichment's Child Advocacy Center and CASA programs functioning. "Art of Chocolate" in the fall and "Cookin' for Kids" in the spring are our signature special events.

Cairo, Georgia

South Georgia Children's Advocacy Center



Arriving to the center in June, Jennifer Crews is both the director and forensic interviewer.

The South Georgia Children's Advocacy Center is strategically located in Cairo, Ga., and provides service to Baker, Calhoun, Decatur, Grady and Mitchell counties. Established in 2007, the center is a private, nonprofit organization that is dependent upon grants and private contributions.

The South Georgia Children's Advocacy Center provides on-site forensic interviews at the request of law enforcement and the Department of Family and Children Services. Forensic interviews are conducted by a forensic interviewer in a child-friendly environment and are recorded and

viewed from another room by persons lawfully affiliated with the case.

Along with providing forensic interviews, the South Georgia Children's Advocacy Center promotes a multidisciplinary team approach to working abuse cases along with team members. Team members may include law enforcement, Department of Family and Children Services, medical and mental health personnel and prosecutors. Services also provided by the center include referral to therapy, court preparation, expert court testimony, case review and tracking, and abuse prevention and awareness programs.

Jennifer Crews is the director and forensic interviewer for the South Georgia Children's Advocacy Center. Mrs. Crews holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Fla., and has attended and successfully completed Finding Words of Georgia. Prior to becoming director, Mrs. Crews worked as a victims advocate for the South Georgia Judicial Circuit.

*Cartersville, Georgia***A Better Way Children's Advocacy Center**

A Better Way Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) is located in Cartersville, Ga., the seat of Bartow County, and serves the Cherokee Judicial Circuit. Since opening its doors to the community in November 2008, the center has remained guided by the belief that children and families deserve compassionate, vigilant service throughout the entire course of their case. A Better Way CAC operates under the umbrella of Advocates for Children, a nonprofit agency that offers safety, comfort and hope to children and youth by providing resources and support to strengthen our community of families within the Northwest Georgia region.

This multiuse facility also houses the Bartow County CASA Program and the Supervised Family Visitation Program, and measures are in place to ensure the confidentiality of children and families visiting the CAC. Referrals are received solely from

A Better Way CAC staff remains engaged with families, helping them navigate their way through the healing process and the legal process, as cases move from investigation to prosecution.

investigators from law enforcement, Child Protective Services, and the Office of the District Attorney. When it is known or suspected that children (ages 3-17) are the alleged victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, or for children who may have witnessed violence or crime, these investigators refer families to our center, outsourcing a component of their investigations. The goal is to reduce the trauma to the child by avoiding multiple interviews and to preserve children's statements for legal purposes using state-of-the-art digital recording technology provided onsite.

A Better Way CAC remains engaged in the lives of these families, helping them navigate their course of involvement to ensure that no child or family is underserved during the intervention, treatment, and subsequent prosecution phases of their case. The CAC Director facilitates the CAC/MDT, a committed group of local child abuse professionals from the Bartow County Sheriff's Office, the six surrounding municipal law enforcement agencies, the Office of the District Attorney, Bartow County Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS),



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), local mental and medical health providers, and Bartow County Juvenile Court.

The center offers on-site intervention services, such as recorded forensic interviews, monthly multi-disciplinary team (MDT) case reviews, and family advocacy efforts. Advocacy work includes ongoing family assessments, enduring community resource referrals, and focused court preparation for children and adults who are called testify in court proceedings. Likewise, the forensic interview specialist diligently prepares to testify on behalf of each case in court, and the specialist attends routine training and peer review each month towards this goal. As Bartow County's designated community-based Chartered Council for Prevent Child Abuse Georgia, the CAC works throughout the year to expand child abuse and neglect prevention efforts by offering professional training and community education to help adults learn to effectively respond to child abuse on behalf of children and families in Bartow County, and beyond.

A once-fragmented approach to investigating, treating, and prosecuting child abuse in this community has become an engaged and purposeful collaboration that A Better Way CAC is proud to facilitate. Each agency actively assists one another to collectively benefit each other and local families, alike. For more information, or to contact the CAC directly, please call the center's director, Rebecca Bentley, at 678-605-9023.

Pictured left to right:

Stacie Byrd
Supervisor, Bartow County DFCS

Cpl. Karla Servais
Cartersville PD

Inv. Kelly Robertson
Office of the District Attorney

Sgt. Ginny Rogers
Cartersville PD

Sgt. Nancy Norris
Bartow County Sheriff's Office

Ava Lipscomb
Director Bartow County CASA

Dr. Tammy Coots
Medlin Treatment Center

Liz Fox
Family Advocate, A Better Way CAC

Rebecca Bentley
Director, A Better Way CAC

*Woodstock, Georgia***Anna Crawford Children's Center**

Thanks to the Cherokee Running Club, the 15th Annual Etowah River Run raised more than \$10,000 for the Anna Crawford Children's Center in Cherokee County.



Super Cool Smoothies helps cool off runners after an exciting race.

More than 700 runners, walkers, sponsors and volunteers braved the extreme heat of Boling Park in Canton, Ga., on July 24 to raise more than \$10,000 for the Anna Crawford Children's Center in Cherokee County.

Coordinated by the Cherokee Running Club, the 15th Annual Etowah River Run has been voted "Best Race" by the Georgia Runner Magazine readers. Participants in this year's event were excited to run, despite the 88-degree heat at start time.

Runners and walkers participated in a 5K run or 1K Fun Run on this combination road and trail course. Participants included runners from several area high school track teams, running clubs and businesses, as well as individuals.

Sponsors included the Cherokee Tribune newspaper, the Zeeman Family, Professional Insight, Marjorie Economopoulos, Children's Dentistry of Woodstock, Brady Ware, Aaron's Leasing & Sales, Pied Piper Pest Control, SoHo Bagel Company,

Super Cool Smoothie Company, Evolv Water, Sweet Tomatoes, Big Peach Running Club, the Cherokee Child Advocacy Council, Kohl's of Canton and Woodstock and BJ's of Woodstock.

Since 1995, the Cherokee Running Club has donated more than \$85,000 to the Anna Crawford Children's Center, a program of the Cherokee Child Advocacy Council.



Runners gather after the race for relaxation.

*Atlanta, Georgia***Georgia Center for Child Advocacy**

The Georgia Center is one of only 17 Child Advocacy Centers from across the county to be selected for a year-long collaborative effort focused on Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.



For the first collaborative session, the center created a story board to tell other attendees about the work it does in Atlanta, Ga.

The clinical team at the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy is participating in a very exciting program to offer the most innovative and effective treatment services for abused and traumatized children. Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) is a components-based model of therapy that addresses the unique needs of children who are experiencing difficulties related to traumatic life events. Built on a sound theoretical base, TF-CBT has the strongest research support of any treatment model for traumatized children, and it is considered a best practice for therapy with sexually abused children. After a very competitive process, the Georgia Center is one of 17 Child Advocacy Centers from across the county to be selected for a year-long collaborative effort focused on TF-CBT.

The Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center is sponsoring the learning collaborative. The intensive training program centers on learning, adapting, and spreading best practices in mental health. It includes three training sessions over the year, as well as regular consultation calls and learning activities throughout the year for therapists,

supervisors and senior leaders. At the first collaborative, we were asked to create a story board to tell other attendees about our center.

TF-CBT helps children (and parents) to learn about child sexual abuse and healthy sexuality; develop effective coping and body safety skills; overcome problematic thoughts, feelings and behaviors; and therapeutically process traumatic memories. Parent participation is critically important in TF-CBT and sessions include meeting with the parent alone, the child alone, and the parent and child together.

Our team is excited about this opportunity to improve our clinical skills and enhance treatment services to abused and traumatized children. Participation in the TF-CBT Learning Collaborative is funded in part by a grant from National Children's Alliance.

For more about TF-CBT, contact Dr. Kelly Kinnish at kellyk@gacfa.org or 678.904.2880 x208.

*Waycross, Georgia***Satilla Advocacy Services**

Satilla Advocacy Services along with the Waycross Police Department hosted a National Self-Defense Institute SAFE (Self-Defense Awareness and Familiarization Exchange) training certification class Friday, June 11. The training was an all-day class that demonstrated awareness and self-defense tactics that participants could teach others. To receive certification each person took a test at the end of the class. The testing included self-defense moves learned in class. The class was a lot of fun with hands-on training.

The counties represented were Ware, Pierce, Coffee, Camden, Lowndes, Chatham, Charlton, Bulloch, Irwin, Tift and Rockdale. Participants included law enforcement, school social workers, Children's Advocacy Centers, rape crisis centers, karate instructors, Regional Youth Detention Centers, and more. The class instructor Stacey Payne, of Lee County Sheriff's Office in Florida, did an awesome job.

These new Certified SAFE Instructors will carry their training back to their communities to teach young girls and women how to be safe and more aware of their surroundings.



SAFE instructor Stacey Payne, of Lee County Sheriff's Office, leads students in self-defence tactics.

Satilla Advocacy Services co-hosted an all-day training and certification class in awareness and self-defense. New instructors will now teach young girls and women how to be safe and aware of their surroundings.

*Valdosta, Georgia***Children's Advocacy Center of Lowndes County**

For Ansley Tillman's seventh birthday this year, she said she did not want toys for herself. She wanted to give all of her toys to children who needed them. She and her family did some searching of different organizations around her hometown, and the Children's Advocacy Center of Lowndes County, Inc. is what she decided on. She found that the CAC serves abused children locally and gives each child who comes to the center a teddy bear at the end of his or her visit. Ansley then told everyone who was coming to her birthday party to bring stuffed animals instead of presents. Ansley got a big variety of animals, and she was so excited to receive the stuffed animals for the kids. She made sure she took extra special care of them until she could get them to the CAC.



Ansley Tillman cuddles up with stuffed animals from her birthday party donation.

For Ansley Tillman's seventh birthday, she did not want toys for herself. She wanted to give all of her toys to children who needed them. CAC of Lowndes County helped her make that happen.



Marietta, Georgia

SafePath Children's Advocacy Center

Thanks to a management development class community service project, SathPath Children's Advocacy Center now features a beautiful new children's garden complete with a picket fence.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony dedicating the new SafePath Garden was held at the SafePath Children's Advocacy Center on Monday, June 28, 2010. The new, child-friendly garden, complete with a picket fence, arbor and fun yard art, is the result of a community service project of Cobb County Government's 2010 EXCEL management development class. In attendance were: Thomas Beusse of Congressman Tom Price's office, Chief Deputy Clerk Angie Davis, County Manager David Hankerson, Judge Maria Golick, State Representative Judy Manning, Sheriff Neil Warren, State Court Clerk Diane Webb, and former Senator John Wiles. SafePath Executive Director Jinger Robins and members of the EXCEL class cut the ribbon to officiate the new garden.

SafePath Children's Advocacy Center recently hosted "Healthy Teams," a workshop facilitated by Chris Newlin, executive director of the National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville, Ala. The training outlined indicators of a healthy team and offered multidisciplinary team members strategies for tackling difficult team issues. Local multidisciplinary team members were invited to attend.



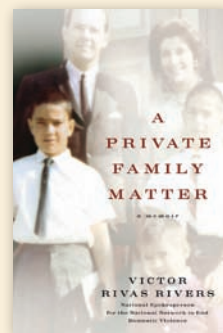
SafePath dedicates a new, child-friendly garden.



Cobb County multidisciplinary team meets at SafePath for a team-building workshop.

Recommended Reading

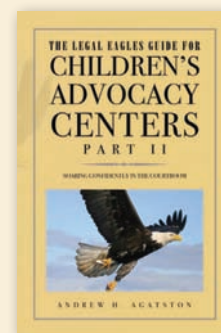
A Private Family Affair

Victor Rivers

The memoir takes readers on a journey of child abuse and domestic violence, through anger and turmoil, and finally through courage and success. It is a thoughtful, poignant look at how a child in despair can be loved to meet his fullest

potential. To buy or find more information about the book, log on to www.victorrivers.com.

The Legal Eagles Guide for Children's Advocacy Centers, Part II

Andrew Agatston

This second-edition collection of legal letters acts as a guide for child advocates to understand the legal system and rules that pertain to their positions. It is especially important resource for professionals who advocate for children who have been

sexually abused. To buy or find more information about the book, log on to www.agatstonlaw.com.

Supporting Membership 2010

Kim Adams*, *LaGrange*

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Missi Upshaw*, *Macon*

Organization Donations

Child Enrichment, Inc., *Augusta*

KPMG, *Atlanta*

Phi Alpha Honor Society,
Kennesaw State University

**Denotes additional donation*

Special thanks to our supporting members. Your donations help us strengthen children's advocacy programs throughout Georgia.



Become a supporting member

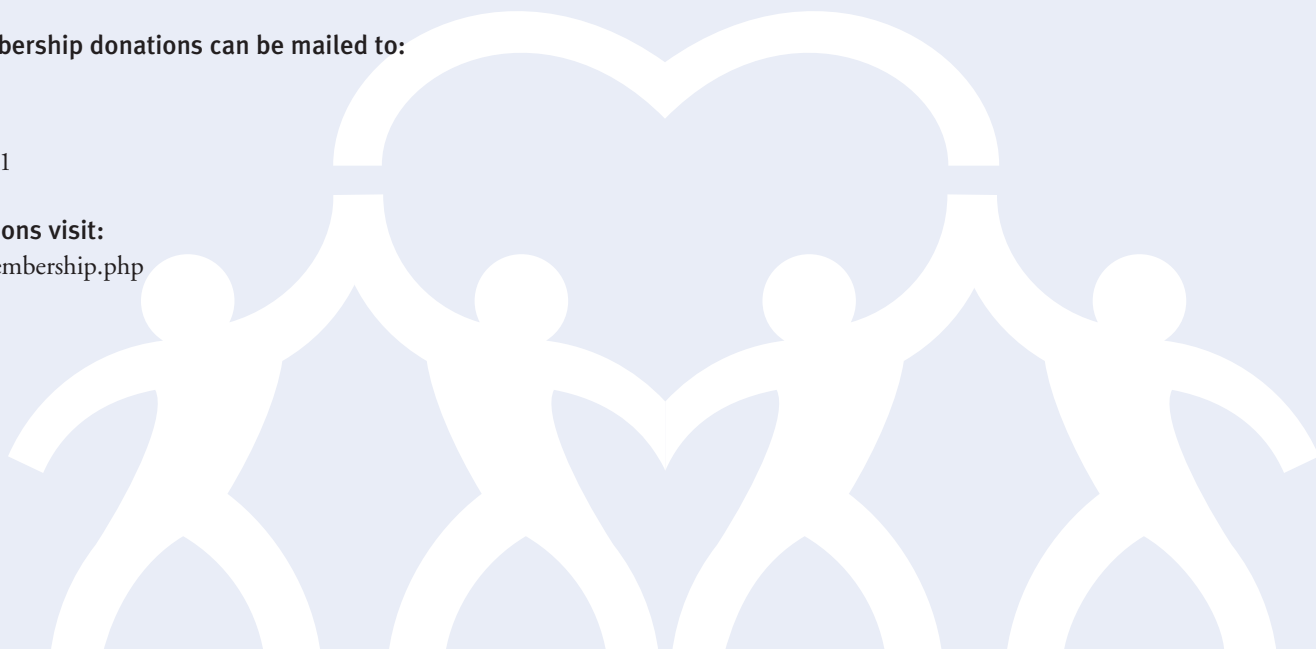
Unfortunately, our job is never done. There are children throughout the state of Georgia that require our services. Your contribution will help us continue to support children's advocacy programs throughout Georgia.

Supporting membership donations can be mailed to:

CACGA
P.O. Box 1192
Decatur, GA 30031

For online donations visit:

www.cacga.org/membership.php

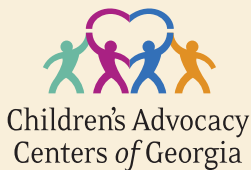


What are Children's Advocacy Centers?

A Children's Advocacy Center is a safe place for the evaluation of alleged child sexual abuse. Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) enhance the response to suspected child abuse cases by combining the wisdom and professional knowledge of various investigative agencies and other professionals. These coordinated efforts can provide the knowledge, skills and resources to assist suspected child abuse victims and their families. CACs maintain focus on the child and help to ensure that systems designed to protect children are able to do so effectively. Georgia's centers provide the following services:

A CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER is a safe place for the evaluation of alleged child sexual abuse.

- Videotaped interviews of suspected child abuse victims conducted in safe, child-friendly surroundings. The interviews are completed by professionally trained forensic interviewers and coordinated with the involved investigative agencies. This reduces trauma to the child by avoiding multiple interviews and preserving statements for legal purposes.
- Professional training and community education to effectively respond to child abuse.
- Crisis intervention and emotional support for victims and non-offending family members, and guidance in accessing the crime victim's compensation system.
- Counseling and medical services to help child victims begin the healing process, offered on-site or through referral.
- Multidisciplinary review of cases by a team of professionals, including but not limited to law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors, medical and mental health professionals, victim's assistance staff, and child advocates.
- Forensic medical exams of suspected child abuse victims utilizing specialized equipment for accurate diagnoses, offered on-site or through referral.



Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia (CACGA) is a nonprofit membership organization with the mission to promote, assist, and support the development, growth, and continuation of child advocacy centers in the state of Georgia. CACGA is an accredited chapter of the National Children's Alliance.

This program is supported in part by the Governor's Office for Children and Families and the Department of Human Services through appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly.



Our Main Office Locations

Full Member Centers

Albany

Firefly House Children's
Advocacy Center
(229) 435-0074

Athens

The Cottage
(706) 546-1133

Atlanta

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Child Protection Center
(404) 785-3820

Atlanta/Decatur

Georgia Center for Child Advocacy
(678) 904-2880 or (404) 378-6100

Augusta

Child Enrichment, Inc.
Child Advocacy Center and CASA
(706) 737-4631

Blairsville

Enotah Child Advocacy Center
(706) 835-1637

Brunswick

Golden Isles Children's Center
(912) 554-0609

Cairo

South Georgia Children's
Advocacy Center
(229) 378-9042

Cartersville

A Better Way –
CAC of Bartow County
(678) 605-9023

Columbus

Children's Tree House
(706) 327-9612

Cordele

The Gateway Center
(229) 273-0600

Cumming

Forsyth County Children's
Advocacy Center
(678) 208-1908

Dalton

The GreenHouse
(706) 278-4769

Douglas

Child Advocacy Center
of Coffee County
Sadie's House
(912) 260-1492

Duluth

Gwinnett Sexual Assault Center
and Children's Advocacy Center
(770) 497-9122

Ellijay

Appalachian Children's Center
(706) 273-2225

Forsyth

C.A.R.E. Cottage
(478) 994-7287

Fort Oglethorpe

Child Advocacy Center of the
Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit
(706) 866-8811

Hinesville

Helen's Haven
(912) 369-2326

Jonesboro

Rainbow Connection Child
Advocacy and Assessment Center
(770) 478-6905

LaGrange

Children's Advocacy Center
of Troup County
(706) 298-0050

Loganville

A Child's Voice
Child Advocacy Center
(678) 639-0300

Macon

Crescent House
(478) 633-7044

Marietta

SafePath
Children's Advocacy Center
(770) 801-3465

Moultrie

Hero House
The Children's Advocacy Center
of Colquitt County
(229) 890-5549

Rome

Harbor House-The Northwest
Georgia Child Advocacy Center
(706) 235-5437

Royston

Harmony House
Child Advocacy Center
(706) 245-8700

Savannah

Coastal Children's Advocacy Center
(912) 236-1401

Swainsboro

The Sunshine House Children's
Advocacy Center
(478) 237-7801

Tifton

Patticake House
(229) 382-4141

Toccoa

Power House for Kids
(706) 886-2290

Valdosta

Children's Advocacy Center
of Lowndes County
(229) 245-5369

Warner Robins

Rainbow House Children's
Resource Center
(478) 923-5923

Waycross

Satilla Advocacy Services
(912) 285-7355

Winder

The Tree House
(770) 868-1900

Woodstock

Anna Crawford Children's Center
(770) 592-9779

Developing Centers

Blakely

Pataula Center for Children
(229) 723-2468

Dublin

Stepping Stone
(478) 275-9010

Fayetteville

New Directions for Families
(770) 716-7977

Gainesville

Edmondson-Telford Center
for Children
(770) 534-5151

With 36 full member centers and four developing centers, Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia is working to ensure every child in Georgia has the support they need to be safe and happy.



Children's Advocacy
Centers of Georgia

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