BUILDING A SAFE COMMUNITY FOR CHILDREN

2006 ANNUAL REPORT



A frightened child speaks

Her world becomes safe again

When adults listen.

by Kiara Alvarez

center for child protection



Do you hear the Children Weeping? Elizabeth Browning

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Rarely do we hear children crying at the Center for Child Protection and that's a problem. Tears would be a clear indication that something was wrong and we could make it all better. Without tears, it takes an expert to hear about what's wrong. I have read that, at one time, the homes of abused children were apt to have "no solicitation" signs on their doors but I'm inclined to believe that such as this lulls us into believing that it's as easy as seeing a sign.

What I do know is that the nature of child abuse first makes a child quiet. It first turns a child inward. The power and forces of fear, confusion and shame are massive and overwhelming. At first, the tears and crying can be seen and heard only if you're looking carefully.

But, the force of fear and shame are so tightly pressed into the child's spirit that eventually the young heart, body and spirit begin to crack and one can see and hear the tears: anxiety, self-injuring, sleeplessness, anger, violence, and destruction.

Child abusers, whether they be mom, dad, step-dad, coach, or stranger, don't give their victims permission to have their tears heard. They are, most often, loved, trusted and familiar to the child. To whom shall the child turn for their tears to be heard? To those strangers outside the family? To a community who mistakes silence for safety?

If Travis County's youngest victims are to be heard, we must meet them in an environment that reflects our understanding of what it means to be a child. If we are to hear the anguish of a traumatized child, we must hear the vulnerability of the young within the context of their powerlessness to prevent.

And finally, if we are to hear their cries, we must value the innocence and all that the child is and will be. Hearing what the child is saying to us, one and all, is what the Center for Child Protection does. Since 1991, thousands of children have walked through our doors. They've spilled apple juice; they've colored; they've cried, laughed and left with a teddy bear. They've been heard. In 2006, hundreds more came. Thank you for hearing their cries and making Austin safer for all children.

Sincerely,

Sandra A. Martin Sandra A. Martin

Chief Executive Officer

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Each day in Travis County, five children are confirmed victims of abuse or neglect. Since 1992, 8,069 children have walked through the Center's doors to tell us what happened. We have listened to these children and young adults one at a time, assuring them that they are worthy to be believed and worthy of our care and concern.

Last year, a seven-year-old girl named Julia came to the Center after being raped multiple times by a family friend. She described several brutal assaults including one in which the man's girlfriend participated. Four hundred forty-two children came to the Center last year because they had been sexually abused.

Four-year-old Roberto was left in the care of a trusted adult, who burned him over the majority of his body. Roberto was hurt so badly he had to be flown to a burn center for treatment. Seventy-seven children came to the Center with severe injuries.

Nine-year-old girl Gina witnessed violent disputes between her mother and her abusive boyfriend who threatened her mother with knives. Ninety-five children came to the Center because they witnessed a violent crime.

Progress on the new Kozmetsky Center for Child Protection

On November 15, 2006, the Center for Child Protection held a ground breaking ceremony announcing construction plans for the Kozmetsky Center for Child Protection, a more than 30,000 square foot facility designed to help serve abused children up to age 18. The new Center, named in honor of founding board member and child advocate, Ronya Kozmetsky, will enable all Child Protection Team (CPT) agencies to gather in one location to help serve and protect child abuse victims more efficiently and effectively.

The Kozmetsky Center for Child Protection will improve outcomes for children and their families while bringing to life the Center's long-held plan to create lasting, systemic change to break the destructive cycle of abuse and trauma for all children in our community. Among the features of the new building are the addition of an onsite medical assessment wing, new therapy rooms with space for enhanced volunteer support, more forensic interview rooms, and a children's closet for donated toys, clothing, and books. As of December 31, 2006, nearly 90 percent of the \$9.1 million Capital Campaign goal has been raised. Construction is scheduled to be completed in early 2008.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Forensic Interview

When children arrive at the Center, they are interviewed in a safe, child-friendly environment and their statement is recorded on videotape or DVD. This eliminates the need for a child to disclose their abuse over and over again.

Medical Exam

Children may be scheduled to receive a medical examination, which may include a sexual assault examination to collect evidence of sexual abuse.

Court School

Each month, the Center hosts a Court School program for children and their families who will testify in court. The two-hour program introduces children to a courtroom at the Travis County Courthouse and the roles the judge, witnesses, prosecutor, and defendant play during a court proceeding.

Therapy

Therapy and counseling services in English and Spanish are an integral part of the program services provided to children and families. By creating a safe, therapeutic relationship, children and their families are able to process their experiences and heal from the abuse they endured.

Protective Parenting Group

The Protective Parenting Group is a 10-week long class that meets each week for two hours. Parents are court-ordered to attend because of involvement with Child Protective Services. The group is designed to address issues related to trauma, family dynamics, and child protection.

Parent Education Classes

The Center's Parent Education Group is a 7-week long class. It is designed to share information about child development, communication skills, child misbehavior, conflict resolution, and appropriate discipline.

Intensive Case Management

Intensive case management supports at-risk families one-on-one to prevent child abuse or neglect. The Center's clinical staff makes home visits to assess a child's developmental needs and to provide support.

Family Advocate Program

The Family Advocate program provides parents and protective caregivers with immediate crisis intervention, ongoing case management, therapy, and follow-up, so caregivers have the support they need to care for their children.

PROFILE OF CHILDREN SERVED

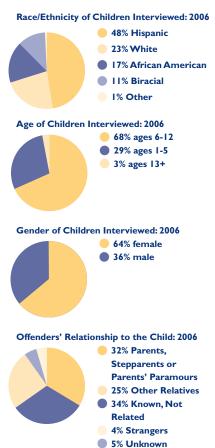


The Center for Child Protection provided 3,581 services to 1,407 children. Another 952 adults, who were parents and caregivers, received services from the Center in 2006. A total of 634 children were brought to the Center for a forensic interview. A majority of the children came to the Center because of sexual abuse (70 percent). Fewer children were referred as a result of witnessing a violent crime (15 percent), physical abuse (12 percent), or multiple abuses (3 percent). Ninety-one percent of cases were referred to the Center for Child Protection by the Austin Police Department, Child Protective Services, and the Travis County Sheriff's Office.

Though 47 percent of caregivers reported an income below the federal poverty line, the children who were referred to the Center came from across the city and surrounding county, from affluent, poor, urban, and rural areas. A quarter of cases seen had a domestic violence history.

Profile of the Offenders

In 2006, children reported that 91 percent of the people who harmed them were someone they knew. Of the offenders reported, a majority were male (87 percent) and age 17 or above (78 percent).



VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers

Through their generous gifts of time and talent, volunteers filled important roles in the care of children and families. They greeted and comforted children and families who came to the Center for a child to be interviewed. They carefully supervised children whose parents were attending parenting classes or whose sibling was in session with a Center staff therapist. They collected school supplies for children going back to school and gifts for families during the holidays. In 2006, more than 150 volunteers provided 10,186 hours of service, valued at \$183,755.

The Friends of Christopher Guild

Founded in 1992, the Friends of Christopher Guild is a women's volunteer organization dedicated to sustaining and expanding the safety net for abused children. A diverse membership of Guild volunteers assists the Center through fundraising and direct services to children and families. In 2006, the Guild held their third annual fundraiser, PlayBingo Ladies Luncheon, on October 21, 2006, which raised awareness and \$79,720 to support the Center's services. Additionally, the Guild sponsored the 15th Annual Lexus Car Raffle which raised \$150,000.

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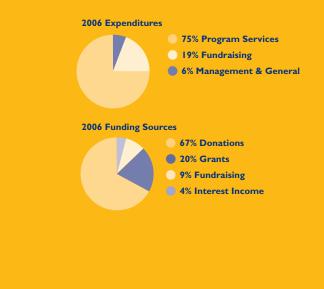
FINANCIAL REPORT



The Center for Child Protection spent \$1,654,433 toward total operations, and held \$7,157,997 in net assets at the end of the year. The large ending net assets number was due to the Center's Capital Campaign to construct the Kozmetsky Center for Child Protection, which began in 2005.

The Center spent 75 percent of income on program expenses including costs for forensic interviews, therapy, parenting classes, and clinical staff. Fundraising expenses were 19 percent, and 6 percent was spent on administrative expenses. All of the services provided to children and families are without charge.

A majority of the Center's funding comes from private sources (90 percent), which includes donations from individuals, corporations, and private foundations. Government funding accounted for 10 percent of income in 2006. Of government sources of income, the Center receives funds from the city, county, state, and federal levels.



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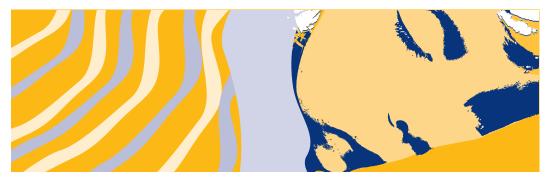
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THE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION'S MISSION IS TO REDUCE THE TRAUMA FOR CHILDREN DURING THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CHILD ABUSE CASES.

In 1989, as a result of the deaths of three small children in Austin, the community realized it had to do a better job of helping children who were victims of abuse or neglect. The Center for Child Protection, a nationally accredited Children's Advocacy Center, was established to bring together the agencies that serve children who are victims of sexual assault or serious physical injury or who witnessed a violent crime. In a pioneering and highly successful approach, the Child Protection Team was established with the Center serving as its coordinating agency. For more than 13 years, this team has worked to provide a safe setting in which children are able to tell what happened and receive the support they need to being healing.



Child Protection Team Members

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Special thanks to Crouse Design and McCarthy Print for helping us produce this report.







