



#### Dear Friend,

Last year was an exhilarating year for the Center for Child Protection. With your support, we finished building and moved into the Kozmetsky Center for Child Protection facility in June 2008. This 40,000 square foot main building and conference center was the culmination of countless hours of dedication, collaboration, and generosity. Our new space means so many things to the children in our community who will face the devastation and upheaval associated with the investigation of a report of child abuse. The overarching advantage of this building is that children have more places to play and more rooms where it is safe to talk. There are more meeting spaces for agency partners and more ways for the community to get involved in supporting children. We couldn't explain it better than one of the first children brought to the new Center. Though he was visibly scared about the abuse he was about to discuss, his eyes grew wide as he entered one of the play areas and he remarked, "Wow... all of this is for me?"

This achievement could not have come at a better time. As increasing reports of layoffs and mortgage foreclosures became news, we anticipated seeing an increase of children who were the suspected victims of abuse, or who had witnessed a violent crime. Anecdotal as well as statistical information tells us that certain types of crimes against children are correlated with an increase in stress and economic hardship. Children face even greater threats when their caregivers face difficult times; they need even greater protection.

We provided services for a record number of children and protective adults in 2008, a testament to the increasing demand for help for the innocent who have been forever changed by their victimization. During the first few weeks of 2009, we filled all five forensic interview rooms at the same time with children giving statements. We saw a record 17 cases in one week. Since the beginning of the year, these occurrences have become closer to the norm.

Although you may not realize it, it is quite likely that someone in your life has suffered, or is suffering, from abuse. Intervening with child victims when the abuse is first reported is critical to saving young lives and strengthening fractured families. These are the times when children need advocates the most. Join us in our work to create a safer community for all of our children, and a better future for all of us.

Please continue to support this work that we began together — the work of piecing together the lives of the children we see each day. With intervention, they can resume their lives, free of guilt and shame. We are all profoundly grateful for your willingness to take this daily journey with us. We can do no less.

Sincerely,

Sandra A. Martin Chief Executive Officer

#### the year in review

In 2008, an average of five children were confirmed victims of abuse or neglect in Travis County each day. And sadly, these are only the children that we know about. In many ways, these children are the lucky ones. Many more may never tell. The Center provides a safe, nonthreatening environment where these children can be heard. It is here that they can begin the release of shame, fear, sadness and the host of other emotions that accompany the betrayal of trust and abuse. You have made it possible for the Center for Child Protection to give children, teens and their families what is needed to begin recovery. Consider Jimmy's experience.

Jimmy\* is street-smart. He knows all about drugs, gangs, and sex. Jimmy knows how to make money and survive on the streets. What he doesn't know is love or respect. Jimmy, who has been high before and who has a sexually-transmitted disease, is 11 years old.

As a victim of multiple forms of abuse, Jimmy's young life was headed down a dangerous path. Though he was only 11, Jimmy looked and acted much older. Police, who had been monitoring the gang responsible for much of his abuse, were able to identify young Jimmy and bring him to the Center for a forensic interview. The Center's new facility includes a teen room, which is where Jimmy felt most comfortable. He didn't have to sit near a bunch of stuffed animals that were available to the younger children who came to the Center. In the teen room, Jimmy could play computer games and read magazines on a bean bag chair.

Jimmy did not want to talk about many of his experiences, including the rape, STD, or his drug habits, while at the Center. This is common for many children who feel as though there is no one in the world to protect them. Jimmy did provide enough evidence in his interview to remove him from his parents, who were not protective. He was placed in a residential treatment facility to help him overcome his drug addiction and receive intensive therapy.

Through case meetings held with each of the investigating agencies present - the Center, law enforcement, caseworkers, and the District Attorney's office, we know that Jimmy is making a lot of progress. He is no longer taking drugs, and is engaging in activities that most 11-year-old boys enjoy, like soccer and video games. By coming to the Center, Jimmy's future took a positive turn.

\*Names and other identifying circumstances have been changed to protect the privacy of families.

# The opening of the Kozmetsky Center for Child Protection

The Center for Child Protection sold its facility at 1110 East 32nd Street in Spring 2008 in anticipation of moving to the newly constructed facility in East Austin located at 8509 FM 969. The Kozmetsky Center for Child Protection opened to the public in its new location and served its first child on June 9, 2008. The new building and adjacent conference center is more than five times the size of the previous facility and now makes it possible for the Center to expand services for all child abuse victims and their families. In addition to more space for services offered in the forensic interview, medical, and therapeutic wings, the new Kozmetsky facility greatly enhances safety, privacy, and emergency resources for families during the upheaval of an investigation.

A public grand opening press conference, ribbon cutting, open house, and donor reception was held September 17, 2008. In all, more than 400 supporters, public officials, volunteers, agency partners, and donors attended one or more events that day. Through concentrated outreach, media coverage surrounding the move and grand opening was valued at more than \$104,559 and estimated reaching 852,439 households with the Center's message. Work continues on the co-location of agency partners near the Center.



### child & family services

#### Forensic Interview

After a report of abuse is made to law enforcement or Child Protective Services, children are brought to the Center for Child Protection to begin the investigation process. Each child is interviewed by a trained forensic interviewer whose job it is to collect a complete account of what happened for the investigation.

#### Medical Exam

Children may return to the Center to receive a medical exam if their abuse is suspected to have taken place more than 96 hours from the reported incident or over a long period of time. A pediatrician specializing in forensic medical exams for children conducts a thorough examination to collect evidence that can be used during a criminal investigation.

# Therapy Services

The Center provides individual therapy, family therapy, crisis counseling intervention, emergency clinical assessments, family assessments, family reunification sessions, and termination session services. These services are offered at no charge to ensure access to the help children may need to heal from the trauma of abuse.

### Family Advocate Program

Family Advocates at the Center provide immediate crisis intervention and support while the child receives a forensic interview and throughout the duration of the case. Empathetic practitioners guide parents and caregivers through the steps in the investigation and prosecution process, so they can quickly access resources, therapy, and follow-up assistance needed to support their child, family, and themselves.

### Intensive Case Management

At-risk families receive intensive one-on-one case management to prevent child abuse or neglect. Home visits and assessments may be done to assist a family to better understand how to manage a child's complex situation.

### **Group Services**

Parent Education Class — Topics include child development, home safety, healthy choices, communication, conflict resolution, stress management, effective discipline and self-esteem.

Protective Parenting Group – Topics include crisis and trauma, physical and sexual abuse, neglect, domestic violence and substance abuse, patterns of behavior, defenses, empathy, communication, boundaries, personal responsibility, attachment and bonding. Protective Parenting-Sexual Abuse – Topics include defining sexual abuse, impact of sexual abuse on the family, victim and sexual abuse dynamics, offender dynamics and cycle of offending behaviors, being a protective caregiver, personal risk factors, and rebuilding a strong family.

# **Court School**

Each month, the Center hosts a court orientation program to introduce children and families to a court room in advance of their scheduled appearance. Forensic interviewers explain the different roles of each court official, and children have the opportunity to role-play and ask questions.

# **Emergency Funds**

During times of acute crisis, the Center may provide emergency funds and resources for family preservation. Through the new "Kid's Closet," staples such as car seats, bottles, and clothing are available to children and their protective caregivers who come to the Center. All expenditures are designed to be short-term in nature yet make a high impact to reduce the trauma for children or move them through the system more quickly. Other examples include purchases of medication, bus fare, or food.





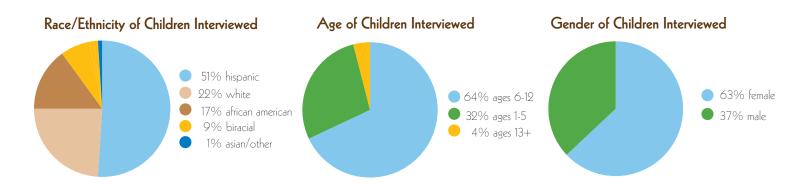


### profile of children served



In 2008, 3,336 services were provided to 1,547 children and 2,957 services were provided to 1,351 adult caregivers. A total of 723 children were brought to the Center for Child Protection for a forensic interview. A majority of children were referred because of sexual abuse, were female, and between the ages of 6 and 12.

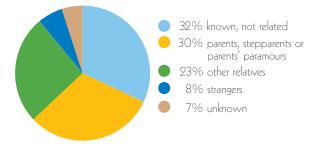
A majority of children (69%) came to the Center because of sexual abuse. Children were also referred to the Center because of witnessing a violent crime (15%), physical abuse (12%), multiple abuses (1%), or other reasons (3%). Of those reporting, 41% of caregivers reported an income at or below the federal poverty line, although children referred to the Center came from across the city and surrounding county from affluent, middle-class, poor, urban, and rural areas alike. Sixty-three percent of cases were joint investigations with law enforcement and Child Protective Services. Center staff provided most services in English and Spanish. All children and families received services at no charge.



# Profile of the Offenders

Despite popular fear of stranger danger, children are most at risk of harm from people they know. Eighty-five percent of children referred to the Center reported the person who harmed them was someone they knew. Of the offenders reported, a majority were male (89%) and age 17 or above (70%).

# Offender's Relationship to the Child





# Volunteer Report

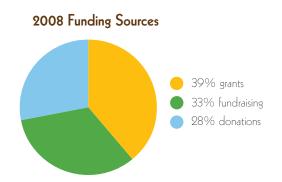
In 2008, 200 volunteers contributed 10,162 hours of service valued at \$198,260. Last year's move to a new, larger facility meant more placements available for volunteers working with children. We began monthly volunteer orientations last year to better accommodate prospective volunteers and interns interested in placements at the Center. Volunteers assisted children waiting for interviews and therapy appointments. They sorted and inventoried clothing, hygiene essentials, and child safety seats in the new Kid's Closet. And, they participated in administrative capacities such as tracking data and statistics so critical to recording information about children helped throughout the year. Our generous volunteer base ensures that services for children and families run smoothly, extending the Center's ability to help more children and families as they recover from the trauma of an abuse outcry.

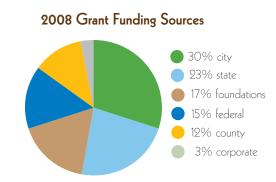
### The Friends of Christopher Guild

The Friends of Christopher Guild is a sustaining volunteer membership organization dedicated to expanding the safety net for abused children. Founded in 1992, this diverse group of women assists the Center through fundraising and direct services to children and families. In 2008, the Guild held their second annual PlayBingo Shopping Extravaganza in September and fifth annual PlayBingo Ladies Luncheon in November. The events raised a combined \$161,839 on behalf of the Center. The Guild also sponsored the 17th Annual Lexus Car Raffle.

### Financial Report

In 2008, the Center for Child Protection had \$2,424,443 in expenditures and held \$9,654,981 in net assets at the end of the year. A total of 76% was spent on program costs including forensic interviews, therapy, parenting classes, and clinical services. Fundraising expenses were 20%, and 4% was spent on administrative expenses.







### corporations/foundations

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Travis County Health Facilities Development Corporation

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Janis and Steve Jones Johnna and Stephen Jones

Cindy and Greg Kozmetsky Mary and Paul Kristynik Donna and Sanieev Kumar Cindy and Dale Laine Kristi and Dean Leipsner Suzanne Soares and Craig Luthy Kate and Cary McNair Duane McNeill Shelly and Brent Metschan Carol and Geoff Meyer Kathy Montana Mike Nugent Kimberly and Stephen Orlando Jeanne and Rusty Parker Kay and Phil Rawlins Margot and Scott Ritchie Maxine Roberts David Roche Janice and Robert Ryan Margo and Brian Sbrocco Karen and Mike Shultz Flise and John Sillers Ludi and Britton Skinner Bobbie and Vern Sumner Mary and Rusty Tally Maria Orozova and Scott Thomas Libby and Austin Tighe Karen and Thomas Vaughn Mary Walcutt Francine and John Webb Pam and George Willeford Linda and Mark Williams

Betty Woods

Deborah and Stephen Yurco

# 2008 "Dancing Stars"

Susan and Geoff Armstrong Stacee and Oliver Bell Robin and Clint Campbell Brandon Coleman, III Ken DeAngelis Deborah and Thomas Feo Christi and Curtis Ford Linda and Frank Ginac Donna Stockton-Hicks and Steven Hicks Vicki and Jim Howard, III Jan and H. David Hughes Jenni Hummel Mary and Jim Kozlowski Margo and Curtis McClurg Becky and Mark Powell Kay and Phil Rawlins Maxine Roberts Deanna and Jeff Serra Mary and Rusty Tally Bobbi and Morton Topfer Holly and Mike Turner Barbara and Bert Wallace

\* All donor listings reflect contributions at the \$500 level and above.



# CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION



The Center for Child Protection's mission is to reduce the trauma for children during the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases.

The Center for Child Protection, an accredited children's advocacy center, is the only nonprofit in Travis County involved in the investigation of crimes against children. The Center's best practice children's advocacy center model is widely endorsed to improve crime investigations and services for children and families. The Center provides a safe, non-threatening environment for children to begin the investigation process and tell what happened to them. After the initial interview, a child may return for a medical exam, counseling and other assistance for themselves and their family during the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases. Immediate intervention means that children can recover more quickly and families receive what is needed to put their lives back together after an abuse outcry. For more than 18 years, the Center for Child Protection has worked in collaboration with the Child Protection Team to help 9,445 children who have walked through the Center's doors to be heard at the point of interview and receive help, hope and healing. If you know of or suspect a child is being abused, call 1-800-252-5400. If the situation is an emergency, dial 9-1-1.



#### Child Protection Team Members

The following agencies collaborate with the Center for Child Protection during the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases to reduce the trauma for children: Austin Police Department, A.I.S.D. Police Department, Bee Cave Police Department, Cedar Park Police Department, Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, Jonestown Police Department, Lago Vista Police Department, Lakeway Police Department, Leander Police Department, Manor Police Department, Mustang Ridge Police Department, Pflugerville Police Department, Rollingwood Police Department, Sunset Valley Police Department, Texas Department of Family & Protective Services, Travis County District Attorney's Office, Travis County Sheriff's Office, and West Lake Hills Police Department.



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The Center is a founding member of the National Children's Alliance and a founding member of Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc.