Chicago Children's Advocacy Center and our partners are the front-line responders in Chicago to reports of child sexual abuse. We also respond to reports of child physical abuse, witness to violence, and other serious maltreatment. We are the city's only not-for-profit organization that coordinates the efforts of child protection staff, law enforcement professionals, family advocates, medical experts and mental health clinicians under one roof.
As the Executive Director of Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center, I am very proud of the impact we’ve made over the past year on the lives of children and families affected by sexual abuse. As you’ll read here, the incredible collaborative efforts of our dedicated staff, partners and supporters have ensured that all children who came to the center this year received the services needed to begin healing. When children come to ChicagoCAC, they have experienced trauma unimaginable to many. Providing a safe place for them to share their story and find hope, healing and justice is our number one priority. Since opening our doors in 2001, we have helped restore the lives of more than 34,000 children and families. Thank you to our many generous supporters who make our work possible.

We’ve all experienced the powerful and transformational #MeToo movement over the past year. This movement has shined a long overdue light on sexual abuse, assault and harassment and has encouraged millions to speak out. It’s our job as adults to continue to amplify these conversations and to take action towards teaching our children about healthy sexuality and consent. At ChicagoCAC, we advocate for the safety of children every day to ensure their voices are heard. Through healing services, prevention and policy, we can transform our culture and end child sexual abuse. Join us in being a strong voice for children. Because, it’s time!

Sincerely,

Char Rivette
Executive Director

A NOTE FROM OUR LEADER

IT’S TIME!

View our It’s Time video at ChicagoCAC.org/ItsTime.

STRATEGIC PLAN: FY2019 - 2021

Strategic Plan Vision: Be Chicago’s recognized leader in the prevention of child abuse and victim response and establish the organization as a center of excellence in the broader community.

Our strategic plan has six primary objectives:

More information about our strategic plan is available at ChicagoCAC.org/StrategicPlan.
**MAYA’S STORY**

When 7-year-old Maya arrived at ChicagoCAC, she was suffering from anxiety and had a difficult time interacting with her classmates and family. She was living with her aunt as a result of physical abuse and neglect allegations against her mom, and was now at the center as a part of a sexual abuse investigation. During her medical exam, the doctor focused on listening to and understanding what Maya was telling her. As Maya felt more validated, she started to open up and eventually disclosed to the doctor that she had been sexually abused by her mom’s boyfriend. After her medical exam, Maya had a forensic interview, in which she detailed years of abuse. The forensic interviewer noticed that the more she shared the better she seemed to feel. Having revealed the truth about what happened to her, she was more open to receiving therapy services at the center. When she left the center, she had a skip in her step and even asked if she could come back the next day! Maya and her family are currently receiving therapy services at our Family Hope Center and have started on the path towards healing and recovery.

**FY2018 IMPACT**

We coordinated a multi-disciplinary response to **2,563** reports of child abuse.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Report Breakdown</strong></th>
<th><strong>44</strong> Sex Trafficking</th>
<th><strong>86</strong> Physical Abuse</th>
<th><strong>429</strong> Witness to Violence &amp; Risk of Harm</th>
<th><strong>2,004</strong> Sexual Abuse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>families received advocacy services</td>
<td>2,036</td>
<td>children received child life services</td>
<td>3,309</td>
<td>individuals received mental health services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>forensic interviews conducted</td>
<td>1,859</td>
<td>children received medical exams</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>families transported to the center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Throughout the year, ChicagoCAC staff worked on several policy issues impacting our clients and work.

- **HB2545**: Amends the Sexual Assault Survivors Emergency Treatment Act to improve the medical response to child sexual assault victims. ChicagoCAC participated in a workgroup facilitated by the Attorney General’s Office.

- We were a proponent of SB2516 which requires employers to inform employees of the availability of mandated reporter training from DCFS. We continue to advocate for stronger mandated reporter requirements and training.

- In April, ChicagoCAC staff participated in Children’s Advocacy Centers of Illinois’ annual Legislative Day in Springfield.

- In June, during the National Children’s Alliance Leadership Conference in Washington DC, Char met with Senator Dick Durbin and several Members of Congress.

- Our team trained hundreds of Chicago Public Library staff including children’s librarians, teen librarians and branch managers.

- We continue our work with the Chicago Park District ensuring all staff are educated on preventing and responding to sexual abuse. This year, we customized trainings for specific staff who have a greater level of physical contact with children, like coaches.

- In September, we hosted the Circles of Safety Symposium at Lurie Children’s Hospital where 86 professionals, parents and community members learned about sexual abuse prevention.

- We began dramatically expanding our partnership with Chicago Public Schools to provide child abuse prevention training to all levels of staff through in-person and webinar trainings.
Our services including child life, mental health, family advocacy and forensic interviewing celebrated many successes this year!

Child Life

- Our child life team partnered with The American Academy of Art to create a child-friendly coloring book that informs children of what to expect during their visit to the center.
- Child life specialists helped children create self-expressive “I AM” poems that were featured in our Child Abuse Prevention Month displays around the city.

Forensic Interviewing

- 14% more children received forensic interviews in FY18 than in FY17.
- We facilitated our first on-site Cornerhouse Forensic Interview Training, where we trained 22 partners and staff from Cook County CACs.

Family Advocacy

- 7% more families received advocacy services in FY18 than in FY17.

Family Hope Center

- We expanded our Expressive Therapy services by partnering with The Simple Good to provide art groups for children focusing on social emotional learning. Each 10-week group ended with a public art show where the children presented their work and met professional artists.
- Family Hope Center staff were trained in the Positive Parenting Program, that teaches positive parenting approaches. The Medical Clinic’s Dr. Marjorie Fujara also launched a city-wide initiative for parent education and support which is available to all parents receiving our services.

Center

- ChicagoCAC Board Member, Virginia Seggerman, sponsored the creation of a beautiful under-the-sea mural in our octagonal entryway to greet families who visit the center. This colorful mural was painted by Mark Narens from The Black Couch Studio.
- We received a $1.49 million Victims of Crime Act federal grant, which allowed us to hire 13 additional employees including two forensic interviewers, five therapists, two family support professionals, a child life specialist, a sex trafficking specialist and two supervisors.
- The “It’s Time” video shown at our 4th Annual Luminary Award Dinner highlights our work at ChicagoCAC and calls for an end to child sexual abuse. View the video at ChicagoCAC.org/ItsTime.
FINANCIAL REPORT: July 2017 - June 2018

EVENTS

BACKPACK DRIVE
In August, more than 40 volunteers helped to pack 300 brand new backpacks with donated school supplies to give to our children before the school year.

GUYS’ & GALS’ NIGHT OUT
In October, more than 400 people joined us for our 10th annual Guys’ & Gals’ Night Out. Guests enjoyed an open bar, culinary stations, raffles, a silent auction and more! Chaired by Gregg Elstien, the event raised more than $100,000.

LUMINARY AWARD DINNER
In the spring, we presented Kristie Paskvan of Mesirow Financial with our Luminary Award for lighting the path toward hope and healing. Chaired by Doug Elliott and Melissa Washington, this event raised more than $420,000 to support our work.

KIDS’ HOLIDAY PARTY
In December, we hosted more than 300 children and their families who enjoyed an afternoon of crafts, games, lunch and gifts for the holidays.

Note: The above presentation is unaudited and excludes the net effect of a 10-year lease donated by the City of Chicago as well as in-kind contributions and contributed services.

IT’S TIME TO THANK

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W. P. & H. B. White Foundation
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Patricia Crown Family

Your Gift to ChicagoCAC is an investment in the work of our dedicated staff and in the lives of the children and families we serve.

All of our services are provided free of charge, including family advocacy, forensic interviews, mental health therapy and child life.

We rely on private donors to provide these services, and the core of that support comes from the community of individuals who make annual unrestricted gifts.

Please consider making a gift today that will bring us one step closer to ending child sexual abuse.

Give at ChicagoCAC.org/donate
IT’S TIME TO...
END CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.

Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center

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