

CRUSADER'S CHRONICLE



Director's Message

What a busy year 2022 has been! The Children's Advocacy Center has seen an increase in the number of child victims we are serving, compared to previous years. A likely factor contributing to this is an increase in community members within Adams County recognizing the signs of child abuse and reporting their concerns. Recognizing and reporting abuse has helped keep many children within Adams County safe from further harm and allowed the children, their caregivers, and siblings to receive information, support, and resources to help begin healing from the trauma of abuse.

We, at the Adams County Children's Advocacy Center, recognize the recent incidents of violence that have occurred across our nation. We acknowledge the trauma and heartbreak the events have caused for children, families, and communities. Our hearts and thoughts are with each person affected by these incidents. The CAC believes every child deserves to feel safe and we work hard every day to support children and families of our community who are affected by violence.

As we continue to move through the COVID-19 Pandemic, and begin to look at what the future will hold, we would like to thank our community members for their continued support! Recognizing, responding to, and preventing child abuse is not possible without the community working together to ensure our children are safe. We look forward to continuing to work together for the benefit of the children throughout Adams County!

— Elida Murray

Supporting Children & Families

In 2022, the CAC staff have diligently worked to provide services to the child victims of abuse, their caregivers, and their siblings.

Since January, the CAC has conducted over 120 Forensic Interviews for child victims, 32 of whom also had a Medical Examination/Consult completed.

Our mental health program added 10 new cases and provided almost 300 therapy sessions to children, helping them to heal from the trauma of abuse. 25 referrals were made also to outside mental health resources.

In the Adams County community, we shared information and resources with 68 adults and 51 children through our community outreach efforts. Our Prevention Educator provided child abuse prevention education to 2,582 children across Adams County.

The 125 member Multi-Disciplinary Investigative Team (MDIT) is comprised of the following agencies: local law enforcement, Adams County Children & Youth Services, District Attorney's office, Adams County Victim Witness Program, as well as medical and mental health providers.

The MDIT has held 3 case-review meetings, in which our team members worked together to support and advocate for our children and families.

Staff Updates

Since the start of 2022, multiple new staff members have joined our Child Advocacy Center team. Please join us in welcoming the following team members:

-Kim Summers, MSW | *Forensic Interviewer*

Why Kim joined the CAC: every child deserves the chance to tell their experiences in a safe environment, without judgment.

-Andrew Adcock | *Community Outreach & Education Coordinator*

Why Andrew joined the CAC: to help provide people with the tools and knowledge that they need to keep kids safe, build stronger families, and help to better our community.

-Karina Padilla | *Child & Family Advocate*

Why Karina joined the CAC: Every child deserves a safe space where they can share their trauma and get the help they need to heal.

-Crusader | *Facility Dog in Training*

Why Crusader joined the CAC: When he grows up, Cruse will provide comfort to the children who visit the CAC.



Building a Brighter Tomorrow

In the fall of 2021, the CAC purchased a new building, located at 224 Baltimore Street, Gettysburg. The new building will almost double our capacity to provide direct services to children & families. We will also have space to host on-site MDIT Case Reviews, trainings, and community-based prevention education activities.



Because the new building is in need of renovations to better suit the needs of our services, the CAC is still operating out of our original location of 450 W. Middle Street.

Community Connection

April was National Child Abuse Prevention Month and Gettysburg supported the CAC's efforts of raising awareness and on-going prevention by participating in "Light Up Gettysburg". Over 70 businesses in Gettysburg used blue lighting to show they were in support of preventing child abuse across our community.

Also in April, the CAC participated in April's First Friday event by welcoming people to our new building and providing families with educational materials on recognizing, responding to, and reporting child abuse.

The CAC also participated in Mental Health Fairs at Gettysburg Area Middle and High Schools. During these events, we provided students with information on online safety, signs of abuse, and more.

Most recently, the CAC participated in FunFest, presented by Adams County Library. We not only had a fun game with prizes for kids, we were also able to provide many local families and community members with child abuse prevention education materials!

Join us at the following event to show your support of the Children's Advocacy Center!

First Annual ACCAC Golf Tournament: September 29th | 1pm

The Links at Gettysburg, 601 Mason Dixon Rd, Gettysburg PA

Shotgun start | Teams of 4

Great prizes for players, including chance to win a motorcycle!

Proceeds benefit ACCAC!

Connect with us online!



Scan the QR Code to connect with our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!

Visit our website to donate:
kidsagaincac.org/donate.html