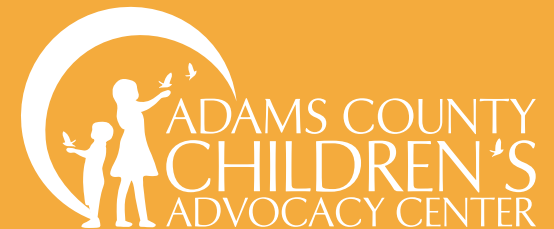


# *Our Kids, Our Community:* **Building Brighter Tomorrows**



# A Child's Journey to Brighter Tomorrows



**“Sarah, you’re my best friend, and I need to tell you something that happened. My dad’s friend Dave hurt me last week. He forced me to do things I didn’t want to do. I am scared it will happen again and afraid to tell my parents. I feel so bad about myself – like it’s my fault.”**

**“Charlie, it’s not your fault. I am so sorry this happened to you. Dave is the one to blame – not you. I learned about this in school at the “Child Safety Matters” presentation. They told us to choose a safe adult to talk to if we were hurt or scared. I chose my mom. I’ll talk to her; she will know what to do.”**



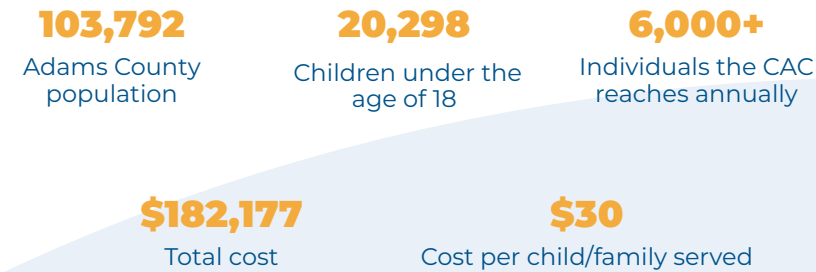
Charlie and Sarah are two of the thousands of children the Adams County Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) has supported since opening its doors in 2006. As the Executive Director of the CAC and a survivor of child abuse, I can tell you that child abuse rips away a child’s innocence, self-esteem, and sense of security. Experiencing child abuse is isolating, life-altering, and life-defining. Our children need to know that there are adults who will help them and work to keep them safe. No child should suffer like this.

**The CAC is committed to supporting child abuse victims like Charlie but is equally dedicated to stopping child abuse from happening in the first place. Through support for victims and prevention, we will build brighter tomorrows for Adams County kids.**

Sincerely,  
**Elida Murray**, Executive Director

## How the CAC Serves the Community FY22-23

Via **community outreach and prevention education**, the CAC supports all of Adams County:



Initiatives include:



Via **direct services** to more than 200 child victims and their families in Adams County, the CAC provides hope and healing for more than 700 individuals annually.



Initiatives include:



## Children are Increasingly Unsafe in Our Community

Now more than ever, children are not safe in their homes and neighborhoods. Abuse is occurring more often and with greater severity.

In the U.S. in 2018, the total lifetime economic burden associated with child abuse and neglect was around \$592 billion – approximately \$830,928 per child victim. This rivals the cost of other high-profile public health problems such as heart disease and diabetes.<sup>1</sup>

In 2022, there were 364 Childline reports of child abuse and 1,329 Childline reports of unsafe conditions/neglect in Adams County.<sup>2</sup>

### In Adams County:

#### 29% of children

visiting our Center report multiple types of victimization (sexual abuse, physical abuse, severe neglect, witness to domestic violence, parental drug use).

#### Average ACEs score: 5.28

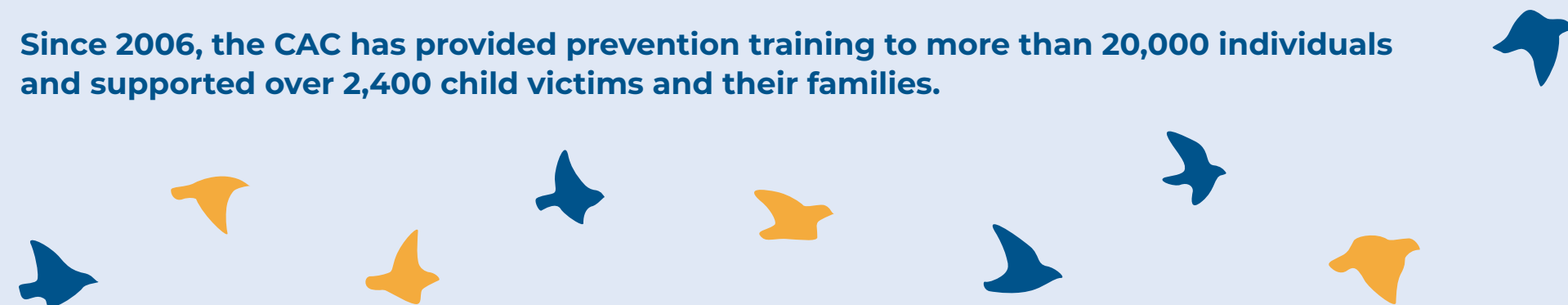
The average ACEs (adverse childhood experiences) score of children receiving advocacy services is 5.28, meaning, in their young lives, they have endured or have been exposed to 5-6 incidences of abuse or neglect.

#### 28% of children

have cognitive, physical, or mental disabilities or other circumstances that make them more vulnerable to abuse and require specialized advocacy support to heal.

<sup>1</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
<sup>2</sup>2022 PA Child Protective Services Report

Since 2006, the CAC has provided prevention training to more than 20,000 individuals and supported over 2,400 child victims and their families.



## What Will It Take?

To protect children, the CAC is already hard at work successfully executing a 360° approach, providing advocacy, expanded trauma therapy, and support groups for child victims and their families, while working to prevent future child abuse, raising community awareness, and coordinating a multi-disciplinary investigative team of county organizations, police departments, and the district attorney's office.

Over the next five years, the CAC will continue to increase outreach, education, and mental health services to meet the needs of children and families in Adams County.

**We must break these cycles of abuse and build brighter tomorrows for children.**

### Our Five-Year Plan

Promote community outreach

Increase prevention education

Enhance advocacy support

Expand mental health services



Safe Kids



Strong Families



Healthy, Safe Communities





## The CAC is Facing a Big Challenge

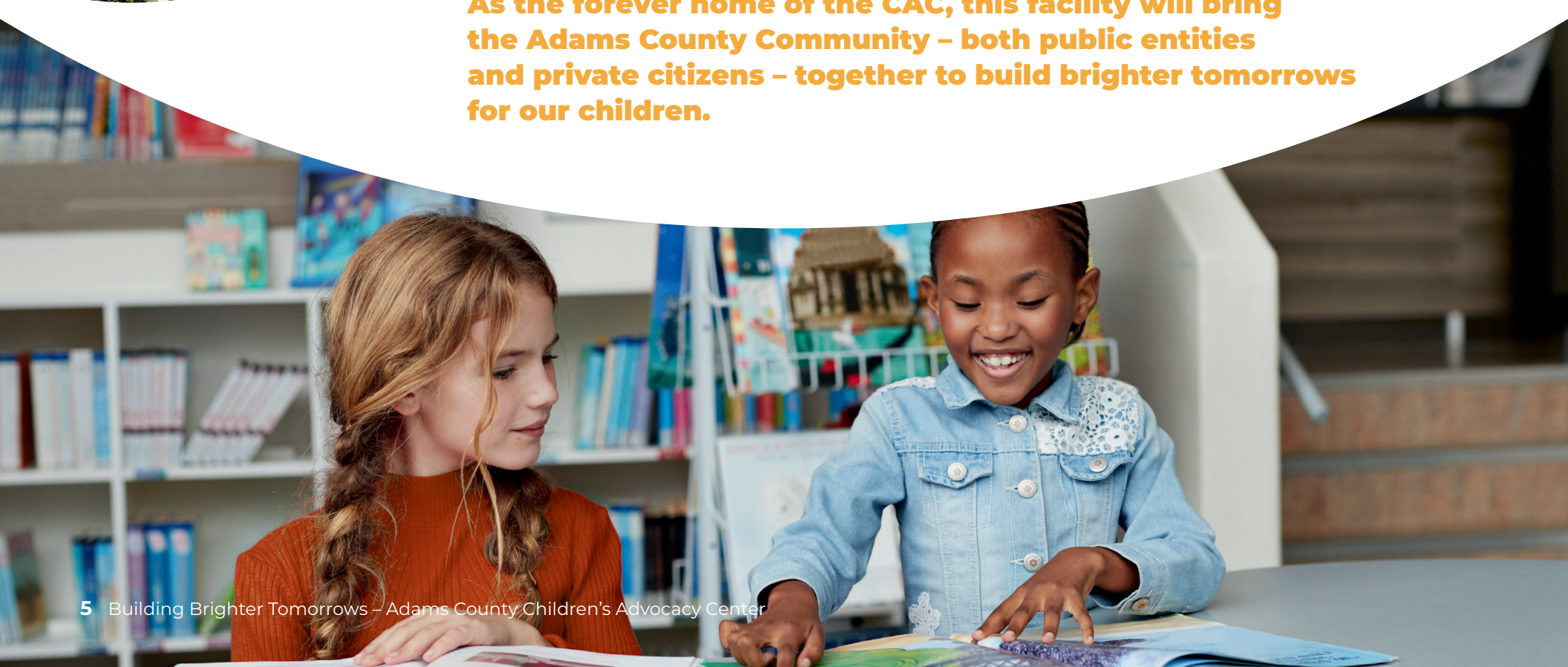
Child abuse and neglect cases have increased every year, translating to an increased need for services.

**We need larger, more functional spaces** to meet children's needs, serve multiple families simultaneously, and conduct outreach and prevention education trainings.

At our current location – a single-family house located at 450 West Middle Street in Gettysburg – we can serve only one family at a time.

**The Adams County Children's Advocacy Center purchased 224 Baltimore Street in Gettysburg, the Brighter Tomorrows Center (pictured left).**

**As the forever home of the CAC, this facility will bring the Adams County Community – both public entities and private citizens – together to build brighter tomorrows for our children.**



# Building the Brighter Tomorrows Center

The Brighter Tomorrows Center is providing hope and healing for survivors of child abuse and their families while also promoting a healthy community.

**Renovation costs for the Brighter Tomorrows Center are \$2.6 million of the \$3.6 million total project cost. The Adams County Children's Advocacy Center has already secured \$1 million (comprised of the cash purchase of 224 Baltimore, plus \$400,000 in board-designated funds).**

**The Brighter Tomorrows Center, totaling 5,630 square feet with a two-story addition, will be a welcoming space for the entire community. All three floors will be fully ADA-compliant, with elevator access and state-of-the-art communications and security technology, while still maintaining the building's historic architectural elements.**

## The Brighter Tomorrows Center: Space Breakdown

### First Floor: Child/Family Services & Training Space

- Front Lobby
- Forensic Interview/Mental Health Rooms (2)
- Family Advocacy Meeting Room
- Medical Exam Room
- Family Gather Room
- Multi-Disciplinary Investigative Team (MDIT) Meeting Room
- Learning Center
- Outdoor Healing Garden

### Second Floor: Therapy & Team Space

- Mental Health Suite – Art/Play Therapy Space
- Family Gather Room
- ACCAC Staff Offices
- Meeting Space/Café with kitchen

### Third Floor: Support Group Space

- Support Group Meeting Space with kitchenette



## Our Community. Our Kids.

Every day at the CAC, we look into the eyes of children who have been hurt and betrayed by parents, caregivers, and other adults they trusted.

Nationally, about 1 in 7 children experienced abuse or neglect last year, according to the CDC. That equates to 2,990 children like Charlie and Sarah in Adams County.

**Our community needs the Brighter Tomorrows Center** – a place where community members learn how to prevent child abuse while victims and their families get the support they need to heal and lead healthy lives.

### Support Brighter Tomorrows for Adams County Kids

Donate by visiting [kidsagaincac.org/BrighterTomorrows](https://kidsagaincac.org/BrighterTomorrows) or scanning the QR code.



**Together, we can build brighter tomorrows in Adams County. Will you help?**

# Let's Build Them Brighter Tomorrows



**Children need to feel safe.** While visiting the Brighter Tomorrows Center for advocacy support, therapy, and other services, children will be able to relax in the bright, welcoming, and spacious Gather Room (Family Room).



**It takes courage for a child to talk about the abuse they have suffered.** In the Courage Room (Mental Health Suite), the child-friendly space makes each child feel safe and protected.



Blending the best of its historic architecture with modern amenities, the Learning Rooms (Front Lobby and Learning Center) celebrate the building's past and its future as **the place where community members come to meet, collaborate, and learn.**

# Together, We Can Build Brighter Tomorrows in Adams County

The Brighter Tomorrows Center will be the forever home of the Adams County Children's Advocacy Center, providing services to children and families while also providing space for training and community-based child abuse prevention education activities. The Brighter Tomorrows Center will also promote collaboration with other community organizations.

**This presents you, as a donor, the opportunity to make a lasting and permanent contribution to the health, safety, and well-being of the Adams County community – children and adults alike.**

**\$100,000+**      **\$50,000-99,000**      **\$25,000-49,000**      **\$10,000-24,000**      **\$2,500-9,000**



**Brighter Tomorrows Center Multi-Year Pledges:** If you prefer to make your gift over time, your contribution to building brighter tomorrows for Adams County children can be made in two- or three-year installments.

**In-Kind Contributions:** The renovation of the Brighter Tomorrows Center presents a variety of opportunities for your organization to donate construction or maintenance-related services, equipment, or supplies. Contact Elida Murray (emurray@kidsagaincac.org) to learn more.

**As a Brighter Tomorrows donor, your name will be included on the Donor Recognition Wall located in the Welcome/Front Lobby Entrance of the Brighter Tomorrows Center.**

## Will You Help?

### Naming Opportunities

<b>(Your Name Here) Brighter Tomorrows Center</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>Learn: Training/Meeting Space</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
<b>Interact: Support Group Space 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
<b>Gather: Family Gather Room 1<sup>st</sup> Floor</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>
<b>Courage: Mental Health Suite 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>
<b>Collaborate: Meeting Space &amp; Kitchen 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Listen: Forensic Interview Rooms (2) 1<sup>st</sup> Floor</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>Heal: Medical Exam Room 1<sup>st</sup> Floor</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>Team: MDIT Viewing/Meeting Space 1<sup>st</sup> Floor</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Welcome: Front Entrance/Lobby 1<sup>st</sup> Floor</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Restore: Outdoor Healing Garden 1<sup>st</sup> Floor</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Support: Staff Offices 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>

**Naming opportunities for the Brighter Tomorrows Center or specific spaces within the Center are available. These spaces are identified by their purpose in child- and family-friendly language, thus contributing to a welcoming and empowering space for all.**

**Donors who select a naming opportunity will be recognized on the Donor Recognition Wall in the Welcome/Front Lobby Entrance as well as on a plaque in their selected Center area.**



# Adams County Children's Advocacy Center

## Staff

**Elida Murray**, MA, Executive Director

**Cora Beyer**, Child & Family Advocate

**Amanda Evans-Freet**, MS, ATR-BC, LPC,  
Mental Health Therapist

**Jackie Hendricks**, Administration & Operations Manager

**Crystal Long**, Forensic Interviewer / Prevention Educator

**Karina Padilla**, Child & Family Advocate

**Jenifer Patterson**, Outreach & Education Coordinator

**Kim Summers**, MSW, Forensic Interviewer

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**Anne Marie Logue**, Treasurer

**Carolyn Wagaman**,  
Vice President

**Irene Powell**, Secretary

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Hoffman**

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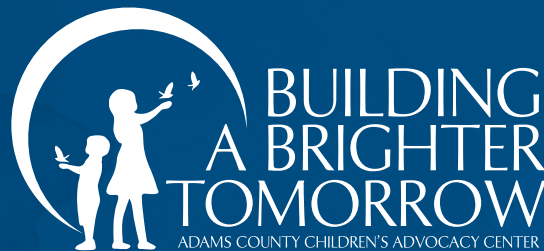
**Crissy Redding**

**Catherine Wallen**

**Wendy Heiges**

**Alisha Sanders**

**Dawn Heiges  
Hoffman**



**kidsagaincac.org**

**450 West Middle Street**

**Gettysburg, PA 17325**

**Phone: 717-337-9888**

**Fax: 717-337-9880**

**Would you like to tour the Center, see the space, and view our plans for renovation?  
Contact Elida Murray at [emurray@kidsagaincac.org](mailto:emurray@kidsagaincac.org) to schedule your Brighter Tomorrows Center visit.**