

Grateful the Adams Community “Has Our Back” to Support Kids & Families

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As a small, independent, non-profit organization serving Adams County, the Adams County Children’s Advocacy Center depends on donations and grants to achieve our mission to support child victims of abuse and their families, and to provide vital prevention education to children and adults across Adams County. We thank you, our community, for your critical support. Your donations via the Giving Spree and throughout the year fund this necessary work.

Thank you for having our back!

The work we do is “human service.” It is done face to face, in small spaces, looking into the eyes of children from this community who are hurting – child victims who have been abused, physically, mentally, emotionally and sexually, sometimes by people they know and trust.

These special children arrive at our center, an old Victorian house located on West Middle Street in Gettysburg . Many days this small house feels heavy; filled with feelings of incredible sadness, anger, fear, embarrassment, frustration, distrust, disbelief, and confusion.

At the Center, children meet our staff, a group of eight dedicated, highly trained, professionals who, like our community’s first responders, are here for children and their family members in what can be some of their worst moments. Our forensic interviewers, child and family advocates, and our trauma therapist sit with child victims and compassionately hear what our community’s children have endured. Their training enables them to give these children a voice after it has been silenced by abusers, who have stolen their voice, trust, and innocence.

After talking with our forensic interviewers, child victims and their family members work with our advocates who assess the child’s and family’s needs, provide resources, answer questions, explain processes, give much needed support, and make important referrals. Our advocates support child victims and their families for as long as they need our support. Every child is offered trauma therapy with our in-house trauma therapist. Trauma therapy is a healing journey as individual as each child victim. This work, to help children turn those heavy feelings into feelings of hope and healing, takes time, patience, and compassion.

Thankfully, because of community support, all services are free of charge to child victims and their families. Our advocates and trauma therapist can focus on helping children heal without having to end these intensely human conversations with, “today’s charge will be...” or “I’m sorry we don’t have the resources to help you.”

While the Adams County Children’s Advocacy Center may be small, with a small space, small staff, and small budget, with your generous support we are also mighty.

- We are mighty, serving over 200 Adams County child victims of abuse each year; 2,764 Adams County child victims supported since opening our doors in 2006.
- We are mighty in our assistance to first responders in child abuse investigations; bringing child abusers to justice.
- We are mighty in our prevention efforts, teaching child abuse prevention education to 5,000+ Adams County school students each year!
- We are mighty in our community awareness and outreach efforts, providing information and resources in person to 1,700+ individuals each year, and online, with an average of 1,400 visits to our website's resource page each month.

Child abuse is a community issue, and it takes the entire community to protect children. Knowing our community is behind us, especially on those hard days, means so much. This season, we give thanks for the tremendous impact we've been able to make in the lives of Adams County kids and families when they needed us, all because of your generous care and support. Thank you!