

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the Director

The first thing that became obvious after taking this position, is that the topic of child abuse is not a popular topic. My next thought was we have to engage people into talking about it more. We can't afford not to. Clearly, child abuse isn't just a problem within our communities. It's a serious problem that is much larger and has lasting effects. We must invest in our children today or we will end up paying the price tomorrow.

Each child and their family who walks through our doors responds to crisis and trauma in their own unique ways. It always amazes me how resilient children can truly be. Sometimes providing a safe and child friendly place for children to tell their story is exactly what they needed. However, at The Children's House you are not on this journey alone. For many children who enter The Children's House traumatized and cowering behind their caregiver, through the home like feel and the support of the staff, by the end the Children don't want to leave.

Here at The Children's House there are many contributing factors in what we do however we hope to provide three core things to every child and their family:

- Listen and believe them when they disclose the abuse,
- Step in to investigate and protect to end the abuse, and
- Refer them to caring professionals who are there to help both onsite and offsite.

Because here at the Children's House our mission is to reduce the trauma to children who have experienced abuse and to not only support them through this journey but support their families as well through a safe and supportive environment with the help of our partner agencies.

So I thank you and invite you to join hands in the fight against child abuse.

Many Thanks,

Katy VanDewark

Executive Director

OUR MISSION

To reduce trauma to children and their families by providing a safe and supportive environment through a collaboration of community agencies.



CHCAC Staff: Jamie Holliday, Katy VanDewark, Tia Wright

Forensic Interviewer

“As a forensic interviewer, it is crucial for me to build trust with the children who come to the center. In a short period of time, I have to develop rapport and make children comfortable talking about some of the most painful and uncomfortable experiences of their lives. Whether I am playing with Play-Doh and sitting on the floor with a four year old, or sitting across from a seventeen year old in tears, it is such an honor to be trusted by these children to open up their lives to. It is a privilege to be someone who listens; to be the person who lets them share their story out loud, often for the very first time. At the end of the interview, I always thank the child for talking to me because I know how much courage it took for them to do so.

Jamie Holliday



Family Advocate

“When I started as a family advocate, I was definitely unaware of what my duties entailed. I got thrown into a crazy month; May, where in 1 week, we had 16 interviews! Luckily, Jamie was there to lead the way and show me the struggles as well as the highlights of being a family advocate. Since becoming the full-time family advocate, I've learned to expect the unexpected. I've learned that parents or caregivers may be rude or closed off and that you can't take it personally. I've learned that as an advocate, you have so many rolls that sometimes you're not sure what your actual job title is. Most of all, I've learned that just listening goes a long way. There have been times where I've been on the phone for 20-30 minutes just letting a mother rant and cry and not saying a word because she just needed someone to listen to her. With the trainings I've attended, I have gained so much knowledge and insight from other family and victim advocates, it's incredible to hear different testimonies and stories. Since May, I have seen this center transform and make so much progress. We have strong and dedicated staff members who make working here an amazing experience.

Tia Wright



United Approach

The Children's House Child Advocacy Center (CHCAC) is a nonprofit organization that coordinates a Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Team approach responding to allegations of child abuse and neglect. Our Multidisciplinary Investigative Team (MDIT) consists of family advocates, forensic interviewers, team coordinators, law enforcement, nurse practitioners, mental health therapists with the following partners:

- Bradford County District Attorney's Office
- Sullivan County District Attorney's Office
- Tioga County District Attorney's Office
- Pennsylvania State Police
- Athens Borough Police Department
- Athens Township Police Department
- Canton Police Department
- Sayre Police Department
- Towanda Police Department
- Troy Police Department
- Children and Youth Services in Bradford, Sullivan and Tioga Counties
- Guthrie Hospital

Mental health agencies include:

- Concern
- Northern Tier Counseling
- Abuse and Rape Crisis Center
- Haven of Tioga County

Together we provide victim support, family advocacy, medical exams, and mental health and forensic interviews. This results in a collaboration minimizing additional trauma to the child and family. We give child victims a safe place to talk about what happened to them in their own words. Our experts will listen to them, protect them, and help them through the process of healing.

We use a multi-disciplinary approach which means agency professionals are working as a team to coordinate services during the investigation. The goal of our MDIT is to reduce the number of times a child needs to talk to different agency professionals and to address the family's concerns in a sensitive and timely manner.

CHCAC is an accredited member through the National Children's Alliance since 2015. The National Children's Alliance ensures that abused children are provided the highest quality of care. They provide support, technical assistance, and quality assurance.

CHCAC IN 2017:

159 interviews conducted

20 medical exams given

477 advocate services

162 mental health referrals

18 trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy

11 school districts assisted

182 victims





Explanation of Resources

Following its mission, CHCAC provides our community's youngest victims with justice, support, medical exams and hope; and educates the community to better identify abuse and serve those who endure it.

JUSTICE

CHCAC assists through referrals from law enforcement or Children & Youth Services by giving forensic interviews. A trained forensic speaker will conduct a specialized one on one interview in a child friendly setting. To reduce trauma, the interview is recorded to share investigations with collocated partners.

SUPPORT

We provide onsite Family Advocates that are committed to helping each family in the process. As needed our Family Advocates will accompany the child and family to medical appointment and court hearings. There will be support throughout the case.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Medical exams are offered to any child. We provide specifically trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners night and day that can conduct onsite and offsite services. If no medical evidence is found, we believe an exam can reassure the child that his/her body is okay.

HOPE TO HEALING

Onsite and Offsite Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy is available to children ages 3-18. We are committed to providing a safe place for children to begin their healing process after experiencing a traumatic event. Specially trained therapists work with children and their non-offending caregivers to address trauma and teach coping mechanisms while building resiliency.

EDUCATION

Our staff hosts several community awareness events each year and provide in-service training and education to professionals and community groups. CHCAC educates professionals on how to recognize and report child abuse.





Helping Kids Heal

Beginning in June 2016, the CHCAC received a grant from PCCD to implement Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) in the community. This therapy is an evidence-based, highly effective intervention for children ages 3-18 who have experienced any form of trauma. The TF-CBT program is offered to every child and family that comes through the CHCAC for services and is open to children and families in the community who qualify for trauma therapy. Currently, the CHCAC has six contractual, trained TF-CBT therapists who provide services on and offsite, at no cost to the family. With no insurance requirement, and no obligation to pay out of pocket fees, we have been able to serve children and families who desperately need intervention, but have traditionally had no access to these crucial services.

National research and local data demonstrate that children who complete TF-CBT show a decrease in PTSD symptoms, anxiety, depression, and behavior problems. They also show an increase in social adjustment and their ability to recognize and respond to potentially abusive situations. Research suggests that clients and their caregivers continue to improve even after the treatment has ended.

The mother of a 15-year-old TF-CBT client shared that her daughter had been to several therapists, but no one could get her daughter to open up until she met with a TF-CBT therapist. The developmentally appropriate approach and therapist flexibility unique to TF-CBT are successful in working with diverse populations.



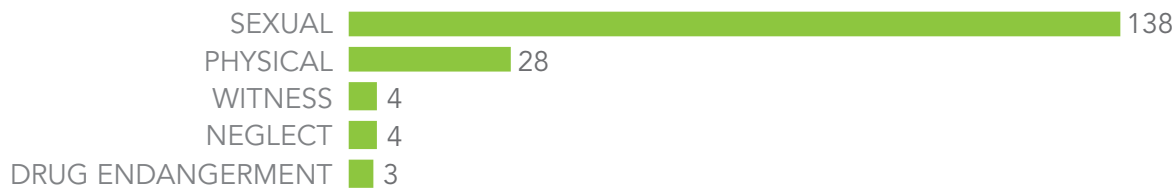
I've had the privilege of working with child survivors of abuse. TF-CBT has been so beneficial. It has allowed the children to understand their experience, their feelings relative to the abuse and abuser, how it impacts them, and how it impacts their relationships-current and future. Appropriate services in our community can allow for healing and moving beyond the abuse for survivors and their families.

—TF-CBT Therapist,
Bradford County



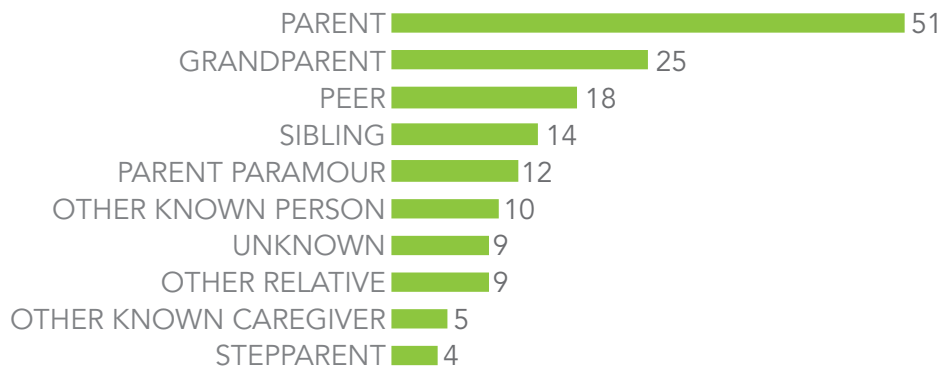
TYPE OF ABUSE: Sexual abuse is most common.

TYPE OF ABUSE (CHCAC, 2016)



RELATIONSHIP TO PERPETRATOR: A parent is most common.

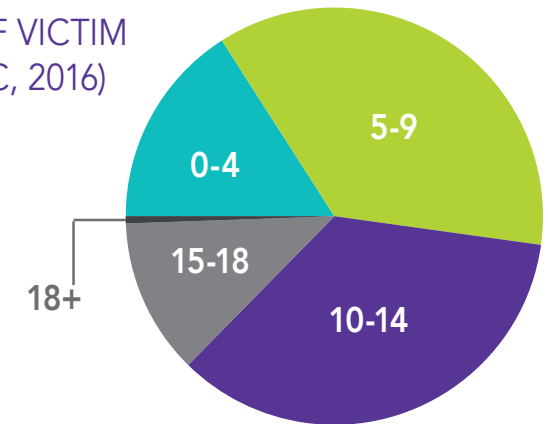
RELATIONSHIP TO PERPETRATOR (CHCAC, 2016)



FACT: CHCAC had 142 cases in 2016.

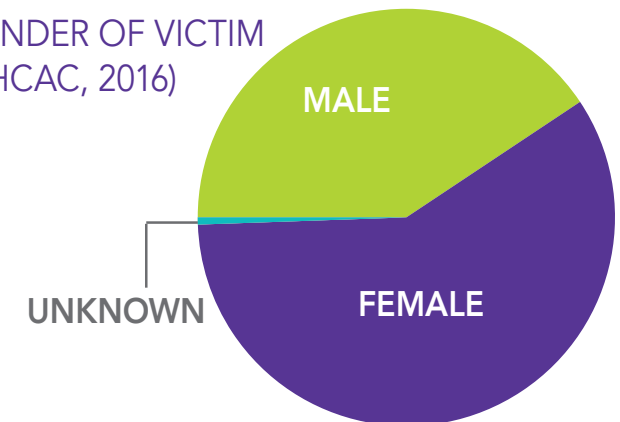
AGE: 5-9 years is most common.

AGE OF VICTIM (CHCAC, 2016)



GENDER: Female is most common.

GENDER OF VICTIM (CHCAC, 2016)



IN THE UNITED STATES: There are nearly 700,000 cases of abuse each year. (NCA)

1 in 6 boys, and 1 in 4 girls will experience sexual abuse before their 18th birthday. (NCTSN)

IN PENNSYLVANIA: In 2016, there were 44,359 reports of child abuse. Of those, 4,597 were substantiated. (2016 PA CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT)

OF SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS IN PENNSYLVANIA:

- Sexual abuse is the most common.
- Female is the most common gender.
- 10-14 years is most common age group.
- Parent is the most common relationship to perpetrator.

IN BRADFORD COUNTY (2016):

- 386 reports; 60 substantiated
- 66.7% female; 33.3% male

IN TIOGA COUNTY (2016):

- 227 reports; 39 substantiated
- 62.5% female; 37.5% male

FACT: There are 9 available counseling and mental health service agencies in Bradford County.

IN SULLIVAN COUNTY (2016):

- 25 reports; 2 substantiated
- 100% female

2017 Special Events and Key Movements

TOYS FOR TOTS | CHCAC participates in Toys for Tots, a program that gives toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy Christmas gifts. This year, we gave gifts to more than 450 children in Bradford County.

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS | CHCAC hosts Christmas for Kids, designed for child victims and their families. We collect new donated toys from community members and partner agencies, and distribute the toys before Christmas to well-deserving families.

ANNUAL 5K | CHCAC's annual 5K is held every April during Child Abuse Awareness Month. This event is designed to bring the community together and raise awareness of, and help end, child abuse.

HARLEM WIZARDS | CHCAC brought back the Harlem Wizards for a 3rd consecutive year. Coupled with lunchtime visits to the elementary schools, the back-to-back events in Athens High School and Towanda High School were a huge hit. Teachers and community leaders had a great time facing off against the Wizards!

TRAINING | In 2017, CHCAC offered several in-service training programs for professionals. Highlights included a Minimal Fact Finding training as well as a Sex Trafficking training. Chief Jim Holler, Shea Rhodes, Esq., Survivor Speaker Jen Spry, and Pennsylvania CAC Chapter's Sue Ascione shared powerful presentations on sex trafficking. Throughout the year, CHCAC also presented to companies, hospitals, schools, community organizations, and associations about child abuse, the CAC response and how to be community hero!

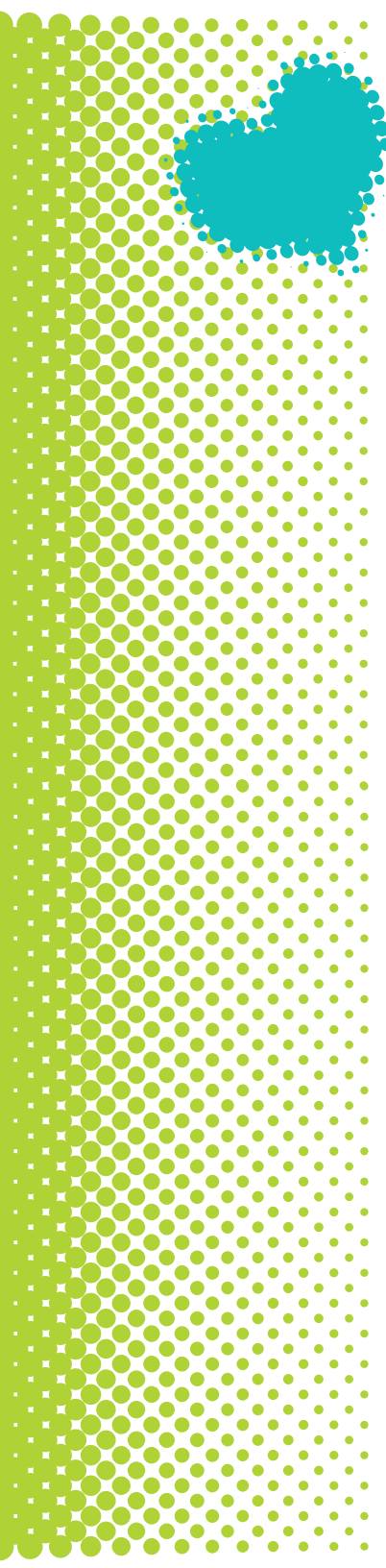
GIVING TUESDAY | As a follow-up to major shopping days "Black Friday" and "Cyber Monday," #GivingTuesday is a global giving movement to encourage individuals and communities to get involved in their favorite cause. In 2017, the CHCAC partnered with local businesses to raise awareness and funds for child victims in the community.

NET REVENUE: \$31,984.10

HIGHLIGHTS

- Welcomed new Executive Director Katy VanDewark
- Increased staff to include a full-time Executive Director, full-time Forensic Interviewer, full- and part-time Family Advocates,
- Introduced new CHCAC logo and website
- Special Thank you to Citizens and Northern Bank for remodeling and updating our family services level and for contributing \$15,000+
- Installed new forensic interview recording equipment for faster, more efficient investigations
- Increased number of children served in Bradford, Sullivan and Tioga Counties
- Built contracts with 6 new TF-CBT therapists to expand our mental health program





We value our community and your encouragement has given us the tools we need to help the community's most vulnerable children. You have had an incredible impact on our work and the children and families we serve. This year, individual, foundation and corporate supporters have contributed more than \$90,000 towards our mission. We would like to highlight your generosity and say, **"THANK YOU!"**

Supporters

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNER

- United Way of Bradford County

OUR HEROES

- Kenneth and Caroline Taylor Foundation
- Citizens and Northern Bank
- Walmart

OUR STARS

- Leprino Foods
- Shepard Hills
- Williams Family Foundation
- Williams Pipeline

OUR ADVOCATES

- First Energy Foundation
- Guthrie
- Henry Dunn Incorporated
- Panda Power Funds

OUR FRIENDS

- Flynn Energy

OUR PARTNERS

- Global Tungsten & Powders
- Electronics Technicians (ETECH)

OUR PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES AND RESTAURANTS:

- Aaron's Inc.
- Applebees
- Burger King
- Dessert First
- Dunkin Donuts
- Hurley's Fresh Market
- Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority
- Ruby Tuesday
- Sam's Club
- Shepard Hills
- Subway
- The Community Cup
- The Flying Cow
- The Grille
- The Owego Kitchen

Multidisciplinary Team

With the help of our partner agencies, we are able to strengthen, formalize and coordinate a strategic and multidisciplinary planned approach for child victims and their families.

MEDICAL

- Guthrie

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES

- Bradford County, Sullivan County, Tioga County

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Pennsylvania State Police, Towanda Police Department, Athens Borough, Athens Township, Canton Police Department, Sayre Police Department, District Attorney's Office

MENTAL HEALTH

- Amica Mediation and Counseling Center, Northern Tier Counseling, CONCERN, NHS Human Services, Main Link, Bradford/Sullivan County Mental Health, IAM Counseling and Retreat Center, Mental Health Associates, Youth Advocate Program

VICTIM ADVOCACY

- CHCAC Family Advocates
- ARCC
- Victim Witness Coordinator at Bradford County District Attorney's Office



Statement of Financial Activities

REVENUE, SUPPORT AND OTHER CHANGES

Grant Revenue	\$172,597.12
Contributions	\$56,978.31
TOTAL	\$229,575.43

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$187,118
Fundraising.....	\$13,450
Training and Technical Assistance.....	\$4,000
Management and General	\$8,750
Advocacy and Investigations	\$16,299
TOTAL	\$229,617

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Change in Net Assets from 2016 to 2017	\$29,562
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2017

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & TRUSTEES

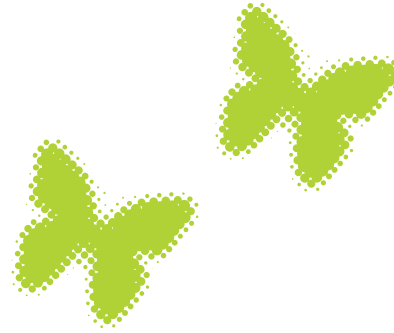
OFFICERS

- Anthony Morelli, Board President
- Steve Gobble, Vice President
- William Clark, Treasurer
- Tim Cahill, Secretary

MEMBERS AT LARGE

- Shirley Allis
- Bethany Altieri
- Staci Covey
- Jill Dietrick
- Dr. Amy Martell
- Marguerite Shaner
- Lisa Wilcox

The Year Ahead



PARTNERING AGENCIES

We have accomplished so much this year and we are looking forward to this next year. We envision for our advocacy center to continue raising the bar and holding ourselves at a high standard. Over the last year we have begun to strengthen and build relationships with current partner agencies as well as establish new ones. In the next year the CHCAC plans on capitalizing on that. We are going to expand our relationship with our agencies in order to build on our understanding of resources. This comprehensive insight will be given to victims and caregivers for them to know what options they have for resources.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

It is not always easy to talk about, but being educated on signs of abuse or how the CHCAC could make all the difference for a child. At the Children's House we want to grow with our community involvement with in-service training. Looking towards the future we would like to get started on prevention programs for the community such as in workplaces or schools for both faculty and students. The purpose of prevention programs is to promote protective factors to support a healthy development. We would like to educate the general public to show the effectiveness of our Multidisciplinary response as well as give a better understanding of the work we do here and signs of abuse or neglect.

ADDING TEAM MEMBERS

We plan to add to our MDIT team! We are hopeful to add a full time onsite therapist to reside with us at the CHCAC. The Children's House has been recognized for keeping therapeutic needs free for caregivers and to ensure this doesn't change we would like to welcome an onsite therapist. This is going to provide crisis counseling that can be conducted after a forensic interview if needed and no wait list for families.

GIVING EVEN MORE SUPPORT

Part of our mission is to provide a safe and supporting environment to victims, survivors, and their caretakers/family. We plan to extend our hands to those affected by trauma by creating and implementing support groups. These support groups would consist of staff alongside victims and survivors to come together to see that no one is alone in this process. We are here to help you along the way and to show you that it gets better.