

2019 Annual Report



CHILD **ADVOCATES** OF FORT BEND™



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Our Affiliations:

Child Advocates of Fort Bend partners with 40+ agencies and organizations and is accredited with Texas CASA™, National CASA™, Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc. and the National Children's Alliance®.





2019 was our 28th year serving abused and neglected children.

At Child Advocates of Fort Bend, we serve thousands of children every year – babies with burns and head trauma, young children who are hungry and in desperate need of medical care, and teenagers who have been cast out of their homes and fallen victim to online solicitation and sex trafficking.

For The Children's Sake Campaign

Every year, the reports of children abuse continue to escalate and 2019 was no different. We served 13% more children and families this past year which was on top of a 53% increase over the past five years. Now more than ever, the services that Child Advocates of Fort Bend provide can be life saving for these children and transformational for families. In response to this growing demand, we executed the largest initiative in our history – an \$8 million capital campaign to fund a comprehensive expansion of services and capacity and double the number of children who can receive services. Our vision has materialized in a fully-remodeled and expanded 27,000 square foot campus which welcomes children, families, volunteers, staff and partners in an open-concept, nature-inspired healing environment. Complete with outdoor courtyards, a butterfly garden, interior design elements featuring nature depicted in trees, streams, and butterfly graphics, we have created a refuge of healing for children and families. Our new Davis George Center features twice the number of forensic interview and viewing

rooms where children can tell their stories safely, the addition of family lounges where families meet with social workers for crisis and ongoing support, a full array of therapy rooms so children can heal, the opening of a new Learning and Training Center where more CASA Advocates can be trained so that every child in foster care will have a dedicated court-appointed advocate fighting for their best interests, and collaborative meeting spaces where staff across a spectrum of disciplines work with Multi-Disciplinary Teams to reach the best outcomes for these children. With deep gratitude to our capital campaign donors, we completed our For The Children's Sake campaign in record time and reached our fundraising goal by the end of 2019!

Provide a Voice

Our CASA Advocates are the backbone of our Court Appointed Special Advocates Program and we again achieved 100% match in 2019 with every child in foster care being matched to a court-appointed advocate. Our CASA Advocates volunteered thousands of hours visiting children and meeting with their teachers, doctors and family members to ensure their safety and well-being. Our Courtesy CASA program, now in its 3rd year, expanded visitations of children placed far from home across 45 counties in Texas to ensure these children did not fall through the cracks. Collaborative Family Engagement located family members and strengthened family ties for children who had lost their family connections. Training in Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) was implemented for staff and volunteers to ensure that we are utilizing the best evidence-based tools and approaches to help these most vulnerable children.

Heal the Hurt

The healing begins the minute a child enters the doors of our Children's Advocacy Center where they begin their journey from abuse, trauma and fear to safety, recovery and empowerment. The forensic interview is the first step and in 2019, nearly 1300 children received a forensic interview conducted by our professional staff while being observed in an adjacent room by our partner agencies in law enforcement and CPS to ensure that children are only interviewed once. Our team of social workers, clinical family advocates, case managers and criminal court advocates responded to double-digit increases in every service line by staying focused on each child's specific needs, despite the increase in their caseloads.

Break the Cycle

Our elementary school children thrived under our N.E.S.T. (Nurturing Education and Social Triumphs) programming which focuses on establishing solid foundations in educational achievement and social behaviors which are key predictors of student success in early childhood education and middle school advancement. Many of our children enter the foster care system with educational deficits and behavioral issues due to the trauma they have endured. Our advocates worked intensely one-on-one with these children to prepare them for kindergarten, achieve individual academic and behavioral goals throughout elementary school and reduce dropout rates in middle and high school. Our teens who will likely remain in foster care until they age out at 18 years old learned Lifeskills, traveled to colleges across the state in our Campus Crawls and 100% graduated high school – for the 4th straight year!

The Need Continues

Child abuse impacts our community in profound ways. Children who have been abused and who have not received help often end up homeless, addicted, incarcerated and without a college degree or vocational skills. The lifelong health impact of adverse childhood experiences are estimated to cost our country \$126 billion annually. Yet, children whose voices are heard and have early intervention and treatment at Child Advocates of Fort Bend are healing, are achieving their academic and social goals, and going on to live happy, meaningful lives.

We thank all our many supporters who make this possible. Thank you for having a heart for children. Together, we are transforming lives.

For the Children's Sake,
Ruthanne Mefford
CEO

17,000⁺

children since 1991

We have **zero tolerance** for child abuse.



All services provided to children and families are free thanks to the generosity of our donors and community support.

our numbers

81,717

Miles traveled by CASA Volunteer Advocates.

and **7,262 hours** donated.

Our CASA Volunteers and staff helped **222 children** in foster care regain their voices last year. They presented the “best interests” of children in foster care in over **549 hearings**, guaranteeing that the children did not fall through the cracks and become another statistic.

Advocates visit children regularly to ensure their well-being. They are often the only consistent person in the lives of these children and truly make a difference in their lives. With their help, **33 children** in foster care were successfully **reunited with family** and **23** children in foster care were adopted and found their “forever” homes.

5,707

Reports of child abuse reviewed in our CAC.

Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) Multi-Disciplinary Team Coordinators review all state intakes of child abuse to see if they meet criteria for the children and their families to receive our services.

1,291 CAC Forensic interviews were conducted in 2019 on children who were alleged to have been abused or witnesses to crimes, enabling these children to have their voices heard. This is the first step on their journey to healing. **95%** of children are abused by someone they know - a family member or friend. CAC Family Advocates provided crisis intervention to their caregivers to support them through this difficult life changing event. Our Multi-Disciplinary Team works collaboratively with law enforcement and CPS and the District Attorney's Office to achieve the best outcomes for children. The CAC provides a safe, child-friendly environment to support children and families on this journey to healing.

2,690

Total children and families served in 2019.

Child Advocates of Fort Bend (CAFB) has served more than **17,000 children since 1991**. CAFB operates its Children's Advocacy Center with a range of evidence-based methodologies, each customized to the child's age and treatment plan. Our team of clinical professionals, social workers and therapists utilize trauma-focused treatments to heal these very hurt children. Children and family members received **2,774 free therapy sessions** to help them heal from their abuse in 2019. In addition, our CAC Criminal Court Advocates provided **criminal court advocacy for 394 children** - supporting the families through the emotional criminal cases including accompanying children in the courtroom.



SOCIAL MEDIA + OUTREACH

GROWTH

Child abuse prevention and awareness messaging reach in print media was **over 12 million**. Social media and web presence continued to grow as we reached **nearly 18,000** Facebook followers in December. We continue to grow our web and online presence. Began posting on Instagram in April and had nearly **400** followers by the end of 2019.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

PRESENTATIONS

Our Community Outreach Team had a busy year reaching **10,735** people through **129** tours, community booths and presentations. We continue to work with area school districts, the faith-based community and child service providers to educate the public about child abuse and how to protect children.





1,533

CAC FAMILY ADVOCACY

CLIENTS SERVED

CAC Clinical Services Coordinators served **1,533** new clients. Family Advocates connect families to resources, provided crisis intervention, assist families with Crime Victim's Compensation and support the families to ensure that the child's needs are being met.



1,237

VOLUNTEERS

TRAINED SINCE 1991

Thanks to our volunteers, we continue to provide **100%** of children in foster care with a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). We trained **48** new CASA volunteers in 2019.

All CASA staff are trained in Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI). We use TBRI when working with the children and emphasize the strategies during our volunteer training. TBRI helps caregivers provide support and treatment for at-risk children so that they can build healthy relationships.



demographics

CASA **CAC**

AFRICAN AMERICAN

34% **30%**

HISPANIC

40% **39%**

CAUCASIAN

15% **25%**

BI-RACIAL/ OTHER

9% **3%**

ASIAN

2% **3%**



AGE	0-5	6-12	13-17	18+
CASA	37%	31%	23%	9%
CAC	15%	45%	40%	0%

	TYPE OF ABUSE	
CASA		CAC
55%	NEGLECT	>1%
37%	PHYSICAL ABUSE	15%
5%	SEXUAL ABUSE	78%
3%	ABANDONMENT	0%
0%	WITNESS TO VIOLENCE	6%



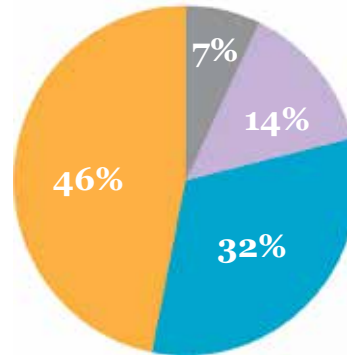
FACTS AND MYTHS

These are facts. Child Abuse crosses all races, ethnicities and socio-economic levels. **1 in 4 girls** and **1 in 6 boys** will be a victim of sexual abuse by the age of **18** and **90%** will never tell anyone. **Stranger danger is a myth.** In fact, **95%** of children who are victims of sexual abuse are abused by someone that they know and trust.

2019 Revenue Sources

OPERATIONAL FUNDING

GENERAL DONATIONS	\$281,296
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$559,531
FOUNDATION GRANTS	\$1,287,489
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	\$1,878,174
	<hr/>
	\$4,006,490



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN \$3,438,199

TOTAL REVENUE

\$7,444,000

Child Advocates of Fort Bend is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.
Copies of our audited financials and annual budget are available upon request.
Our 990 is available at www.cafb.org.





Donor Wall

CUMULATIVE GIVING

The canopy of different color leaves on the trees changes and grows with each passing season to represent the contributions of new donors this year and the cumulative support of longtime donors.

“For The Children’s Sake” Campaign



Child Advocates of Fort Bend embarked upon a Capital Campaign in late 2018 with the goal of expanding our current building in Rosenberg from 18,000 to over 27,000 square feet and adding new staff to grow our program capacity so that we could ensure that thousands more children will have access to life-changing services. Our goal was to double the number of children and families we are able to serve in the next five years and position the agency for the next decade of growth. Through the generous support of the community, we successfully raised **\$8,377,634**. We moved to temporary space and broke ground on the new facility in March 2019. The project was completed in early 2020.

“Every once in a while, a project comes along that has the power to change how we think about our community. This campaign is that kind of game-changing effort. We are re-imagining the future of how we take care of our children who have been neglected and abused...”

-NANCY OLSON, CAMPAIGN CHAIR and BOARD MEMBER



Donor Wall

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The three concentric rings of increasingly larger trees represent the three capital campaigns that have built sturdy foundations to expand services and programs for children and families.



The George
Foundation

For The Children's Sake

Capital Campaign Donors

\$1,000,000 - \$2,999,999

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The Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation
The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation, Inc.

\$600,000 - \$999,999

Houston Endowment Inc.

\$100,000 - \$599,999

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\$25,000 - \$99,999

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\$50,000 - \$375,000

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Your generosity is life-changing!

Jocelyn and her two younger siblings lived with her mother and her mother's boyfriend. When she was just **7 years old**, her mother's boyfriend began sexually abusing Jocelyn. Jocelyn kept this a secret for years, afraid that one of her siblings would become another one of his victims.

In addition to sexually abusing Jocelyn, the boyfriend was physically abusing her mother in front of the children. After several years, Jocelyn's mother gained the courage to leave with her children and start a new life. Once Jocelyn was in a safer environment, she finally found the courage to tell her awful secret. She confided in a friend that she had been sexually molested and raped for 7 years. The case was reported to Law Enforcement and CPS. The CAC also received the report and coordinated the efforts of CPS and Law Enforcement and Jocelyn and her siblings were brought to the Children's Advocacy Center for forensic interviews and family advocacy.

During the interview with her voice barely above a whisper, Jocelyn was able to give details not only about her abuse, but how this predator gained access to her family, manipulating and exploiting each of them. This courageous young girl had heard the threats her mother's boyfriend had made to her mother if she were to contact the police about her domestic abuse. She worried about what would happen if she told. Would he harm her? Would her family lose their main source of income? Would she and her siblings be separated?

Through the interview process, it was determined that the boyfriend had also started abusing one of her siblings. Jocelyn and her siblings were able to receive crisis intervention counseling directly after their interviews and they all began attending weekly therapy sessions. It was the first step in their journey toward healing.

For children like Jocelyn, your generosity is truly life-changing. You are helping them to heal and move forward to lead healthy, productive lives. As people who care deeply about children, you are helping to make our community a wonderful place for **every** child. **On behalf of all of the children you have helped, we thank you for your generosity and support. Your generosity is life-changing!**





With your help, we are transforming lives.

At Child Advocates of Fort Bend we provide critical, life-saving and transformational services for children who have experienced abuse and their families. We help to heal the hurt and give them the tools to move forward to a brighter future. We thank you for your support in 2019 and ask for your continued support as we work to **Provide a Voice, Heal the Hurt and Break the Cycle of abuse and neglect for all children in Fort Bend County.**

