

# Resilience. Innovation. Impact.



**CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**  
*of suffolk county*

**Annual Report 2020**

# Healing starts here.

The Children’s Advocacy Center of Suffolk County (CAC) and our partners are the county’s frontline responders to reports of child sexual abuse, serious physical abuse, and commercial sexual exploitation of children under age 18. Co-located with the Boston Police Department’s Family Justice Division and other partner agencies, we are Suffolk County’s only nonprofit organization that coordinates the efforts of child protection, law enforcement, prosecutors, advocates, medical experts, and trauma clinicians under one roof.

Our services—most of which are provided free of charge—include:

- forensic interviews
- family advocacy, support, and crisis services
- evidence-based trauma assessment and intervention
- specialized medical services, including evidence collection
- transportation for families’ visits to the center
- training and consultation for professionals and community members

Since 1995, the CAC has served thousands of children, averaging nearly 2,000 referrals each year. Our trauma-informed child-centered approach represents best practices for supporting children and families. We see immediate, positive outcomes for the children we serve, and we lay the groundwork for future healing. Indeed, healing starts here—at the Children’s Advocacy Center of Suffolk County.



## Message from the Executive Director and Board Chair



*Susan Goldfarb*

**Two thousand twenty was a year most of us could not have imagined.**

The pandemic and its associated restrictions challenged us as individuals, as families, and as organizations. Those fortunate enough not to have lost loved ones to the disease nevertheless had to contend with fear of the unknown, separation from family and friends, and more. The pandemic required us all to adapt to new and ever-changing circumstances, not knowing what lay ahead. It was a year filled with uncertainty—and for children and families impacted by abuse and exploitation, this uncharted time made coping with trauma even more difficult. As families faced home confinement, loss of school and child care, isolation, and economic hardship, their need for emotional and concrete support became even more urgent.

Here at the Children’s Advocacy Center, we experienced our own pandemic challenges. How would we be able to provide the critical services that traumatized and abused children require when we were unable to meet with them in person? How could we demonstrate compassion and empathy over a laptop or phone screen?

We are proud to report that the CAC remained open throughout the year, continuing to offer support to children and families without missing even a day. Our wonderful teams quickly adapted our services to a virtual mode, demonstrating a remarkable resilience and an even deeper commitment to serving vulnerable children and youth. This transition required conducting research regarding best practices, obtaining and deploying equipment, drafting protocols, and ensuring that all services were delivered while meeting the highest professional standards and ensuring confidentiality. CAC staff came together as never before and innovated new ways to connect with children and their families, even as our staff themselves contended with the same pandemic restrictions that affected everyone. Our adaptations proved remarkably effective and, in some instances, actually increased access to services for families who might otherwise have been unable to participate on-site at the CAC.

None of the work described in this report would have been possible without the generosity of our donors and funders, and we are deeply grateful for their support. Their confidence in our work and our model, especially throughout this past difficult year, inspires us and reinvigorates our dedication to our mission. The impact of our work is profound, as we witness the children and families we help taking their first steps on the path toward healing—even during a global pandemic.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Goldfarb".

Susan Goldfarb  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elisabeth Schadae Percelay".

Elisabeth Schadae Percelay  
Chair, Board of Trustees



## Providing a Coordinated, Compassionate Response

In 2020, the lives of 1,240 children were improved because of the care and services provided by the Children’s Advocacy Center of Suffolk County.

When the CAC receives referrals for cases of alleged child abuse, it’s all hands on deck. A multidisciplinary team (see box) springs into action, conducting an investigation that is the heart of the CAC’s response. Critical to the investigation is the forensic interview, a fact-finding conversation—in the child’s primary language, when possible—conducted by a specially trained CAC staff member that provides an opportunity for a child to talk one-on-one about their experience. Additional members of the team observe from another room, minimizing the number of times a child is interviewed and limiting the number of people who must speak with the child. Following the interview, all members of the multidisciplinary team work together to create an action plan to support the child and their family.

The interview sets the stage for everything that follows, including a thorough investigation of the incident, potential prosecution of the perpetrator, and provision of mental health, medical, and other services for the child and their family. These actions help reassure those experiencing abuse that their trauma is being taken seriously and that a dedicated team of people at the CAC, together with staff from other agencies, will be working hard to ensure the safety and healing of the child and family going forward.

### The Multidisciplinary Team

Members of the team include:

- team coordinator
- assistant district attorney
- police detective
- Department of Children and Families social worker
- victim/witness advocate
- forensic interviewer
- pediatric sexual assault nurse examiner
- mental health clinician

### Pandemic innovations

As might have been expected, reports of abuse dropped during the early months of isolation and quarantine, as schools, after-school programs, health centers, and other areas in which abused children could be identified or report their abuse were closed. Nevertheless, the CAC did receive many referrals of abuse—and there was no question among the CAC staff that they would continue their work, even under unusual and difficult circumstances.

Although 2020 was unprecedented, in many ways it was no different from any other year for the CAC multidisciplinary teams. Faced with the inability to meet with children in person, CAC staff did what they always do: put their heads together, make a plan, and carry it out. To conduct forensic interviews, the team interviewed children over an encrypted virtual platform, devising innovative ways to keep them engaged, such as creating visual aids and sharing them onscreen to encourage children to talk about their experiences.

To help the remote interview go smoothly, team coordinators routinely set up a practice time with the family the day before the interview to walk them through registering for and accessing the virtual platform, test the home’s audio and wifi setups, and show CAC staff the private space where the child would be interviewed. An unexpected benefit of the remote interview was that some children felt more comfortable than they might have at the CAC, as they were in familiar surroundings and could have a stuffed animal or pet with them during the interview. After being fully remote for several months, the team eventually began holding interviews with certain children on-site at the CAC, following strict COVID-19 screening protocols.

Undaunted by the pandemic, CAC staff worked around the clock to ensure that they delivered the same high-quality care that the CAC has always provided. Through creative thinking, constant assessing, and a dedication to improving procedures to offer the greatest impact, the CAC’s multidisciplinary teams continued to provide a coordinated, compassionate response to those experiencing abuse.



“THE KIDS WE SEE ARE BEAUTIFUL SOULS. In the conversations I’ve had with children in an interview room, it’s clear they know that the sexual abuse doesn’t define them. We get to learn about what they like to do for fun, about their family and their friends, what they want to be when they grow up. It’s beautiful to see a child who has experienced something so awful be so open with a stranger about what happened. That is the beginning of their healing. I feel honored to do this work.”

*Catherine Tootell, MSW, LICSW  
Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator/Forensic Interviewer*

While the total number of children referred to the CAC in 2020—during the pandemic—dropped by 35 percent from the previous year, the CAC conducted only five fewer multidisciplinary forensic interviews than in 2019. Dedicated to helping abused and vulnerable children begin their path to healing, the CAC team never slowed down.



Although CAC staff always prefer to meet with children and their families in person, pandemic restrictions meant that most interviews and clinical sessions in 2020 had to take place virtually. Faced with this reality, the CAC team jumped into action to learn best practices and develop protocols for virtual visits. Their innovations became models for agencies across the state—and the nation.



## Tending to Child and Family Mental Health

### An integral aspect of the CAC's response to child abuse is a focus on the mental health of the child and their family.

As part of the multidisciplinary team, the CAC's mental health clinicians provide emotional support to children and families to help them take their first steps toward healing. When youth and their loved ones come to the CAC for a forensic interview or medical examination, the CAC's mental health staff meet with them as needed and also help them access services and resources. Several clinicians are bilingual in English and Spanish, providing a welcoming environment for children and families whose primary language is Spanish.

For those who would benefit from additional support, the CAC's mental health clinicians offer the Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention, which involves five to eight sessions, as well as 16-session Problematic Sexual Behavior-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, for children 7 to 12. In addition, for children experiencing commercial sex trafficking, the CAC offers trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy.

### The Mental Health Team

The team of master's-level clinicians offers children and their nonoffending caregivers a range of services, all provided for free:

- crisis intervention, support, and assistance with safety planning
- evidence-based trauma services
- helping caregivers understand the legal and child-protective systems
- helping caregivers navigate the differences between typical, age-appropriate sexual behaviors and behaviors that may be concerning
- connecting caregivers to a broad support system through referrals to resources in the community

### Inventing new ways of delivering care

At the beginning of the pandemic restrictions, the number of referrals to the CAC decreased. But that drop did not necessarily mean that children were safe; the more likely case was that abuse was still happening but not being reported, and the possibility existed that children were in fact isolated at home with their offender.

As with all CAC staff, members of the mental health team demonstrated great resilience during the pandemic, coming up with creative ways to conduct therapy while navigating the difficulties of working from their own homes. This approach brought with it a myriad of logistical challenges, including locating a space in a child's house or apartment where the child could speak privately with the mental health clinician when all family members were at home during lockdown. Parent and caregiver circumstances were also often less than ideal. Some children's homes had a poor internet connection or none at all. Some parents or caregivers retreated to their car for privacy to speak with clinicians; some had sessions during their work lunch hour; still others ventured out to a local park to speak confidentially. The mental health clinicians worked diligently to ensure that all members of the family had the privacy to participate in the therapy they required.

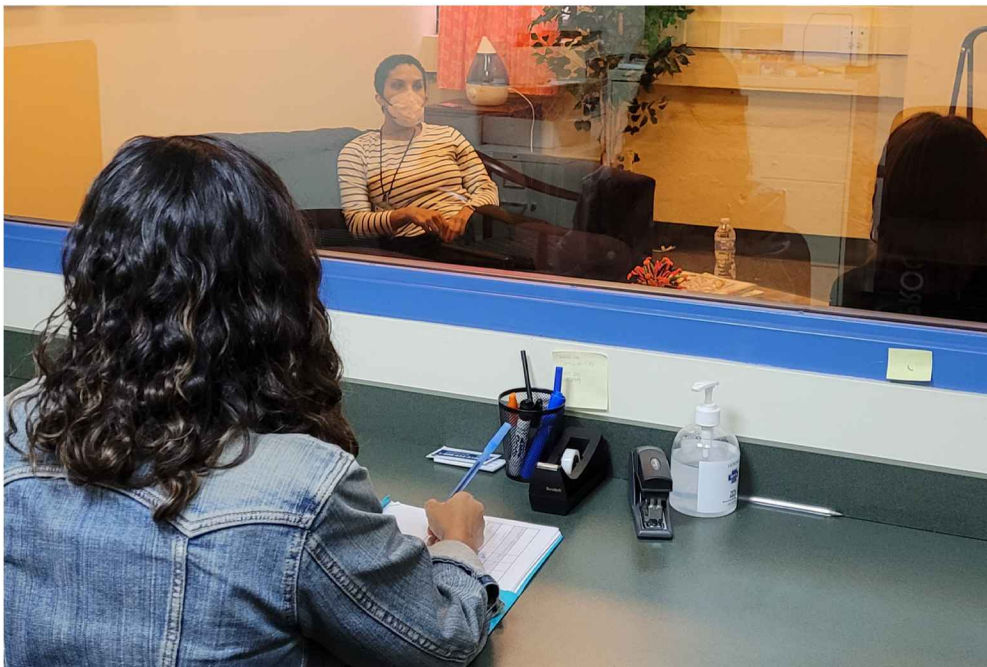
Other challenges were of a more personal nature. The team had to come up with ways to connect with children on a deep level through a screen—in many children's cases, only a phone screen—instead of in person, where normally facial expressions and hand gestures would help convey empathy and compassion. Conducting therapy in these unusual circumstances required inventing ways to communicate when not only was there physical distance between the clinician and the child but also the "wall" of the screen interfering with creation of a personal connection. Another challenge was keeping children engaged under these conditions. To hold children's interest, clinicians created special slide presentations and videos. The mental health team did whatever it took to ensure that the children and their families continued to receive the mental health care they needed, even during a global pandemic.



“WE COME WITH A LOT OF COMPASSION to meet families where they are and validate their feelings. During the pandemic, we continued to have meaningful conversations with youth and families and provide necessary therapy. The delivery was different, as we had to conduct meetings virtually, but the quality of our services remained the same, and the impact we had on the children and families was as powerful as ever.”

*Catalina Gutierrez-Perez, MSW, LICSW  
Director of Mental Health*

COVID-19 has intensified the stress and trauma experienced by children and families referred to the CAC, as families are struggling to cope with food and housing insecurity, challenges around school, and more. In forensic interviews, children describe feeling overwhelmed, and mentions of suicide occur more often than before the pandemic. The CAC’s mental health services and resource assistance are critical to supporting families in their healing.



*Members of the multi-disciplinary team, including mental health clinicians, observe forensic interviews from behind a one-way mirror in a separate room. After the interview, the entire team formulates a plan to support the child and their family and connect them with the appropriate services and resources.*



# Empowering Exploited Youth

## SEEN changed the system.

Before the Children’s Advocacy Center of Suffolk County created the Support to End Exploitation Now (SEEN) program in 2006, commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth—an insidious form of human trafficking—was virtually unrecognized. Youth who were being actively exploited were not being identified as victims of child abuse but were instead being treated as criminals for their victimization. But when SEEN brought together more than 35 public and private agencies in a groundbreaking partnership, the focus changed from criminalizing exploited youth to helping them begin to heal and start on the path to safe and healthy new lives.

SEEN receives all referrals of youth experiencing commercial sexual exploitation in Suffolk County. For each young person, the program works behind the scenes to convene multidisciplinary teams and create a coordinated response, including identifying supportive services, discussing the youth’s placement, and ensuring mental and physical

health care, while incorporating the youth’s wishes whenever possible. The majority of children referred to SEEN typically have complex histories—including prior abuse and trauma—that often involve many collateral agencies and jurisdictions. SEEN’s multidisciplinary approach ensures that all aspects of the youth’s life and experience are addressed holistically. This innovative and victim-centered work has led to revisions in state laws and statutes, and SEEN protocols for effectively responding to the unique needs of high-risk and exploited youth have been adopted by other agencies.

## Ensuring care during the pandemic

Unlike the CAC multidisciplinary teams, the SEEN team did not experience a decrease in referrals during the pandemic. In fact, they responded to an increase in referrals for online exploitation, as well as for youth who were missing from care. Since SEEN staff do not generally work directly with youth but convene cross-functional teams of law enforcement, social services, and medical providers, the SEEN team was able to keep connected with their partners through texts, phone calls, emails, and online meetings, even when working remotely.

During the pandemic, many of the systems the SEEN team usually relies on were suspended, so the team had to get creative and develop alternative solutions to ensure that they could still help exploited youth while keeping everyone healthy. Concerns about COVID-19 meant that sometimes it was unsafe for youth to be brought to a hospital, or partner agencies were unable to meet the youth at the hospital as they normally would. Challenges included getting youth screened for the virus—potentially requiring quarantining—and identifying a safe option for their placement. The SEEN team worked closely with the Department of Children and Families to ensure appropriate arrangements, as well as positive activities—such as online workout classes—to keep youth occupied during pandemic restrictions. The SEEN team indefatigably researches solutions, connects partners, and pivots at a moment’s notice to ensure that youth experiencing sexual exploitation receive the care and resources they need to begin to heal.

### The SEEN Team

SEEN case coordinators bring together appropriate agencies and individuals as a team to facilitate an efficient and effective response that aims to:

- empower survivors to leave their exploiter or pimp and utilize opportunities to regain control of their future and their life
- ensure survivors’ physical and psychological safety
- provide survivors access to resources and services, including medical and mental health care, treatment for substance-use disorder, educational opportunities, job-skills training, mentors and advocates, and more
- enforce offender accountability by apprehending and prosecuting adults who exploit youth
- address the larger social issues impacting at-risk children through policy and education





“THE TEAM NEVER GIVES UP. We are tenacious problem solvers, dedicated to finding solutions for youth who need our help. Our impact is life changing for these young people. We’ve found that in the absence of SEEN, youth will fall through the cracks and not receive the services and support they need to get them on the path toward healing. That’s why we’re committed to doing everything possible to help every young person who is referred to us.”

*Sheelah Gobar, MS  
SEEN Program Manager*

The SEEN team is the unseen linchpin that works behind the scenes to mobilize all the partners, including law enforcement, the Department of Children and Families, and many additional agencies, that are needed to help a sexually exploited young person. The SEEN team follows best practices, captures data to inform their work, and always seeks to apply what they learn, so that they can make the most profound impact possible on the youth’s future.



*The CAC staff followed strict COVID-19 safety protocols when speaking with youth in the CAC’s new teen interview room.*

### Medical Services

When appropriate, the CAC’s pediatric sexual assault nurse examiner provides medical care to a child in order to:

- ensure the health and well-being of the child
- reassure the child that everything is okay with their body
- diagnose and treat medical conditions that may or may not be related to child abuse
- provide video documentation of possible physical and forensic findings
- allow for collection of evidence that may be present on the child’s body or clothing using the Pediatric Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit
- address any underlying medical, developmental, or psychological concerns

# Educating the Community Through Training and Outreach

**An important part of the Children’s Advocacy Center’s work is to raise awareness about child abuse and provide professionals and community members with the skills and knowledge they need to help children and families when abuse has occurred.**

For more than 20 years, the CAC has delivered high-quality training, both locally and nationally, for social workers, educators and school professionals, members of law enforcement, prosecutors, community members, caregivers, and medical, mental health, and public health professionals. Our training staff present at state and national conferences and provide consultation to Children’s Advocacy Centers and other groups across the country. Many trainings are free and are customized to the specific needs of individual agencies and organizations.

## Shifting to virtual

In 2020, the CAC conducted more than 75 training events and reached nearly 2,800 professionals, community members, and youth locally, statewide, and nationally. One aspect of the shift to remote work proved beneficial, as sessions using Zoom, webinar, and other online tools expanded our capacity to reach audiences that might

## The Training and Outreach Team

The CAC’s training and outreach team includes specially trained professionals from diverse disciplines who have extensive experience and expertise in the fields of child abuse and exploitation. Their work focuses primarily on three areas:

- **Prevention**—increasing awareness and understanding of child abuse and fostering safety
- **Intervention**—providing information on recognizing the signs, responding to disclosure, reporting abuse, and the multidisciplinary team response
- **Treatment and therapy**—increasing skills and knowledge for professionals who are helping victims recover and heal

not have been able to attend our trainings in person. We learned that it was often easier for parents and caregivers to participate online rather than on-site, and we discovered many new ways to engage audiences virtually.

One important training—our Stop, Block, and Talk: Empowering Kids to Stay Safe While Using Technology training—became extremely popular during the pandemic. With children forced to stay home, they often ended up spending great amounts of time online—perhaps even while parents were away. Stop, Block, and Talk teaches a simple but memorable way for kids to use websites, apps, and games that they enjoy while keeping themselves safe. In 2020, we updated the curriculum and adapted it to a virtual format, then delivered the training to hundreds of students, professionals, and caregivers in Suffolk County and beyond.

While Stop, Block, and Talk was in great demand, we also experienced increased requests for other trainings as well. In response, in 2021 the CAC added a second outreach and training coordinator, a position made possible in part through multiyear funding from the Cummings Foundation.

## Training ourselves

In the wake of the murder of George Floyd and the nationwide reckoning over racial injustice, the CAC team committed to challenging conversations about race and equity, building trust and understanding within our team, and taking action to create positive organizational change. In August 2020, the CAC began working with YW Boston through its yearlong InclusionBoston program. We began with the Dialogues Series and continued with the formation of three committees, each with action plans: a multidisciplinary values committee (composed of CAC and partner organizations) that grounds the multidisciplinary teams with a foundation of shared values, expectations, and structures to promote mutual accountability; a CAC diversity, equity, and inclusion working group to increase support for staff of color; and a committee to develop clear and visible pipelines, policies, and practices to support transparency and equitable advancement opportunities. These efforts, which exemplify our core values and are vital to our work, are ongoing.





**stop · block · talk**

**Stop Block Talk: Internet & Social Media Safety**

Join us for a free workshop!  
Monday, June 22, 6:00-7:30PM EST

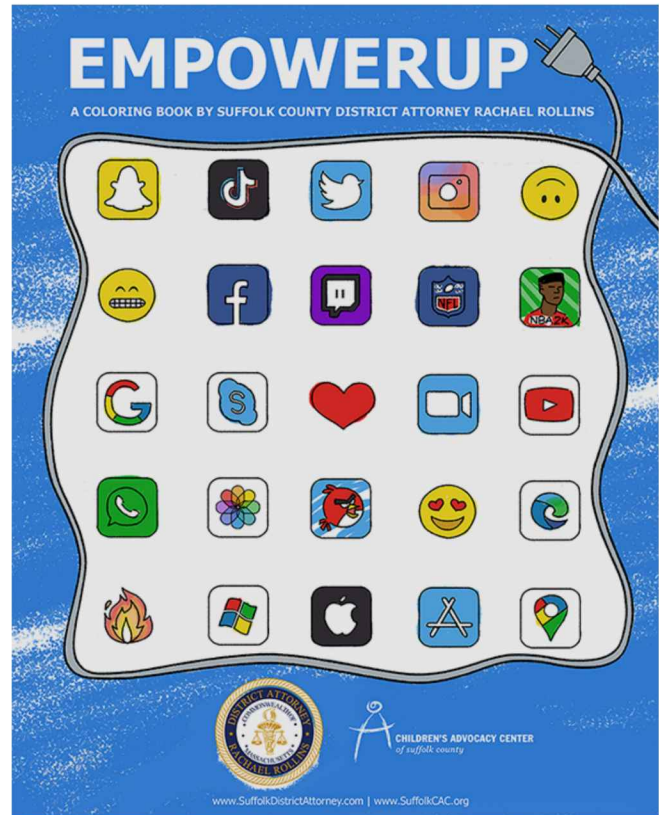
We will review the most popular apps, sites, and games used by young people today and present strategies for teaching youth how to be safe online.

**Register:**  
<https://bit.ly/3cO1whZ>

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER  
of suffolk county

District Attorney  
Rachael Rollins

The pandemic restrictions brought with them an increase in screen time for kids isolated at home—and an increased risk of their unwittingly engaging with unsafe websites and people who might want to harm children. The CAC and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office teamed up to present workshops to educate parents and community members about internet safety.



**EMPOWERUP**  
A COLORING BOOK BY SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY RACHAEL ROLLINS

www.SuffolkDistrictAttorney.com | www.SuffolkCAC.org

The EMPOWERUP coloring book, created by Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins and the Children's Advocacy Center, teaches children how to be safe online.

“Among the most challenging cases prosecutors encounter are those involving crimes against children. As people of conscience, it is hard to imagine anyone harming a child. But as district attorney and as an emergency foster care provider, I know how frequently these offenses occur.

Our first priority in these cases is always the well-being of abuse survivors, and the Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County is a vital partner in providing these courageous survivors and their non-offending caretakers with the necessary resources and support to begin their journey toward healing. As the COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented challenges to service providers, the CAC proved to be among the most innovative agencies in their ability to continue meeting the needs of survivors while ensuring their health and safety.

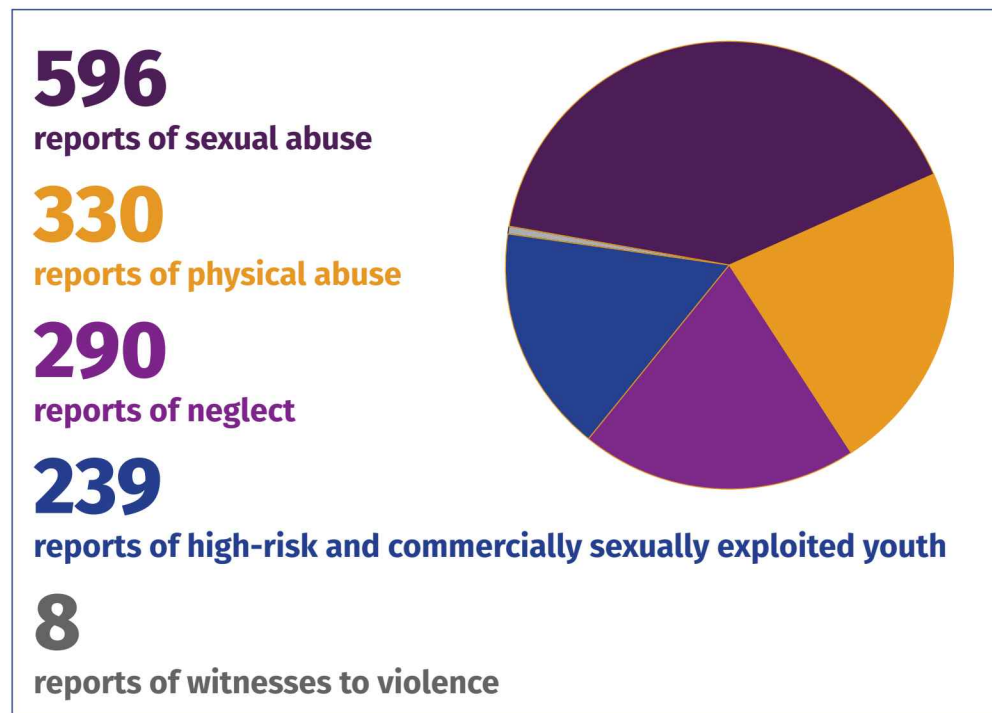
Prosecutors and law enforcement could not achieve our mission of serving victims and holding offenders accountable without the help of our partners at the CAC.”

*Rachael Rollins*  
*Suffolk County District Attorney*

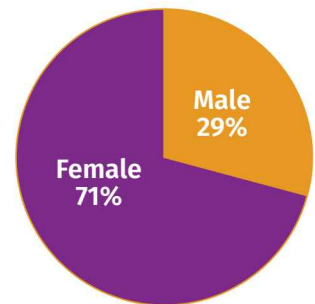
## Serving Children and Youth Throughout the Pandemic

In 2020, despite the restrictions necessitated by the pandemic, the CAC continued our work without missing a beat. Below are some details of the CAC's response to reports of abuse in 2020.

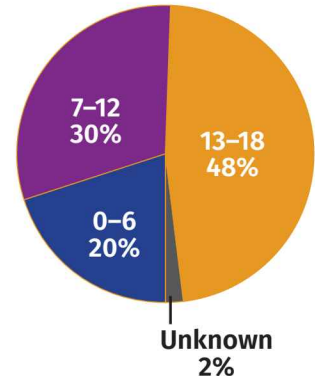
**1,240**  
children  
referred to the CAC



REPORTS OF ABUSE BY GENDER



REPORTS OF ABUSE BY AGE



**274**  
in-person and virtual forensic interviews conducted by CAC staff

**76**  
trainings conducted

**2,800**  
people reached through CAC trainings



## Connecting with the Community

For years, the CAC has engaged members of the Greater Boston community in our efforts against child abuse through fun and educational events that also serve to raise funds for our work.

Even during the pandemic, thanks to the CAC staff's innovative spirit, we found ways to keep our annual events going, albeit virtually.

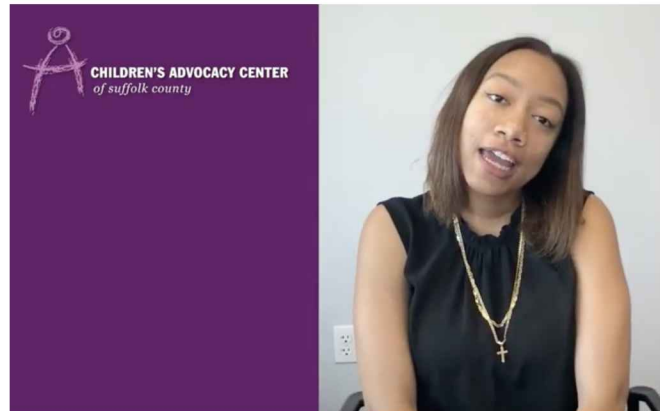


### Step Up and Speak Out Benefit 2020

On October 29, 2020, the CAC celebrated our 25th anniversary of providing services and advocacy to child victims of abuse and exploitation. Although the 2020 event was virtual, attendees were connected to staff and featured speakers, who made the evening meaningful. The benefit raised more than \$250,000 to support the CAC's mission.

**7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL THE GINORMOUS CLIMB VIRTUAL CLIMB FOR KIDS | JUNE 6, 2020 WWW.GINORMOUSCLIMB.COM** **Ginormous Climb 2020**  
The CAC's annual Ginormous Climb inspires children, youth, and adults alike to come together to raise money for the CAC's work against child abuse. Over seven years, our climbers, sponsors, and volunteers have raised more than \$700,000 to support some of our community's most vulnerable members through the CAC's Ginormous Climb.

In 2020, although we couldn't be together in person because of the pandemic, the climbers' spirit of helping others was not dampened. The Ginormous Climb went ahead as a virtual event, with as much enthusiasm as ever but with pandemic concessions such as climbers wearing masks. Climbers young and old took to the streets and stairs to make a difference for survivors of abuse and exploitation. The CAC is grateful for their dedication and commitment to improving the lives of abused, exploited, and at-risk children and youth.



*Dacia, a survivor of sexual abuse, spoke at the virtual 2020 Step Up and Speak Out Benefit about her experience and the importance of the CAC in her journey to healing.*



*Because of the pandemic, the Ginormous Climb was virtual for the second year in a row in 2021. Nevertheless, climbers' team spirit and good cheer were on display as they raised funds to support the CAC's mission.*

## Donors and Funders

The Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County is deeply grateful for the generosity of our donors and funders, whose contributions from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, strengthened the CAC's ability to carry out our mission to serve at-risk and abused children and youth.

### \$10,000 and Above

Joseph and Julie Bisognano  
 The Boston Foundation  
 Boston Realty Advisors  
 J.E. & Z.B. Butler Foundation  
 Bydale Foundation  
 Cabot Charitable Trust  
 Charlesbank Capital Partners  
 Josephine and Louise Crane Foundation Inc.  
 Cummings Foundation  
 Dellbrook|JKS  
 Eastern Bank  
 Michael and Elizabeth Fish  
 Fisher Family Foundation  
 Jeffrey and Tali Goldstein  
 Anne and Charles T. Hajjar  
 Kim Henry and James Quagliaroli  
 John K. & Elizabeth W. Knorr Charitable Foundation  
 Marigold Charitable Trust  
 Massachusetts Children's Alliance  
 Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance  
 Mass General - Center for Community Health Improvement  
 National Children's Alliance  
 Gardiner Howland Shaw Foundation  
 Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation  
 Solomon McCown & Cence

Anna B. Sterns Charitable Foundation  
 Suffolk Cares  
 Torrington Properties  
 Wynn Employee Foundation

### \$5,000-\$9,999

Judi and Larry Bohn  
 C.C. Construction  
 Cornerstone Realty Capital LLC  
 EMBARC Studio  
 Florence Electric  
 Agnes M. Lindsay Trust  
 Jennifer Nassour  
 Elisabeth and Bruce Percelay  
 PNC Bank  
 RayCon Construction  
 Margaret and Stephen Sahlman  
 Steve Sheinkopf  
 Silversmith Capital Partners  
 Jason Weissman  
 The Woods and Gil Family Foundation

### \$2,500-\$4,999

Alliant Insurance Services  
 Christina and Zach Canter  
 David Chilinski  
 Margot and Jon Davis  
 Peter Flaherty  
 Glynn Electric  
 Wayne J. Griffin  
 Metropolitan Cabinets

MJW Charitable Foundation Inc.  
 National Refrigeration  
 NEI General Contracting  
 New Boston Strategies  
 Optiline Enterprises  
 Prellwitz Chilinski Associates  
 Josef Rettman  
 Sharon Scaramozza  
 Margaret M. Schmidt and Kenneth J. Danila Fund  
 Smith Duggan Buell & Rufo LLP  
 Turner Brothers LLC  
 Rachael van der Voort and Mike Cragg  
 Wayne J. Griffin Electric Inc.

### \$1,000-\$2,499

Sarah A. Badway  
 Tommy Bolduc  
 The Boulos Company  
 Heidi Daniels and John Bernard  
 Gary and Susan Graham  
 Harold Brothers Mechanical Contractors  
 Hinckley Allen  
 Michael Krug  
 Beth and James Kundert  
 Joey Maher  
 Lynn Mason-Small  
 Kevin P. Mohan  
 Nutter  
 Plumb House Inc.

Theresa M. Regan  
 Rockland Trust  
 Rogers & Grey  
 Meredith Weenick  
 Winthrop Police Department

### \$500-\$999

Steven Achatz  
 Lynda Borucki  
 Coin and Mary Coleman  
 Ron Corbett  
 Eckman Construction  
 Patrick Jones  
 Ashley N. Kaupert  
 Rosemary Minehan  
 Mini A. Polumbaum  
 Meredith K. Wood and Mark Arbonies

### \$250-\$499

Peter Barrett  
 Metin Celebi  
 Eric Chaffin  
 Chaffin Luhana LLP  
 Anna and Filippo Frattaroli  
 Cindy Friedman  
 Kelly Gaule  
 Susan E. Goldfarb  
 Frank C. Graves  
 Lorrie Higgins  
 Bart J. Molloy  
 Victoria Moreno  
 Gloriann Moroney  
 Abbie Munafo  
 Tarryn Simpson

*We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of these lists. Please let us know of any errors or omissions so that we may correct our records.*



# Financials

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2020

## ASSETS

### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	\$ 2,235,424
Grants and Contributions Receivable	180,396
Accounts Receivable	76,450
Prepaid Expenses	22,832
Total Current Assets	<u>2,515,102</u>

### PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET

59,334

### TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 2,574,436

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$10,586
Accrued Payroll and Related Costs	39,812
Conditional Grant Advances	163,952
Total Current Liabilities	<u>214,350</u>

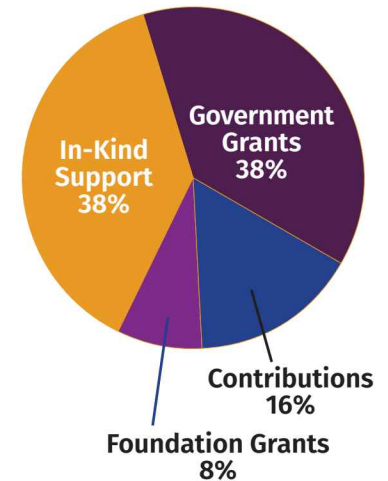
### NET ASSETS

Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	2,218,148
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	141,938
Total Net Assets	<u>2,360,086</u>

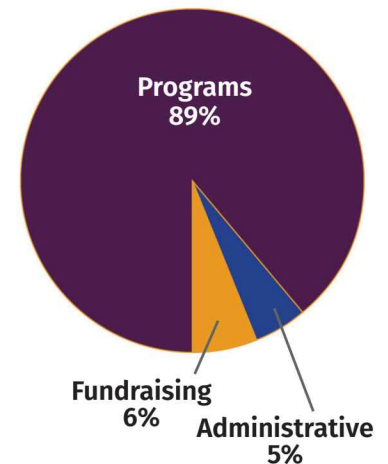
### TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$ 2,574,436

### REVENUE



### EXPENSES



“Donating to the CAC allows me to positively impact a child’s life and make a difference. I am confident that the CAC uses its resources efficiently and provides a service no one else does in the community. I’m proud to serve on the board of trustees and play a role in the CAC’s life-changing work.”

Jay Bisognano  
Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees

## Staff

**Susan Goldfarb, MSW, LICSW**  
Executive Director

**Sarah Austin, MSW**  
Training Program Manager

**Madeline Bacon, MSW, LCSW**  
Mental Health Clinician

**Elizabeth M. Bouchard, MPH**  
Associate Director

**Lakeisha Clayton**  
Director of Operations

**Emily Cutts, MSW, LCSW**  
Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator/Forensic  
Interviewer

**Heidi Daniels**  
Chief Advancement Officer

**Sheelah Gobar, MS**  
SEEN Program Manager

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Mental Health Clinician

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Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

**Maria Carolina Massiani, LMHC**  
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**Gladys Sorto-Aviles**  
Family Resource Specialist

**Alex Spurlock, MSW, LICSW**  
Mental Health Clinician

**Cristina Tono, MSW, LCSW**  
Mental Health Clinician

**Catherine Tootell, MSW, LICSW**  
Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator/Forensic  
Interviewer

**Vanessa Vicente**  
Forensic Interviewer

**Chelsea Wakeham, MSW, LCSW**  
SEEN Family Advocate/Case Manager

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“DCF Boston Region and the Suffolk County CAC work collaboratively to identify the strengths and resilience of families and youth and the challenges they face, while being increasingly mindful of the structural inequities that have contributed to a family’s predicament. Our work together aims to ensure the best possible outcomes for youth and families in the Boston community.”

*Sandra Salmon, MEd*

*Acting Boston Regional Director, Department of Children and Families, Boston Regional Office*



## Partners

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center  
Boston Children's Hospital  
Boston Emergency Medical Services  
Boston Medical Center  
Boston Police Department  
Boston Public Health Commission  
Boston Public Schools  
Chelsea Police Department  
Children's Trust  
City of Boston  
Family Justice Center of Boston  
Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center  
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Police  
Massachusetts Department of Children and Families  
Massachusetts Department of Mental Health  
Massachusetts Department of Probation  
Massachusetts Department of Youth Services  
Massachusetts General Hospital for Children  
Massachusetts Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program  
Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

My Life My Choice at JRI  
Revere Police Department  
Roxbury Youthworks  
Suffolk County District Attorney's Office  
Suffolk Juvenile Court  
The Trauma Center at Justice Resource Institute  
Winthrop Police Department



*The CAC offers on-site, forensically sound medical services by a specially trained pediatric sexual assault nurse examiner in a child-friendly exam room. Among other goals, medical care is designed to ensure the health and well-being of the child and reassure them that everything is okay with their body.*

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“The Boston Police Department would like to commend and thank the Children’s Advocacy Center of Suffolk County for its strong partnership with our Crimes Against Children and Human Trafficking Units. Together this past year, while the worst pandemic was being experienced by our county, they proved their resilience by continuing to serve the victims of child abuse and exploitation.

With CAC’s assistance and innovative skills, we were able to conduct Zoom interviews with victims, as well as collaborative partnership meetings. The multidisciplinary team also responded to area hospitals during the worst periods of the COVID-19 pandemic. Donning full PPE gear, they proved their undaunted commitment to serving the victims and ensuring that they were provided with all of the assistance, services, and protection possible. The coordination that the Children’s Advocacy Center of Suffolk County provides to the multidisciplinary team partner agencies is truly appreciated, and the positive and lasting impact of the services they give to the victims and their families is invaluable.”

*Therese Kozmiski  
Captain, Boston Police Department*

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## Resources

**The CAC offers a wealth of resources to help families recognize and respond to abuse.**

### General information

[Children’s Advocacy Center of Suffolk County/Healing Starts Here](#)

English | español | kreyòl ayisyen | 汉语 | português

[About Your Child’s Visit to the CAC](#)

English | español | kreyòl ayisyen | 汉语 | português

[Supporting Your Child After Sexual Abuse](#)

English | español | kreyòl ayisyen | 汉语 | português

### Recognizing and responding to child abuse

[Learn the Signs](#)

English | español | kreyòl ayisyen | português

[Know How to Respond](#)

English | español | kreyòl ayisyen | português

[Talk About It](#)

English | español | kreyòl ayisyen | português

### Support to End Exploitation Now (SEEN)

[SEEN Brochure](#)

English | español | kreyòl ayisyen | 汉语 | português

[Red Flags of Child Trafficking](#)

English | español | kreyòl ayisyen | 汉语 | português

[Guide to Responding to Exploited Youth](#)

English | español | português

[SEEN Report 2012 | Executive Summary](#)

### Children’s sexual behaviors

[Understanding Children’s Sexual Behaviors](#)

English | español | kreyòl ayisyen | 汉语 | português

[Developmentally Typical Sexual Behaviors in Childhood](#)

English | español | kreyòl ayisyen | 汉语 | português

[Guidelines for Responding to Children’s Sexual Behavior](#)

### Mental health services at the CAC

[PSB-CBT: Problematic Sexual Behavior-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy](#)

English | español

[CFTSI: Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention](#)

English | español

### Adult survivors

In addition to resources to help abused and at-risk children, the CAC also provides resources for adult survivors of abuse.

The Adult Survivor Resource Guide indexes crisis helplines, legal resources, and specific resources for people of color, LGBTQIA+ survivors, survivors with disabilities, and more.

*Links to these and additional resources are available on our website at [suffolkcac.org/who-we-are/brochures](https://suffolkcac.org/who-we-are/brochures).*

The Children’s Advocacy Center of Suffolk County Inc. (CAC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that unites public, private, and community partners to promote safety, healing, and justice for child victims and their families. We provide a prompt, sensitive, interagency response to child abuse so that every child and family can focus on healing. Donations to the CAC support our evidence-based programs and services that protect children and help them heal. Most of our services are provided free of charge to our clients.

CACs arose from the need for coordination and communication among the multiple agencies responding to abuse. When child abuse is suspected, many professionals become involved. CACs minimize the number of times a child has to talk about their abuse, coordinate service delivery, and reduce the risk of a child being retraumatized. Healing begins at the Children’s Advocacy Center of Suffolk County.





*Abigail with her daughter, Adriana, at age 3.*

“It is critical to have a specialized team of support in the aftermath of abuse to help you know you are doing what is right for your child’s well-being. At times, family and friends can make you feel like what you are doing is wrong. So having positive support, which we received from the Children’s Advocacy Center, is so important.

The day of my daughter’s interview, we were all extremely nervous, anxious, and so sad. But the CAC team explained the interview process in detail and provided a safe space for my daughter to tell her story. It is important that every child receives the best service possible

so they know that they matter, and that their story matters. The CAC is there so that the voices of those who want to speak on their own—or who can be the voice for those who are too afraid to speak—can have a place to be heard.

The Children’s Advocacy Center is an opportunity to make change in our community. Awareness is key!”

*Abigail Ayala  
Caregiver*

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