## IMPACT REPORT

20 24



# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR



This past year, the Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County served more than 1,600 children and their caregivers who have experienced the devastating effects of sexual abuse, physical abuse, commercial sexual exploitation, and child trafficking. Our commitment to providing high-quality, evidence-based treatment remains unwavering. We continue to adapt our programs to meet the evolving needs of the children and families we serve, ensuring they receive the compassionate care and support they deserve.

Through rigorous data analysis and continuous evaluation, we have enhanced our services, adopting innovative clinical therapies tailored to address the unique circumstances of each child and their family. We expanded our training program, reaching more caregivers with accessible and practical strategies for discussing online safety, body safety, and recognizing warning signs of abuse, empowering families and protecting children.

Our focus on core programs has been complemented by growing prevention efforts aimed at reducing stigma, increasing awareness, and improving access to care. We are proud to have fortified our already strong foundation—adding skilled staff and dedicated board members—ensuring we are equipped to meet the pressing needs of our community.

As you review this report, we hope you will see and feel the profound difference your support makes in the lives of children and families across Suffolk County, throughout the Commonwealth, and beyond. Together, we are making a meaningful impact for the most vulnerable members of our community and fostering hope for a safer, brighter future.

Of course, there's still more we can do. And it truly takes a collective effort. Your partnership and unwavering support are essential to our work, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

With appreciation,

Annie Marcklinger Executive Director Mike Fish
Chair, Board of Trustees



**ANNIE** 



**MIKE** 

### MISSION & VALUES



#### **MISSION**

The Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County (CAC) is Suffolk County's frontline responder to reports of child sexual abuse, serious physical abuse, and commercial sexual exploitation of children under age 18.

Our mission is to unite public, private and community partners to ensure **safety**, **healing**, and **justice** for children and families impacted by abuse, violence, and exploitation.



#### **VALUES**

We uphold our values in every interaction with partners, supporters, community members, families, and the children and youth we serve.

Child and Family Centered

Collaborative Relationships

Courageous

**Equity and Inclusion** 

Leadership

### 2024 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

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# 4655 TOTAL REFERRALS

sexual exploitation referrals

forensic interviews

clinical therapy sessions

community members trained

trainings

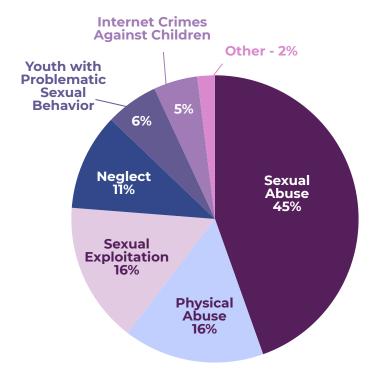
# BREAKDOWN OF CHILDREN SERVED



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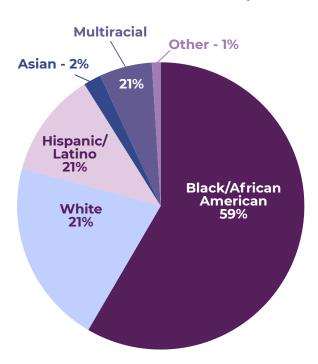
#### TYPE OF ALLEGED MALTREATMENT

THE REPORT OF THE PARTY OF THE

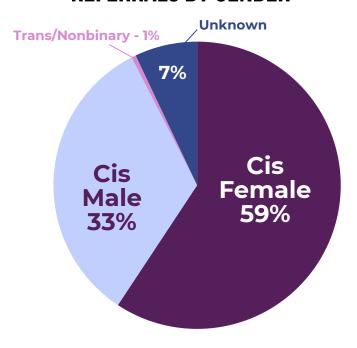


#### REFERRALS BY RACE

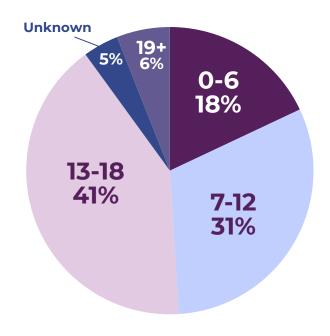
of those with known racial identity



#### REFERRALS BY GENDER



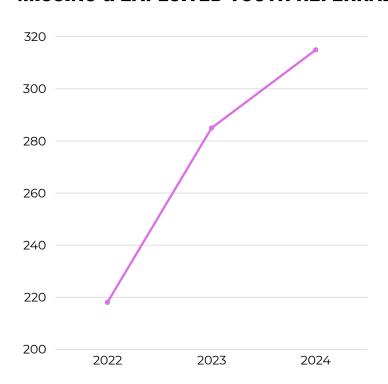
#### **REFERRALS BY AGE**



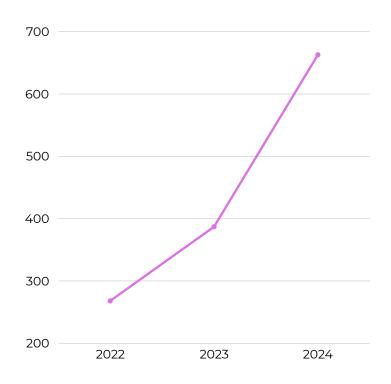
# CONTINUING TO MEET AN INCREASED NEED



#### MISSING & EXPLOITED YOUTH REFERRALS



#### THERAPY SESSIONS DELIVERED





The Support to End
Exploitation Now (SEEN)
program received 315
referrals in 2024,
representing a 44%
increase over 2022.



The Mental Health team delivered 663 evidencebased therapy sessions, representing a 147% increase over 2022.

# REACHING NEW AUDIENCES TEACHING PREVENTION



The Training & Outreach team was busy reaching every corner of Suffolk County with a robust array of prevention education trainings. Our online safety training, Stop Block Talk, was delivered 51 times to 1,876 youth and adults.

We also shared resources at 30 community events.







stop·block·talk



Josiah Quincy Elementary School in Chinatown



District Attorney Kevin Hayden stopped by TechBoston Academy during a Stop Block Talk training for their 6<sup>th</sup> graders.



Kwong Kow Chinese School in Chinatown



Edward Everett Elementary School in Dorchester



National Night Out in Roslindale



Dearborn STEM Academy's Community Resource Fair



Chelsea Public Schools Backto-School event.

### REACHING NEW AUDIENCES: ADULTS PREVENTING ABUSE



Children aren't the only ones who need to know how to spot red flags of abuse. The CAC made sure to educate parents, caregivers, and child-serving professionals on how to recognize, respond, and prevent child abuse.

trainings



Boston Emergency Medical Services Emergency Medical Technicians-in-training learned about Recognizing & Responding to Concerns of Child Abuse.



The Parents Preventing Child Abuse webinar series included five installments aimed at educating caregivers and hosted a total audience of 287 caregivers, foster parents, and professionals. community members trained

1,554 youth

**2,817 adults** 

- 567 caregivers3,858 professionals
- I found the content well-organized, and the insights shared were both helpful and actionable.

- Webinar attendee, Sexting & Non-Consensual Image Sharing: What Parents Need to Know



425 School Resource Officers from across Massachusetts attended the Municipal Police Training Committee's conference and learned how to understand & respond effectively to children's sexual behaviors.



The CAC delivered "Understanding Children's Sexual Behaviors & Medical Services" for the International Institute of New England's Unaccompanied Children Program team.



Parents of Revere's Beachmont
Elementary School students
participated in a Bilingual
(English/Spanish) Stop Block Talk
online safety training.

# CELEBRATING THE STRENGTH OF SURVIVORS



The CAC, in collaboration with the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office and the Massachusetts Children's Alliance, hosted the "Celebration of Courage" in the House Members' Lounge of the Massachusetts State House on April 30, 2024

In recognition of Child Abuse Awareness Month and the 10-year anniversary of *Now You See*—a collection of images of the eyes of survivors and those affected by sexual and physical abuse and exploitation—this inspiring event featured remarks from the first survivor featured in the project, legislative leaders and advocates, and a musical performance by a survivor child abuse.

House Representative Kevin Honan opened the program and acknowledged the important role the community plays in fight against child abuse. "We all play a role in preventing and responding to child abuse – legislators, parents, advocate law enforcement, all of us," said Chairman Honan.

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden and Massachusetts Children's Alliance Executive Director, Tom King, also offered remarks emphasizing appreciation for the resiliency and courage of the survivors present, as well as acknowledge the critical role that the Massachusetts legislature plays in our collective work.



Saraliz Rivera

Saraliz Rivera, the first survivor featured in the Now You See project addressed the group and her fellow survivors. "I want all the survivors here to know, that I've had many difficult days, and it is not fair that we are asked to be strong so much of the time," Rivera said. "But we do it. And it helps me to know that my experiences and what I do with them, have helped to keep others safe from harm. And I will not stop trying to increase awareness about child abuse and sexual assault and why I will always talk about why Children's Advocacy Centers are so important."

Saraliz's remarks were followed by a powerful electric guitar performance of Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody from Sophia, another participant in the *Now You See* project.



Tom King, Executive Director
MA Children's Alliance



Rep. Honan, DA Hayden, Annie Marcklinger & Jack Harrington



Sophia

# LEADERSHIP IN CHILD ABUSE RESPONSE & PREVENTION

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In June, CAC Executive
Director, Annie
Marcklinger, SEEN
Program Manager,
Sheelah Gobar, and
Commercial Sexual
Exploitation of Children
(CSEC) Prevention &
Intervention Specialist,
Sophie Jordan, traveled
to Washington, DC for
the National Children's

Alliance Leadership Conference. While there, Sophie and Sheelah shared their expertise with attendees during their "High-Risk Missing and Exploited Youth: The Multidisciplinary Team Response" presentation.



Through a collaboration with the MA Children's Alliance, the University of Oklahoma's Health Sciences Center, and the National Center on the Sexual Behavior of Youth, Mental Health & Family Advocacy Director, Catalina Perez (front right), is being trained as a Clinical Trainer for Problematic Sexual Behavior-Cognitive Behavior Therapy (PSB-CBT). This is part of MACA's initiative to have trainers across the state to ensure that MA is able to meet the needs of the children and families across the Commonwealth. Catalina presented some of the modules during a learning session for clinicians from other CACs and mental health agencies. As the first CAC in the state to offer PSB-CBT to children ages 3-14, we are thrilled to have a role in the expansion of this critical intervention to clinicians and organizations throughout the Commonwealth.



CAC staff gathered at the State
House to celebrate SEEN Program
Manager, Sheelah Gobar, being
honored as a Victim Advocate of the
Year by the Massachusetts Office
for Victim Assistance.

66

We have had the privilege of seeing firsthand how the CAC of Suffolk County, not only meets the highest standards of care, but consistently sets the bar for innovation, excellence, and leadership among CACs statewide and nationally.

— Thomas M. King, LICSW

Executive Director, Massachusetts
Children's Alliance

### **ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE**



At every opportunity, the CAC advocates for legislation to help advance its work supporting children who have experienced abuse and their families. This involves providing testimony at hearings, encouraging Suffolk County's delegates to co-sponsor and vote in favor of bills that support victims statewide through in-person and digital state and federal advocacy days, and so much more.



While in DC for the NCA Leadership Conference, CSEC Prevention & Intervention Specialist, Sophie Jordan, and SEEN Program Manager, Sheelah Gobar, met with staff members from the offices of Representative Stephen Lynch, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, and Senator Edward J. Markey to advocate for funding and support to better serve the children and families of our community.



After meeting with Sheelah and Sophie in DC, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley's Legislative Assistant, Bayley Connors (L) stopped by the CAC to see firsthand where the Congresswoman's constituents were receiving trauma-informed care following abuse.



L-R: Suffolk County District Attorney's Office Director of Youth Safety, Jackie Lamont; Issues Management Group (IMG) Managing Director, Molly Horan; CAC Development Coordinator, Nicole Bresnahan; CAC Executive Director, Annie Marcklinger; CAC Chief of Development & External Affairs, Kim Sebastiao; and IMG Vice President, Kathy Bell delivered Now You See frames to all 25 Suffolk County delegates to keep survivors at the forefront of their thoughts as they set their priorities.

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR THE CAC





It takes *all* of us to support the children of Suffolk County who need the CAC, and this year the community showed up in so many ways!

- Jim Stone of the Stone
   Family Foundation made a
   generous gift to the CAC
   and donated 50 Trouble the
   Dog stuffed animals and
   Winthrop-based non-profit,
   Survivors by the Sea,
   contributed cookie care
   packages to spread holiday
   cheer, hope, and healing
   with the children who come
   through our doors.
- Caitlyn DiCillo was one of five dedicated Boston Marathon runners for Team Suffolk CAC. Together the team raised an incredible \$43.088.
- Aspiring Eagle Scout, Sam
   Danis, and the members of
   Boy Scout Troop 355 came
   together to help Sam
   complete his Eagle Scout
   Project, which included a
   book drive, building some
   bookcases, upgrading the
   CAC's room-booking
   system, and more!

### **FINANCIALS**

Fiscal Year Ended July 31, 2024



#### **ASSETS**

#### **CURRENT ASSETS**

\$3,431,054
\$132,971
-
\$65,024
\$3,629,049

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT, NET \$45,585

**TOTAL ASSETS** \$3,674,634

#### **LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

#### **CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$26,542
Accrued Payroll Related Costs	\$80,980
Conditional Grant Advances	-
Total Current Liabilities	\$107,522

#### **NET ASSETS**

Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	\$3,374,485
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$192,627
Total Net Assets	\$3,567,112

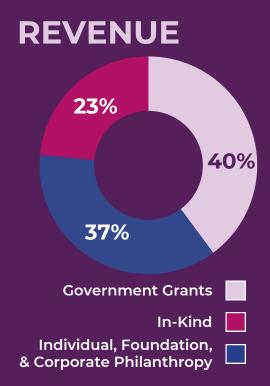
#### **TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$3,674,634**



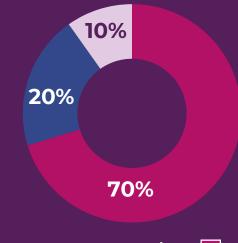
They were very kind.

I felt very good despite the pain I have in my heart. Their words were very comforting for me and my daughter.

— Caregiver of a child visiting the CAC



#### **EXPENSES**



**Program Services** 



Fundraising Expenses





### DONORS & FUNDERS

The Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County is able to offer our expert, trauma-informed services at no cost to the children and families we serve thanks to the generous support of the following donors and funders.



#### \$20,000+

Jay & Julie Bisognano

Cabot Family Charitable Trust

Josephine & Louise Crane Foundation

**Cummings Foundation** 

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

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#### **STAFF & INTERNS**

#### Annie Marcklinger | Executive Director

Madeline Bacon, MSW, LICSW | Mental Health Clinician

Elizabeth M. Bouchard, MPH | Chief Program Officer

Nicole Bresnahan\* | Development Coordinator

Erica Chepulis, MSW, LCSW | Training Program Manager

Lakeisha Clayton | Director of Operations/Financial Controller

Keyana Coley-Rice | SEEN Program Assistant/Northeastern Coop

Emily Cutts, MSW, LICSW | Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Coordinator/Forensic Interviewer

Gina Elysee, MPA, MAAP | Bilingual (Haitian Kreyol) Clinical Case Manager

Marcela Familiar-Bolaños, LICSW | Mental Health Clinician

Annie Fournier | Mental Health Intern

Yecelin Gamba | Bilingual (Spanish) Clinical Case Manager

Sheelah Gobar, MS | SEEN Program Manager

Alissa Goldhaber | Mental Health Intern

Jacey Gonzalez | Development Coordinator

Catalina Gutierrez-Perez, MSW, LICSW | Director of Mental Health & Advocacy

Sam Heller, MPH | Data Analyst

Rachel Hyden\* | SEEN Program Assistant

Sophie Jordan | Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Prevention & Intervention Specialist

Adine Latimore, DNP, MS, PPCNP-BC, SANE | Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

Maria Carolina Massiani, LMHC | Mental Health Program Manager

En Ci Mong\* | Community Outreach Coordinator

Schuyler Palmer | Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Program Assistant/Northeastern Coop

Zoe Sachs | Community Outreach Coordinator

Kim Sebastiao | Chief of Development & External Affairs

Gladys Sorto-Aviles | Family Resource Specialist, Child Fatality Review Team Co-Lead & Coordinator

Alex Spurlock, MSW, LICSW | Mental Health Clinician

Mara Steed | SEEN Case Coordinator

Lauren Sterling\* | Clinical Intern/Simmons University MSW

Catherine Tootell, MSW, LICSW | MDT Manager/Forensic Interviewer

Samantha Tudor | MDT Program Assistant/Northeastern Coop

Vanessa Vicente | Forensic Interviewer

Alisia L.L. Waller | Operations & Office Coordinator

#### **ABOUT OUR STAFF**



#### **Advanced Degrees**

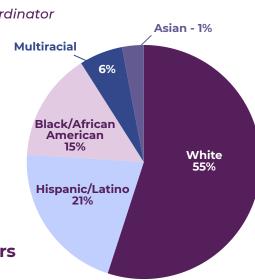


#### **Bilingual**

Haitian Kreyol, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish



**Average Tenure in Years** 







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