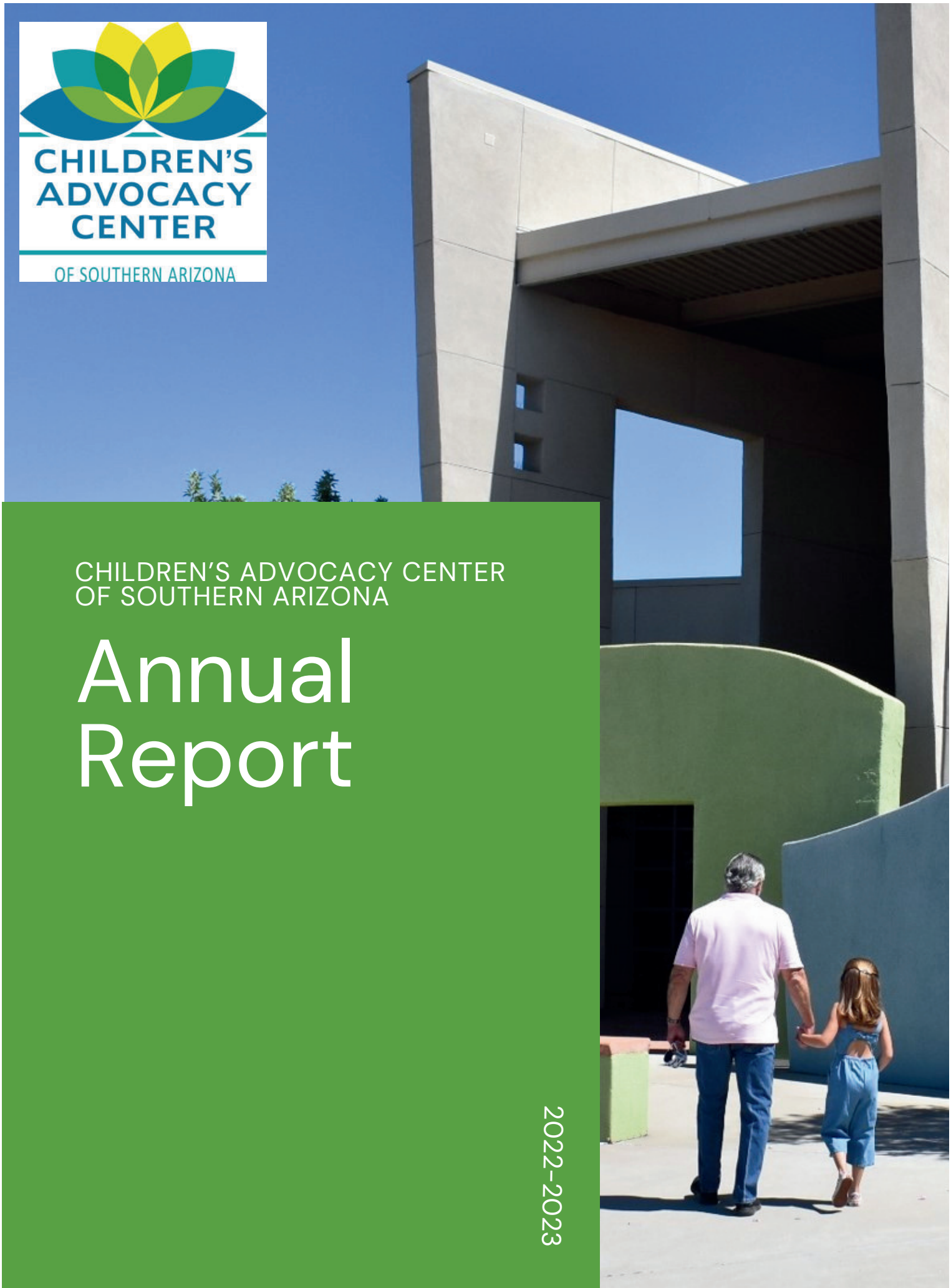
CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Annual Report

2022–2023

PREPARED FOR THE JUNE 2022-JULY 2023 FISCAL YEAR

Table of Contents

04
From the Director

05
Our Purpose

06
How CACs Work

07
Our Programs

08
We Did It Together

10
Special Thanks

11
How You Can Help

From the Director

Dear Friends,

Every year, we serve over 1,000 victims of child abuse who are brought to the Children's Advocacy Center for a criminal investigation. This year was no exception, but the stories of abuse were intense as intense as we have ever seen. We learned of terrible acts of cruelty, intentional abuse, horrible neglect, and sadly, sexual abuse of children and teens. It is a testament to this amazing team that they supported one another through it all. We've been doing this for over 27 years, and we are more determined than ever to prevent and address child abuse in our community.

"How can you do this work?"

People ask me how I can see this suffering and still come into work everyday. The truth is, these kids give me more joy than I can ever repay. When they first come in to the Center, they are broken down by what has happened; afraid of what might happen next. But they transform right in front of me. It's almost like they melt back into kids again, and it's the most fulfilling thing I've ever seen. I leave this building filled with hope, because I know that we made a difference for each of those children.

How to read this report

This annual report is designed to tell the story of our work in numbers, as much as possible. But the numbers don't show you how a child's face lights up when you offer them kindness. I ask that as you read this, you remember the children we helped are now able to laugh and play, because of what you helped us do for them.

If you haven't come for a tour, please consider yourself invited! I know you will also be inspired and filled with hope once you feel what it's like here where abuse ends and healing begins.

-Marie

Our Purpose

Our Mission

The mission of the Children's Advocacy Center of Southern Arizona is to provide a safe, compassionate, healing environment for children who have been a victim or have witnessed a crime.

Vision

Provide each child with the safety they need to tell their story.

Provide each family with healing services.

Hold abusers accountable.

Core Strategies

The Center provides professionally coordinated services to support families, and to investigate and prosecute child abuse and neglect.

The Center's dedicated, certified professional staff provides forensic interviews, connection to resources, and medical services in one child-friendly location.

The Center promotes awareness and prevention of abuse through community education and outreach.

Our Values

Collaboration

We work across sectors with public and private partners to prevent and address abuse.

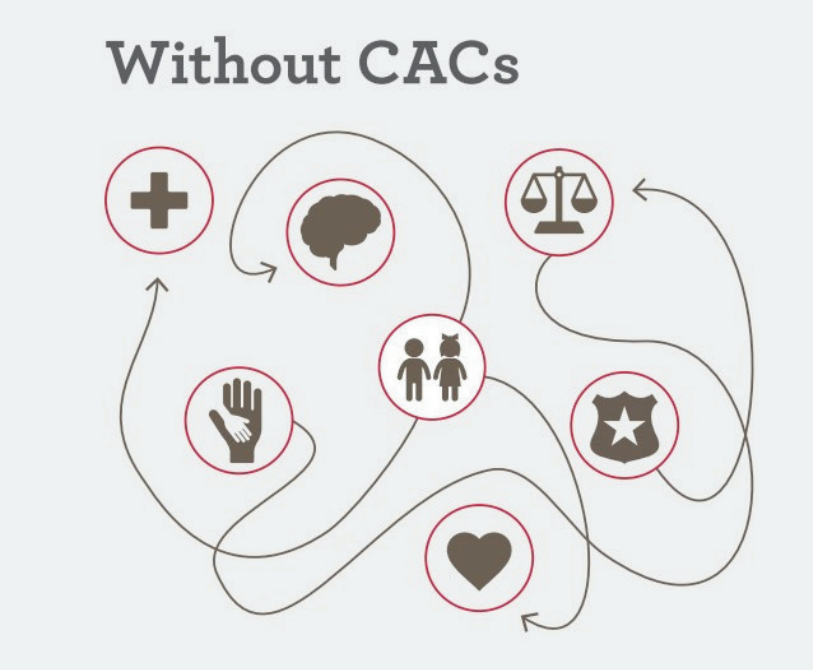
Quality

We strive for excellence in all we do, for the sake of the children and families we serve.

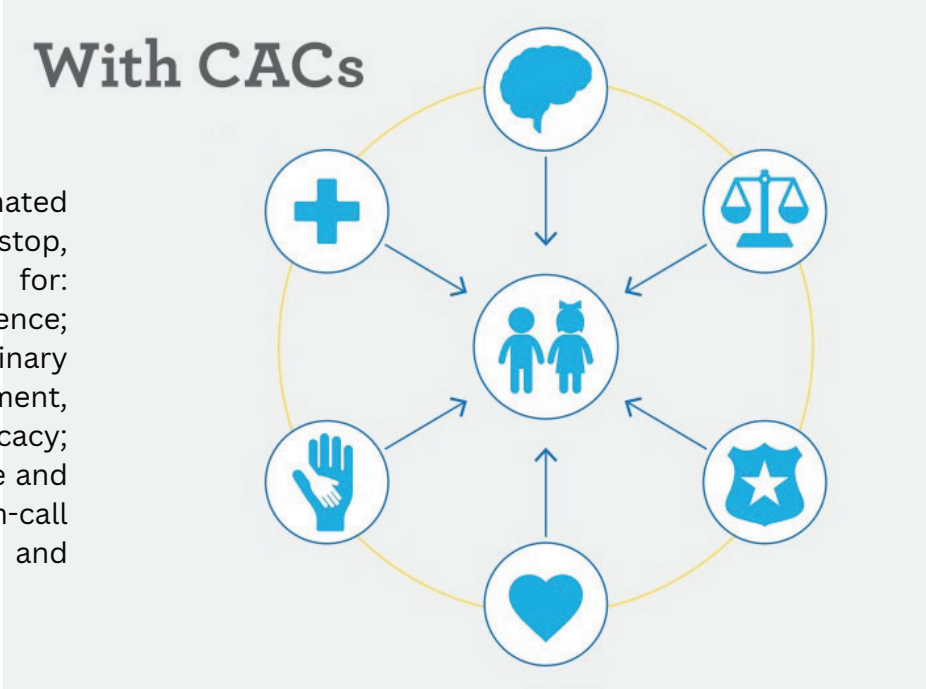
Impact

We work to change the lives we touch for the community we call home.

How CACs Work



Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) were developed in the mid-1980s to address systematic problems of coordination and care for child abuse cases. These problems include trauma and revictimization through repeated interviews and examinations in locations that are not child-friendly.



The CAC serves as a coordinated response center. A one-stop, child-friendly environment for: collection of forensic evidence; coordination of multi-disciplinary investigations; case management, crisis intervention and advocacy; referrals to victim assistance and support services; 24/7 on-call response for urgent cases; and long-term family support.

Our Programs

1
Forensic Evidence Collection

Forensic Interviews
CAC Interviewers use an evidence-based interview model that provides forensically sound, non-leading interviews. We are completely neutral, and have no objectives regarding making arrests, filing charges, removing children or keeping families together.
Forensic Medical Exams
Exams ensure the health and safety of the child; Diagnose and treat STIs and other conditions; and Collect evidence of child abuse and neglect. CAC's Forensic Examiners are nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians who can provide expert witness testimony.

2
Child & Family Advocacy

Case Coordination
The Advocate answers the 24/7 phone and ensures everyone is involved at the earliest possible stage
Support the investigators in getting the evidence of what did or did not happen
Customized Support
Crisis intervention (ABC Model)
Risk assessment and Safety planning
Assess family needs and provide what we can internally, plus community referrals, including for mental health
Follow-up
Remain in contact as long as the family needs us to support ongoing healing and to address any new concerns

3
Long-term Family Support

Our innovative, effective programs equip families with knowledge, skills, and resources to improve their safety. Our goal is to support parents and caregivers as they help their children heal. We offer classes, workshops, and even a book club, so every family can find the program that works best for them. Participants leave each class with tools to use at home in their daily life, and are invited to serve on our Family Advisory Board to shape our community response to abuse.

4
Child Abuse Prevention

Our child abuse prevention classes are based on the Protective Factors that prevent child abuse. Parents and caregivers learn about grooming and how to keep their children safe. In addition, outreach efforts and a robust in-school program teach how to recognize and respond to abuse. All outreach is guided by our VOICES Council of youth survivors. They offer a unique perspective on services that helps us improve, even as they empower and inspire other survivors.

We Did It Together

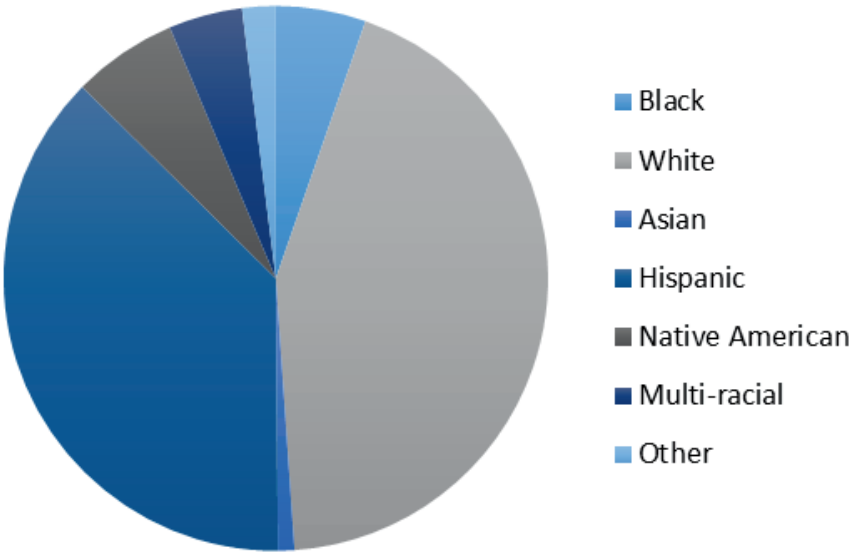
609
SAFETY PLANS

902
FORENSIC INTERVIEWS

181
MEDICAL EXAMS & CONSULTS

2,031
CHILDREN & CAREGIVERS SERVED

WHO WE SERVED



266
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

67%
OF OUR CLIENTS ARE UNDER AGE 13

74% OF OUR CLIENTS IDENTIFY AS GIRLS

Types of Crime We Helped Investigate

Physical Abuse/Neglect	24%	Sexual Exploitation	2%
Sexual Abuse/Assault	59%	Domestic Violence	13%
Sex Trafficking	1%	Kidnapping	1%

Special Thanks

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Cody John Peck
Desert Toyota of Tucson
Southwest Gas Corp
Tucson Electric Power Co

LARGE DONORS

Lynn Adams
MIsty Colvin
Desert Skies United Methodist
Michael & Karen Fisher
Marlene Fodor Revocable Trust
Mary Gregory
Jayne Henninger
Chan & Angel Lowe
Michael P. Moyer
Dale Woolridge
Ben Palazzo
Greg & Shelly Peck
Susan Rogers
Janae Wheelin
Pat & Richard Wiedhopf

90% of funds go directly to helping children

PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS

Banner Health
Connie Hillman Family Foundation
Gila Donor Advised Fund
In-N-Out Burger Foundation
MercyCares
PICOR Charitable Foundation
The West

MONTHLY DONORS

Tom & Gail Buick
Laura De La Torre
Marie Fordney
Michelle Hamilton
Jennifer Holt
Dan & Karla McMahon
Deborah Nance
Alan Schultz
Lois Weiss
Pat & Richard Wiedhopf

Nearly

2,300

Volunteer Hours
Supported our Work
This Past Year

You Can Help

Join us to make a difference for children

The contribution you can make as a volunteer is invaluable, and we are committed to ensuring your experience helps you become an advocate for children and families in our community. Volunteers love to help with child care, where children begin to heal through play. They also support our prevention and education activities by preparing materials and helping during classes, workshops, and outreach events. Call us to learn about other opportunities, including fundraising events and special projects.

Thank you for supporting children in our community

Visit us!

We love the work we do, and we want to share it with you! Schedule a tour to learn why the Center is ***where abuse ends and healing begins***

Children's Advocacy Center of Southern Arizona
2329 E. Ajo Way
Tucson, AZ 85713
www.cacsoaz.org
520.724.6600