



children's advocacy center

Since 1992

of Tom Green County, Inc.



2013 Annual Report

The Children's Advocacy Center
of Tom Green County, Inc.

Table of Contents

2013 Board of Directors	3
From the President	4
Hope House	5
Court Appointed Special Advocates	7
Family Enrichment Services	10
Child Fatality Review Team	11
Fundraisers & Events	14
Memorials	17
Thank you to Our Donors & Supporters	18
Financial Highlights	19
Contact Information	20

2013 Board of Directors

John Fortenberry, President

Brady Johnson, Vice-President

Richard Webb, Treasurer

Michelle Perkey, Past President

Marshell Peter, Secretary

Dr. Elisabeth Noelke, Member-at-Large

Laura Mallory, Member-at-Large

Dr. Greg Dunham, Medical Director

John Best

Randy Swick

Angie Voss

Shelah Adams

Carmen Dusek

Lisa Eady

Vicki Housley

Dean McIntyre

Helen Pfluger

Brian Thomma

Bette White

Diane Wilson



Our Mission

To champion the prevention of child abuse and to serve as an ally of abused children with a dedication to securing for each child a safe and nurturing home.

From the President

The past year has been a time of growth and achievement for the Children's Advocacy Center of Tom Green County, Inc. For many agencies, greater numbers and "growth" is a goal, but for the advocacy center, this is a bittersweet accomplishment. While we welcome the opportunity to assist more children and families in need, it saddens us to know the need continues. Witnessing the tireless efforts of dedicated volunteers, staff, partnering agencies and a committed Board of Directors to achieve justice, safety and healing for the children and families served by this organization has been truly inspiring. It is thanks to you; donors, foundations and corporations that the agency can continue the mission to champion the prevention of child abuse and to serve as an ally of abused children with a dedication to securing for each child a safe and nurturing home.

The Children's Advocacy Center of Tom Green County, Inc. is truly a unique agency. Not only are programs provided to assist and advocate for child victims, programs are in place to address and prevent future abuse. Working as part of a multi-disciplinary team, the four programs directed by the Center approach the issue from every direction, prevention, advocacy, intervention and justice. Hope House works to achieve justice and prevent further victimization. CASA provides community volunteers to advocate for children removed from their homes due to abuse and to work with the court system to find them safe permanent homes. Family Enrichment Services, instituted to strengthen families and prevent abuse by providing families tools through education and intervention, and finally the Child Fatality Review Team designed to gather information to provide education and programming to prevent future child death.

In the pages of this review, you will see graphs, numbers and statistical data, something I as a CPA focus on daily. Please keep in mind, there is much more here than data. Behind every number in these pages is a child whose life has been impacted by abuse and or neglect and has experienced fear, possibly hunger, loneliness, uncertainty and hopelessness. The ongoing need for financial support and volunteer power continues to be enormous, but thanks to your efforts, time and your donations, the CAC has been able to change the outcome, one child at a time.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the CAC Board of Directors. As challenging as this responsibility has been, it has also been one of the most humbling opportunities I have ever encountered. Thank you volunteers, thank you staff, thank you donors for your unparalleled commitment to serving children.

John Fortenberry, 2013 Board President

Hope House



Historically, when responding to reports of child abuse and neglect, numerous problems have been encountered, including excessive interviews of child victims, development of physical evidence and lack of communication among involved agencies. Having recognized these issues, Tom Green County developed a cooperative team approach to the investigation of child abuse and neglect. In November of 1992, the first child was interviewed at Hope House. Hope House staff work with a team of experts from Child Protective Services, the police department, the sheriff's office, the district attorney's office, medical personnel, therapists and other community service agencies. Together they review cases of children who have been abused and determine if there is enough evidence to pursue prosecution against the alleged perpetrator, always keeping the child victim's healing and well-being at the forefront of the case. Hope House provides a warm, home-like, neutral environment for children who, upon an outcry of alleged abuse or neglect, are brought here for the interview process.

Hope House Advisory Board

Heather Ward, Executive Director

Melody Jeter, Hope House Program Director

Chief Tim Vasquez, San Angelo Police Department

Sheriff David Jones, Tom Green County Sheriff Department

Allison Palmer, 51st District Attorney's Office

George McCrea, 119th District Attorney's Office

Dr. Gregory Dunham, Medical Director/SANE program

Dr. Joe Jeffers, West Texas Psychological Associates

Isaac Lopez, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Dr. Joe Munoz, Angelo State University

Report Suspected Abuse

Call 1-800-252-5400 or 9-1-1

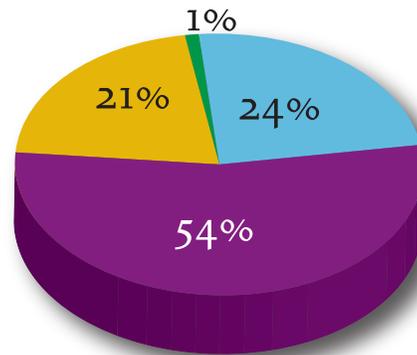
www.txabusehotline.org

Hope House Statistics

During fiscal year 2013, 192 children were seen through the Hope House. Forty-one cases were classified as physical abuse, 123 were sexual abuse, 23 were neglect or abandonment, and 5 were crime witnesses. Sixty-four were males and 128 were females. Eight clients were Black, 64 were Hispanic, and 120 were Anglo. Forty-six children were between the ages of 0-5 years old, 104 children were between the ages of 6-12 years old, 40 children were between the ages of 13-17 years old and two children were 18 years or older. Sixty-one clients received counseling, 4 adults and 57 children. Data sources include the San Angelo Police Department, Child Protective Services, Reagan County and Tom Green County Sheriff's Departments and the Children's Advocacy Center case tracking and files.

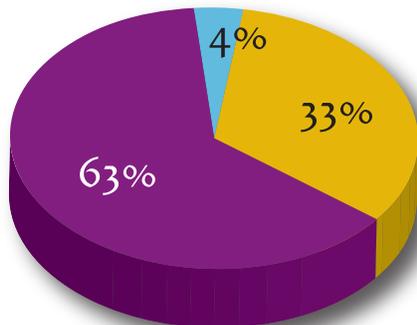
Age

- 0 - 5
- 6 - 12
- 13 - 17
- 18+



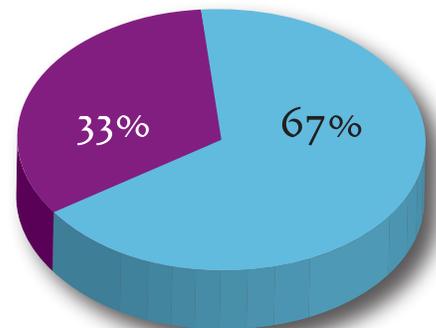
Ethnicity

- Black
- Hispanic
- White



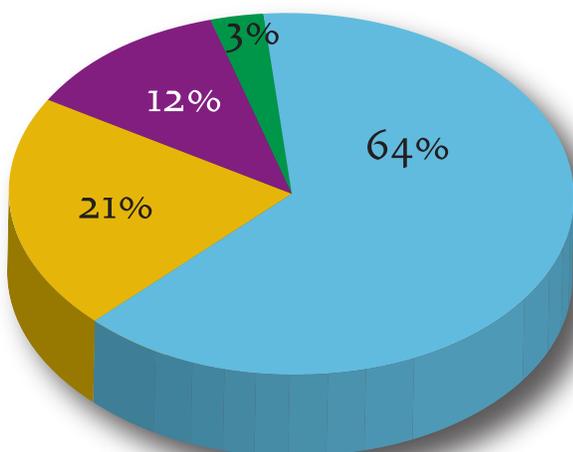
Gender

- Male
- Female



Victimization

- Sexual Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Neglect & Abandonment
- Crime Witness



**Due to a change in the fiscal year, the time frame for this report reflects January - August 2013.*

Court Appointed Special Advocates



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) began serving children in the Concho Valley as the direct result of the death of a local child by physical abuse. The original founders organized in November of 1986. They called themselves PACA, Parents Against Child Abuse. The group became formally incorporated as CASA of Tom Green County on March 26, 1987. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) joined the Children's Advocacy Center in 1998. The program's mission is to speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children whose

future home will be determined by a Court of Law. Volunteers embody the spirit of the program and CASA's goal is to provide each child a safe, permanent and nurturing home.

Who are our volunteers?

CASA volunteers are ordinary people who are trained by a court-approved program and appointed by a district judge. In the life of a case, a CASA volunteer monitors the child's situation to make sure he or she remains safe. The CASA is instrumental in ensuring that a child or family receives services the court has ordered---therapy, substance abuse counseling and/or special medical or educational needs. The CASA will represent the best interests of the children they serve; this may not always be what the child wants. Ultimately, the CASA must remain objective in their recommendations to the court.

Research shows that a child with a CASA volunteer is more likely to be adopted, half as likely to re-enter foster care, more likely to have a plan for permanency, and substantially less likely to spend time in long-term foster care. CASA volunteers improve representation of children, reduce the time needed by lawyers, are more likely than paid lawyers to file written reports, and are highly effective in having their recommendations adopted by the court.

Counties Served:

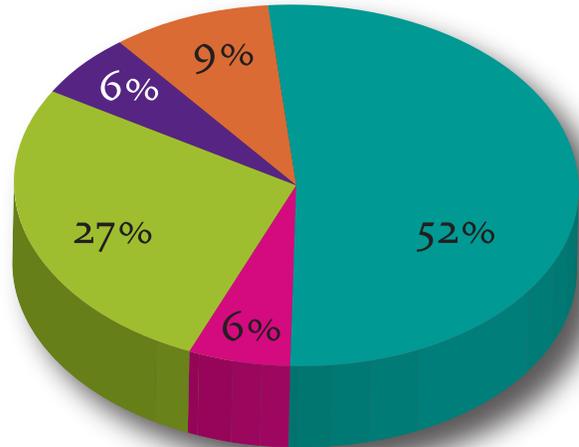
Tom Green, Concho, Crockett, Coke, Runnels, Reagan,
Sutton, Sterling, Schleicher, Irion

CASA Statistics

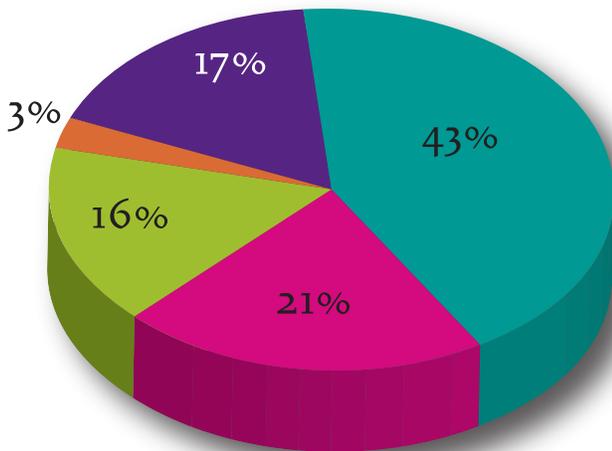
In 2013, CASA advocated for 214 cases involving 387 children. There were 77 cases involving 125 children open and 62 cases involving 115 children closed. Some cases carry over from the previous year and CASA continues to advocate for these children.

- Failure to Accept Parental Responsibility
- Neglectful Supervision
- Sexual Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Other

Open Cases - Reason for Removal



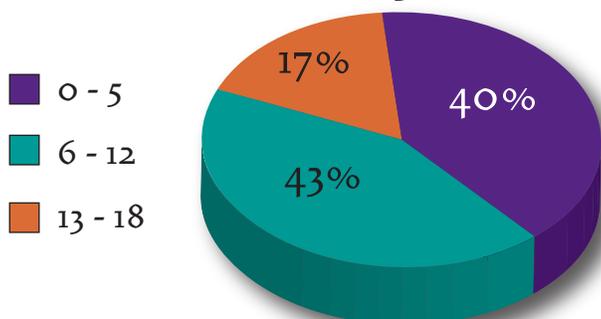
Closed Cases



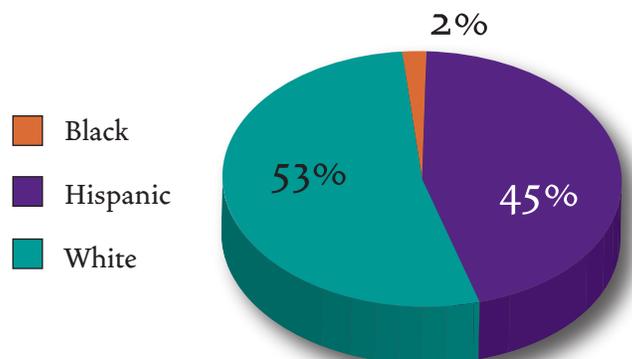
- Children Returned to Their Parents
- Adopted
- Placed with Relatives
- Turned 18 years old while in the care of CPS
- Remain in Permanent Conservatorship with CPS

Demographics of the 387 children served in 2013
181 Males and 206 Females

Age



Ethnicity



**Due to a change in the fiscal year, the time frame for this report reflects January - August 2013.*

CASA is a GOOD INVESTMENT in Texas' Future

1 PAID CASA STAFF



SUPPORTS 30 VOLUNTEERS



WHO SERVE 75 CHILDREN



1 YEAR OF CASA ADVOCACY



1 MONTH OF FOSTER CARE



Children with a CASA Volunteer are:



Less likely to spend 3 or more years in foster care



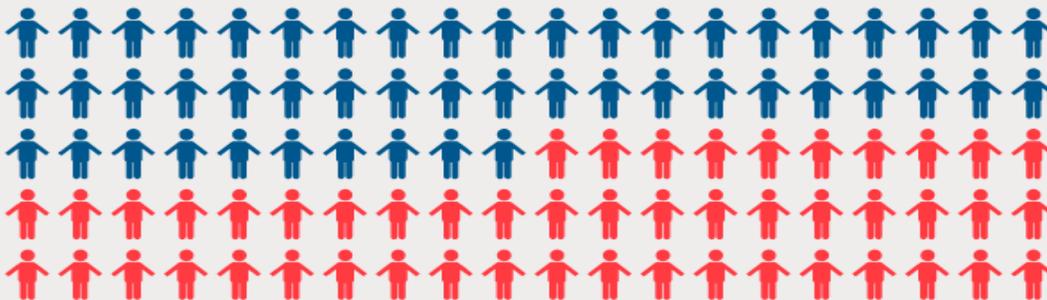
Less likely to re-enter care once they find a permanent home



More likely to pass all classes in school

We need MORE RESOURCES to recruit & train more volunteers to speak up for more children in care.

49% of children in care **DO NOT HAVE A CASA Volunteer**



46,649
Number of children in care in 2013

23,621
Number of children who had a CASA in 2013

The Bottom Line:

CASA saves children's lives and taxpayers' money.



TEXASCASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

Learn more at BecomeACASA.org

Family Enrichment Services



Family Enrichment Services (FES), created in 1999, offers a whole family approach to strengthening the family. Services are offered in Tom Green, Concho, Runnels and Crockett counties. FES is for any parent or caregiver who is interested in making their parenting journey easier and more effective.

Parent Mentor Program

The Parent Mentor program was designed by parents in the Concho Valley in 2006. The program uses parent input and research based tools to identify areas to strengthen. The program is for anyone seeking parenting tips or guidance but who may not want to attend a large group setting. Our trained Parent Mentors meet with families at least once a week in their homes, or another location that is comfortable for the parent, and tailor services specific to that family. Parenting topics range from increasing your child's self esteem, to coping with an "out of control" child, to navigating local resources. The Parent Mentor Program served 89 adults and 166 children. The curriculum can also be delivered in a small group setting and FES served 66 adults.

Parents Anonymous® of the Concho Valley

Parents Anonymous® was created to provide parents ongoing support and a safe place to vent and talk to other parents going through similar experiences. Children's groups occur simultaneously to provide a safe, structured environment for children while their parents attend support group. Parent's Anonymous® served 12 adults and 35 children in child care.

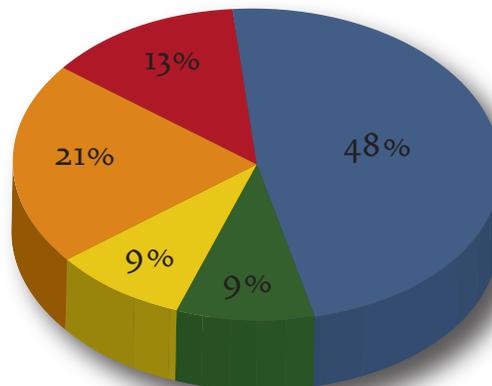
The Parent Project® for parents of teenagers ages 13-17

The Parent Project® is a program designed specifically for parents with strong-willed or out-of-control children. The Parent Project® helps to prevent, identify, and intervene in the most destructive of adolescent behaviors. The Parent Project® served 29 adults and 20 teenagers.

Family Preservation

These are services offered to families referred by the Tom Green County Juvenile Probation Department to provide short-term, intensive, in-home counseling services, aimed at keeping children in the home and families together. Family Preservation served 49 adults and 64 teenagers and 25 families.

- Parent Mentor Program
- Parents Anonymous
- The Parent Project
- Family Preservation
- Group Setting Classes



Total Individuals Served = 530

**Due to a change in the fiscal year, the time frame for this report reflects January - August 2013.*

The Child Fatality Review Team



The **Child Fatality Review Team** evaluates every child death in a 13-county region with the goal of improving the response to child fatalities, while learning how to prevent future fatalities. Additionally, the CFRT strives to provide accurate information on how and why children in our area are dying. The team has established an effective review and standardized data collection system for all child fatalities. The team reviews all child deaths regardless of the cause. Members include law enforcement, prosecutors, medical examiners, justices of the peace, health care professionals, Child Protective Services, public and mental health professionals, educators and child advocates. These teams are uniquely qualified to understand what no single agency or group working alone can: how and why children are dying in their community. In 2012, the CFRT will develop public awareness campaigns aimed at preventing child deaths based on trends in our area.

To view state wide statistics, please reference: www.dshs.state.tx.uschildfatalityreview

Child Fatality Review Team of 2013

Belinda Braly, CAC - FES Program Director

John Best, 119th District Attorney's ofc

Tom Cooper, TDPS - Victim Services

Brian Elkins, San Angelo Police Dept

Laurie English, 112th District Attorney's ofc

Jeff Garner, Reagan County Sheriff

Johnny Garza, Goodfellow AFB

Shirley Grosshans, Compassionate Friends

Kelli Hanna, Wall ISD - Counselor

Nick Hanna, Texas Rangers

Beth Henderson, ECI

Rusty Herndon, San Angelo Police Dept

Judge Eddie Howard, Justice of the Peace, Pct 4

Melody Jeter, CAC - Hope House Prog. Dir.

Toni Keltz, RN, Texas DSHS

Angela King, Texas DSHS

Kelly Lajoie, San Angelo Police Dept

Dusty McCoy, WTX Counseling & Guidance

Julie Moorman, SAISD

Allison Palmer, 51st District Attorney's Ofc

Mike Patton, CASA Volunteer

Donna Rogers, CAC - Parent Mentor Coor.

Ingrid Russo, ASU

Ron Sanders, TG Co. Sheriff's office

Lt. Randy Swick, TG Co. Sheriff's office

Cathy Sparks, Shannon Medical Center

Monica Escobedo, CAC -Hope House Case Mgr

Steve Torres, DPS State Trooper

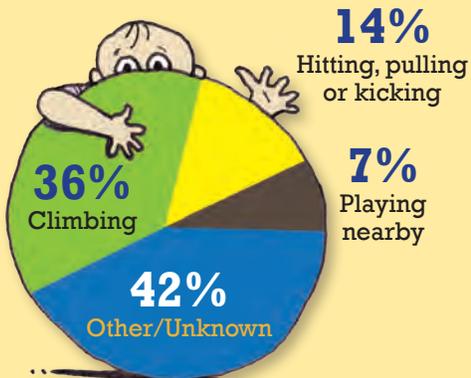
Isaac Lopez, DFPS

Heather Ward, CAC - Executive Director

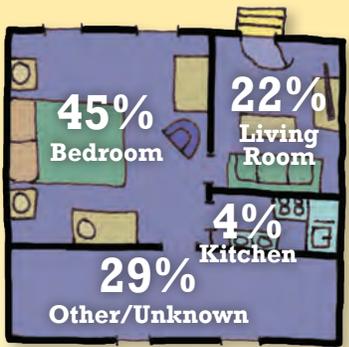
Catie Weidenhofer, Safe Kids Coalition

Dr. Elizabeth Young, Shannon Clinic

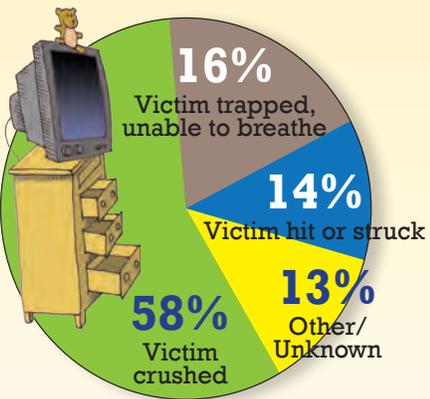
Melissa Melton, RN, Shannon Medical Center



Why does it happen?



Where does it happen?

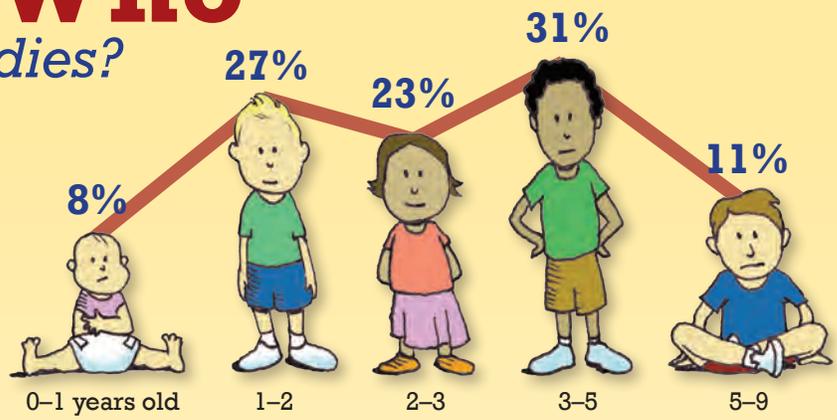


How do victims die?

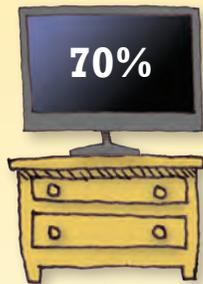
1 CHILD DIES EVERY 2 WEEKS

When a TV, furniture or appliance falls on him or her

Who dies?



What falls on them?



Televisions and furniture



Furniture: dressers, tables



Appliances, etc.

Injuries: about **3** per hour **71** per day **2,117** per month **25,400** per year

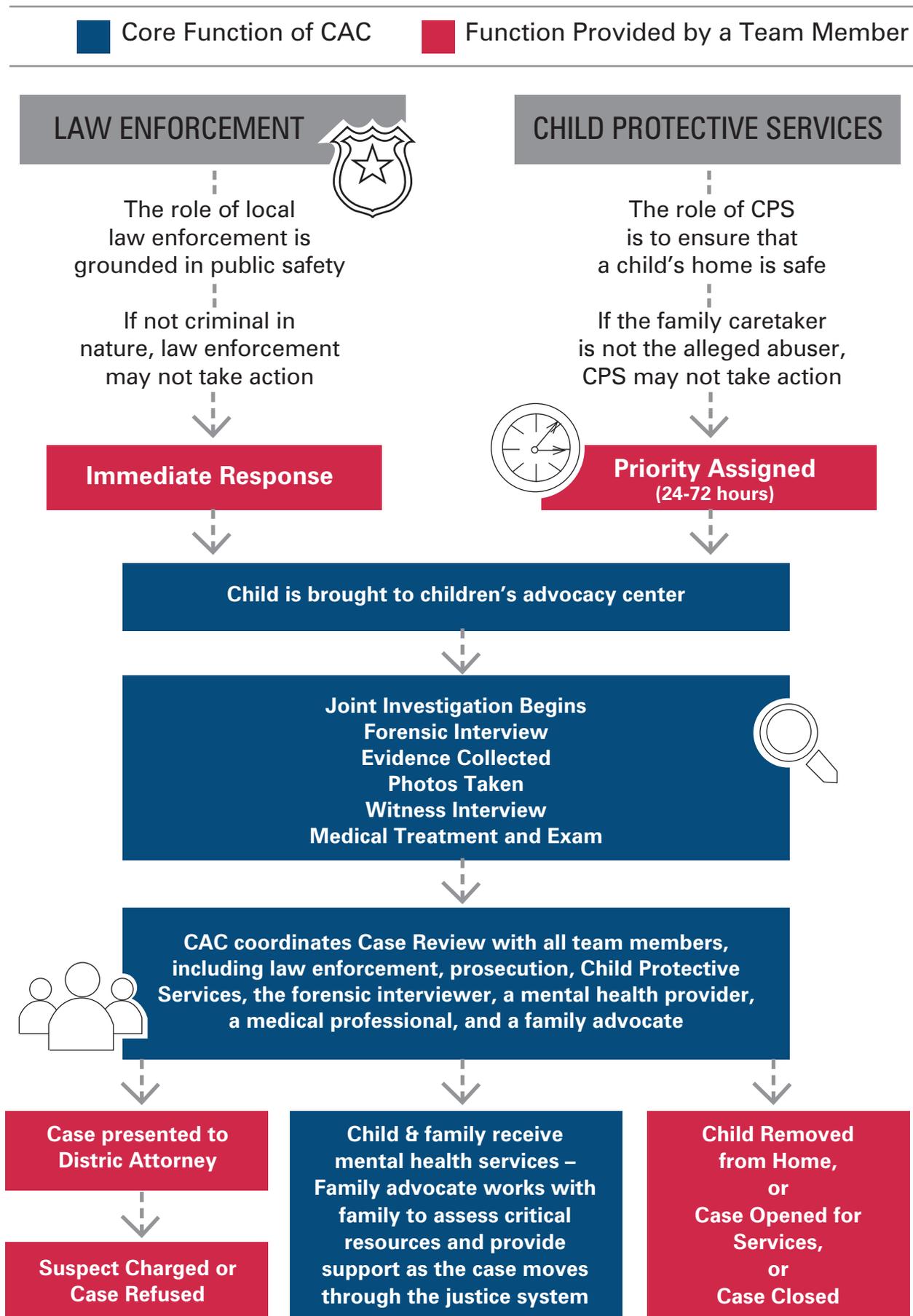
These tragedies can be prevented by taking low-cost steps to stabilize TVs, furniture and appliances.

ANCHOR IT AND PROTECT A CHILD

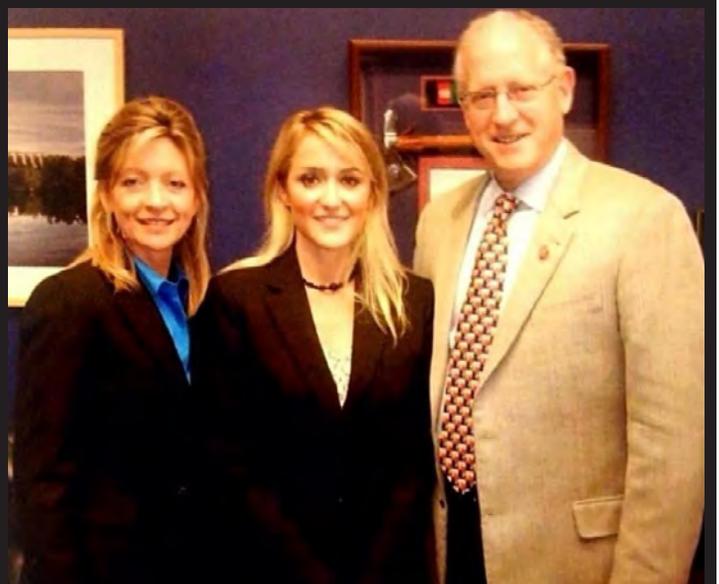
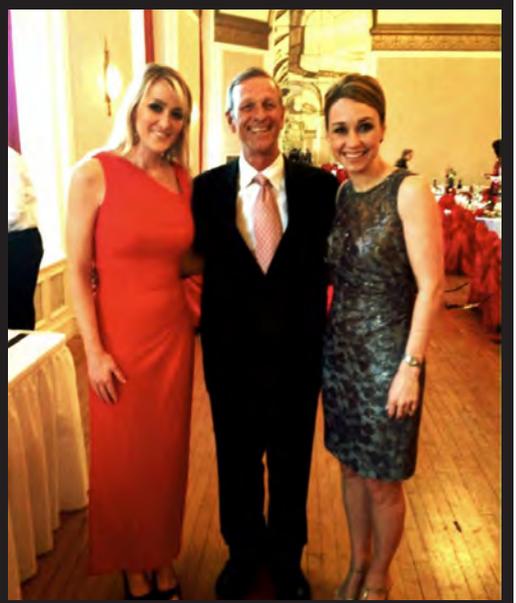


NSN 13-4

HOW DOES THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER MODEL WORK?



Fundraisers & Events



Fundraisers & Events



Save the Date for 2014 Events

- Champagne & Diamonds Fundraiser: February 14, 2014, Cactus Hotel
- CASA Volunteer Training: January 27th-30th & February 3rd – 6th, April 28th-May 1st & May 5th-8th, July 14th-17th & July 21st-24th, September 29th-October 2nd & October 6th-9th
- April - Child Abuse Prevention Month: Events held all month to promote awareness
- Picnic in the Park: April 13, 2014, Kirby Park
- Slamfest Fundraiser: September 26th (Poker Run) September 26th-28th (Tennis Tournament), Bentwood Country Club
- Children's Advocacy Center Golf Tournament: October 20th, 2014, Bentwood Country Club
- Christmas for Kids: November 17 – December 10th, toy drive and donations

Fundraisers & Events



Community Resources and Trainings

Trainings are offered to the community, professionals, child care facilities, school districts, and other individuals/groups interested

- **Darkness to Light (D2L) Stewards of Children:** Training that raises awareness of the prevalence and consequences of child sexual abuse. Education regarding prevention, recognition and responsibility of all adults in order to protect children.
- **Shaken Baby Syndrome, SIDS, and Early Brain Development:** Training to educate adults and childcare providers regarding important preventative steps and stress management.
- **Recognizing and Reporting:** The training is aimed at recognizing signs of child abuse and how to report to proper authorities. The CAC trained over 600 individuals in Recognizing and Reporting training from the following: TLCA, Head Start SAISD, Wall ISD, St. Luke Child Development Center, Sierra Vista, Early Childhood Center and Mosaic Child Care Center.



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month:

While the CAC promotes prevention and awareness throughout the year, April is a great time to encourage the community to take a stand against child abuse and neglect and recognize that we all play a part in promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families. During April, the CAC provides a variety of awareness events that include the annual "Picnic in the Park" which gathered over 1200 participants and 25 local agencies and businesses in 2014. The pinwheel display on the Court House lawn is a reminder that each pinwheel represents a case of child abuse and neglect in Tom Green County. As a way of showing support, every Friday in April is "Go Blue Friday" and all encouraged to wear blue which is the national color of child abuse prevention.

Memorials

In memory of Robert Avery

Carole B. Avery

In memory of Kathy Baker

Bobby & Val Frank

In memory of Robert Eckert

Bentwood Country Club

In memory of Rita Gutierrez

Lorena Montez

In memory of

Mattie Emma Sutton Johnson

Chilton Wilcox & Fortenberry

In memory of Jack Lawson

Heather Cearby

In memory of Meg Pfluger

Charles & Helen Pfluger

In memory of Judy Sharp

Devin & Liz Bates

Kay Bates

Glen & Joy Beard

City of Tahoka

Johnny & Carolyn Duncan

Crystal Epperson

Rodney & Shawn Floyd

Jerry & Beverly Gibson

Charlie Graves

Helen Gray

Kay & Chase Holland

Vicki Housley

Rodney & Debbie Hurt

Melody Jeter

Susan Looka

Douglas Mackey

David & Jenice Mazur

Tommy Morris Agency

Mr. Insurance

Gerald J. Rieder

Phyllis Roberts

San Antonio Rodeo Exposition

Donald & Joan Shields

Andy & Leslie Snelgrove

Margaret Tarter & family

Mark & Deborah Wasmund

Barry & Myrna Weaver

Mark & Lisa Willingham

Fred & Kay Zeidman

In memory of

Billie Sawyer White

Bentwood Country Club

In memory of F.K. Doss

and

W.F. Matthews

Anonymous

Thank You to our Donors & Supporters

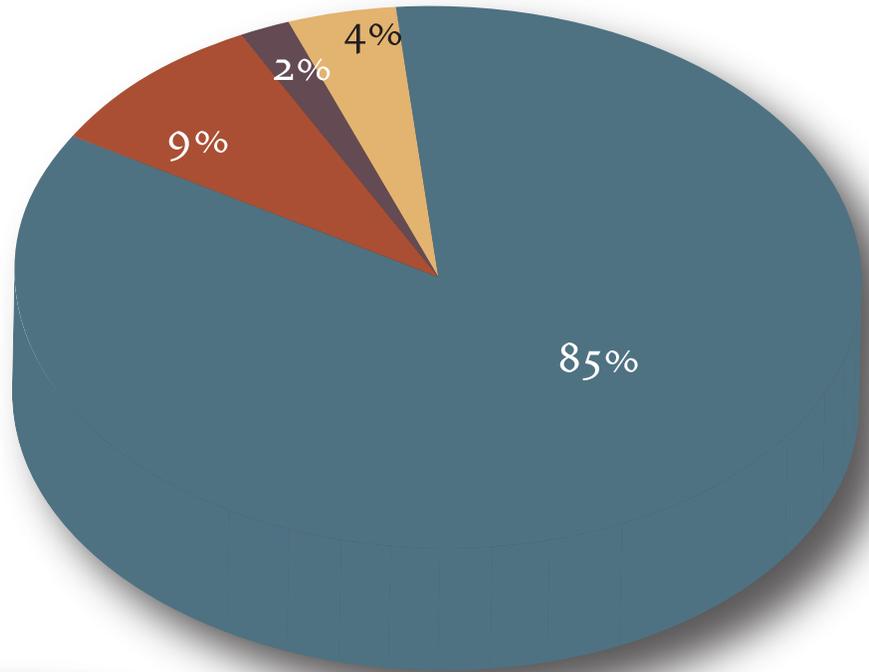
A-B Distributing	Hay, Wittenburg, Davis, Caldwell & Bale, L.L.P.	Standard-Times
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Adams	Dr. & Mrs. Chris Henson	Storey Chiropractic Center
Aladdin's Flooring	Historic City Project, Inc.	Strategic Business Solutions
Angelo Oral Maxillofacial Surgery	Housley Communications	StudioStream L.P.
Angelo RV	Mrs. Vicki Housley	The Bank & Trust
Anodyne, Inc.	Jackson Walker, L.L.P.	Thrifty Nickel
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Bahlman	JBA Family Holdings	Mr. & Mrs. Jorge Velarde
Bank of San Angelo	Jett Electric Company	Jackson Walker L.L.P.
Mr. & Mrs. Devin Bates	Mr. Fred Key	Dr. and Mrs. Drew Wallace
Mr. & Mrs. Chad Brantly	Dr. & Mrs. Clint Lasiter	Mrs. Jana Weatherby
Mr. Marshall Brown	Mr. & Mrs. Lanny Layman	Mr. Richard Webb
Cal-Tech	Lewright Family & Cosmetic Dentistry	Western Shamrock
Cecil & Eady Investments	Livestock Weekly	Mr. and Mrs. Eric Wilson
Cecil A. Ross Investment & Insurance Group	Mr. & Mrs. Rick Mantooth	Mr. Lloyd Woodfin
Chilton, Wilcox, & Fortenberry	Mark Vega Allstate Agency	
Christian Faith Center	Mr. Insurance	
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Cochran	Multi-Chem	
Dr. & Mrs. Chris Cole	Dr. Elisabeth Noelke	
Creek Swabbing	Honorable and Mrs. Ben Nolen	
Crockett National Bank	Oliver, Rainey & Wojtek	
Mr. Rusty Dean	Papel	
Dr. Gregory & Sarita Dunham	Pediatric Dentistry of San Angelo	
Mr. & Mrs. James Dusek	Mr. & Mrs. Hal Peter	
First Community Federal Credit Union	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Pfluger	
First Financial Bank	Premier Nationwide Lending	
First State Bank of Paint Rock	Mrs. Valerie Priess	
Foster Communications	River Crest Hospital	
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Frank	Mr. & Mrs. Todd Sanford	
Dr. & Mrs. Matthew Goldman	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Sherrod	
Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Hawkins	The Snuggs Family	
	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Stephens	

We are deeply grateful to all donors. If your name has been misspelled, displayed incorrectly or inadvertently excluded, please accept our apologies.

Financial Highlights

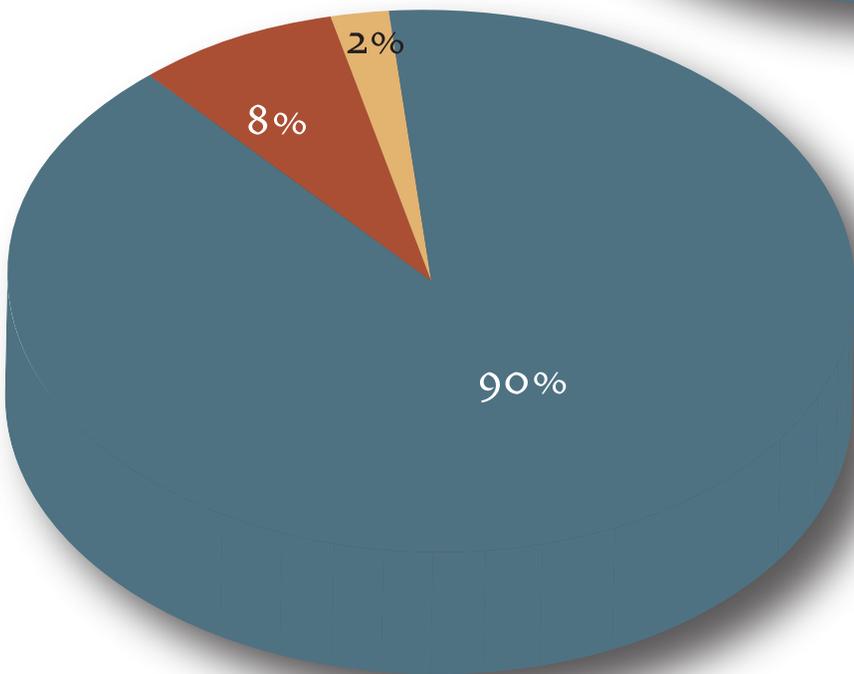
Revenue \$ 647,452

- Grants
- Fundraisers
- Donations
- Miscellaneous



Expenses \$ 636,194

- Services & Education
- Management & General
- Fundraising Expenses



2014 Financial Goals

- Restore and increase the endowment fund to ensure the CAC's long-term sustainability
- Increase planned giving to decrease grant dependence

**Due to a change in the fiscal year, the time frame for this report reflects January - August 2013.*



children's
advocacy
center Since 1992
of Tom Green County, Inc.



2014 Board of Directors

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| John Best | Vicki Housley, President | Susan Looka |
| Ron Sanders | Carmen Dusek, Vice-President | Jessica Skinner |
| Isaac Lopez | Brian Thomma, Secretary | Todd Sanford |
| Bette White | Richard Webb, Treasurer | Wilson Stokes |
| Diane Wilson | John Fortenberry, Past President | Mason Vaughan |
| Laura Mallory | Dr Greg Dunham, Medical Director | |
| | Lisa Eady, Member at Large | |

Staff

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Melody Jeter
<i>Hope House Program Director</i> | Heather Ward
<i>Executive Director</i> | Shirley Davis
<i>CASA Program Director</i> |
| Monica Escobedo
<i>Hope House Case Manager</i> | Leann Hubert
<i>Director of Marketing Services</i> | Vickie Schwiening
<i>CASA Case Manager</i> |
| Belinda Braly
<i>Director of Family Services</i> | Devan Hawkins
<i>Program Assistant</i> | Connie Gauwain
<i>CASA Case Manager</i> |
| Donna Rogers
<i>Parent Mentor Coordinator</i> | | Rachel Hoelscher
<i>CASA Case Manager</i> |
| | | Rebekah Beltran
<i>CASA Case Manager</i> |



317 Koberlin • P.O. Box 5195 • San Angelo, TX 76902
(325) 653-4673 • Fax (325) 653-5045 • www.cactomgreen.org



children's advocacy
centers™ of texas

