



# children's advocacy center

of Greater West Texas



## 2018 Annual Report





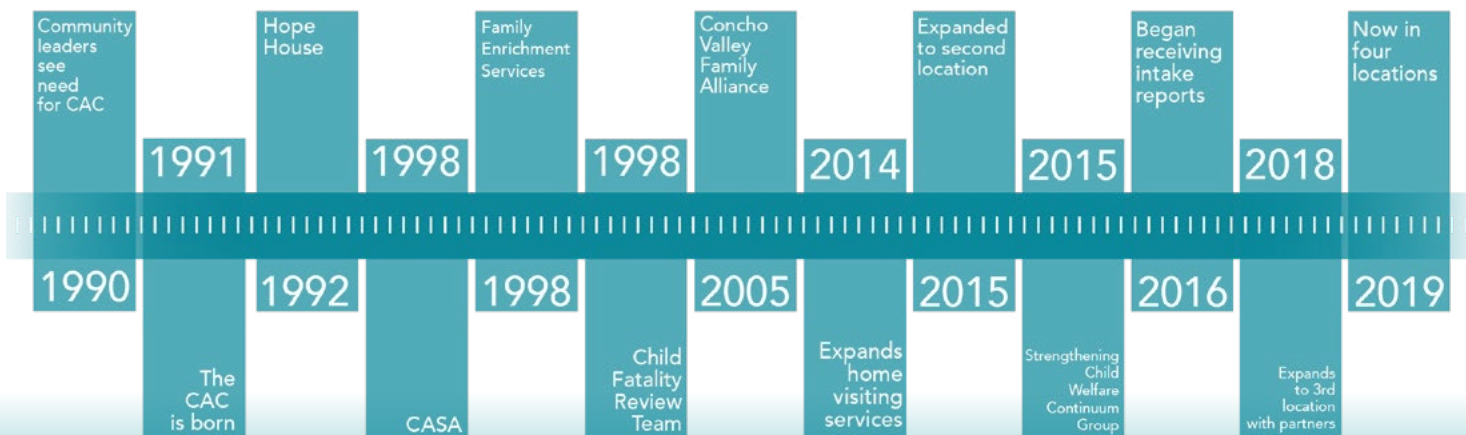
# THE MISSION

of the Children's Advocacy Center of Greater West Texas, Inc. is to ensure that every child in our community has a safe and nurturing home.





# WHO WE ARE



## Children's Advocacy Center of Greater West Texas

was established in Tom Green County in 1991. At that time, children who had been abused had to tell their story to many: law enforcement, child protective services, District Attorney's office, therapists, and possibly a nurse and/or teacher.

With the presence of Children's Advocacy Center, we reduce the number of times the child must tell their story, resulting in less trauma for the child and increased consistency for the case.

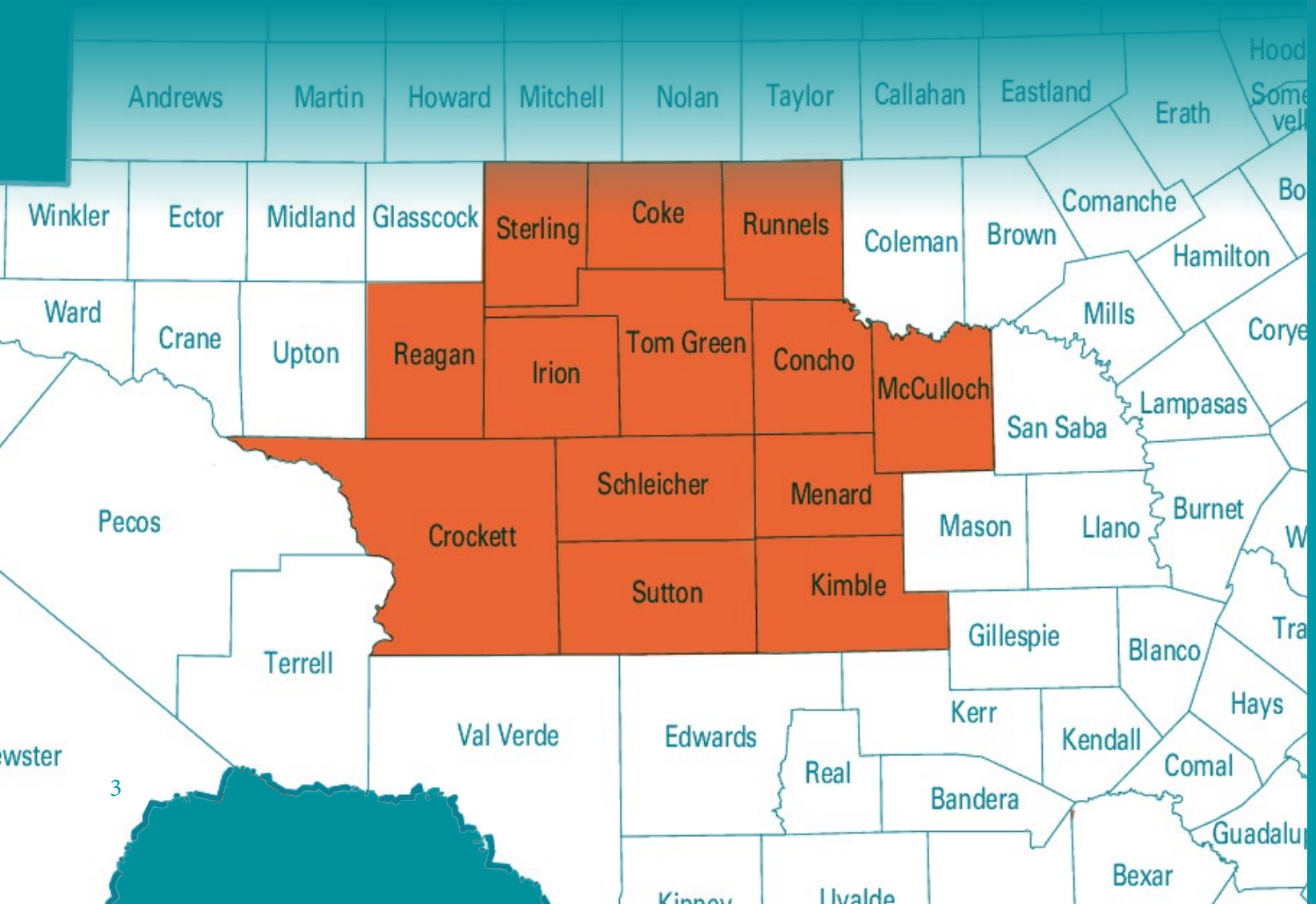
In addition, we offer services throughout the child's journey to ensure their needs are met.

# WHY WE EXIST

Over the past 28 years, we have grown to now serve 13 counties. In 2018 alone, we impacted more than 3,700 individuals. This gave us reason to officially change our name to Children's Advocacy Center of Greater West Texas; originally we were Children's Advocacy Center of Tom Green County. Our main service area is the Concho Valley and Greater West Texas region, but on occasion we will help an individual needing services from outside our region and connect them to service providers in their home area. Breaking the cycle of child abuse, one child at a time!

## 2018 Counties Served:

Bexar, Brown, Coke, Concho Crockett, Ector, Fort Hood, Hale, Haskell, Hockley, Irion, Kendall, Kimble, Llano, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Midland, Pecos, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, Tarrant, Taylor, Tom Green, Travis, Trinity, Upton, Val Verde, Williamson





# How We Accomplish Our Mission

Children's Advocacy Center of Greater West Texas is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which acts as the independent, neutral advocate for children and families in our community through our many services.



## PREVENTION

### **Family Enrichment Services**

- Circle of Parents
- Parent Mentor Program
- Parents As Teachers
- Therapy Services



## INTERVENTION

### **CASA**

- Court Appointed Special Advocate
- CASA Volunteers



## RESCUE

### **Hope House**

- Forensic Interviews
- Case Coordination
- Multidisciplinary Team
- Medical Component
- Family Advocacy



## ACTION

### **Community Outreach & Awareness**

- Community Development
- Community Education
- Volunteer Coordination
- Child & Family Well-being Initiative
- Child Fatality Review Team
- Strengthening Child Welfare Continuum Group



# PREVENTION

**Family Enrichment Services** provides services to prevent child abuse. This includes strengthening families through various services:

- Parenting classes and trainings, accommodating groups up to 100 people
- Private child and family counseling
- Home visits to identify the families' needs and address available services

Family Enrichment Services serves children and families throughout our community. Special programs include:

- Circle of Parents
- Parent Mentor Program
- Parents as Teachers
- Specialized Therapy Services

#### **Fiscal Year 2018 Data:**

- 591 individual assessed and referred to services
- 486 children and families received home visits, case management, and participated in weekly support groups





# INTERVENTION

**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)** intervene on behalf of abused or neglected children to advocate for the child's best interest whose home will be determined by a court of law.

CASA currently has 93 active volunteers and trains new volunteers quarterly.

Children's Advocacy Center develops, trains, and educates CASA volunteers to stand beside the child throughout their journey and ensure their voice is heard.

**Children With a CASA Volunteer Are:**

- Less likely to spend 3 or more years in foster care
- Less likely to re-enter foster care
- More likely to pass all classes in school
- More likely to find a safe and permanent home

**Fiscal Year 2018 Data:**

- 93 CASA volunteers served 531 children
- CASA volunteers donated over 4,000 hours and traveled approximately 22,000 miles

# RESCUE

**Hope House** receives every allegation of child abuse, including sexual, emotional, and physical abuse, as well as neglect, sex trafficking, child fatality, and violent crime witnesses. Abuse is reported by calling the Texas Abuse Hotline or local 9-1-1 call center. We receive the direct information regarding suspected abuse from the hotline and coordinate a response with law enforcement and Child Protective Services (CPS).

Receiving direct information requires Hope House to be available 24/7 and provide immediate services to those affected by child abuse. This includes out county law enforcement using Hope House forensic interviewers, family advocates, and intake coordinators to coordinate the joint investigation and collect evidence.

Hope House provides services to victims of child abuse and neglect, including forensic interviews, case coordination, and therapy services on behalf of law enforcement and CPS.

Hope House coordinates the multidisciplinary team (MDT), which is made up of

- District Attorney's Office
- Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Hope House Staff
- Law Enforcement
- Shannon Hospital Sexual Abuse Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program
- Specialized Therapists

Hope House has co-location spaces with San Angelo Police Department Child Crime Detectives, Homeland Security, and Child Protective Services Special Investigators.

Hope House also provides multijurisdictional office space for out county law enforcement and Department of Public Safety (DPS) Officers, which is especially important when child sex trafficking cases arise.

## **Of cases seen in 2018,**

- 60% were sexual abuse
- 21% were physical abuse
- 11% were neglect
- 6% child witness
- 1% child fatality

## **Fiscal Year 2018 Data:**

- 1,860 hotline reports reviewed
- 351 forensic interviews conducted
- 1,080 children received direct services





# ACTION

- **Community Education** focuses on Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse Trainings, which educates child-serving professionals by utilizing a facilitator and a video-based format. This training is offered at no charge to any school, individual, or group.

- **Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Trainings** are conducted for the public-private partners. Regional trainings are hosted and connects the team to learning collaboratively for continuing education, skill enhancement, and networking.

- **Child & Family Well-being Initiative** is a coalition comprised of parents, agencies, business leaders, churches, and other community residents steadfast in the mission of building a unified community to strengthen families.

- **Child Fatality Review Team** seeks to improve the response to child fatalities in a 15-county region. This team reviews all child deaths, regardless of cause, and strives to identify gaps in services to protect children.

- **Legislation Policy Visits** are held with legislative leaders on the local, state, and federal level to provide first-hand information of what is happening in the child advocacy groups.

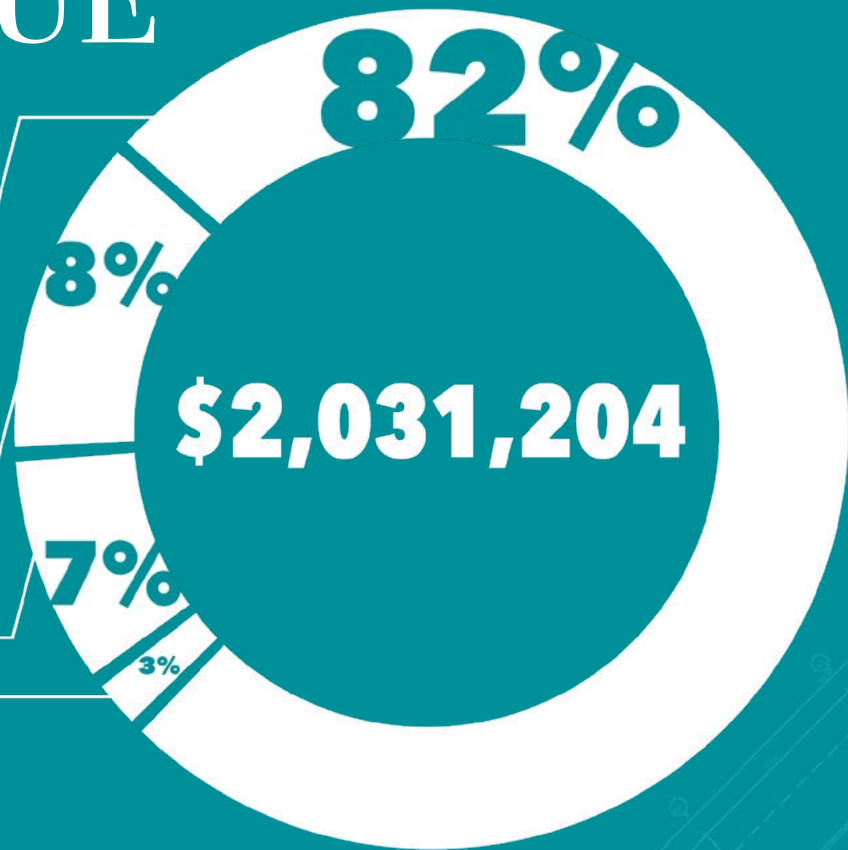
- **Volunteer Coordination** consists of outreach and engagement of the communities we serve, including recruitment and retention of volunteers.

- **Development and Fundraising** seeks to raise awareness with local donors and leaders of all the impactful things occurring with CAC and request support to help relieve dependency on federal and state-wide funding.

- **Outreach and Awareness Services** ensures the community is educated and aware of the impact of all CAC services.

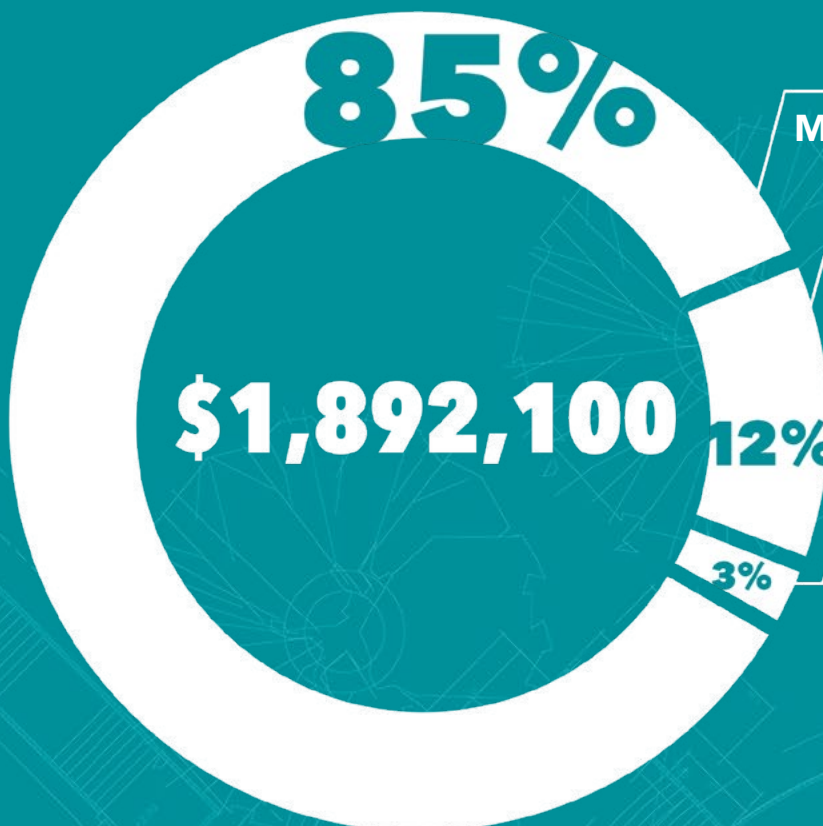
# REVENUE

Grants  
Fundraisers  
Donations  
Miscellaneous



# EXPENSES

Services and Education  
Management and Operations  
Funraising Expenses





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019

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TANNER BRYANT  
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VAL FRANK  
VICKI HOUSLEY  
ASHLEY KNIGHT  
SUSAN LOOKA  
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COLLEEN HADDAD – SECRETARY  
MASON VAUGHAN – PAST PRESIDENT  
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COREY SPECK  
MONTY STANLEY  
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## ADMINISTRATION OF CAC

HEATHER WARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MONICA ESCOBEDO, DIRECTOR OF HOPE HOUSE  
SHIRLEY DAVIS, DIRECTOR OF CASA  
BELINDA BRALY, DIRECTOR OF FAMILY ENRICHMENT SERVICES  
JUSTIN DELOACH, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
RAZANNA THOMAS, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
JACOB BRIDGEMAN, OPERATIONS MANAGER  
KEREN HARRIS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



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