



Annual Report

Healing Children & Families

Adams County Children's Advocacy Center

**Our Vision is a community where children are safe, families are strong,
and our child victims become children again.**

2007-2008

2007-2008 Board of Directors

Sarah Castillo, *Ex Officio*
Assistant District Attorney

Mary Victoria Charisse, *Ex Officio*
Children & Youth Services

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Teresa Polvinale, *Ex Officio*
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Cynthia Reimel, *Treasurer*
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Director, Children & Youth Services

Shawn Wagner, *Vice-President*
District Attorney

Courtney Wege
Gettysburg College

Planning for Sustainability

Dear Friends,

The 2007-2008 fiscal year marks our first full year of operation at the Children's Advocacy Center and our service to more than 123 children who have been abused.

With programming fully in place and coordination running smoothly between the various organizations that comprise our Multidisciplinary Team (MDT), including District Attorney's Office, Children and Youth Services, Law Enforcement, Medical, Victim Witness Office, Mental Health and others, we are now moving beyond our start-up phase into a time of strategic planning for long-term sustainability. Our pressing priority is to make sure the Center is here to support generations of Adams County children who need its services.

Of course, community awareness and support of the Center is vital to its future existence. That's why, as positions expire, we are enlisting new Board members with experience and expertise in grassroots outreach, marketing, public relations, fundraising and other skills that will help us to communicate the story of the CAC and a case for its support far and wide across Adams County. These new members will complement the vital programmatic expertise that the six dedicated MDT Board positions bring to the table.

The Board began the fiscal year by hiring a consultant to conduct a development assessment of the CAC that would allow us to plan for the healthy growth of this community organization. On her recommendation we have developed our case for support, a short-term strategic plan, identified fundraising priorities and are developing our fundraising capacity.

As a result of our work, we have adopted guiding principles from which to make policy decisions and have identified six core focus areas. Key focus areas are: maintaining strong CAC programming; maintaining a safe physical facility; developing an effective infrastructure in terms of sound nonprofit policy and leadership; planning for financial sustainability; developing and maintaining a robust volunteer base; expanding community outreach; and promoting human resource development.

It is clear that the Board is committed to the future of the CAC as it tackles these important concerns and lays the foundation for a strong and stable organization. The CAC is a necessity for a community committed to providing a haven and essential services to victims of child abuse and their families. It has been a pleasure to serve on the Board and to help ensure that the Center remains a fixture in our county for years to come.♥

With warmest regards,

Kathy R. Gaskin
President, Board of Directors

KEY FOCUS AREAS

Strong CAC programming

Safe facility

Effective infrastructure

Financial sustainability

Strong volunteer base

Community outreach

Staff development

County-wide Collaboration

Child abuse is a community problem that needs a coordinated approach to be effective and efficient. The CAC's partnerships with the community were strengthened in the past year through shared work and a common vision.

The Center's first and foremost connection with the community is its relationship with the multi-disciplinary team. This group of professionals works together, through CAC coordination, to safeguard the health and welfare of alleged victims of child abuse and to provide the best possible case for prosecution.

The ACCAC is represented in a number of community and county groups dedicated to preventing child abuse and keeping children healthy.

The Child Abuse Prevention Task Force, a committee of Healthy Adams

County, has been resurrected and is under the leadership of ACCAC executive director Joddie Walker. Collaborative work continues with the Exchange Club of Gettysburg, whose national project is child abuse prevention. The Children's Roundtable Initiative is a state-directed forum for Adams County President Judge Kuhn to share information. The ACCAC is also represented at Collaborating for Youth, Safe Kids, and the Child Death Review Team.

During April, which is Child Abuse Awareness month, the Center expands its outreach and collaboration efforts to include work with Survivors, Inc., Gettysburg College, local media and many other awareness and service organizations.♥

WHAT IS A MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM?

A multidisciplinary team approach for response to child abuse allegations includes representation from every state, county, and local agency that is involved in the identification, investigation prosecution, treatment and prevention of child abuse in Adams County.

WHO IS A PART OF THE ADAMS COUNTY CAC MDT?

- Children & Youth Services
- Cultural Services
- District Attorney's Office
- Juvenile Probation Services
- Law Enforcement
(representing 17 municipalities in Adams County)
- Victim Witness Services
- Mental Health Therapy *(on-site)*
- Specialized Medical Examination *(on-site)*

HOW DO THEY WORK TOGETHER?

The CAC schedules and coordinates MDT activities and provides ongoing professional development in the specialized area of response to child abuse.

This ensures that team members are present during forensic interviews and that response efforts are efficient and effective.

The team meets monthly to review complex abuse cases and to learn about new service resources and innovative intervention techniques.

Together, the team ensures that no child has to tell his or her story more than once; no child misses an opportunity for help through a medical exam and / or mental health therapy; and that ultimately, no child falls through the cracks of a system intended to protect and heal child victims of abuse. ♥

2007-2008 Center Statistics

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

CHILD VICTIMS RECEIVING SERVICES

		Age Breakdown		Category of Victimization	
Female	84 68%	0 - 6	29%	• Sexual abuse	78%
Male	39 32%	7 - 12	37%	• Physical abuse	14%
		13 - 18	34%	• Witness to violence	17%

ALLEGED PERPETRATORS

Estimated Age of Alleged Perpetrator		Relationship of Alleged Perpetrator	
Under 12	2%	• Natural parent	33%
12 - 18	20%	• Step parent	4%
19 - 25	18%	• Paramour of parent	15%
26 - 45	35%	• Sibling	6%
46 - 60	15%	• Relative other than parent or sibling	17%
Over 60	2%	• Individual known but unrelated	34%
Unknown but over 18	19%	• Individual of unknown relationship	3%
Unknown	7%	• Stranger	0%

FACT: In the US, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday.

One Year, 123 Children

A message from the Executive Director



Reflecting on this past year, I am filled with gratitude for the healing that has taken place in our Center.

Every child I see coming to the Center hurts my soul, but I am lifted up by knowing this young person has come to a place where children are treated with kindness and respect, where stories are told only once, and where healing for an entire family can begin immediately.

The ACCAC is truly a place of hope and healing for the entire community. Mothers, fathers, and even children, have reached out to those who have suffered at the hands of another, all hoping to stop another child from hurting.

Adult survivors write to me or tell

me their stories. They have pressed checks into my hand; offered expertise and in-kind services; they have looked me in the eye and let me know that this place helps them, too.

When I see a community reaching out to care for those in pain and struggling, I know that we are doing the work that needs to be done, and doing it well.

Our multi-disciplinary team's collaborative work continues to amaze me. Each member's commitment to these cases and to working together is impressive. It is hard to achieve this level of partnership, and even harder to sustain it. Yet, we continue to meet monthly, reviewing cases, offering expertise, and discussing together what is best for each child.

Thank you all for the passion, exper-

tise and commitment you bring to each child in need.

I am inspired daily by the dedication of our staff, professionals, volunteers and especially the children who find the strength to believe and trust that they will be safe again.

As a community, when we heal our kids, we heal ourselves and we heal each other. We are indeed fortunate to be a part of the work that changes a child's life. ♥

Joddie Walker

In 2007, there were 192 reports of child abuse in Adams County; about 8 reports per 1000 children, from infancy to age 18.

Our Mission

To meet the needs of children and families in our community by providing a community-based, child focused Center that facilitates a compassionate, multi-disciplinary approach to the prevention, identification, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Ava, 17 and Ashley, 15, are sisters who came to the CAC to tell their story of abuse at the hands of a "family friend" whom they and their mother had known and trusted for years. They all received help.



Caitlyn is an 8 year-old girl in play therapy. She was sexually abused by her 17-year-old brother on multiple occasions before she told what was happening and he was sent to a sex offender treatment program. After six

months of therapy, she is feeling safer, able to sleep again, and is gaining satisfaction in her daily life.



During a snowstorm, 14-year-old Graciela was followed to her bedroom by a family friend who raped her. It was months before she could overcome the fear, shame and guilt she felt to tell her mother. Even after a medical exam and mental health therapy at the CAC, Graciela was unable to sleep in the bed where the act took place. Through a local donor, the ACCAC was able to coordinate the gift of a brand new bed and mattress.



Peter's mother thought his behavioral problems and slipping grades were due to her broken marriage. In reality, 9-year-old Peter was being sexually abused by someone in his after school daycare setting. Disclosures by another victim brought Peter to the CAC where he disclosed the abuse to the forensic interviewer and was referred to ACCAC mental health therapy. After six months of therapy, along with the coordinated support of victim service agencies and his school, Peter was discharged. His behavior and grades improved, as did his relationship with his mother.

Accomplishments from 2007-2008

In 22 months the Adams County Children's Advocacy Center has transitioned from a start-up nonprofit to a fully operational organization. The 2007-2008 fiscal year brought program development that brings us closer to full accreditation with the National Children's Alliance and advancement beyond minimum standards in many areas. The immediate and potential impact of the Center's work on Adams County children is apparent through increased reports of child abuse to Adams County Children & Youth Services, operating at case capacity, discharging children from mental health therapy and reports of charges filed and resulting convictions. ACCAC services are changing the face of how Adams County responds to, treats and prosecutes child abuse cases.

The ACCAC is one of 19 CACs in Pennsylvania and has become a leader in the state in terms of services provided and team coordination. Nationwide, many CACs still struggle to provide services in areas where we have expertise.

EFEs

This year we introduced extended forensic evaluations (EFE) for children who are too young or too emotionally fragile to withstand a single interview session without additional trauma. Very few centers nationwide have forensic interviewers trained in this methodology.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT

At the beginning of the 2008 calendar year, clinical, therapeutic mental health support for non-offending caregivers became available to help families heal and to

foster the best possible home environment for child victims. The response by clinicians, children and family members has been very positive.

AWARENESS

To build awareness of the prevalence of child abuse and to educate the public on the services provided by a CAC, the ACCAC orchestrated a broad regional campaign during Child Abuse Awareness month in April. Local and regional print, radio and television outlets broadcasted the ACCAC's message. Nationally



recognized child advocate and father of a child victim, Mark Lunsford, came from Florida to support the work of CACs and to share his story.

HOUSE TOURS

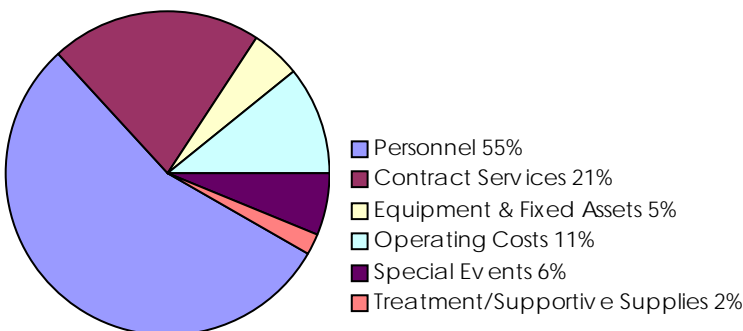
The ACCAC has opened its doors to the community through its newly developed House Tour program. Sponsored by board members, community groups are invited to see the specialized rooms of the CAC and hear from the Executive Director just how a CAC makes a difference in a child's life and in our community. ♥

Mark Lunsford shows a portrait of his 9-year-old daughter Jessica, who was kidnapped, abused, and killed by a known child predator. During his May visit, he spoke about his experience and led the first ever PA Jessie's Ride in support of CACs and stricter penalties against repeat child abusers. We are grateful for Mark's passion and strength. ♥

Financial Information

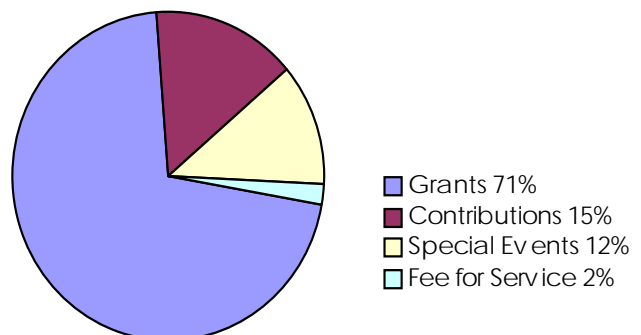
Service & Supply Expenses

July 2007 through June 2008



Revenue

July 2007 through June 2008



The Adams County Children's Advocacy Center is an IRS designated 501(c)3 organization EIN 20-3372800. The official registration and financial information of the Adams County Children's Advocacy Center may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Donors

It is with great appreciation and gratitude that we accept gifts in support of the Adams County Children's Advocacy Center. We are honored to be a part of your

Champions of Children

\$10,000 +

Linda Neiswender

Heart of Gold

\$5,000—\$9,999

P.K. Hoover

Michael G. Callas Charitable Trust

Giver of Hope

\$1,000—\$4,999

Ability Prosthetics and Orthotics

Adams County Foundation

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Community Benefits Real Estate /

Paul and Elizabeth Kellett

Eagles Riders

Exchange Club of Gettysburg

Mary Ann Filler

Gettysburg Bike Week, Inc.

David and Jennifer LeVan

Hartman & Yannetti

Attorneys-at-Law

C.J. Haupt

Helicopter Applicators

Leslie Peoples

Rotary Club of Gettysburg

William and Carolyn Scott

Sixeas Furniture Gallery

Jenifer and Shawn Wagner

Steward of Children

\$500—\$999

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Chambersburg Waste Paper Co.

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Kathy and Jamie Gaskin

Matt and Gina LeVan

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Gettysburg Times

The Railroad Associates Corp (TRAC)

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Friend of the CAC

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Adams County Nursery

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Jennifer Beegle

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Robert and Jennifer Branstetter

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Conewago Enterprises, Inc.

Elizabeth and Wayne Conover

Nancy Cook

James and Roberta Cooke

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Kirk and Elizabeth Cowden

Sarah Cox

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Carolyn Cullari

Justin and Sherri Depasqua

DL3 Systems

The Dobbin House

John and Donna Dodson

Robert and Judith Dreyer

Dycam, Inc. Gettysburg Family

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El Vista Orchard

Kenneth and Doris Elledge

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Kent and Donna Eudy

Jesse and Annette Eyer

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William and Kathleen Faloon

Family & Children Services

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John and Deborah Fitch

John Fofanah

Sonja Foltz

Ronald and Carol Fox

Beatrice Frealing

Cheri Freeman

Jennifer Gastley

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John and Lois Gregor

Linda Guerrieri

D. Richard and Billie-Ann Guise

Timothy and Jenny Guy

Marc and Donna Haines

Harrisburg Area Community College

Henry O. Heiser

charitable giving. Thank you to the many individuals, businesses, trusts and foundations who make our work possible. Your financial support, whether from an established family trust, a monthly EFT, or the pennies from a child's piggy bank, each gift makes the difference and brings healing to an Adams County child who needs our help. *Thank you.* ♥

Arthur and Diana Henne
Herff Jones Inc.
Richard and Diana Hilton
Rebekah Hirneisen
Bradley and Carolyn Hoch
Rebecca Hoch
Melissa Hurley
Montford and Betsy Illick
It Takes A Village, Inc.
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Marni Jones
Rachael Jones
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Christopher and Rebecca Kiefer
Kenneth and Patricia Kimple
Donna Kluck
Allen Knouse
Tom Knox Used Cars
David and Marla Langley
Jane LeVan
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Dina Lowy
Peggy Magaldi
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Silvina Martinez
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Jessica McLucas
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John and Karen Meisner
Judy Miller
Peter and Elizabeth Monahan
Sharon O'Malley Monahan
Kathy Morrow
Dotty and Dennis Moul
Daniel and Lori Moul
Carolyn Muir
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New Oxford Area Chamber of
Commerce
Sarah Norton
Cleveland Null

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Thomas and Kristen O'Shea
Danielle Ott
Penn-Mar Martial Arts Academy
Brenda Petersen
The PNC Financial Services Group
Timothy and Jessica Pope
Katherine and Michael Powley
The Ragged Edge Coffee House
Randy's Lawn Care Service
Paul and Cynthia Reimel
Elizabeth Reisinger
Michael Reyka
Jane Rice
P.D. Riley
Bonnie Riley
Michael and Robin Roop
Bruce and Pamela Rowland
L. Edward and Beverly Ruggles
Kelly Sanders
Mark and Laura Sandoe
Thomas and Caryl Schmitz
Becki Scott
Stacy and David Sechrist
Jeffrey and Pamela Shaffer
Mary and David Sharp
Craig and Michelle Shilling
R.C. Shultz
Patricia Simpson
Andrea Singley
Sites Reality Inc.
Barry and Jean Sixeas
Jay and S. Jean Sixeas
Sixeas Premier Marketing, Inc.
Joseph and Karen Skinner
Alicia and Kirk Smith
South Central Coalition Fos
W.Garth and Robin Sprecher
Keith Stambaugh
Sam and Laurie Stover
James and Margaret Strous
James and Marian Sutton
TK Painting
Ivan and Barbara Taylor
Thompson Photography
Richard and Laurel Thrasher
Constance Trump
John and Barbara Tully
Ruth and Richard Unger

United Way of Adams County
Upper Adams Jaycees
UTZ General Foods, Inc.
Cynthia and Peter Vriens
Earl and Joddie Walker
Sara Walter
Leo and Nancy Ward
Edward and Elizabeth Wargo
Dale N. Weaver
George and Sandra Weikert
Wellspan Health Public Relations
Jacqueline D. White
Kathy Williams
David and Leslie Williams
S. Wiltgen & Associates, LLC
David and Cindy Wright
Zavos Architecture & Design, LLC
Laura Zinck
Jaime Zinn
Michael Zinn Jr.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. If you have found a discrepancy, please accept our apologies and let the office know so that it can be corrected. *Thank you.* ♥

Staff

Joddie Walker, MS
Executive Director

Kimberly Duffy, LSW
Forensic Interviewer

Shelly L. Duckworth, MS, CTS
Clinical Coordinator

Jamison Entwistle, MSW
Clinical Coordinator

Stacy Sechrist, MSW, LSW, CTC
Child and Adolescent Therapist
(Available through Discover the Possibilities, LLC)

Petula Yingling
Administrative Assistant

ACCAC Volunteers Have A Heart

Under the guidance of coordinator Sara Walter, the ACCAC volunteer program was established this year. As a single point of contact for all volunteers, Sara can place volunteers where their skills are most needed. Through her, the ACCAC is able to offer meaningful volunteer experiences for people who wish to donate their time. We are grateful to Sara and to the many dedicated volunteers who gave their time and talent so freely in support of the ACCAC. ♥

2007-2008 Volunteers

Board of Directors	Adrian Johnson
Deb Anders	Laura Lippy
Gary Anders	Sue Meisenhelter
Jermarco Bennett	Danielle Ott
Alice Bower	Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity
Latrina Bowman	Teresa Polvinate
Leslie Bowman	Bob Rickets
Melanie Broadhead	Kathy Rock
Darryl Broadhead	Stacy Sechrist
Lee De	David Sechrist
Judy Dreyer	Barbara Underwood
Jamison Entwistle	Sharleen VanAms
Dewaine Finkenbinder	Joddie Walker
Kathy Gaskin	Greg Walker
Jamie Gaskin	Sam Walter
Catherine Hagler	Sara Walter
Edmund Hardy	Suzanne Wiltgen
Sandy Heimberger	Quiana Young

Events & Activities

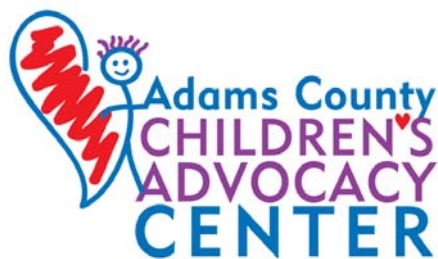
2nd Annual Snowflake Dinner & Auction
Spring Clean Up
April Child Abuse Awareness Month
Mark Lunsford Dinner
Jessie's Ride Gettysburg Bike Week
In house volunteers help with mailings, etc.
Volunteers sit on our Board of Directors and committees.
A volunteer is our volunteer coordinator.
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! ♥

Event Photo Gallery

2007 SNOWFLAKE DINNER & AUCTION



Honorees at the dinner are Linda Zink (left) and Jennifer & David LeVan (center). Nathan Hockley and Paul Kellett cheer on the audience during the live auction (right).



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Gettysburg, PA 17325

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Fax: 717-337-9880
www.adamscountypacac.org

PA JESSIE'S RIDE 2008



Volunteer and event sponsor Jodie Cable looks at Mark's photo album before Jessie's Ride 2008.



Mark Lunsford and Joddie Walker lead the Poker Ride from Battlefield Harley-Davidson in Gettysburg on May 10, 2008.