



Child  
Advocacy  
Center

GIVING A VOICE. NURTURING HOPE.



## A N N U A L   R E P O R T   2 0 2 1

A place where young  
victims of abuse  
come to safely and  
comfortably share their  
difficult stories.



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Katiina Dull



As we draw closer and closer to the one-year mark of my tenure at the Child Advocacy Center, I continue to be humbled by the mission, inspired by our staff, and grateful for the incredible support this community has for the CAC and the work we do. With more than 25 years of history there are so many wonderful people I have met who truly helped shape the Child Advocacy Center.

At the top of the list are the executive directors who came before me. Linda Saturno went

to great lengths to set up a smooth transition and I am so thankful for her kindness. Barbara Brown-Johnson, who served for 19 years, has so much wisdom to share and is so willing to do so. It was such an honor to dedicate the newly expanded service area as The Barbara Brown-Johnson Safe Space. There are countless children who are safe today because of her leadership and advocacy efforts.

There are those incredible supporters who have believed in the mission and work of the CAC and have provided the financial support necessary to ensure its continued operations. One such donor, known as our "Angel donor", has helped with building renovations, expansions, and general support that allows our staff to focus on the needs of the children we serve. Another pillar of support is the Ferguson Family. Their support began in the founding years of the CAC with Dr. John P. Ferguson's involvement in the original steering committee. Today his children and grandchildren continue to be instrumental in supporting the CAC. There are truly so many more stories to share!

I am excited to have joined this community and organization. I look forward to many years of working together to provide a voice and nurture hope for our most vulnerable children.

*Kat Dull*

Katiina Dull

*Executive Director, Child Advocacy Center*

## 2021 Board of Directors

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### VISION

A community where justice is accessible, prevention is possible, families are resilient, and children can heal.

### MISSION

The Child Advocacy Center supports child abuse investigations, provides access to critical services, and raises community awareness to prevent and reduce child abuse and neglect in Southern Missouri.





# SHINE A LIGHT ON CHILD ABUSE

*If we don't talk about it we can't fix it.*

This April we are calling on you to take an active role in helping us shine a light on child abuse. Use the checklist below for things you can do to make it clear that child abuse and neglect have no place in our community.

- Attend the South Central 10-year celebration in West Plains, April 14.
- Attend the Springfield Center open house on April 23.
- Register for a Stewards of Children training event.
- Schedule a tour of the Child Advocacy Center.
- Host a Child Advocacy Center presentation at your business or small group.
- Plant a pinwheel for prevention in your front yard.
- Follow the Child Advocacy Center on Facebook or Instagram. Like and Share posts to help spread the word.
- Donate to support the work the Child Advocacy Center does year-round.

Visit [ChildAdvocacyCenter.org](http://ChildAdvocacyCenter.org) for event details.



## CHILD ABUSE TRUTHS

### WHO IS AT RISK:

**Child abuse occurs across all socioeconomic levels, ethnic and cultural lines, and religions and education levels.**

- 1 in 10 children (all genders) will be sexually abused before they are 18.
- Every 11 seconds a child is reported abused or neglected in the United States.
- Children younger than one-year-old are the most vulnerable to maltreatment, accounting for almost half of child fatalities from abuse.

### WHO ARE THE OFFENDERS:

**90% of the time a child is abused by someone they know and trust.**

- It is VERY rare that a child makes a false allegation of child sexual abuse. It is far more likely they will NEVER disclose.
- For every incident of child abuse or neglect that's reported, an estimated two incidents go unreported.

### WHAT IS THE IMPACT:

**Child abuse has lifelong impacts, especially when left untreated.**

- 13,700 children are abused each day in the United States.
- On average, 4 children die each day as a result of abuse and/or neglect.
- Children who experienced any form of violence in childhood have a 13% greater likelihood of not graduating from high school.



# Child Advocacy Center Services

Imagine you are 6 years old. Your mom's new boyfriend, the first one to make her smile in a long time, has started coming into your bedroom at night.

Imagine you are 13 years old. Your coach has started touching you and tells you he will kill your little sister if you tell anyone.

**What do you do?  
Who do you tell?  
How do you make it stop?**



These are difficult questions to answer. But unless a child tells, it is often impossible to make the abuse stop.

Imagine you found the courage to tell. You told a trusted teacher at school.

You are then interviewed by a police officer, then a social worker, then a doctor, then a lawyer, and then a therapist. You are taken to a police station, a government office, a hospital, and a lawyer's office. You must relive and retell all the painful details of the abuse you have endured. It is exhausting. It is traumatizing.



**Now imagine after finding the courage to tell a trusted teacher you visit the Child Advocacy Center.**

When you arrive at the CAC you are greeted by a **Child and Family Advocate**. Their job is to help you and your supportive caregiver have everything needed to secure safety, stability, and begin the healing journey. They are going to answer questions about what happens next. They are going to keep you updated on the investigation of the case. They are going to support you for as long as you need support.

During your appointment at the CAC, you also meet with the **Forensic Interviewer**.

The **Forensic Interviewer** is a professionally trained interviewer who follows a developmentally appropriate protocol that utilizes research and practice-informed techniques to gather details about the abuse you have experienced or witnessed. While the interview takes place,

**You are interviewed by multiple agencies. You must relive and retell all the painful details of the abuse you have endured. It is exhausting. It is traumatizing. This is where the CAC steps in to simplify the process and offer support.**



When you arrive at the CAC you are greeted by a Child and Family Advocate. Their job is to make sure you and your supportive caregiver have everything needed to secure safety, stability, and begin the healing journey.



the police officer, social worker, and lawyer observe and listen through closed-circuit video systems. The forensic interview is recorded so every word you say and every expression you make is a part of the case file.

After your forensic interview, you visit the onsite nurse practitioner for a checkup.

The **Nurse Practitioner** is specially trained to conduct Child at Risk Exams (CARE), Sexual Assault Forensic Exams (SAFE), and Healthy Child and Youth Screenings. The medical exam is noninvasive, conducted in a child-friendly manner. At the end of the exam, the nurse practitioner reassures you, "You are ok. You are not broken."

Before you leave, the CAC Child & Family Advocate, police officer, social worker, and nurse all talk about what needs to happen to keep you safe. They share this with your caregiver and help get you connected to a mental health therapist so you can continue on your path to healing. This all takes place in a few hours. Everyone is at the CAC. It is welcoming. It is child-friendly. You feel safe. You can speak your truth.

**This is why the Child Advocacy Center is so critical.**

## Who is apart of the multidisciplinary team that responds to child abuse



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The topic of child abuse makes us uncomfortable and as a defense mechanism, we disengage from conversations about abuse. But it is that silence that has created a dark space where child abuse thrives. The CAC's Prevention Education Initiative shines a light on abuse and creates a forum for conversations to take place.

The Child Advocacy Center's Prevention Education Initiative will bring a research-based child abuse prevention curriculum to schools, youth-serving organizations, and the general adult population.

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# PREVENTION IS POSSIBLE

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## The Need for Prevention Education

Our children and teens are more at risk than ever for manipulation and abuse. Yet we shy away from talking to them about abuse, sexual abuse, and online dangers. Some are embarrassed. Some think they are too young. Some think having these conversations will expose children and teens to material that might cause them emotional distress.

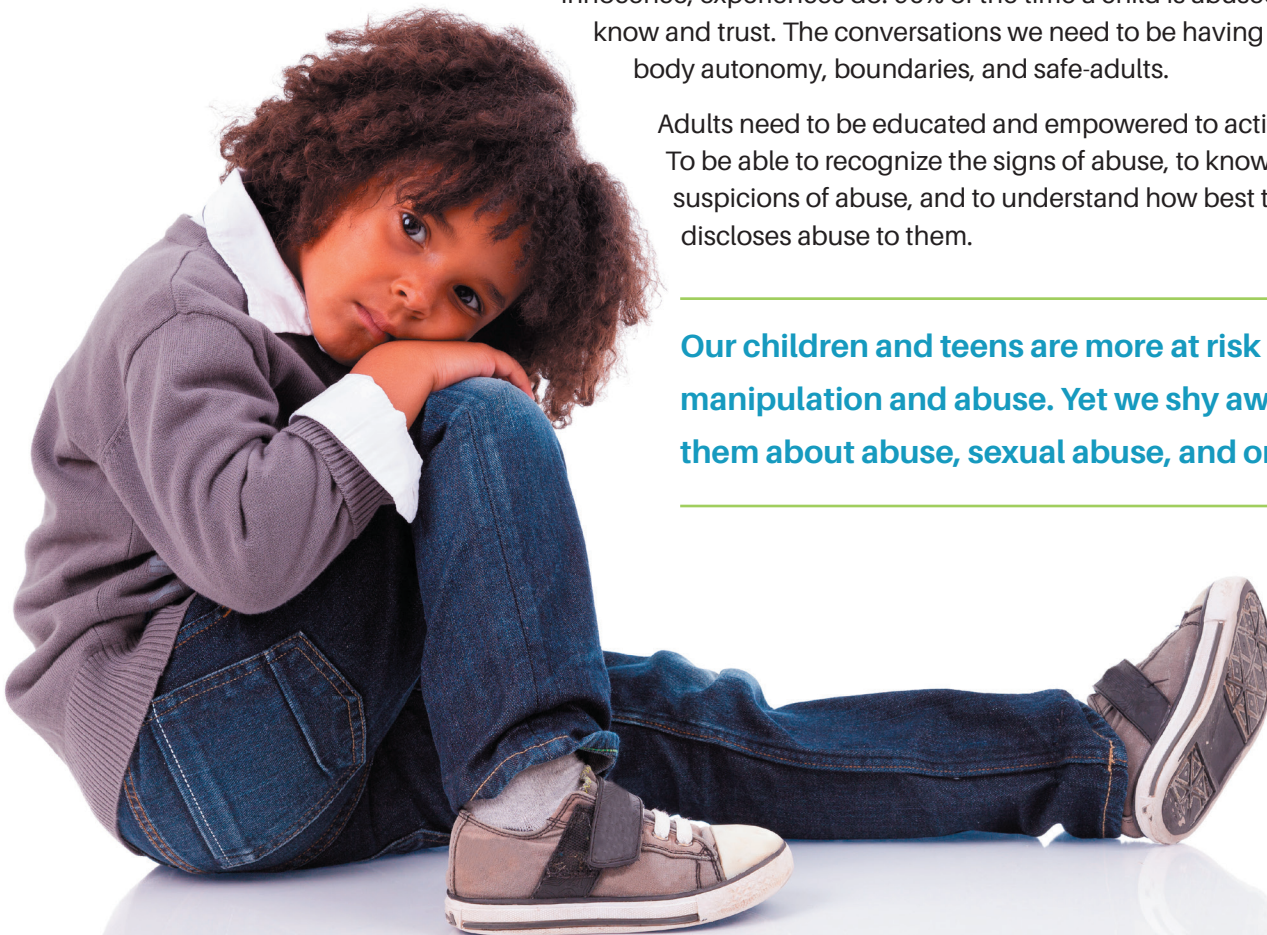
Research tells us that is not the case. Education does not take away a child's innocence, experiences do. 90% of the time a child is abused by someone they know and trust. The conversations we need to be having with children are about body autonomy, boundaries, and safe-adults.

Adults need to be educated and empowered to actively protect children. To be able to recognize the signs of abuse, to know how to report suspicions of abuse, and to understand how best to respond if a child discloses abuse to them.

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### Prevention in Schools

Children need to be educated and empowered with prevention education curricula from caring and trained adults. They need to know that what is happening to them isn't "normal" or "okay". They need to know how to ask for help.

The CAC has invested in the Child Safety Matters for Elementary School and Teen Safety Matters for Middle and High School curriculum programs, developed by the Monique Burr Foundation for Children. These programs are comprehensive, research-based, primary prevention programs that utilize information and universal safety rules and strategies to prevent all types of victimization.

#### In 2021 we provided prevention education to:

- Marshfield High School
- 6th, 7th, & 8th-grade students in Nixa Public Schools

### Prevention in Youth-Serving Organizations

Adults who work with children must know how to recognize, report, and respond to child abuse and neglect. Youth-serving organizations must have policies in place that are designed to protect children and must be committed to annual training for all employees and volunteers.

The CAC utilizes the Stewards of Children program. Developed by the Darkness to Light organization, Stewards of Children utilizes real people (survivors and experts) and real stories (immediate and long-term effects) that demonstrate how to protect children. In a 2-hour session that can be delivered in-person or virtually, the trained facilitator presents materials and leads conversation and discussion amongst participants. Ideally, this training is also paired with mandated reporter training that further explores the Missouri statutes that require specific individuals to report suspected child abuse and neglect.



Educational materials provided by Darkness to Light.

### TALK TO KIDS ABOUT BODY SAFETY & BOUNDARIES

As a caregiver, you can and should talk openly about our bodies and healthy boundaries with your kids. This helps build a strong bond that will make you the "go-to person" when they have questions or if a situation arises.

So, how do you get this conversation started? If you're feeling unsure, take a deep breath. We promise you feel more uncomfortable than they do. The most important thing is to make sure your kids understand that no matter what happens, they can share with you without fear of being blamed and that you will protect them.

Below are some questions to get started:

- "It's not okay for someone to ask you to touch their private parts with any part of your body, including your mouth."
- "No one should ever touch you where a bathing suit covers." This is a good visual, especially for young children.
- "Your whole body is a private part whenever you want it to be. You get to decide who touches you."
- "No one should ask you to keep a secret. If they do, you should tell me."

Learn More at [www.D2L.org](http://www.D2L.org)

### STEP-UP AND SPEAKOUT A PARENT'S GUIDE TO SELECTING YOUTH SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

Between soccer practice, tutoring sessions, and piano lessons, your child is frequently in the care of many different adults. By stepping up and speaking out to youth serving organizations in your community, you have the power to protect your child and countless others against child sexual abuse.

Organizations should be ready and willing to talk about their prevention measures. Following are some proactive questions to help you start the conversation.

**IS THERE A CHILD PROTECTION POLICY?**  
Youth serving organizations should have clearly defined child protection policies.

**DOES THE POLICY INCLUDE LIMITING ISOLATED ONE-ON-ONE SITUATIONS?**  
One-on-one time is important to a child's emotional growth and development, but it does not have to happen behind closed doors. One-on-one interactions should take place in an open, observable, and interruptible setting.

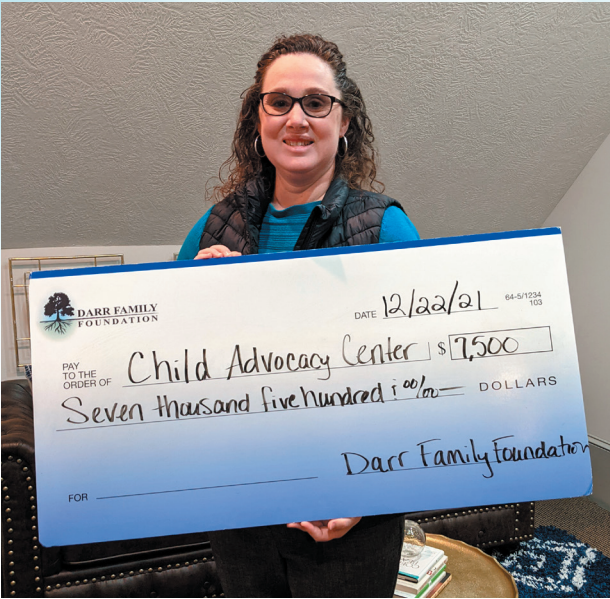
**HOW ARE EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS SCREENED?**  
Employee screening best practices includes an in-depth application, personal and professional references, criminal background check, and an extensive interview.

**DO OLDER AND YOUNGER CHILDREN INTERACT, AND IF SO, HOW?**  
Supervising contact between children and older/bigger youth requires structure and adult supervision. There should be separate areas and activities for different age groups. Make it clear that you would always like an adult present with your child.

**ARE THERE CLEAR PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING SUSPICIONS OR INCIDENTS OF ABUSE?**  
Push for organizations to provide mandatory reporting training for their staff. Over half of all mandated reporters fail to report suspicion of abuse. In most cases they are simply confused or uncomfortable about their responsibilities. You can help by sharing this information. If you have reason to believe abuse is occurring at an organization, trust your intuition and make a report.

**DARKNESS TO LIGHT** 1-843-965-5444 • [www.D2L.org](http://www.D2L.org)  
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## 2021 Impact and Highlights

1,418 

Children Seen

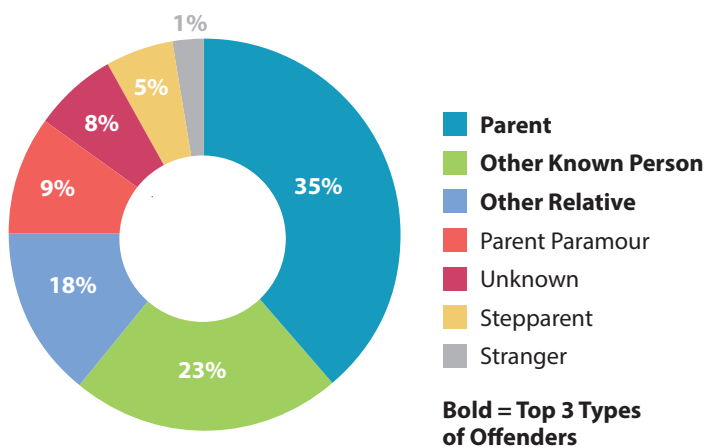
1,034 

Medical Exams

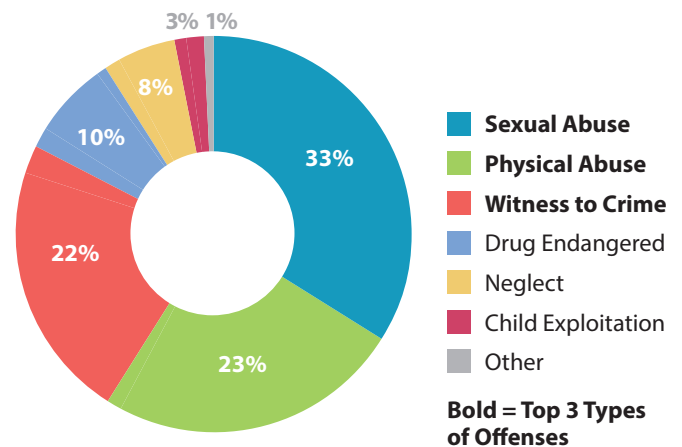
1,214 

Forensic Interviews

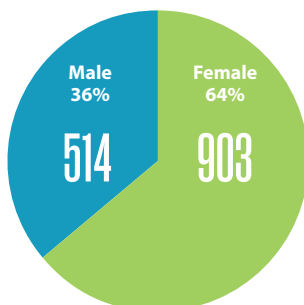
### Reported Offenders



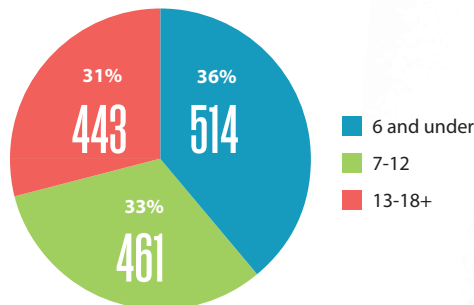
### Reported Offenses



### Gender



### Age



“At such a low point in our lives when we felt stripped of dignity and control, the gentle way we were treated gifted a portion of dignity and control back to us. My son was reassured. I was reassured. We are permanently indebted to the service you offer families in our area”.

*Quote from a Caregiver*



## 2021 Financials

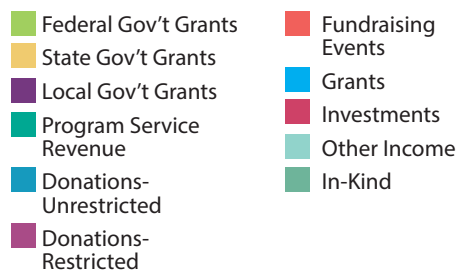
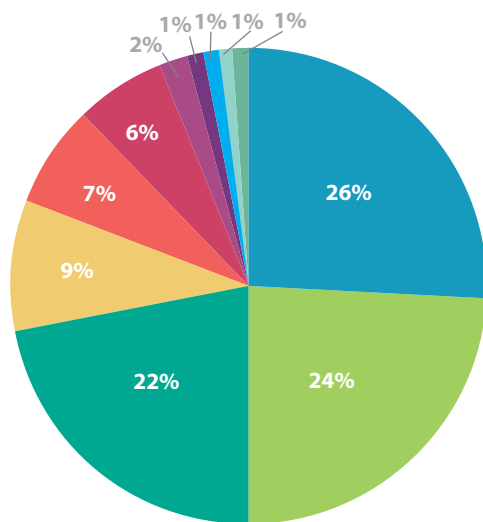
### ASSETS

Checking & Money Market	\$ 1,477,422.58
Receivables	278,541.78
Investments	1,792,614.37
Endowments	260,494.86
Fixed Assets	2,036,988.24
Prepaid Expenses	16,802.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,862,864.77</b>

### REVENUE

Federal Government Grants	\$ 752,528.51
State Government Grants	271,472.82
Local Government Grants	19,409.02
Program Service Revenue	690,575.00
Donations - Unrestricted	833,500.15
Donations - Restricted	81,300.00
Fundraising Events	236,613.87
Grants	13,905.00
Investments	204,038.61
Other Income	8,930.75
In-Kind	22,901.76
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,135,175.49</b>

2021 TOTAL REVENUE



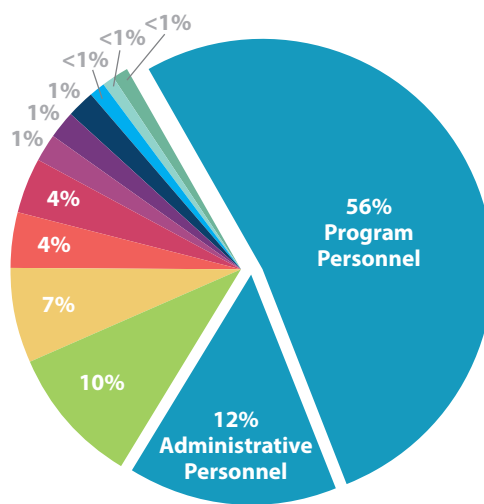
### LIABILITIES

Accrued Payroll/Vacation	\$ 108,347.83
Payables	46,630.72
Other Accrued	12,489.12
PPP Loan	315,205.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>482,672.67</b>
Net Assets	5,380,192.10
<b>Total Liability &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$5,862,864.77</b>

### EXPENSE

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 1,719,185.90
Maintenance & Depreciation	150,290.73
Contracted Services	268,646.33
Forensic & Information Technology	5,513.66
Fundraising Expenses	85,757.73
Supplies & PPE	15,848.95
Victim Services & Supplies	30,374.52
Insurance	35,768.63
Utilities & Business Expenses	99,953.04
Staff Wellness & Training	33,751.28
Vehicles	5,035.60
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,503,126.37</b>

2021 TOTAL EXPENSES



## It Takes a Village

Collaboration is key to the CAC model. Rather than duplicate services, we connect children and families to the following community organizations to help meet their ongoing needs.

Agape House

Care to Learn

Chaos Closet

Christo's House

Council of Churches of the Ozark

Drew Lewis Foundation at The Fairbanks

Foster Adopt Connect

Glo Center

Greene County Family Justice Center

Harmony House

Isabel's House

Jordan Valley Clinic

Lost and Found Grief Center

MUNCH

One Door

Ozark Action

Ozark Area Community Action Corp.

Ozarks Healthcare Behavioral Health Center

Porch Therapy Group

Samaritan Outreach

The Springfield Dream Center

The Victim Center



# 2021 Monetary Gifts

## \$100,000+

Jim & Anna Ferguson

## \$25,000 - \$49,000

Robert & Dani Helm

O'Reilly Auto Parts

## \$10,000 - \$24,999

Estel Brackett

Thomas Carter

Design Fabrication

Gammill Family Foundation

Industrial Services Company

James & Catherine Moore Fund

John & Jeris Ferguson

Judith Irwin

Mindel Family Foundation

Musgrave Foundation

Ron & Janice Penney

Stephen & Peggy Sheppard

## \$5,000 - \$9,999

Paula Adams

Bee Payne-Stewart Foundation

Janelle Cobb

Corwin Automotive of Springfield

Darr Family Foundation

Harwood Ferguson

Heart of America Beverage Co.

Tom & Mindy Hoff

Frederick Husted

Jersey Mike's Corporate Advertising Fund

Roberta McLain

SRC Holdings Corporation

James Trogolo

The Turner Family Foundation

## \$1,000 - \$4,999

Arvest Bank - Springfield

Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Auxan Capital Advisors, LLC

Nancy Ball

Robert Bennett

Binnie Clements Guild

BluCurrent Credit Union

Jason Boehm

Cheryl Briggs

BRS CPAs & Advisors

Joe Carmichael

The Carpet Shoppe

Catholic Campus Ministry

Civil Kitchen

Commerce Bancshares Foundation

Commerce Bank

Michael Cordonnier

Marcus Crigler

DermaHealth

Design Bundles

Desirae Doyle

Joann M Dull

Elliott, Robinson & Company LLP

Emphadic, LLC

Finnegan's Wake

Michael Gerke

Jess J. Graham Fund

Great Southern Bank

John & Alesha Gonzales

Harem & Company

Mark Harrington

Calvin & Ann Hawkins, Jr.

Doug Howell

Jim & Janet Hyde

Jack Henry & Associates

Jimm's Steakhouse & Pub

Barbara Brown-Johnson

Clinton & Shelby Little

Bryan Magers

Meek Charitable Trust

Nixa Community Foundation

Janet Nowak

Jean Nyberg

Debbie Olson

Larry O'Reilly

David & Stacey O'Reilly

Ozark Rotary Club

Peggy Pearl

Penmac Staffing Services, Inc.

Bryan & Stacey Penney

Penney Family Foundation

PHD Painting, Inc.

Becky Perryman

Rapid Robert's

Reliable Superstore

Stephanie Rice

Rich and Teresa Wallace Community Fund

Matt Richardson

William Shaw

Marguerite Spilde

SRC Community Relations Committee

Sunrise Rotary Charitable Fund

John & Lauren Tiedeman

Trotter Family Foundation

Two Men and a Truck

Volt Credit Union

Walgreens

Wood & Houston Bank

Rosalie Wooten

Tal & Rosalie O'Reilly

Wooten Family Foundation

Zynergy Financial Group LLC

## \$500 - \$999

Jon Baker

Tracy Barnas

Jimmy Barnes

Carol Besselievre

Dan & Lisa Blumenstock

Gary Brock

Thomas Carlson

Michael Cochran

Brian & Catherine Crockett

DB Design Salon & Gallery, LLC

Judith Dasovich

Joe & Katiina Dull

Jeffrey & Jane Fairchild

Julie Filips

Ronnie Hall

Haute Tot

Michael & Jill Headley

Aaron & Jennifer Holum

John Horton

Ken & Teresa Schwab Charitable Fund

KKJ Wholesale LLC

KPM CPAs

Todd Krauser

Terry & Mary Kay Meek

Joan Menchetti

Tina Miller

Morelock Family Limited Partnership

Peter Muellner

Seth Murray

Optimist Club of West Plains

Charlie & Mary Beth O'Reilly Family Foundation

Ozarks Health Care

Penn Enterprises, Inc.

Sanford & Associates

Drs. Ann & Kent Schaller

Teresa Schrock

Jeffery Shore

Simmons Bank

Bill Squires

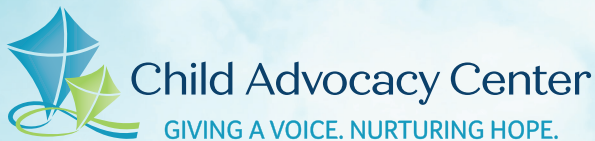
Stifel Nicolaus

Adam Toth

West Plains Bank & Trust Company

Stacey Zengel

Donor list accurate as of February 23, 2022. We do our best to keep our list as accurate as possible. Please let us know if you have an update or would like to report an error. Contact Lori Barnes Miller at 417-831-2337.



1033 E. WALNUT, SPRINGFIELD, MO 65806

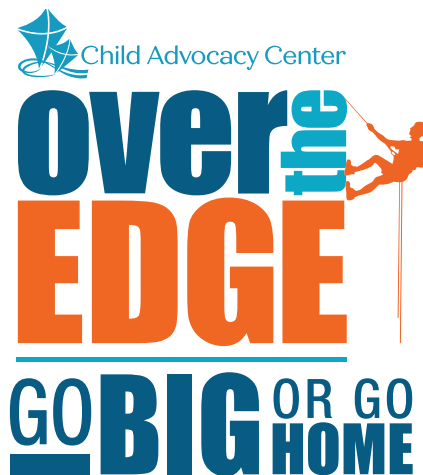
Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Springfield, MO  
Permit 200

## SAVE THE DATE



Presented by **volt**  
CREDIT UNION

*June 11, 2022* **5:00 - 11:00 pm**  
Ebbets Field: 1027 E Walnut St.



**Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022**



1033 E. Walnut  
Springfield, MO 65806

417.831.2327  
childadvocacycenter.org

## Ways to Get Involved

Would you like to take a tour and learn more about the services provided by the Child Advocacy Center? Make plans to attend one of our community functions in April:

**April 14th**  
West Plains 10-year Anniversary

**April 23rd**  
Springfield Expansion Ribbon Cutting