



the  
children's  
advocacy  
center

# ANNUAL REPORT

2004  
TO  
2024



*Celebrating 20 Years of Helping  
Children Affected by Violence*





## A Message from Leadership

2023 was a banner year for the CAC. The CAC forensically interviewed 358 children affected by crime and our advocates helped 491 children and their families. Since 2004, we've been helping children like Max.

*Max was 14 years old when s/he came to us. Max had been sexually assaulted by a family member for several years. Max was very anxious about talking about what happened. Our advocates provided support and resources to Max and his/her mother, and our forensic interviewer empowered Max to share all the details about without getting scared. Max's mom recently shared that s/he is feeling less scared and sad, s/he has been responding well to his/her mental health treatment, her/his grades have improved and s/he feels safe with the support of his advocates. Although the case is still pending in court, because of the powerful evidence from Max' forensic interview, it is more likely that the family member who assaulted Max will plead guilty, meaning Max won't have to testify.*

In addition, we hired Daniel Castaneda as our new Executive Director who is doing an excellent job leading our amazing staff. We also adopted Core Values and updated our Mission and Vision.

None of this work could have been done without the leadership of the Board and the dedication and hard work of our staff. We are grateful to our multi-disciplinary team, generous donors and community partners who help ensure child victims have a voice. We are only able to continue to do our important work because of your commitment to helping child victims of crime.

With sincere gratitude,

**Kathy Cady, J.D.**  
President of the Board

**Daniel Castaneda, M.A.**  
Executive Director



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## Vision & Values

The CAC was founded as a non-profit in 2004 to provide a coordinated, child-focused approach and comprehensive services to abused children and their families, ensuring that children are not revictimized by the very system designed to protect them.

### Vision

Giving children a place to be heard and start healing.

### Mission

We provide children affected by violence and their families with services of support, forensic interviews, resources, and hope.

### Core Values



**EMPOWER:** We support children by giving them a safe space to tell their truth.



**INTEGRITY:** We use nationally recognized best practices to reduce additional trauma and seek justice.



**HEALING:** We support children and families by providing resources and referrals to help rebuild their lives.



**COMPASSION:** We treat the children and families we serve, our partners and each other with respect.



**COLLABORATE:** We work with other governmental and community partners to seek justice.



## How we help

The CAC (1) conducts forensic interviews and (2) provides advocacy services to the child and family to help them heal.

### What is a Forensic Interview?

A forensic interview is an information gathering process in which children who have been abused are questioned in a developmentally sensitive, legally sound, and non-suggestive manner about what has happened to them. Our forensic interviewers have been trained in nationally accepted, best practice ways to ask children questions. This interview is observed by our partners, instead of having each agency interview the child separately. Our partners include prosecutors, law enforcement and child protection social workers. Conducting one forensic interview observed by all partner agencies greatly reduces the chances of further trauma to children that could otherwise occur from excessive interviews and lack of communication and coordination among agencies.

### How Our Advocates Help Children and Families

Our advocates give families specific referrals for mental health counseling, housing / relocation, financial aid, victims' rights, the criminal justice process, California victim compensation, and other services and resources.





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## Key Accomplishments

Below is a brief recap of our accomplishments over the last 20 years:

**2007**

Accredited by the National Children's Alliance.



**2014**

Moved to a much larger facility on the safe and beautiful campus of the Masonic Homes.



**2015**

Entered into a partnership with Pet Prescription Team to provide therapy dogs for children and their families to provide emotional support.



**2017**

Entered into a partnership with the Masonic Center for Youth and Families to provide mental health services to the children and families we serve.



**2018**

Opened satellite site to serve children in Long Beach and the surrounding areas.

**2023**

Entered into partnership with Forensic Nurse Specialists to offer non acute Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) exams at Covina site.



## Save the Date

### Thursday, September 5, 2024

We hope you come to our **“Be a Hero for Children” Gala** at the Glendora Country Club. We are excited to announce that Suzie Suh, co-anchor for KCAL News primetime will MC this year’s Gala. Please mark your calendars to attend, honor superheroes, enjoy a delicious dinner, buy wine at the Wine Wall, bid on auction items and lift a paddle - all to raise money to empower children affected by violence.



### APRIL 2024

The month of April has been designated as [National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#) and [National Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#).

### APRIL 24

[Denim Day](#): Wear jeans with a purpose, support survivors and educate about sexual violence.

### APRIL 21 - 27

[Crime Victims’ Rights Week](#): This year’s theme is “How would you help? Options, services, and hope for crime survivors.”

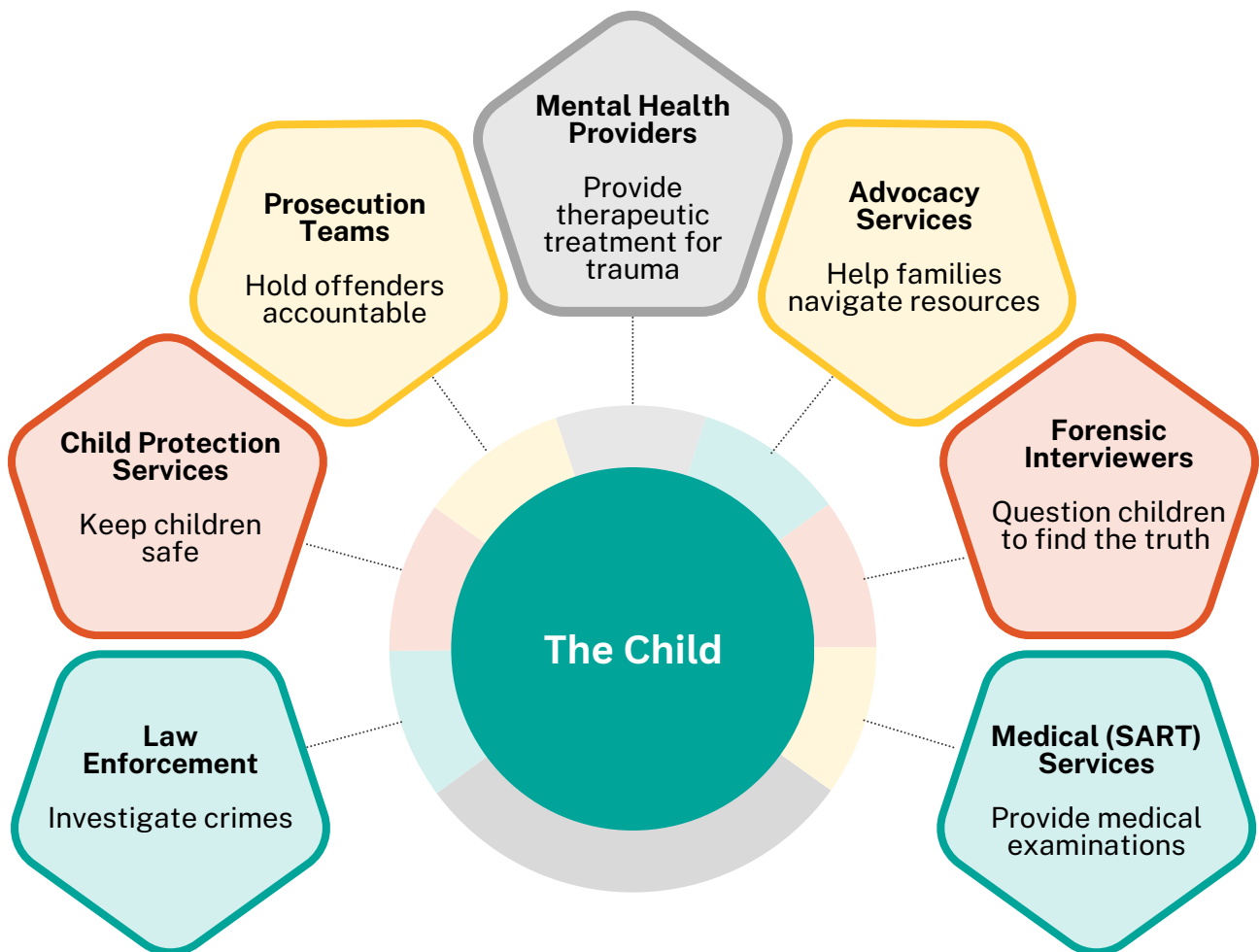
### APRIL 22 - 26

[National Youth Violence Prevention Week](#): Join youth and teens from across America to take a stand against violence.

*These events in April highlight the importance of what we do.*

## A Team Effort

Our approach puts the child at the center. Law enforcement, child protection agencies, prosecution teams, mental health professionals, forensic interviewers, victim advocates, and medical professionals collaborate to provide comprehensive support to children and their families and ensure effective investigation and prosecution of offenders.





## Thank You to Our Generous Donors

- Masonic Homes of California
- The Rose Hills Foundation
- National Children's Alliance
- Kate Capshaw & Steven Spielberg
- Wayne Woodman Charitable Fund
- Association of Certified Family Law Specialists
- In-N-Out Burger Foundation
- Miller Foundation
- Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs
- Macy's Gives
- Forensic Nurse Specialists
- Taylor & Ring
- Nelson & Fraenkel
- Dordulian Law Group
- Kathy Cady & John Pomroy
- Ralph Shapira
- Los Angeles Trial Lawyers Charities
- Los Angeles County Profession Peace Officers Association
- Curtis & Barbara Cady
- Destiny Masonic Lodge
- My Stuff Bags
- Linus Project
- A Blanket of My Own
- HealthTrack
- Kiddie Academy of Huntington Beach
- California Office of Emergency Services

*Your generosity plays a critical role in ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of the CAC, enabling us to continue providing comprehensive, coordinated, and compassionate services to child victims of abuse and their families.*



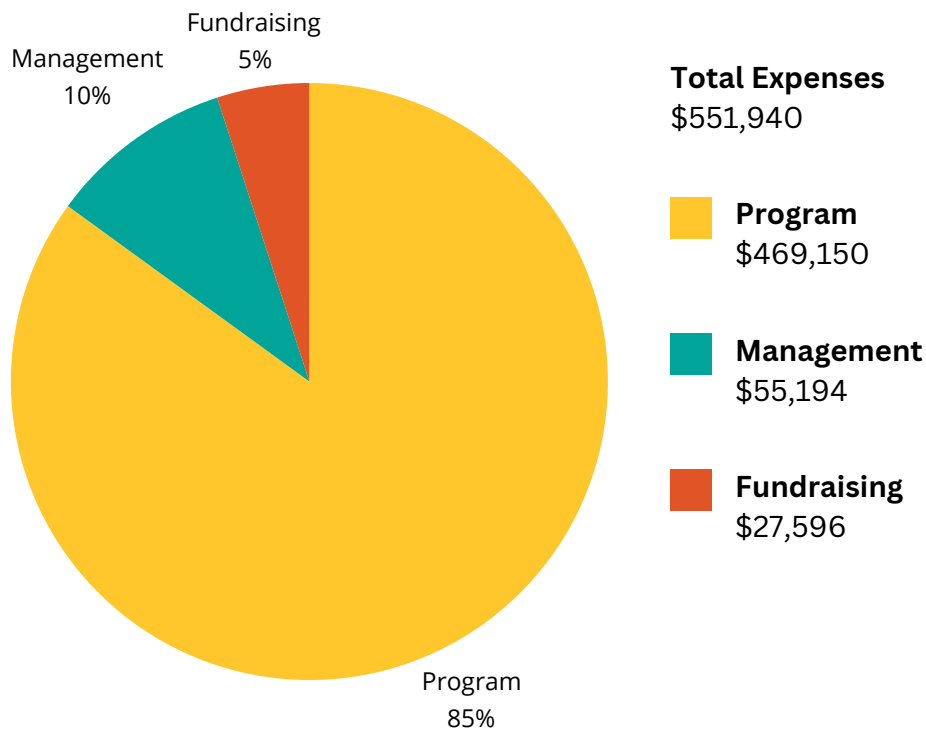


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## Financial Responsibility

The CAC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our Tax ID is 86-1051258.

The CAC is funded by private donations, foundations and government grants. This critical support allows the CAC to provide services for FREE to children and their families.



*\*Information is based on our 2022 IRS form 990.*



## Wonderful Staff

Doing this important work takes commitment from many people. Our amazing staff include forensic interviewers, advocates, a multidisciplinary team coordinator, and many volunteers including Pet Prescription Team who provide the handlers and therapy dogs for our children and families.

**To learn more about, to volunteer or to donate contact [childrensadvocacyctr.org](https://childrensadvocacyctr.org)**





## Board of Directors

### President

**Kathleen Cady, J.D.**

CAC Co-Founder  
Deputy District Attorney, Retired  
Los Angeles County  
District Attorney's Office

### Vice-President

**Frank Dunnick, J.D.**

Deputy District Attorney  
Los Angeles County  
District Attorney's Office

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CAC Co-Founder  
Director, Forensic Nurse Specialists, Inc.

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Los Angeles County Department of Children  
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Masonic Center for Youth and Families

**John A. Pomroy**

CAC Co-Founder  
Detective, Retired  
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Captain  
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

**Dr. Linda Yang, M.D.**

Pediatrician/Neonatologist, Retired

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Asst. Lab Director, Retired  
California Department of Justice

**Ralph J Shapira, J.D.**

Attorney



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[childrensadvocacyctr.org](http://childrensadvocacyctr.org)



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SAVE THE DATE

## SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

Be a Hero for Children Gala  
Glendora Country Club

*More details to come!*

