



Denver Children's
Advocacy Center

Where Children & Families Come First

2024 Annual Report 



Dear Friends,

It's an incredible honor to write to you as the Executive Director of the Denver Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC) for the first time. Although I'm new to this role, my journey with DCAC spans over seven years on the Board, including nearly three years as Board Chair. Throughout that time, I've witnessed firsthand the strength, compassion, and dedication that define this organization—and it's this deep connection that fuels my passion every day.

This past year has been a remarkable chapter in DCAC's story. We've continued to meet the complex needs of children and families impacted by abuse and trauma with care that is both compassionate and evidence-based. We've strengthened partnerships, expanded access to vital services, and made meaningful strides toward our vision of a safer, healthier community for every child.

You'll read more about those accomplishments in the pages of this report. But behind every number and initiative lies a child's story—a story of resilience, healing, and hope. Your support makes these stories possible.

As we look ahead, I'm inspired by what we can achieve together. Thank you for standing with us in this mission, and for believing in a future where every child can thrive.

With gratitude,



Will Braunstein

Executive Director
Denver Children's Advocacy Center

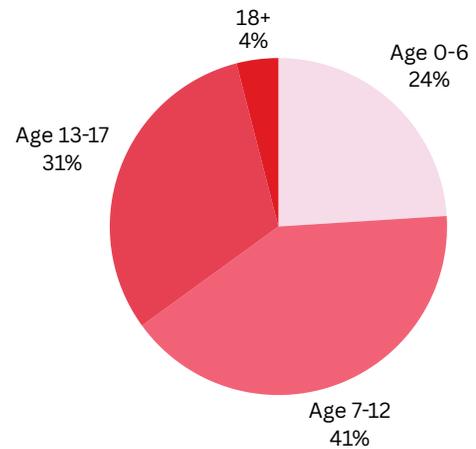
Our Clients



Gender



Age



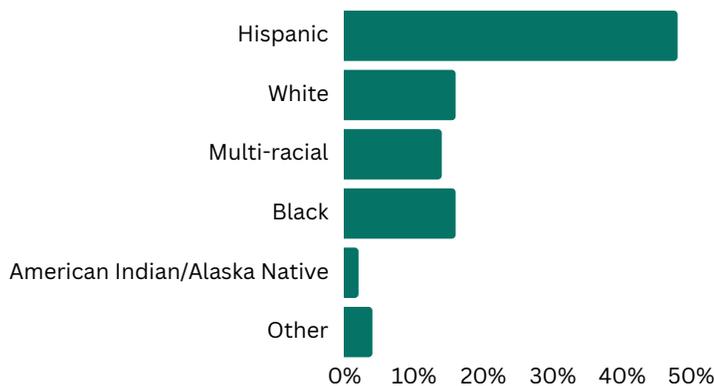
1,348 children

(doesn't include prevention or Mental Health Consultation)

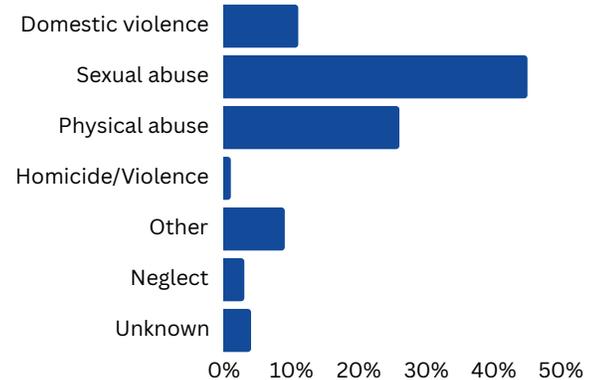
13,644 total population

including non-offending family members served in 2024

Race



Trauma



Treatment & Assessment



The Treatment and Assessment Team at DCAC provides trauma-informed, culturally responsive mental health services to children and families impacted by abuse, neglect, and violence. Our licensed therapists and clinicians offer individualized assessments and evidence-based interventions designed to promote healing, strengthen family relationships, and support long-term resilience. Whether a child has experienced physical abuse, sexual abuse, domestic violence, or other traumatic events, our team meets them with compassion, expertise, and a deep commitment to restoring hope.

The Treatment and Assessment Team continued to train and supervise interns from the University of Denver, Regis University, Metro State University, and the University of Colorado.

DCAC has therapists trained in EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing), TF-CBT (Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy), CPP (Child-Parent Psychotherapy), and PSB (Problematic Sexual Behaviors), and CFTSI - Child and Family Stress Intervention.

Testimonials from parents and caregivers:

“Working with a provider who honored my child's neurodiversity and applied an evidence-based treatment to help him!”

“Child was able to cope with situations when he became upset. He loves his breathing track and coping videos.”

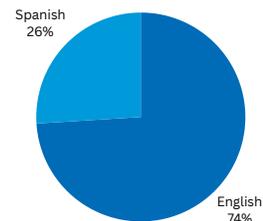
“Focused attention when my kiddo needed it most.”

“The flexible schedule and learning how to work with my child during certain meltdowns.”

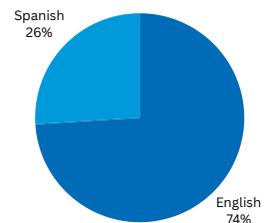
“Knowing our child was supported, valued, and loved.”

“I believe in my most honest opinion that DCAC is doing a terrific job and they should continue to do so, my family and I will forever be thankful for you all.”

616 clients
4,523 treatment sessions



7,936 case management sessions



Behind Every Statistic Is a Child Like D'Angelo



I am incredibly grateful for the support and care provided by DCAC. Their dedication and expertise have been instrumental in helping my child heal and regain confidence, allowing them to embrace life with renewed hope and joy.
-Keana (D'Angelo's mom)

D'Angelo was 6 when he came for his first forensic interview at DCAC. His mom had found out his stepdad was sexually abusing him. He was so scared that first interview due to the threats his stepdad had made to him about if he told anyone what had happened to him. He didn't say much during that interview but did disclose abuse to the medical provider after the interview.

He started coming to DCAC for therapy shortly after his first interview. At first, he was scared and angry and didn't want to talk about anything that happened to him. After working with him for a couple of months, D'Angelo started opening up with me in therapy. We started to go outside during our sessions so he could get some energy out, and he responded to activities I would bring to the sessions. He got to the point where he was ready for a second interview and was able to disclose more information about his abuse.

DCAC was able to support the family throughout the process and help them prepare for the court process. D'Angelo did a great job testifying, and his stepdad was found guilty by the jury on all counts and sentenced to 36 years in prison. To this day, I am still in contact with D'Angelo's mom, and DCAC continues to support the family as they move forward.

Rapid Response



Family advocacy and forensic interviews are of vital importance in the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault and other crimes against children. DCAC's highly qualified Rapid Response Team conducts neutral, fact-finding interviews in a welcoming, child-friendly environment. Our team collaborates closely with law enforcement, medical providers, and child protection workers. Families also receive compassionate advocacy, crisis support, and referrals, ensuring no child or caregiver navigates this process alone.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

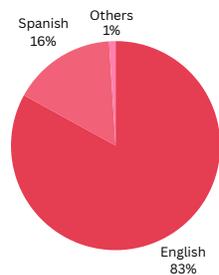
Denver Anti-Trafficking Alliance (DATA) Multidisciplinary Team

The Rapid Response Team actively participates in the DATA Multidisciplinary Team, which brings together professionals across Denver County to collaboratively support the DATA MDT mission through monthly case coordination and partnership meetings.

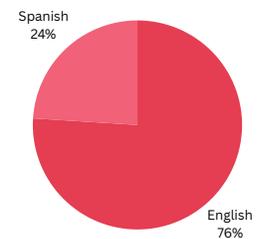
Angel serves as our lead forensic interviewer on child trafficking cases, bringing specialized expertise to support these vulnerable youth. Our Family Advocacy Team works closely with the DATA Youth Outreach Specialist to provide comprehensive services, including resource navigation, system education, and coordinated case management.

From 2023 to 2024, we experienced a 191% increase in the number of children referred for concerns related to trafficking victimization. This increase does not necessarily reflect a rise in trafficking incidents. Instead, it demonstrates the strengthening of our collaboration with the DATA team and the progress made in identifying at-risk youth and connecting them to essential services.

856 forensic interviews



7,633 victim advocacy sessions



Shelby DPD's Facility Dog



Every child interviewed at DCAC receives a stuffed animal modeled after Shelby, the Denver Police Department's beloved comfort K9.

These soft companions provide comfort and reassurance during some of the most challenging moments a child may ever experience.

"Loved the stuffy Shelby!"

"The pup really helped my child relax."

"Everyone we interacted with was empathetic, thoughtful, kind, nice, explained what would happen clearly and kept their word."

The idea began in 2023, when Technician Teresa Gillian and Shelby met a 5-year-old boy preparing for his forensic interview. After time together, he clung to Shelby and said, "I need her."

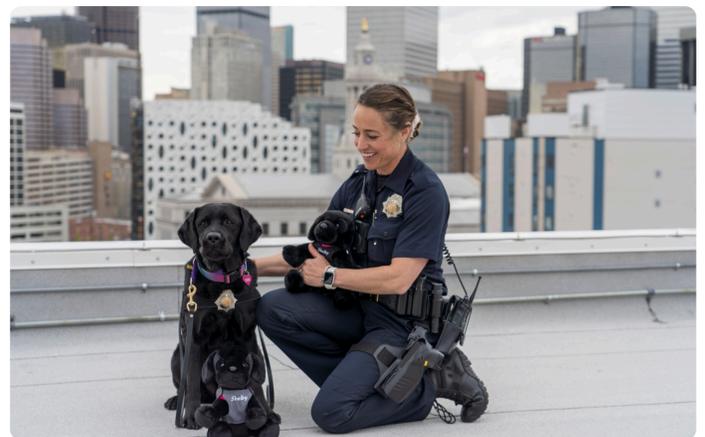
That moment sparked the creation of a lasting comfort for children navigating trauma.

Each Shelby wears a miniature Denver Police vest and a collar with the words "You Matter"—a reminder that every child is seen, valued, and protected.

Thanks to support from the Denver Police Foundation, the Leetsdale Cop Shop, and generous community donors, 1,000 stuffed Shelbys were purchased. Fewer than 100 remain.

Shelbys are now shared not just by Shelby and Technician Gillian, but also by DCAC detectives, victim advocates, and medical partners.

Together, we offer more than just services—we offer compassion, comfort, and connection.



Community Outreach



DCAC's Community Outreach team works at the frontlines of prevention and education, equipping children, families, schools, and community organizations with tools to recognize, prevent, and respond to abuse. Through school-based programs, caregiver workshops, and professional trainings, our team fosters safer environments and promotes healthy development for children across Denver. By partnering with trusted community organizations, we expand access to mental health resources and ensure families know where to turn for support.

DENVER SAFE FROM THE START

A bilingual, school-centered prevention program for children ages 3-10 emphasizing the importance of strengthening families to protect children from abuse and ensure their healthy development.

5,338 students reached

430 teachers and school staff
541 caregivers

EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION

DCAC provides consultation services to children, families, and school staff in Adams County and SW Denver. These services include working individually with students, providing social/emotional support groups in classrooms, training for staff and caregivers who are navigating ways to manage challenging behaviors, and making appropriate referrals to outside partnerships.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Organizations across Colorado request customized trainings from DCAC on building trauma-informed spaces for children, families, and their communities.

66 trainings

Total Participants:
3705

13 mental health consultation sites

+ 597 Children served
+ 308 Adults served
+ 312 individual consultations

COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATIONS

DCAC diversifies its approach to community engagement by partnering with a variety of community agencies that provide a wide range of services. By working together, we can expand our access to families who may not otherwise know of the services we provide to children and their families.

74 new partnerships in 2024



REVISION: "ReVision is actively working in the Westwood and Southwest communities to support families facing food insecurity. Through their efforts, they've also opened the doors for collaboration with DCAC, helping to bring important conversations about mental health into the community. Thanks to ReVision's partnership, we have more opportunities than ever to connect with the people we serve. They generously share their space with partners, creating a hub where valuable resources can be shared for the benefit of the community. For years, DCAC has provided trainings to community leaders and youth on a variety of critical topics, including child abuse prevention, positive discipline, internet safety, healthy relationships, and more. These efforts aim to prevent all forms of violence and create a safer, more informed community." -Marlen,

Kids' Clubs & Activities

DCAC offers a variety of enriching group experiences for children who've been impacted by trauma. These activities give kids a chance to connect with peers, build social-emotional skills, and have fun in safe, supportive environments. Each group is designed to meet children where they are—through creativity, movement, nature, or play.

Garden Club

Caregivers and children work side-by-side planting, watering, and growing together. This hands-on group encourages mindfulness, nurtures patience, and strengthens the caregiver-child connection through nature.

Art Group

Children explore a range of creative activities designed to build confidence, encourage expression, and promote emotional growth—all while having fun and working at their own pace.

Adventure Kids

This active group helps children develop coping strategies, teamwork, and resilience through fun weekly challenges and activities. Each session is a chance to play, learn, and grow together.

What parents say:

"These groups are very important; they have helped me with my patience interacting with my child, and seeing how much progress she has made in group interacting with other children has been amazing to see."

"I'm so happy you guys do this, my kiddos has been enjoying this space and looks forward to attend every week."

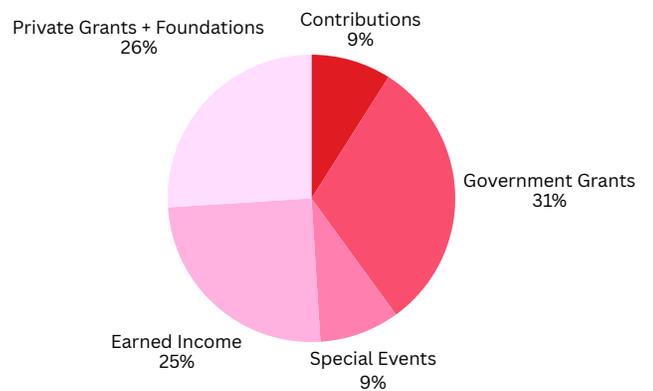
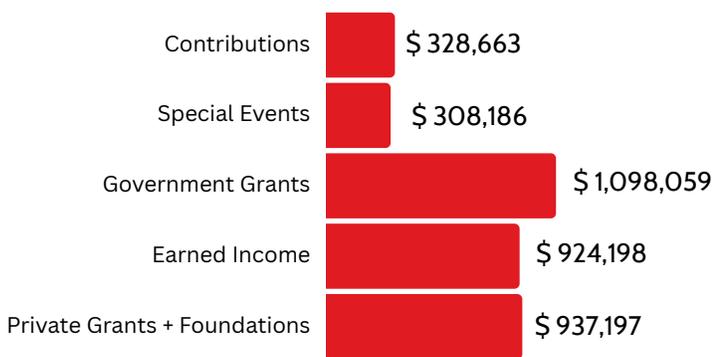


Financial Overview



DCAC remains committed to transparency, fiscal responsibility, and maximizing the impact of every dollar we receive. In 2024, strong community partnerships and diversified funding sources enabled us to sustain and expand critical services for children and families impacted by abuse. The financial summary below reflects our continued focus on delivering high-quality, trauma-informed care while building long-term organizational stability.

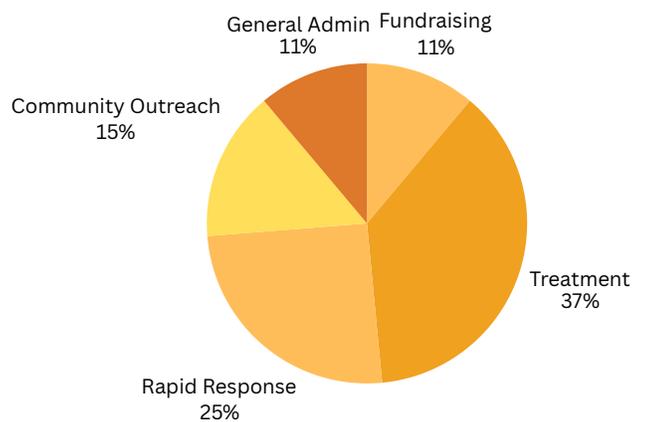
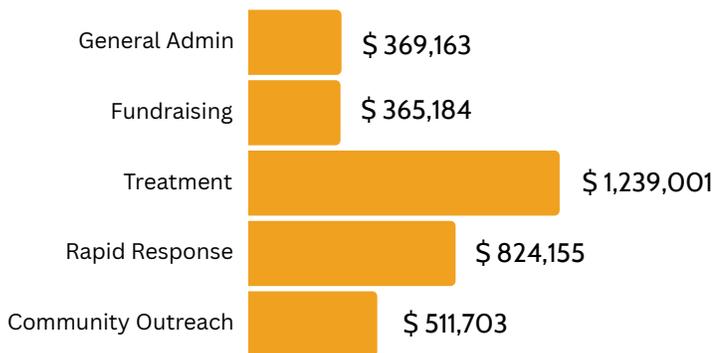
TOTAL REVENUE: \$ 3,596,302



Total assets: \$ 6,076,598

Total liabilities: \$ 282,955

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ 3,309,206



A Letter from the Board Chair

Dear Friends and Partners of the Denver Children's Advocacy Center,

As we reflect on 2024, I am deeply grateful for the strength, compassion, and commitment that define our DCAC community. This year brought meaningful progress, important transitions, and renewed momentum in our mission to support children impacted by abuse.

One of the most significant milestones was the leadership transition early in the year. After more than two decades of service, Angela Davidson stepped down as Executive Director. Her legacy of dedication continues to shape DCAC. We were proud to welcome Will Braunstein into the role—an experienced leader whose years on the Board, including as Chair, have already made a lasting impact. His vision and steady leadership are guiding DCAC into a new era of growth and innovation.

In fundraising, 2024 marked a record year. Our Clays for Kids event raised over \$100,000, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and participants. Our Swing for Hope event also grew, offering a meaningful moment for supporters to hear directly from a family impacted by abuse. And during Colorado Gives Day, your contributions provided critical, flexible support that sustains our programs year-round.

We are especially grateful to KB Homes and DL Cohen/Huron Components, both of whom host annual golf tournaments that serve as major fundraising pillars for our work. Their long-standing support plays a vital role in helping us expand and sustain services.

Throughout the year, our Board of Directors remained actively engaged—providing financial support, serving on committees, and helping to strengthen donor and community relationships. Their continued leadership and strategic focus are key to DCAC's future.

Finally, I want to recognize the incredible staff of DCAC. Their dedication, compassion, and excellence make this work possible. I'm especially thankful to Angela and Will for their collaborative leadership during this important transition.

The strength of DCAC lies in its people—and I'm honored to stand alongside them as we move forward.

With gratitude,



Eric Gonzalez
Board Chair

2024 Board of Directors



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Thank You to Our Supporters

The following individuals, families, companies, and foundations helped make 2024 a year of healing, hope, and resilience.

AJM Framers Inc.
Adam Drvenkar
Alicia Harvey
Alison Suthers
Alyssa Russo
Amanda Ballinger
Amy Hall
Amy Knopp
Amy Winton
Andrea and Jeff Tarr
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Juliane Leckey	Michael Elmore	Tony Grampass
Kaiser Permanente Community Health Fund	Michael O'Donnell	Tracy Family Foundation
Kampsnider Christopher	Michael Pattison	Tressa Colalancia
Karen Kielpikowski	Mike and Trixie Callahan	Tricor Group
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Kelly Dunkin	Molly Stevens	Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)
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Kristina Andrews	National Children's Alliance	Vickie Hall
Kristine Thornham	Ovation Plumbing	Victim Assistance Law
Kristy Leier	Pamela Brooks	Enforcement Board (VALE)
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Mark Harris	Suburban Toppers Inc	

Thank you to everyone who supported our mission this year. We've made every effort to ensure this list is accurate. If we made an error, we sincerely apologize and invite you to contact us so we can correct it. To save space, we've listed donors who gave \$100 or more.

Every gift makes a difference, and we are truly grateful.

We are grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their generous in-kind donations in 2024:

Alex Campbell
Ace Hardware
American Association of Critical Care Nurses
Audrey Polling
Blue Bear Waste Services
Cabela's
Denver Metro Building Owners & Managers Association
Denver Boys of Leather
Hogshead Brewing
Hope Albu
Mark Weimer
Mike Callahan
Odell Brewing Company
Patrick Duddly
Scheels
Soul Food Saturday
Sugarfire Smokehouse
Two Hands Hospitality
Valhalla Hunt Club and The Bluffs
Valor Landscape
Yak Enterprises

