



Denver Children's  
Advocacy Center

# Where Children & Families Come First



June 2026

## To Our DCAC Community,

As I sit down to write this year's letter, I find myself asking: how do you capture a year like this in a few paragraphs?

2025 was a defining year for Denver Children's Advocacy Center.

In November, Denver voters said yes. The passage of the Vibrant Denver Bond marked a turning point for our city and for the children we serve. Included in that measure was funding to build Denver's first Children's Justice Center on our campus, a place where children and families can receive coordinated, compassionate care under one roof.

This is a once-in-a-generation investment in how our community responds to children's needs.

While we look ahead to what we are building, the work of 2025 remains as critical as ever.

Last year, we served 13,076 children and family members. We conducted 739 forensic interviews, ensuring children had a safe place to share their story. We provided trauma-focused treatment to more than 600 children and their caregivers, helping families move from crisis toward healing. And through our prevention programs, we reached more than 4,500 children in classrooms across Denver, equipping them with the tools to recognize unsafe situations and speak up.

This work can change the trajectory of a child's life. It's about showing up for children at the most critical moments and making sure what happens next leads to safety, healing, and a stronger path forward. We couldn't do it without you.



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Will".

Will Braunstein  
Executive Director  
Denver Children's Advocacy Center

# Who We Serve



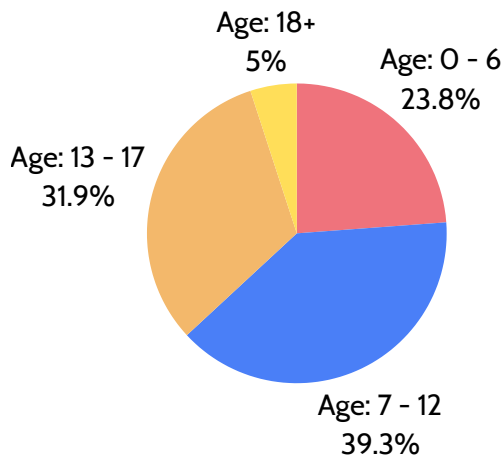
1,217 children

not including prevention or  
Mental Health Consultation

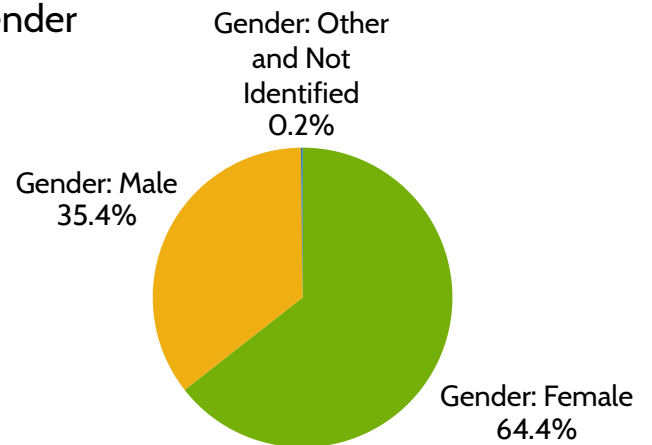
13,076 total population

including non-offending family members  
served in 2025

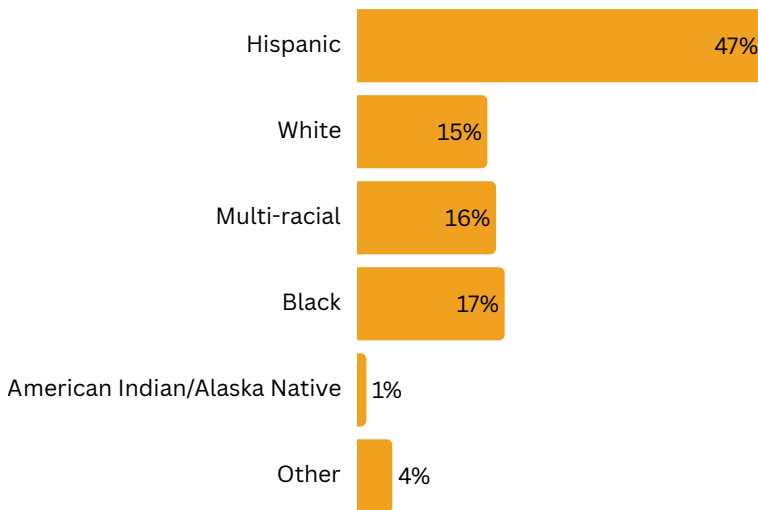
## Age



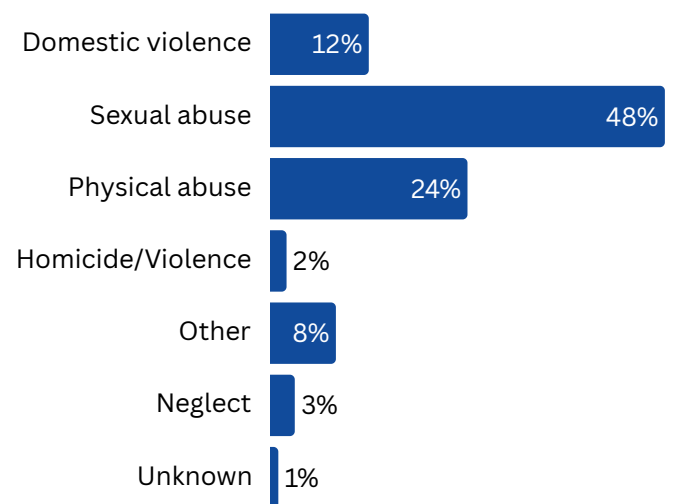
## Gender



## Race



## Trauma



# Hope in the Hardest Moments: A Mom Shares Her Story



“Coming to a place that specifically deals with the issues we were facing has given us a weekly refuge and feeling of community and understanding at a time we have dealt with a lot of shame and isolation.”

## Beginning of Our Story

In 2023, my family returned to Colorado from living in Texas for a few years. Due to this, we changed the custody agreement with my ex to reflect us being in much closer proximity. We had immediately started to have some custody issues, but had no idea what was to come. – You never think THIS will happen to your kid.

After the move, my daughter had started to have huge emotional breakdowns, and seemed increasingly unhappy all the time. She also happened to start getting UTIs. We thought these issues were just symptoms of worsening ADHD or due to heightened emotions from such a big life change. We started looking into assistance for these types of issues, and got her into a local counselor.

Early in 2024 is when my daughter told us that she was being sexually abused by her biological father during visitation. Things were a whirlwind for a long time after that.

## Finding Our Way to DCAC

Starting the LONG (and still unfinished) legal process, with my then 8 year old child as a victim, has been horrifying, hard, depressing, frustrating, and even embarrassing.

How could I not see? How could I let this happen? Why is it STILL so hard to keep her safe from him?

I spent many nights awake searching the internet for support, for answers, for help, and did not find much to speak of. I guess because this is a more “shameful” or hidden away issue, we were alone.

So many questions, no real answers. Just waiting in confusion for updates from the DA and trying to live life.

I remember seeing mention of continued therapy through DCAC in the paperwork they give you at the forensic interview. – At the time, I thought, “well we already have trusted counseling for her, it is partially how we found out the extent of the abuse, so we will just continue that.”

Then, about a year later, my daughter’s regular counselor recommended she see someone specializing in trauma symptoms. Her focus was in ADHD and we were reaching beyond her expertise. Ellie was struggling in school and at home.

I was resistant. I had no idea what to do to find someone else she could be comfortable with, she had already spoken to so many people about these horrible things in this process.

Luckily, I reached out to the DA’s victim advocate for our case, who told me to call DCAC right away for help. After a couple of phone calls, we scheduled to come in to talk, sign paperwork, and see the facility.

## Starting the Healing Journey

Coming to a place that specifically deals with the issues we were facing has given us a weekly refuge and feeling of community and understanding at a time we have dealt with a lot of shame and isolation.

My daughter has a place she can discuss the scariest, most confusing thing that has happened to her, and get help to process her emotions.

She no longer has huge, scary emotional breakdowns.

She has nightmares less and less.

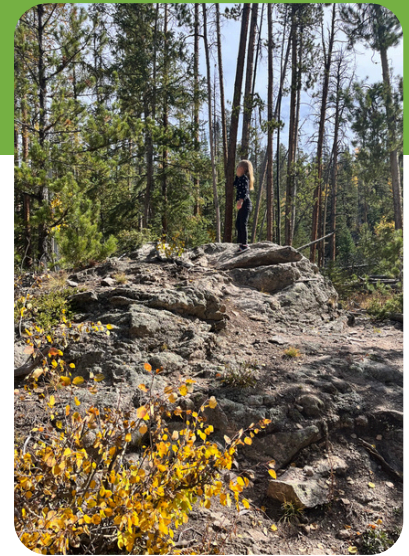
She advocates for herself and others at school when things are wrong, and is known for her emotional intelligence.

Without the help of DCAC, we would still be struggling and alone, as we are still navigating the legal process. I would still be only depressed and angry at what has happened to my child, instead of being able to process it and try to make something positive out of our nightmare.

I would not be able to be here to speak/write about it to try to ensure anyone else in my family’s position HAS THE HELP THEY NEED at the worst time in their life.

I hate that DCAC has to exist. But I hope they continue to do what they do, and even more if it is possible in the future.

*Brittany*



# Treatment & Assessment



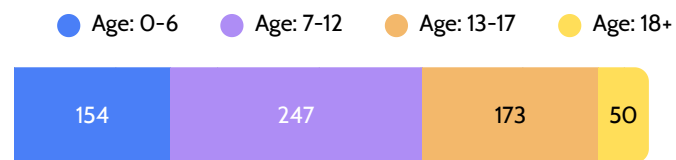
The Treatment and Assessment Team at DCAC provides trauma-informed, culturally responsive mental health services to children and families impacted by abuse, neglect, and violence. Our licensed therapists and clinicians offer individualized assessments and evidence-based interventions designed to promote 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.

In 2025, the Treatment Team became trained in the Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS). CAMS is an evidence-based approach to treating people suffering from serious thoughts of self-harm. During CAMS, the therapist and client develop treatment and stabilization plans based on trust and mutual understanding—an approach that leads to positive patient feedback and better clinical outcomes.

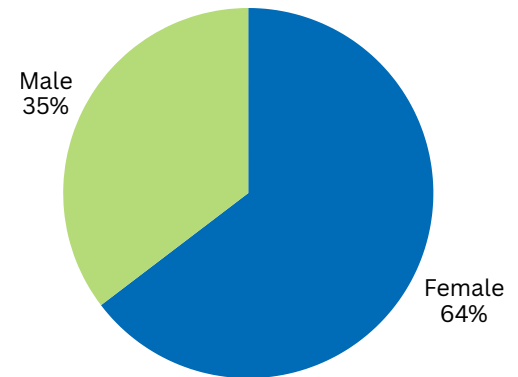
The Treatment and Assessment Team, along with other client serving staff, completed the CE-CERT (Components for Enhancing Career Experience and Reducing Trauma) training. By learning practical tools to reduce secondary traumatic stress, manage emotional labor, and improve nervous-system regulation, DCAC staff are better equipped to remain present, engaged, and effective in their work with children and families impacted by abuse. CE-CERT strengthened the Treatment Teams' capacity to deliver high-quality, trauma-informed services by supporting the well-being of staff working with child abuse victims and their families.

DCAC saw improved clinical presence, stronger team cohesion, and increased capacity to maintain consistent, high-quality services for children and families. CE-CERT was skill-focused, giving staff practical tools they could apply in real time to manage secondary traumatic stress.

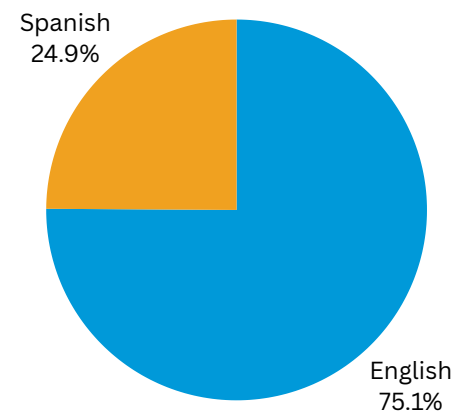
## 624 clients



## 4,796 treatment sessions



## 8,029 case management sessions

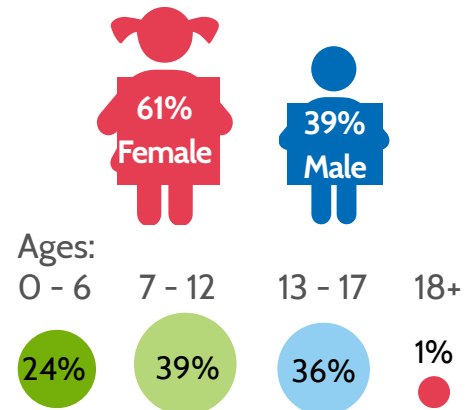


# Rapid Response



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.

## 740 forensic interviews



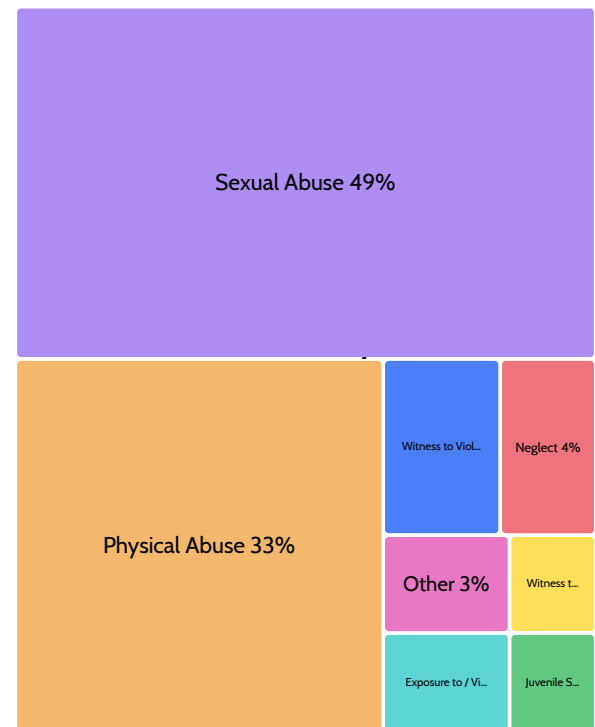
## DENVER ANTI-TRAFFICKING ALLIANCE (DATA) MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM

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.



Hollie Reinhart and Angel Gudeman at the Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance (COVA) Annual Conference

## Primary Allegation



5,910 Victim Advocacy Sessions

# 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.

**4,771 students reached**

377 teachers and school staff  
588 caregivers

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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

**64 trainings**

Total Participants:  
3,902

## 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.

**15 mental health consultation sites**

- + 522 Children served
- + 396 Adults served
- + 318 Individual consultations

**71 new partnerships**

# Kids' Clubs & Activities

DCAC continued to offer a variety of enriching group experiences for children in 2025. 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

Planting Day was May 12th, and kids as young as 4 years old helped tend to the garden all summer long. Club members continue to enjoy harvesting their produce through October.

“Kids really enjoy the connection of healthy foods to the garden,” said Katt Lovejoy, the Garden Club lead. “Their favorite part of the garden is being in it and taking care of it—weeding, watering, feeding the plants, but mostly harvesting!”

## Adventure Kids

Kids in this club got to go on field trips to the Downtown Aquarium, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, a Colorado Rockies baseball game, and took part in an epic competition that involved putting creativity and problem-solving skills to the test with an egg drop challenge.

Julia Urbina leads Adventure Kids.



## Art Club

Summer Art Club kicked off with an annual paint fight and concluded with an art exhibition.

Marlen Montanez, who leads DCAC's Art Group stated: “Parents shared that they appreciate that the staff is always so kind and patient with their children. One mother said her child always looks forward to Art Group and is so happy when leaving.”

Art Group takes place throughout the year.



## Boys Group

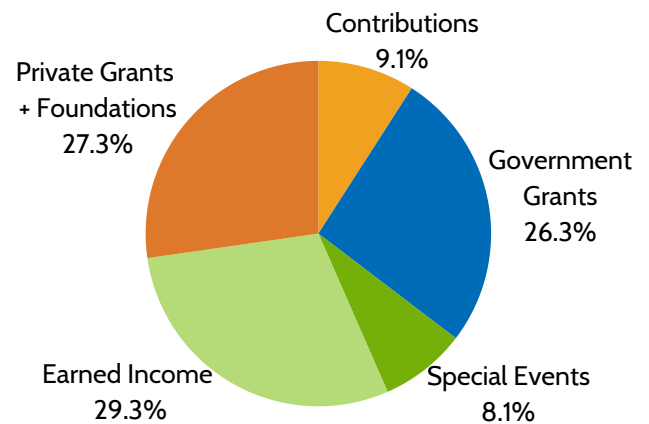
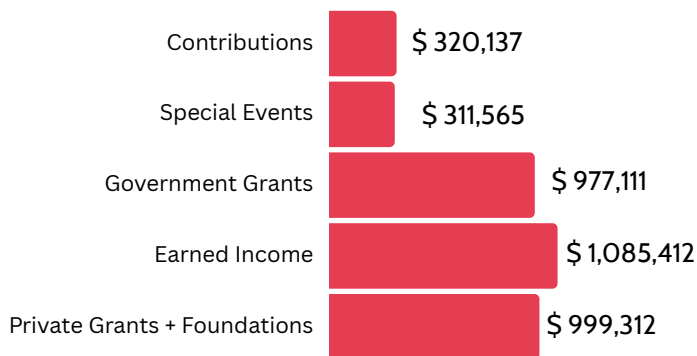
Offered for the first time in 2025, Boys Group gave boys ages 8-14 the opportunity to build confidence and learn new skills. Activities included fire making, nature skills, podcasting, and discussions about how humans interact with the environment. The highlight of Boys Group this summer was the Colorado Rapids holding a soccer clinic for all children participating in the DCAC clubs.

# Financial Overview



DCAC remains committed to transparency, fiscal responsibility, and maximizing the impact of every dollar we receive. In 2025, 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.

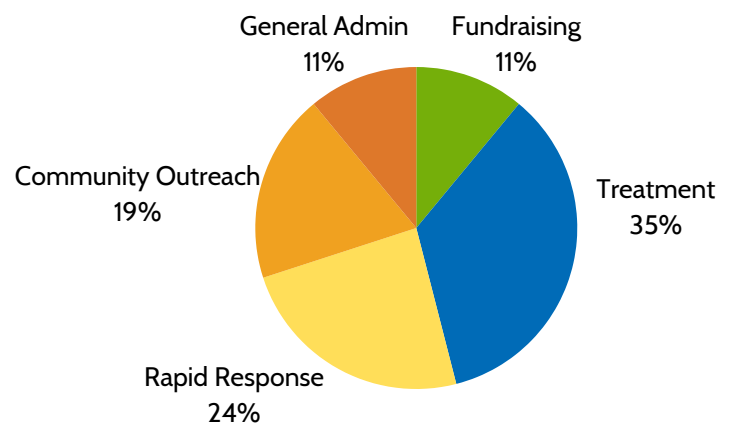
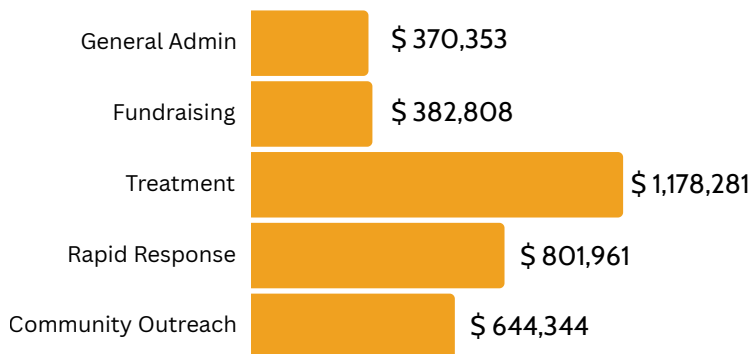
## TOTAL REVENUE: \$ 3,693,537



Total assets: \$ 6,383,228

Total liabilities: \$ 273,794

## TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ 3,226,500



# 2025 Board of Directors



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# Letter from the Board Chair

Dear Friends and Partners,

What a year! On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire team at the Denver Children's Advocacy Center, we share our deepest gratitude for your unwavering commitment to the children and families we serve.

Thanks to the overwhelming support of our community, we are thrilled to celebrate a historic milestone: DCAC was successfully included and voted into the Vibrant Denver Bond. This achievement provides the critical funding needed to build the Children Justice Center, a new facility that will significantly expand our capacity to provide integrated, trauma-informed care and justice for children in Denver. We acknowledge our dedicated Board members, steadfast community partners, and local service providers whose vision and advocacy turned this goal into a reality.

Our community's generosity was also on full display during our signature fundraising events this year. Through initiatives like our "Hope Starts Here" campaign, "Swing for Hope," our annual golf tournaments, "Clays for Kids," and Colorado Gives Day, we have seen an invigorating mobilization of local support. These gatherings have done more than just raise vital funds; they have strengthened the network of advocates dedicated to our cause—and we look forward to seeing everyone return to join us again next year.

Thank you for being a part of the DCAC family. Whether you are a long-time donor, a dedicated volunteer, or a community partner, your contribution is the foundation upon which we build a safer future for our children.



With gratitude,

  
Eric Gonzalez  
2025 Board Chair

# A Vision for Healing: Denver's Proposed Children's Justice Center

In 2025, Denver residents voted to make a transformational investment in children and families through the proposed Children's Justice Center, included in the 2025 Vibrant Denver Bond package. The new center will create a purpose-built, trauma-informed space where children impacted by abuse can receive support, healing, and justice in an environment designed specifically for them.

Today, many children in Denver are brought to government buildings never intended to serve young victims of trauma. These spaces can feel intimidating, institutional, and overwhelming during one of the most difficult moments in a child's life. The proposed Children's Justice Center will offer something different: a welcoming, child-centered environment where children and families feel safe, supported, and cared for from the moment they arrive.

Inspired by nationally recognized models in cities like Dallas, Huntsville, and Chicago, the center would bring services together under one roof, improving collaboration between agencies while reducing barriers and delays for families. Every aspect of the space from the architecture to the atmosphere would be designed to support healing and recovery.

The need is significant and growing. In 2025 alone, Denver Children's Advocacy Center served more than 13,000 children and caregivers, reflecting both Denver's increasing population and the rising complexity of child abuse cases. The Children's Justice Center ensures families can access compassionate, coordinated care in a single location designed exclusively for children.

More than just a building, the proposed center represents hope and a community commitment to ensuring every child has access to safety, support, and healing.



# Thank You to Our Supporters

The following individuals, families, companies, and foundations helped make 2025 a year of healing, hope, and resilience.

5280 Elevation Marketing  
A.R.K. Plumbing Inc.  
Megan & Craig Ackley  
Andrew Agyemang  
AJM Framers, Inc  
Hope Albu  
Alliance Residential  
Allied Interior Solutions  
American Online Giving  
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Boise Cascade  
BOK Financial  
BOMA (Denver Metro Building  
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Marc & Claudia Braunstein  
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The Denver Foundation  
Denver Vale  
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Felicia Diamond  
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dovetail solutions  
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Kelly Dunkin  
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EGYM Wellpass  
Eli Lilly & Company  
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JBD Holdings LLC  
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JHL Constructors  
Dillon Jones  
Marcy Kaufman  
KB Concrete Systems, Inc.  
Deb Keith  
Victoria Kelley  
Gina Kennedy  
Kenyon Plastering of Denver Inc.  
Kettering Family Foundation  
Jill Keyes  
A Khan

# Thank You to Our Supporters

The following individuals, families, companies, and foundations helped make 2025 a year of healing, hope, and resilience.

Tiffany Khan  
Karen Kielpikowski  
Erin Kivo  
Tiffany Knight  
KO Doors  
Julia Kochert  
Kohler Company  
KPMG Gives  
Jakob Krupka  
Louis Kuhn  
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Lam-Wood Systems, Inc.  
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Matt & Ashley Levesque  
Joseph & Jessie Licata  
Walter E. Lipe Charitable Trust  
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LP Building Solutions  
Bob Madlener  
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Knox Mallette  
Rachel Mansfield  
Markell Drywall  
Liz Marvan  
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Mary McNichols  
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Tara Meehan  
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Lisa Meshel  
Metro Brokers Team Lassen  
Marlene Michaelson  
Mile High Early Learning  
Mill Creek Residential  
Chris & Carin Moeder  
Ashley Morgan  
Mary & Bill Morgan  
Mitch & Margaret Morrissey

National Children's Alliance  
National Christian Foundation  
Syndia Nazario  
Kenneth Nelson  
Erik Neusch  
Connie Nichols  
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Ovation Plumbing  
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SM Energy Company  
Mallory & Hayden Smith  
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Thomas Snead  
Lauren & Chad Snee  
Micheal & Mariann Soenke  
Soenke Family Charitable Fund.  
Mark & Tracy Solomon  
Dave Solsberg  
Derek & Stephanie Sorkin  
David Spaulding  
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State of Colorado  
Mary Stevens  
Adela Stransky  
Steven Strom  
Elizabeth Stuart  
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Sunbelt Rentals  
Rhonda Sweeney  
Andrea & Jeff Tarr  
Emily Teiffel  
Kristine Thornham  
Tony Grampass  
Jacey Torres  
TRaCT Interiors  
Tracy Family Foundation  
The Trade Desk

Treetop Child Advocacy Center  
Tricor Group  
Anne Tulluch  
Kiki Turner  
United Rentals  
Universal Stone  
Brittney Urich  
Mason Ursetta  
USI Inc.  
Valor Landscape  
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Amy Winton  
Daniel Wolf  
Trisha Wolfe  
Jerry Yager  
Paige Yost  
Jeffry Zalkind  
ZOMA Foundation  
Martin & Shira Zimmerman

**Thank you to everyone who supported our mission this year. To save space, we've listed donors who gave \$100 or more.**

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

# In-Kind Donations

We are grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their generous in-kind donations in 2025:

Ace Hardware  
American Furniture  
Warehouse  
Blue Bear Waste Services  
Canyon Fly Shop  
Cinn-A-Brew

Denver Boys of Leather  
Henry USA  
International Facilities  
Management Denver Chapter  
(IFMA)  
Johnstown Scheels

Joseph & Brooke MacKinnon  
MiTek  
Natural Grocers  
Odell Brewing Company  
RTIC  
Samsung

Simple Tire  
Sugarfire Smokehouse  
Valhalla Hunt Club  
Yeti



## The DCAC Team

At the heart of everything we do is an extraordinary team of professionals who show up each day with compassion, expertise, and an unwavering commitment to children and families. We are deeply grateful for their dedication, resilience, and belief that every child deserves to feel safe, supported, and heard.