The Denver Children’s Advocacy Center (DCAC) is committed to our mission of preventing abuse, strengthening families and restoring childhood. Our programs fall along a three-part continuum of care that includes Community Outreach, Rapid Response, and Treatment and Integrated Services. We strive to meet the needs of all traumatized children, as well as those at risk of abuse.

“Obviously no one ever feels that abuse will happen in their family, but I know that my daughter, my family and I will be okay. Thank you for all of the support.”

- DCAC Parent
With your help, 2016 was a year of continued growth across all of our programs. We are especially pleased to report that Denver Safe from the Start and our Community Outreach Mental Health Initiative together served almost 4,000 children plus over 500 parents, caregivers and professionals.

DCAC’s prevention and early childhood intervention programs strive to reach struggling families as early in life as possible to break the cycle of abuse, neglect and violence. Many of the mothers served by community outreach partnerships were abused or neglected as children and have no role model for being a loving mother. Changing the generational dynamic and helping them to care for their children – and themselves – is one of the most rewarding aspects of our work.

While we wish we could protect all children from trauma, in 2016 we continued to see children who had experienced horrific physical and sexual abuse, neglect and/or violence. We are constantly amazed at the resiliency of children who have lived such fractured lives but can still respond to interventions that address their trauma and support a return to a healthy childhood.

Four young children were brought in for forensic interviews after witnessing a violent fight between their mother and stepfather that ended with the stepdad dying. With their mother in jail, the traumatized siblings were placed with a family member. Though only five, the youngest boy quickly saw the benefit of his visits with the therapist: “I’m here for my check-up,” he would announce, “You’re like a doctor, but you check up on my emotions.”

So, to all of you who support DCAC’s mission, thank you for seeing hope where others see only hopelessness, because you give children the gift of childhood.

Gizane Indart
PsyD, Executive Director

Matthew Hogan
Esq., Board Chair
Community Outreach

*Denver Safe from the Start* – Denver Safe from the Start is a bilingual school-centered prevention program for children ages three to ten. It is based on the premise that strengthening families helps to protect children from abuse and ensure their healthy development. The program works to increase the safety and well-being of children by:

- Teaching educators about child abuse prevention and how to help families access resources.
- Providing child development education for parents together with access to critical resources to strengthen families.
- Teaching young children basic self-protective and healthy living skills.

*Early Childhood Development* – Our early childhood mental health specialists work with Clayton Early Learning Center, Florence Crittenton Services, Head Start, Nurse Family Partnership, and other community partners to provide home visits, on-site assessments, consultation, and referrals to mental health treatment.

*Trauma-Informed Training and Consultation* – We are committed to providing training opportunities for professionals and community members who work with high-risk children, including therapists, foster parents, caseworkers, police, prosecutors, victim advocates, medical doctors, school personnel, and family members.

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**3,005 CHILDREN**  
IN DENVER SAFE FROM THE START

**190 STAFF MEMBERS**  
IN DENVER SAFE FROM THE START

**57 PARENTS**  
IN DENVER SAFE FROM THE START

**251 ATTENDEES**  
AT COMMUNITY TRAININGS

**961 CHILDREN**  
PROVIDED WITH CLASSROOM SUPPORT

**141 PARENTS**  
PROVIDED WITH THERAPY & GROUP SUPPORT

**140 CHILDREN**  
PROVIDED WITH MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS

**139 PROFESSIONALS**  
PROVIDED WITH CASE CONSULTATION & TRAINING
IMMEDIATELY SUPPORT VICTIMS

Rapid Response
DCAC is child-focused and coordinates the multidisciplinary team (MDT) of first responders to reports of child abuse in the City and County of Denver and metro area:
- Denver Police Department (DPD)
- Denver District Attorney’s Office
- Denver Department of Human Services (DDHS)
- Denver Health
- Denver Public Schools

Children and their needs are at the center of the MDT’s work. Police, prosecutors, social workers, and medical staff come to DCAC to mitigate the child’s trauma, coordinate medical and mental health care, and provide ongoing support for families as the case moves through the judicial system.

Forensic Interviews
Forensic interviews are of vital importance in the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault and other crimes against children. DCAC’s highly qualified, neutral forensic interviewers interview child victims in a warm, welcoming child-friendly facility. This helps mitigate their trauma while police and prosecutors watch the interviews in observation rooms. First responders are on call around the clock to help families in crisis, and to support our colleagues on the multidisciplinary team.

Victim Advocacy
Our victim advocates are there for the family from the time they arrive at DCAC until the case has concluded. We provide immediate crisis counseling, ongoing support throughout the criminal investigation, and referrals to treatment and community resources.

Integrated Medical Care
Through a partnership with Denver Health, a doctor and medical assistant are onsite two days every week to conduct medical examinations for children where abuse is suspected. Many young victims also suffer from a lack of primary medical and dental care which exacerbates their trauma. DCAC coordinates referrals to ensure that victims receive the integrated medical and mental health care that is essential to healing.

594
FORENSIC INTERVIEWS

856
VICTIM ADVOCACY HOURS

57
MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

176
ACTIVE MDT MEMBERS

4,316
REPORTS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT SCREENED BY DPD AND DDHS
Assessment & Treatment

Assessment and Mental Health Treatment
Child victims of sexual abuse, neglect and exposure to violence suffer from trauma which affects every aspect of their life: brain development, sexual development, language development, and memory development.

We specialize in treating complex cases of child trauma, including vulnerable families whose challenging cases of multi-level, intergenerational sexual abuse and violence require intensive and extensive treatment. Because these painful experiences are occurring during a developmentally sensitive period of rapid brain growth, without intervention the children are at risk for long-term psychological, physical, social, and behavioral disorders.

DCAC’s therapists participate in ongoing training for the effective delivery of evidence-based treatments. We also employ new and promising approaches where research indicates the intervention has a positive impact, but there is not yet a conclusive body of evidence.

We use a developmentally sensitive, biologically respectful approach to coordinated health and mental health care for child trauma victims. Intensive, coordinated care management draws in all the people involved in the child’s life—family members, foster parents, social service caseworkers, day care providers, prosecutors, victim advocates, doctors, teachers, and school personnel. By working together as an integrated team, adults are able to help children heal more effectively.

Psychiatric Care
When child trauma victims need psychiatric care, onsite consultation is available through our growing partnership with Mental Health Corporation of Denver.
2016 Victim Statistics

Gender of Victims
- 65% Female
- 35% Male

Age of Victims
- 29% Ages 0-6
- 42% Ages 7-12
- 29% Ages 13-18

Ethnicity of Victims
- 58% Hispanic
- 16% Caucasian
- 16% African-American
- 9% Other
- 1% Asian

Primary Allegation
- 71% Sexual Abuse
- 8% Physical Abuse
- 2% Neglect
- 16% Witness to Violence
- 3% Other
**DCAC’s History**

- **1995**
  - DCAC was founded

- **1997**
  - Leased duplex on 1271 Elati Street
  - Began offering on-site services

- **1999**
  - Began providing treatment to child victims ages 7 to 17

- **2001**
  - Dr. Gizane Indart was hired

- **2003**
  - Launched prevention program, “Denver Safe from the Start”
    - Purchased & renovated the first house at 2149 Federal Boulevard

- **2005**
  - Dr. Jerry Yager joined DCAC’s team and began offering services to DCAC

- **2007**
  - Forensic Interview house opened
  - Received 3 awards:
    - Mayor’s Design Award
    - Outstanding Services Award
    - Outstanding Small Business Award

- **2009**
  - Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Denver Police Department, Denver District Attorney’s Office and Denver Department of Human Services

- **2011**
  - Initiated community mental health care

- **2013**
  - Dr. Jerry Yager joined DCAC’s team and began offering services to DCAC
  - Clinical internship program formalized

- **2015**
  - First annual Art from the Heart was held

- **2017**
  - Mayor Hancock officially opened the “Medical House”
  - DCAC’s 20th anniversary
In September of 2016, we hosted our inaugural *Art from the Heart* fundraising event at Space Gallery in the beautiful and unique Santa Fe Art District. The event highlighted art created by many of DCAC’s clients. Featuring their work at *Art from the Heart* drew attention to the transformative power of art and art therapy - a powerful tool utilized by DCAC in working with traumatized children. The distinctive event helped to raise funds for DCAC's many programs that provide a positive impact on the lives of children who are seen at our facility as well as children in the community.

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**98,480 DOLLARS RAISED**
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Gizane Indart: Executive Director
Lucy Ana Aviles: Pro Bono Bilingual Child & Family Therapist
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Meghan Parman: Development Associate
Daniela Perez: Bilingual Child & Family Therapist
Hollie Reinhart: Forensic Interviewer
Meagan Rohde: Bilingual Child & Family Therapist
Dulce Solis: Bilingual Forensic Interviewer
Amber Stead, CPA: Director of Finance & Operations
John Witkiewicz: Child & Family Therapist
Kirsten Young: Bilingual Child & Family Therapist

Consultants

Beth Croucher: Strategic Consultant
Dr. Tom Barrett: Program Evaluation
Mandy M. Rigg: Grantwriter & Fundraising Consultant
Jerry Yager, PsyD: Training & Education
Thank you to our donors

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DCAC took every care to ensure the accuracy of these donor lists. If your name or business is not listed, or we have made some other error, we sincerely apologize. Please let us know – and please also know how truly grateful we are for your support.
Thank you
for making our community
a brighter place for children.