Prevent Abuse Strengthen Families Restore Childhood



Denver Children's Advocacy Center

2012 Annual Report





Message from Executive Director. Gizane Indart, and Board Chair, Matt Hogan



Dear Friends,

2012 was an incredible year of growth for DCAC thanks to strong support from the Denver community, our funders and from people like you. Because of your combined commitment to improving the lives of children impacted by abuse, neglect and trauma, we have been able to make lasting, positive changes in their lives through the services we provide and increase our capacity to respond to their needs.

- The additional support of therapist interns from the undergraduate to the doctoral level allowed us to accommodate more children and families under our Child and Adolescent Assessment and Treatment Program.
- Deriver Safe From the Start, our school based prevention program for children, parents and teachers, was approved by Denver Public Schools for use throughout the district, giving us the opportunity to be more effective in targeting our curriculum within Denver's high risk communities.
- Our Training and Community Education Program headed by Dr. Jerry Yager was able to work with over 2,500 professionals, peers and parents on topics ranging from Childhood Sexuality to Trauma Informed Care through new contracts with Mile High United Way and the Victim Services Network of the Denver District Attorney's Office.
- We began working with the US Department of Homeland Security to halt a major child pornography ring that came to light in Colorado but affects children across the county.

While we are grateful for this period of growth, we are well aware that there are still so many children we need to help, so many children who can start their journey to healing. Until we can ensure the safety and well being of all children in our community, our work is not complete and we will be here for them.

Thank you for staying the course with us.

Gizane Indar

Executive Direc

Matt Hogan **Board Chair** 

# What Does Denver Children's Advocacy Center Do?

Denver Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC) works to improve the lives of children traumatized by sexual abuse and violence—as well as those who are at high risk—with prevention, education and direct services.

Our mission is to prevent abuse, strengthen families and restore childhood.

DCAC staff are among the first responders to reports of child abuse in the Denver metro area and are on call 24 hours a day/7 days a week to provide crisis management for child victims of crime and their families, and to support our colleagues in the Denver Police Department, Denver District Attorney's Office, the Denver Department of Human Services and Denver Health.

Our goals are to:

- Meet a child's complete health, mental health and welfare needs;
- Prevent abuse and violence through education and outreach;
- Break the cycle of abuse and violence by engaging the family as a whole; and
- Ensure that every child who has been traumatized by neglect, abuse and violence in Denver and its surrounding counties, receives immediate, compassionate and effective intervention.

DCAC meets the needs of all traumatized children ages 1-17, as well as those at high risk for abuse, but we specialize in serving very young children and those from Latino and Spanish-speaking families.

More than half of the child victims of abuse treated at DCAC last year were from Latino families and more than one third of the victims served were ages 1-6. Our prevention program overwhelmingly serves low-income families, approximately half of whom receive bilingual services.



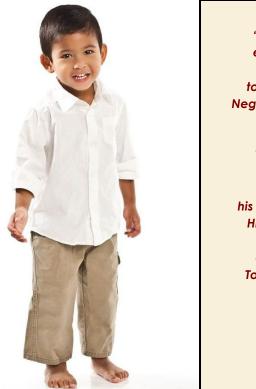
# **Our Programs**

**Prevention** is at the heart of our programming. **Denver Safe from the Start**, our prevention program for pre-schools and elementary schools has research-based results to show that we are helping high risk families to protect their children from sexual abuse and violence.

Forensic Interviews are of vital importance in the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault and other crimes against children. Police, prosecutors, social workers and health care professionals all come to DCAC so that child victims can be interviewed by our highly qualified forensic interviewers in a child-friendly environment that helps to mitigate their trauma.

The **Child and Adolescent Assessment and Treatment Program** serves children 1-17 who have been sexually abused or traumatized by witnessing homicide or extreme violence. We provide mental health treatment for the child and intensive support for family members so that they can help the victim heal.

**Training and Community Education** for professionals and community members mental health specialists, day care providers, educators, law enforcement, social service professionals, and parents—is creating a network of caring adults who understand child trauma and how to work with vulnerable children.



"We are guilty of many errors and many faults, But our worst crime is to abandon the children, Neglecting the fountain of life. Many of the things we need can wait, The child cannot wait.

"Now is the time his bones are being formed, His blood is being made, And his senses are being developed. To him we cannot answer 'Tomorrow,' His name is 'Today.'"

> Gabriela Mistral, Chile Nobel Prize 1945

# Why We Do It

Children from homes where there is violence, abuse or neglect suffer from trauma. If **trauma is ignored**, **it impacts children's physical and mental health**—their brain development, sexual development, language development and memory development—making it impossible for them to learn in school or to grow up normally.

The **majority of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by trusted adults**—boyfriends, stepfathers, neighbors and friends—often the people whom anxious, overworked single mothers ask to "watch" the kids while they are at work.

Even those children fortunate enough to live in stable homes can be exposed to dangerously high rates of violence. Kids whose bedtime rituals are punctuated nightly by the sounds of gang violence suffer the effects.

Rates of child abuse and neglect in Colorado are finally declining in line with national trends. After steadily increasing—7.8 per thousand in 2007, 8.4 per thousand in 2008, and 9.2 per thousand in 2009—in 2010 the rate was 8 per thousand. This gives us hope that our expanding focus on child abuse prevention is working.

However, until prevention can keep every child safe, and the adverse childhood experiences of abuse, neglect and trauma can be eliminated, DCAC will continue to meet the needs of vulnerable children and their families through our continuum of care.

1 out of 4 girls and 1 out of 6 boys will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday

11,055 Colorado children were confirmed victims of abuse and neglect in 2011



# DCAC By the Numbers



# **Age of Victims**

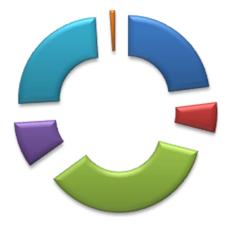
- 31% 0-6 Years Old
- 📕 42% 7-12 Years Old
- 27% 13-18 Years Old

### **Types of Abuse**

- 74% Sexual Abuse
- 8% Physical Abuse
- 2% Neglect
- 9% Witness to Homicide/Violence
- 1% Drug Endangerment

### 🛿 6% Other





# **Relationship to Victim**

- 🛯 23% Parent
- 📕 6% Stepparent
- ■36% Other Relative
- 9% Parent's boyfriend/girlfriend
- 25% Other known person
- 📕 1% Unknown

"If we don't stand up for children, then we don't stand for much." - Marian Wright Edelman

# DCAC By The Numbers

# Denver Safe from the Start Prevention Program

- 🛚 1566 Children
- 📕 131 Parents
- 88 Teachers





### Assessment and Treatment Program

🛯 868 Children

740 Parents

# **Forensic Interviews**

🛯 479 Children



In 2012 we served 3,393 people —2,434 children and 959 of their parents and caregivers an increase of more than 700 over 2011.

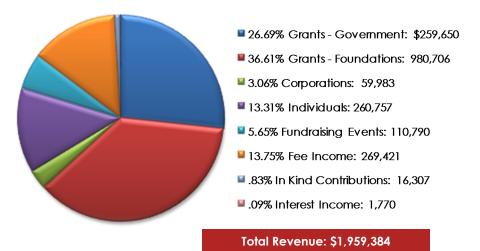


# Training and Community Education

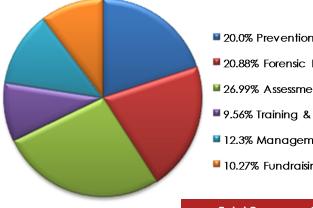
2677 Professionals

# **Financial Activity**

### Revenue



### **Expenses**



- 20.0% Prevention: \$312,938
- 20.88% Forensic Interviews: 326,707
- 26.99% Assessment & Treatment: 422,310
- 9.56% Training & Education: 149,584
- 12.3% Management: 192,457
- 10.27% Fundraising: 160,694

Total Expenses: \$1,564,690

# Leadership

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