

CHILD **ADVOCATES** OF FORT BEND™

OUR MISSION:

We Strengthen the Voice, Heal the Hurt and Break the Cycle of Abuse and Neglect for Children and Families in Fort Bend and surrounding counties.

OUR VISION:

To End the Cycle of Child Abuse and Neglect

OUR VALUES:

Collaborative

Healing

Inclusive

Life-Changing

Dedicated



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

23,000+

Children & Families Served

Program	Children	Children & Families
CASA	377 <i>see note below</i>	377 <i>see note below</i>
CAC	2,062	3,163
Total	2,439*	3,540*

***UNDUPLICATED; 19 CHILDREN SERVED BY BOTH PROGRAMS**
NOTE: Includes children served by our Courtesy CASA Program

Welcome to Child Advocates of Fort Bend. Child Advocates of Fort Bend is a “one-stop”, comprehensive and full-services resource for children who have been sexually abused, physically abused and neglected. We are one of the only agencies in Texas that has both a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA™) and a Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC). We work in partnership with CPS, law enforcement, the courts, schools, medical community, district attorneys and county attorneys as a Multi-Disciplinary Team on the identification, treatment, recovery, healing and administration of justice. Our services help over 3,500 children and families heal and overcome the trauma of their abuse so they can thrive while in care, go on to live healthy lives, and ultimately break the cycle of abuse.

Our goal is to serve **every** child who needs our services and provide community outreach to prevent abuse from happening, including the risk of exploitation into sex trafficking. We individualize care with **18** service offerings across our programs based on each child’s specific needs and family support to yield the best outcomes.

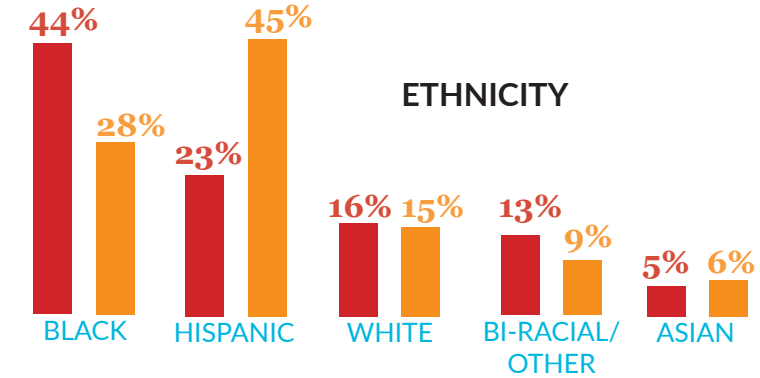
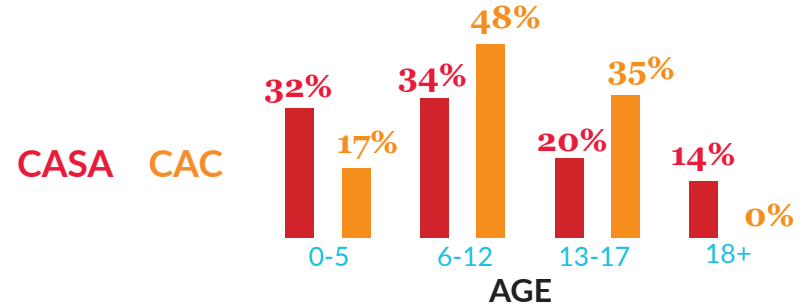
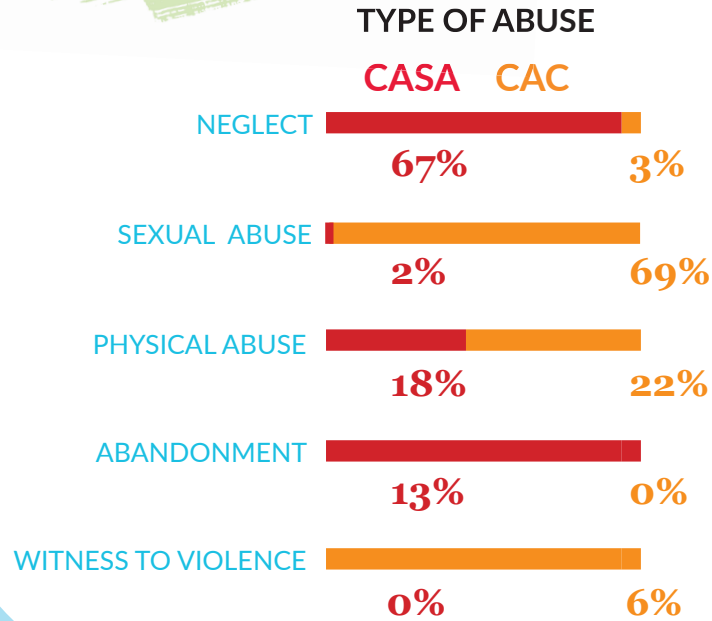
We leverage our professional staff with hundreds of community volunteers, match every child with a CASA Volunteer and educate the community about abuse.

CAFB is recognized as a leader in the state of Texas in developing novel approaches, piloting new models of intervention and support and replicating positive outcomes.



2,420

children served in 2023.
62% girls; 38% boys



We are open to ALL child victims and non-offending family members, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, language, or income.
All services provided to children and families are free thanks to the generosity of our donors and community support.



Highlights of 2023

- Provided Court Advocacy to **149** children in foster care in Fort Bend County and courtesy visits to **228** youth placed outside their home counties. This essential service ensures that all children in foster care are regularly visited, monitored for their safety and well being, and their “best interests” are served so that they don’t fall through the cracks of the child welfare or legal systems.
- Expanded our Trauma-Informed Care by leading a county-wide training initiative called TBRI® Collaborative (Trust-Based Relational Intervention). Expanded training for staff, volunteers, CPS, school personnel and child welfare workers to address the unique needs of child abuse victims through a trauma lens, including training to recognize victims of sex trafficking, which is on the rise.
- Achieved **100%** High School graduation for our seniors overcoming the statistics for teenagers aging-out of foster care.

149
CHILDREN
in foster care

100%
Children matched with a
CASA Volunteer Advocate

16 REUNITED
WITH FAMILY
12 ADOPTED

228
Youth visited by
Courtesy CASA staff

100%
Youth in our WINGS program (ages 14-18+)
graduated from high school

11

Staff members trained as facilitators with a goal of expanding TBRI® training to targeted groups, including families.

1,843

THERAPY SERVICES



Children and families received
CRIMINAL COURT ADVOCACY



1,449

Children were helped by
CHILD AND FAMILY
ADVOCACY

164
FORENSIC
MEDICAL EXAMS

"It is such a relief to have told this secret that I've keep inside for years and for someone to believe me and want to help me."

- Deanna, CAC Client

Highlights of 2023

- Expanded Therapy and Mental Health Services with a new Clinical Director and licensed therapists. Achieved our one-year milestone of providing Psychiatric Services on site and have extended this service into 2024.
- Conducted **1,227** forensic interviews to give children a safe place to courageously share their stories.
- Criminal Court Advocacy team helped children and families navigate the criminal justice process - providing court accompaniment for **817** children and families during trial prep and court proceedings with multiple cases ending in conviction and lengthy sentences.
- Clinical Family Advocacy staff provided **1,449** sessions of crisis intervention therapy, trauma assessment screenings, referral coordination for medical exams and case management, including accessing resources for children and families.
- Forensic Medical Exams were provided for **164** children across multiple victimizations including sexual assault, interpersonal violence and trafficking.

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC)

Highlights of 2023

- Reached **18,477** individuals through presentations, outreach events and tours of our campus. Strengthened partnerships with Fort Bend ISD and Lamar Consolidated, ISD leading to requests for us to educate students, parents, teachers and counselors on child abuse and participate in their back-to-school and career day events.
- Trained **40** new CASA and Children's Advocacy Center volunteers who completed **1,800** hours of comprehensive training.
- Matched **100%** of children in foster care with a CASA Volunteer Advocate.





Friends of Child Advocates of Fort Bend,

For 33 years, Child Advocates of Fort Bend has transformed the lives of over **23,000** Fort Bend County children and youth who have been sexually abused, trafficked, physically abused, and neglected. We often don't think that these abuses happen in our community but the reality is that children living in our neighborhoods, studying at our schools, and attending our places of worship face unspeakable abuse and neglect every day.

The stories are tragic - drug babies, children with broken bones and head trauma, children suffering medical neglect, youth dropping out of high school and ending up on the streets...only to be trafficked. The statistics are shocking - **1 in 10** children sexually abused by 18 years old. And most often by someone they know - a family member, a teacher, coach, minister or online "friend". But only **10%** of children tell, because they are scared, groomed, shamed or disbelieved.

Child Advocates of Fort Bend is the only nonprofit organization in our community exclusively dedicated to transforming the lives of these children. With three programs and 18 services, we are helping thousands of children every year recover from the trauma of their abuse, find safety and break the cycle of generational abuse.

Our vision is grounded in the steadfast belief that we can End the Cycle of Abuse for children. **How?**

- By **pairing** 100% of children in foster care with a CASA Advocate to ensure that their voices are heard, their "best interests" are served and these children don't fall through the cracks.
- By **lifting up** elementary children to grade level through educational advocacy, STEM learning and behavioral trauma approaches grounded in evidence-based, individualized plans.
- By **empowering** high school students to create Circles of Support, learn Life Skills to prepare them for adult success and most importantly graduate high school and attend higher education or vocational school. We have moved graduation rates from 25% a decade ago to 90-100% every year!
- By **ensuring** that every child who has been sexually abused has a safe place to tell what happened to them in a forensic interview.
- By **providing** free therapy from highly trained and licensed child abuse therapists so children heal.

At Child Advocates of Fort Bend, we are "re-engineering" traditional responses to childhood abuses - from a criminal justice perspective to a public health epidemic. We are approaching the whole child and collaborating and engaging family members because we know that children's cultural identities are with their families. We build individualized treatment plans across our 18 services because we know that every child is unique and one-size-does-not-fit-all. And we collaborate with partners in law enforcement, Child Protective Services, attorneys, the courts, and the medical community in a multi-disciplinary team approach to streamline treatment.

Thank you for joining us on this journey, for your commitment to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive and have a better tomorrow, and for your generosity to allow us to grow, adapt, and never lose sight of our purpose and mission - **to strengthen the child's voice, heal the hurt and break the cycle of abuse and neglect.**

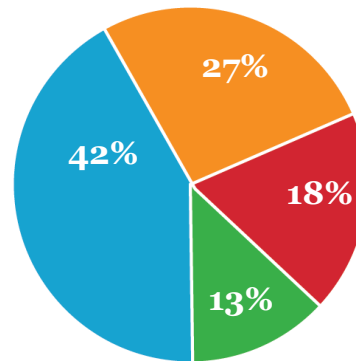
For the Children's Sake,

Ruthanne Mefford
CEO

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Operational Funding

SPECIAL EVENTS	\$774,328
GENERAL DONATIONS	\$1,062,693
FOUNDATION GRANTS	\$1,571,748
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	\$2,395,010
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	\$5,803,778



Child Advocates of Fort Bend is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. Copies of our audited financials and annual budget are available upon request.

Our 990 is available at www.cafb.org.

We have a **zero tolerance policy** for child abuse.

Thank you to all of our 2023 donors and funders for your generosity and support.
You are truly changing children's lives!

OUR SUPPORT