



THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER
OF NORTH & NORTHWEST COOK COUNTY

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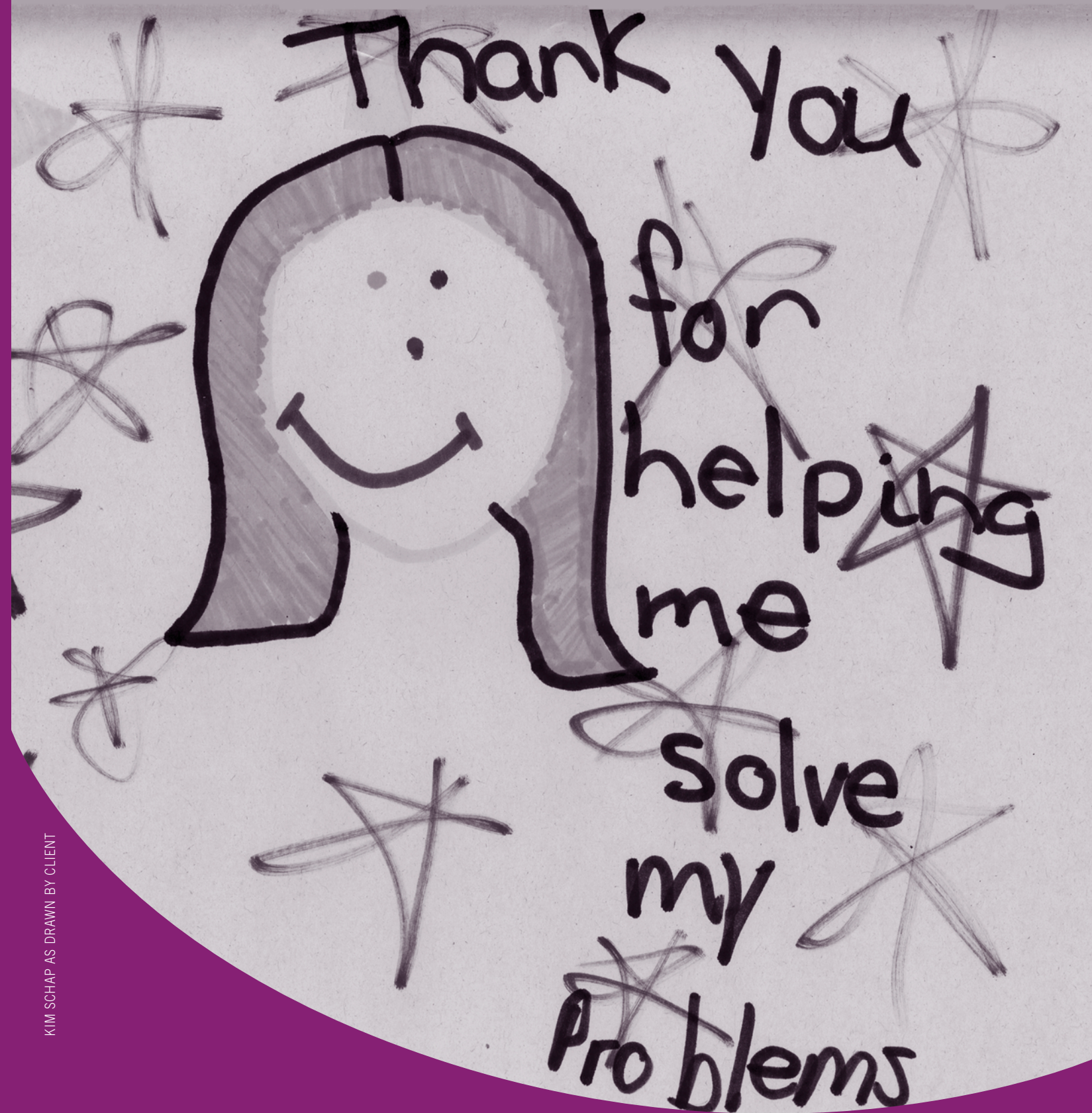


THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER
OF NORTH & NORTHWEST COOK COUNTY

a healing place for abused children

2004 - 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

KIM SCHAP AS DRAWN BY CLIENT





A child needs a safe place to tell their story and heal. As a therapist, I feel privileged to be part of such an amazing process.

– MEGHAN MCINTYRE, PROGRAM SUPERVISOR



The clinical staff of the CAC meets bi-weekly to review cases and to discuss appropriate follow-up services for children and families served by the Center.

MISSION STATEMENT

Recognizing the right of all children to a safe childhood, The Children’s Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County continuously strives to reduce trauma and provide support to child victims of violence and their families. The Center serves as a community resource to facilitate the identification, intervention and prevention of child abuse. The Children’s Advocacy Center serves the north and northwest suburbs of Cook County.

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*CASI–Coordination, Advocacy, and Sensitive Interviewing

*FSS–Family Support Services



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LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

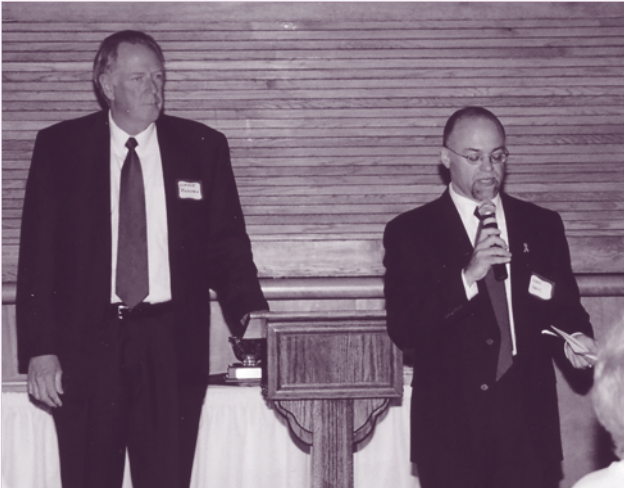
On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of the Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook, we are pleased to present our combined annual reports for the period beginning July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2005.

The Center was established in 1988 as a grassroots effort of local professionals and community members who were concerned about the well-being of child victims of sexual abuse, and their family members. During the Center's first full year (July 1, 1989-June 30, 1990), the agency provided services for 105 children who were reported as victims of sexual abuse. From these beginnings, the Center has grown in size and scope. Last year, the Children's Advocacy Center served more than 600 children reported as victims of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, or other violent crimes through its Coordination, Advocacy and Sensitive Interviewing Program and Family Support Services. In addition, the Center's Safe From the Start Program provided services for more than 100 children exposed to family or community violence, and their family members.

However, the story of the Center is not in the number of children and families helped, it's the individual stories of children and families with incredible courage and resiliency working every day to overcome the trauma of their abuse. We have asked our staff to reflect on their own experiences and offer their perspectives on the challenges that they, and our clients, confront. As you read through this report, please keep in mind that it is your support that makes this work possible.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the foundations, local townships and municipalities, state agencies, corporations, churches, social and civic groups and individual donors listed in this report. A special thanks to Wayne S. Rodgers, who retired as President of the Children's Advocacy Center in June of 2005 after serving in this role for five years following the untimely death of our past president, Mike O'Malley. We appreciate the wisdom and guidance that Wayne provided through the difficult days after Mike's death and over the length of his term. We are glad that Wayne remains an active and important member of our Board of Directors.

We are proud of all our board members, staff and volunteers who make our Center a safe, professional and healing place for abused children.



Wayne Rodgers and Mark Parr

Brian Burke, Board President

Mark Parr, Executive Director



SPOTLIGHT ON Meghan McIntyre, Program Supervisor

“When I started working with children, someone told me, ‘You can’t help all the children.’ I remember thinking to myself, ‘Of course I can’t help all the children; just all the children I come into contact with.’ After working in this field for 12 years now, I know I can’t help all the children I work with, so I focus on the successes. I remember the 9-year-old girl who I did therapy with, and how when she first came to see me, she was too scared to go to sleep at night because she was afraid the man who sexually abused her would break into her house and come into her room. She could only sleep in her parents’ room and would not go into her own room at night. By the time she was done with therapy, she was able to sleep in her own room. She understood that the abuse was not her fault; and she believed her mom and dad when they told her it was not her fault. A child needs a safe place to tell their story and heal. As a therapist, I feel privileged to be a part of such an amazing process.”



HISTORY OF THE CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS

Childhood is a special time of growth and nurturing that is crucial for healthy development. Yet for many children, this time is cut short due to exposure to physical and sexual abuse.

The **Children’s Advocacy Center** was established in 1989 to provide children with a safe haven from abuse. Through the Illinois Children’s Advocacy Center Act (P.A. 86-276), Illinois lawmakers took the first step toward reaching this goal by enacting a multi-disciplinary effort to coordinate the intervention, court preparation, counseling and follow-up services in child abuse investigations.

At **The Children’s Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County (CAC)**, we’ve put this plan into practice, providing a safe, home-like environment for children living in the northwest suburbs of Cook County. Since 1989, we’ve welcomed more than 6,000 children and family members to our Hoffman Estates facility, providing services to child victims of sexual abuse and/or severe physical abuse at no cost to their families.

In 1995, The Center expanded to serve children and families living in the northern suburbs of Cook County with a satellite office in the Elaine Kersten Children’s Center. With this expansion, we’ve continued to pursue our main goal: To ensure that all children explore the joys of childhood free from the threat of abuse.

CAC PROGRAMS

Children have special needs. At the CAC, we strive to provide a unique range of support services for the families who need our help. From the moment a child enters our doors, through the abuse investigation, medical consultations, and therapy that follow, our caring, professional staff provides a safe and comforting support system.

Our programs include:

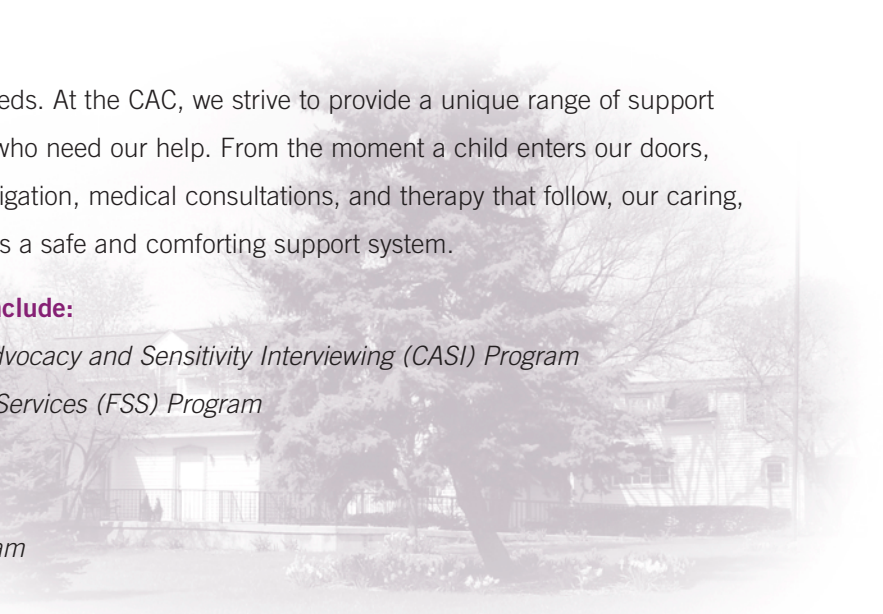
Coordination, Advocacy and Sensitivity Interviewing (CASI) Program

Family Support Services (FSS) Program

Latino Program

Medical Clinic

Volunteer Program



SPOTLIGHT ON
Lucy Acevedo, Administrative Assistant

Lucy is the first person our clients meet when arriving at our Center. Her smile and gentle demeanor help ease the tensions many of the children feel when confronting abuse. She introduces the family to the Advocate who will be working with them as long as the family needs our support.



Bonnie Brunette
Forensic Interviewer



Christine DiGangi
Advocate, Therapist

COORDINATION, ADVOCACY AND SENSITIVITY INTERVIEWING (CASI) PROGRAM

No child should have to relive the trauma of abuse. With the CASI program, we coordinate a team of professionals to facilitate the investigation of abuse in a supportive, child-friendly way. The CASI Program includes:

A Forensic Interview to Identify Child Abuse

To help children through the difficult process of disclosing abuse, our trained Forensic Interviewer conducts a child-centered interview using a process outlined in the county protocol. All interviewers are Master's level social workers or psychologists with extensive training in child development. The goal is to minimize the trauma while allowing each child to tell his or her story of abuse privately.

Coordination of the Investigation

Before and after the interview, a multidisciplinary team comprised of local law enforcement agencies, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and the State's Attorney's Office meet to discuss the allegations, complete the investigation, and determine a plan to assure the child's safety and emotional well-being.



Rachel Kelber, Advocate

Advocacy for the Child

Each child is assigned an Advocate who works to ensure that the family's safety and best interests are protected. The Advocate works closely with the team managing the child's case, and serves as a liaison for the child and family during the often complicated legal proceedings. Frequently, the Advocate's involvement extends beyond the court case to include ongoing support, such as home visits, crisis intervention, referrals and, when needed, assistance during relocation.



Kristy O'Keefe, Advocate

Thank you!!!



SPOTLIGHT ON Elisa Corona, Intake Coordinator

As an intake coordinator, Elisa brings together all parties involved in the investigation of an alleged child abuse report, including The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), local law enforcement agency, the state’s attorney’s office and the non-offending parent.

“I’m very new to the CAC staff, but I’ve learned quickly how important my role is. I’m the first staff member contacted when a case is called to the Center, so it’s important that I obtain as much information as possible about the case so the CAC team can better serve the child and family. Sometimes the information helps parents who are in crisis. I once had a mom who was very emotional during the intake process, and I was able to provide comfort after explaining the roles of our staff and the services we provide.”

Thank You for helping me get this case out of me. I felt like a balloon that if you blow me up too much and I pop! Thanks, you let the air out of me.

– A (FSS PROGRAM) CHILD IN A LETTER TO HER ADVOCATE

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES (FSS) PROGRAM

When a child suffers abuse, the whole family suffers. With the **Family Support Services (FSS) Program**, we provide a nurturing environment to reduce trauma, provide assistance, and allow children and their non-offending family members to heal together.

Through **counseling**, our families talk about the abuse as a way to integrate and accept what has happened. One mother said, “It took me years to finally admit it to myself that my daughter was sexually abused, and the whole time the people at CAC encouraged me to see it, without pushing. They educated me and helped my daughter in so many ways.”

Key to the healing process is our **Parent Support Group**. The group meets weekly to provide a community in which parents and caretakers can deal with the emotional aftermath of abuse disclosure. Says one group member, “The CAC is the only place I feel comfortable about talking about what happened and I know I won’t be judged. I learn something new each time I come to group. It’s what I look forward to every week.”

Says another FSS mother, “I think the people at CAC are our guardian angels. I can’t thank them enough for educating and encouraging us. My children love the women at the CAC.”

Your concern and understanding has made a challenging time in our lives easier to cope with. My daughter is doing well and adjusting to her new home and school. I expect to return to work soon and hope to get a larger apartment.

– A CAC PARENT AFTER RELOCATION

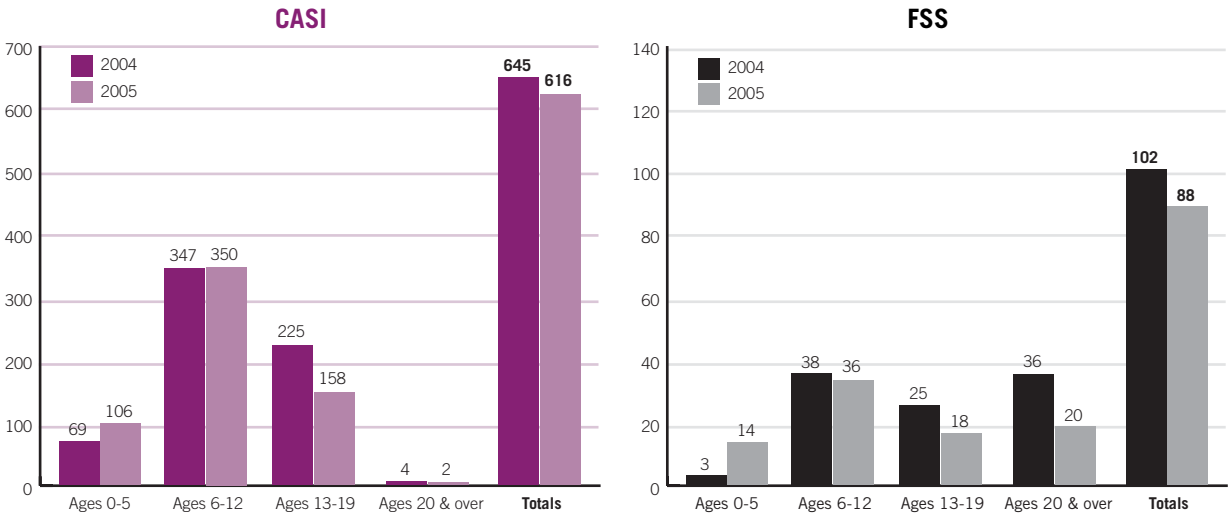
CASI AND FSS STATISTICS BY RESIDENCE

	CASI (2004)		CASI (2005)		FSS (2004)		FSS (2005)	
	Clients	Hours	Clients	Hours	Clients	Hours	Clients	Hours
Arlington Heights	26	303.25	45	635.75	5	55	11	71.50
Barrington	1	9.00	0	-	0	0	0	0.00
Bartlett	14	233.75	16	182.50	2	8.25	2	57.25
Buffalo Grove	9	119.00	6	49.25	3	7.00	4	62.00
Des Plaines	49	523.00	39	439.25	5	28.00	4	63.50
Elgin	31	381.00	35	346.75	7	67.00	3	63.75
Elk Grove Village	14	200.50	14	166.75	5	84.25	3	60.25
Evanston	24	342.00	30	420.75	0	0.00	0	0.00
Glenview	19	312.75	15	181.00	4	103.25	3	36.00
Golf	1	0.25	0	-	0	0.00	0	0.00
Hanover Park	42	455.00	27	281.25	9	95.75	3	32.25
Harwood Heights	0	-	0	-	0	0.00	0	0.00
Hoffman Estates	54	815.75	33	294.75	8	119.75	3	64.25
Inverness	0	-	0	-	0	0.00	0	0.00
Lincolnwood	3	26.00	0	-	0	0.00	2	18.25
Morton Grove	7	96.50	3	21.50	1	15.75	0	0.00
Mount Prospect	38	448.00	30	406.00	2	8.00	3	91.00
Niles	5	71.75	8	114.25	3	38.25	1	8.50
Norridge	1	14.25	1	0.75	0	0.00	0	0.00
Northbrook	6	69.50	6	61.25	2	21.50	1	16.00
Northfield	4	69.75	5	52.75	0	0.00	1	1.25
Other	75	1,085.75	85	1,175.25	8	92.50	8	114.75
Palatine	56	807.25	56	727.00	10	117.25	8	210.00
Park Ridge	4	46.25	11	127.50	2	4.50	1	12.75
Prospect Heights	15	188.75	18	205.75	0	0.00	3	36.25
Rolling Meadows	22	234.75	13	247.25	5	96.25	2	2.50
Roselle	2	26.50	1	19.20	2	30.50	2	72.00
Rosemont	0	-	5	115.50	0	0.00	1	2.75
Schaumburg	30	410.25	17	220.25	2	18.25	1	1.75
Schiller Park	3	59.25	8	135.75	1	0.25	2	20.25
Skokie	16	227.75	11	131.75	0	0.00	0	0.00
South Barrington	3	48.00	4	24.25	0	0.00	0	0.00
Streamwood	37	350.25	48	717.25	10	114.00	11	137.75
Wheeling	30	286.50	22	399.75	6	64.75	5	37.75
Wilmette	4	63.50	2	18.75	0	0.00	0	0.00
Winnetka	0	-	2	46.25	0	0.00	0	0.00
Totals	645	8,324.80	616	7,966.25	102	1,190.00	88	1,294.25

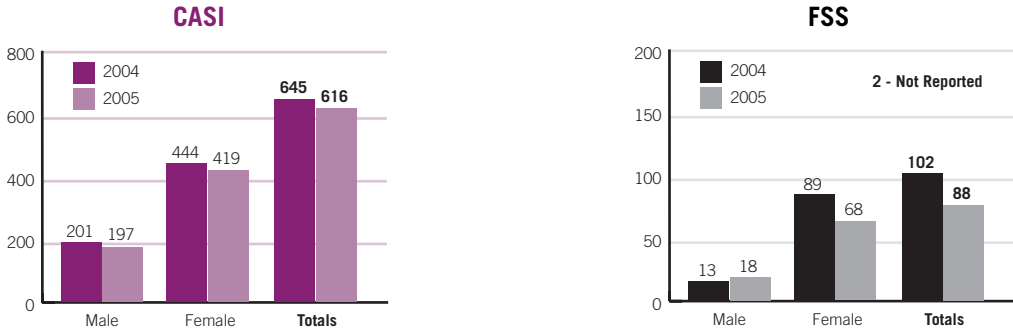
CASI AND FSS STATISTICS BY TOWNSHIP

	CASI (2004)		CASI (2005)		FSS (2004)		FSS (2005)	
	Clients	Hours	Clients	Hours	Clients	Hours	Clients	Hours
Barrington	4	57.00	4	24.25	0	0.00	0	0.00
Elgin	31	371.00	34	345.50	5	36.50	2	16.00
Elk Grove	51	440.50	60	808.50	8	159.30	8	106.50
Evanston	24	342.00	30	420.75	0	0.00	0	0.00
Hanover	77	861.30	89	1180.25	21	212.50	16	271.50
Maine	60	761.50	55	604.00	9	120.00	6	79.00
New Trier	5	70.00	5	69.50	0	0.00	0	0.00
Niles	25	307.50	16	206.25	3	38.20	3	16.75
Northfield	21	316.00	21	286.00	4	42.30	4	50.50
Other	88	1298.50	96	1381.50	13	178.50	14	192.50
Palatine	76	1079.80	76	1045.50	14	157.00	14	231.25
Schaumburg	85	1271.50	50	505.75	11	138.50	4	100.00
Wheeling	98	1148.30	80	1088.50	14	107.20	17	220.25
Totals	645	8,324.80	616	7,966.25	102	1,190.00	88	1,294.25

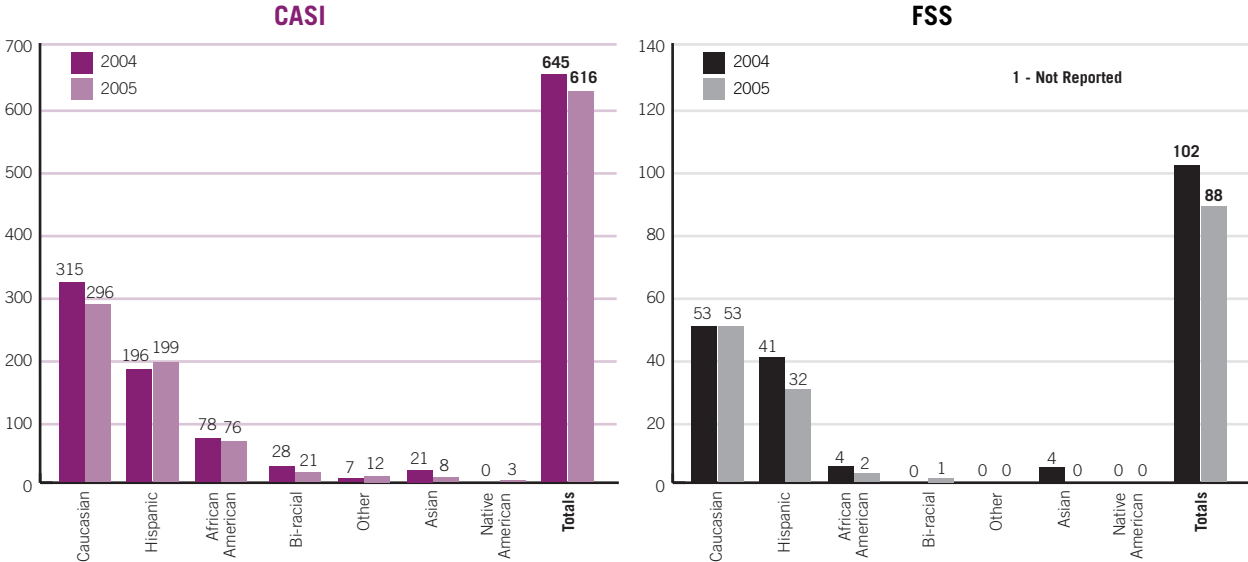
CASI AND FSS STATISTICS BY AGE (IN YEARS)



CASI AND FSS STATISTICS BY GENDER



CASI AND FSS STATISTICS BY DEMOGRAPHIC





Alicia Vega,
Bilingual Advocate



Ninfa Martinez,
Bi-lingual Forensic Interviewer

LATINO PROGRAM

The cultural issues and language barriers that often confront the Latino community can make the difficult process of abuse disclosure even more challenging. In order to reach this population, CAC offers a special program for members of the Latino community. Through this program, a bilingual/bicultural therapist, advocate, and forensic interviewer work to ensure Latino families receive the same high level of services.

Our specialized services include:

- *Communicating and translating in Spanish/English*
- *Comprehensive case planning that addresses the cultural issues, language, legal status and linkages to needed services*
- *Referrals to additional community agencies to meet the family's needs*

According to Alicia Vega, bilingual advocate, the clients in the Latino Program trust the services CAC provides: “Our clients know that we are dedicated to the children and families that we work with. They see us as a ‘lighthouse.’”

Safe From The Start

During their early years, children need special protection from the threat of violence in their homes, schools, and communities.

Through Safe From the Start (SFTS), CAC is dedicated to reducing the trauma of exposure to violence in children ages 0-5. Now in its 3rd year, Safe From The Start offers a variety of programs designed to improve the identification of children exposed to violence, increase access to prevention programs, and support service providers through training and education.



Caryn Brauweiler
Assistant Director, SFTS Program

SFTS services include:

- *Centralized intake of referrals from family members or professionals*
- *Specialized assessment of children ages 0-5 years*
- *Intensive case management with families*
- *Therapeutic services such as crisis intervention, therapy, and parent education groups and workshops*
- *Community education through presentations at schools, health clinics and community centers*
- *Professional consultation with mental health professionals, healthcare providers, early education and law enforcement personnel*
- *An annual symposium to educate community professionals about the effects of violence on children*

SFTS is funded mainly through an Illinois Violence Prevention Authority (IVPA) grant and serves the communities of Hanover Park, Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg, and Streamwood.

When my daughter and I fled from our abuse, it wasn't the police or hospital that helped so much. Those people did help us, but the CAC supported us in so many important ways the others couldn't.



SFTS COORDINATORS:



Veronica Del Pino



Cindy Washburn



Debbie Conley

FEEDBACK ON SFTS

What was most helpful about the Safe From The Start Program?

"Having the Safe From The Start Counselor take an active role in what was happening in my life one on one."

"Staff has been extremely wonderful in providing us with the tools that will enable us to have a higher quality of life."

"Helping me learn to deal with my child's angry outbursts."

"Every time I called and spoke to a staff member, I really felt they listened and they gave answers to my many questions. A very supportive organization."

"The program emphasized the importance of recognizing and accepting how each person feels. It opened up my eyes to being more sensitive in dealing with feelings."

"My children's self-esteem surely went up. They've learned a lot from the program."

"Being able to talk with a professional about what has happened in my own childhood."

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Additional services at CAC help to create a nurturing and supportive environment for the healing process.

Medical Clinic

After the trauma of abuse, the necessary medical follow-ups can be frightening to children. To ensure their safety and comfort, we provide medical examinations, treatment and follow-up care at our own medical clinic by our on-site pediatrician, Dr. Ruby Roy. The child's Advocate is present to provide information, support, and reassurance. All services are provided at no cost to the client's family.

Volunteer Program

At CAC, we're fortunate to have a dedicated corps of volunteers who support our services and help us create a welcoming environment. Many of



Volunteers from One Plus One Mothers of Twins

our volunteers work directly with the children, providing supervision and leading activities while their parents attend the weekly support group. Others help maintain our building and the grounds to keep the Center feeling like home.

The Center works with area high schools to provide a volunteer experience for graduating seniors. More than 200 community members volunteer in the following capacities:

*Board of Directors
Nurse
Facility Maintenance
Fund Raising Activities*

*Medical Record Assistant
Direct Service such as Child Caretakers
Administrative Assistance*



Jean Sepich,
Accounting Manager



Grace Cardella, Susan Reedquist,
Director of Development, and Anna Klimkowicz
at our Volunteer Luncheon

FINANCIAL POSITION

	2005	2004
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$523,472	\$535,806
Contributions and grants receivable	123,639	79,926
Village of Hoffman Estates donated facilities, current portion	35,150	33,108
Prepaid expenses:		
Insurance	4,843	9,968
Other	1,193	2,454
Total Current Assets	688,297	661,262
Property and Equipment		
Leasehold improvements	48,627	48,627
Computers	75,709	69,519
Furniture and equipment	62,081	57,483
	186,417	175,629
Less: Accumulated depreciation	147,465	132,631
Net Property and Equipment	38,952	42,998
Other Assets		
Village of Hoffman Estates donated facilities, net of current position shown above	194,951	230,101
TOTAL ASSETS	\$922,200	\$934,361

	2005	2004
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable, trade	\$12,061	\$5,180
Accrued expenses:		
Payroll	24,648	21,500
Vacation	30,787	26,135
Other	198	555
Total Current Liabilities	67,694	53,370
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	599,556	587,230
Temporarily restricted	254,950	293,761
Total Net Assets	854,506	880,991
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$922,200	\$934,361

IN-KIND DONATIONS

“I feel like the whole community is behind us now.”

– A SFTS Mother who received donations of furniture, linens, accessories, clothing and food

Often, a family in crisis faces more than just emotional difficulties. When the threat of ongoing abuse persists, sometimes the child and parent must leave with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

When that happens, our wonderful volunteers and social service agencies spring into action, spreading the word about the crisis and providing much-needed relief.

All Saints Lutheran Church
Amazing Gracies
American Legion Post 208
Auxiliary
AmericaUnited Bank and Trust Co.
Applebees
Arlington Park Racecourse
Artful Framer Studios
Bahama Breeze
Bailey's Restaurant & Bar
Barn of Barrington
Barnaby's Family Inn
Bellino's Steak & Martini Bar
Big Bowl Asian Kitchen
Black Ram Restaurant
Bob Chinn's Crabhouse Restaurant
Shauna Boliker
Brass Restaurant & Brewery
Brownie Troop #73
Bruss Company
Buffalo Wild Wings Grill & Bar
Brian Burke
James Burke
Kendra Burkinshaw
Cafe Pyrenees
Camera Originals
Grace Cardella
Cassens Transport
Century Door & Lock Co., LTD.
Certified Window Company
Chicago Brauhaus
Chicago Prime Steakhouse
Chili's
Chipotle
Citibank Schaumburg-Financial Ctr.
John Colletti
Officer Bob Coniglio
Cookies by Design
Costco Wholesale
Alicia Cox
Sgt. Joseph Crimmins
Audrey Cuatchon
D & D Sewer & Plumbing
Service
Design Toscano
Discover Financial
Dover Straits
Edward Fox Photography
Egg Harbor Café, Glenview
Egg Harbor Café, Lincolnshire
Electronic Data Systems
El Matador
Elk Grove Village Police

Department
Embassy Suites Hotel
EOS Salon
ESkape Entertainment
Family Chiropractic Center
FEDEX Kinkos
Burt Ficarella
Lorenzo Filipelli
First Franklin Financial
Michael Fontana
David Franzen
Gameworks
Gary S. Churchill
Gilardi's
Girl Scouts from Nerge
Elementary
Girl Scout Service Unit 661
Girl Scout Troop #1249
Girl Scout Troop 162
Girl Scout Troop 558
Leslie Goldberg
Det. Julie and Jeff Golden
Ron Graf
George Haerr
Handyman 4 Hire Inc.
Mark Hansen
Charles Harder
Vicki Hartwig
Health Quest Fitness
Henri Studios
Hilton Garden Inn
Hoffman Estates Fire
Department
Holiday Inn Crystal Lake
Holiday Inn Schaumburg/H.E.
HomeGoods
Yvonne Huenten
Hyatt Deerfield
IHOP
Inverness Golf Club
J. C. Penney Co., Inc.
Jimmy's Charhouse, Elgin
Jimmy's Charhouse, Naperville
Jimmy's Charhouse, Riverwoods
Paul Jochim
John G. Shedd Aquarium
Johnny's Kitchen & Tap
Tom Johnson
Kane County Cougars
Kemper Lakes Golf Course, L.L.C.
Keswick Jewelers
Klehm Family
Kathleen Kopitke
Denise Kramer
L. H. Interiors Inc.

La Magdalena
Le Meridien
Le Peep
Leonas
Tammy LeVan
Det. Joe Licari
Richard Lichner
Links Technology
Lionstone Int.
Loews Cineplex Entertainment
Kim Lopshire
Lou Malnati's Pizzeria
Nancie Ludkowski
Donna Lusco
Staci Lutz-Atchley
Gina Lyke
Lynfred Winery
Macaroni Grill
Tony Mann
Marriott Oak Brook
Marriott of Schaumburg
Mary Kay
Max & Erma's Restaurants, Inc.
Bob Mazanke
Erin McNamee
Rosemarie McNett
Medieval Times
David Meltetal
Melting Pot
Mia Cucina
Michal's Fine Jewelry
Cristina Michelutti
Millrose Restaurant
H.E. Trustee Karen Mills
Mercedes Molina
Museum of Science and Industry
Nancy's Pizzeria
National City Bank
Kate & Keith Nightlinger
Noodles & Company
Northwest Aviation, Inc.
Patrick O'Donnell
Michael O'kasick
One Plus One Mother's of Twins
Onion Pub & Brewery
Jon Owens
Jeff Palan
Mark Parr
Kate Paton
Theodore Pellus
Penelope's Fine Jewelry
Pescatore Palace
Karen Pflanz
Pilot Pete's
Pizza Pasta Catering

Planet Chiropractic
Port Edward Restaurant
Prairie Rock Brewing Company
Prairie Stone Sports & Wellness Ctr
Tom & Lisa Prazu
Real Graphix Inc.
Susan Reedquist
Renaissance Oak Brook Hotel
Dawn Ritz
Rosati's
James Russell
Russell's Barbecue
Ryland Homes
Satin Filly
Schaumburg Golf Club & Academy
Jean & Jerome Sepich
Chuck Siems
St. Hubert's Church
St. Simons Episcopal Church
Starr Couture
Steak n Shake #0311
David Stener
Bob & Helen Strecker
Kathleen Strykowski
Sybaris
David Szymonik
The Bamboo Room
The Clubhouse
The South Barrington Club
The Toy Connection
Today
Tootsies
Touch of Life Chiropractic
Trinity Lutheran Church
Tucker Knapp Integrated Marketing
Via Veneto
Villa Olivia Country Club
Village of Hoffman Estates
Village of Streamwood
Vinci & Adobo Grill
W.I.N.G.S.
WACO
Westin
Wheeling Police Benevolent Assoc.
Suzanne White
Jeff Willinger
Visionary Webworks
Bill Wolfe
WTTW-Channel 11
Donna Yudis
Zanies Comedy Nite Club

CAC GRANTS

Foundations
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Foundation
The Columbian Club Charitable Foundation
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