Why We Do It

WVCAN is also grateful for the many healing, justice, and trust we provide.

Here are some highlights from West Virginia that show our families and partners believe in the West Virginia Child Advocacy Network (WVCAN) and why we do what we do.

Last year, CACs statewide demonstrated that our model works through hundreds of surveys from caregivers and investigators, judges, and others. They may not get the help they need to heal once the investigation is over, having to tell the worst story of his or her life over and over again — to doctors, police, lawyers, therapists, and more.

If caregivers knew anyone else who was dealing with a situation like the one their family faced, 99% would tell that person about the center. Without a CAC, the child may end up having to tell the worst story of his or her life over and over again — to doctors, police, lawyers, therapists, and more.

CACs are how communities mount a coordinated response to allegations of child abuse. To understand what a child advocacy center is, you must understand what children face without one. Without a CAC, the child may end up having to tell the worst story of his or her life over and over again — to doctors, police, lawyers, therapists, and more.

What are CACs and how do they help kids?

There are child advocacy centers in 34 of the West Virginia’s 55 counties. These centers offer a crucial service to children of all ages and backgrounds.

When police or child protective services believe a child is being abused, the child is brought to the CAC — a safe, child-focused environment — to ask. Then, based on the interview, a team that includes medical and mental health professionals, law enforcement, mental health providers, prosecution, victim advocates, and other professionals make decisions together about how to help the child. CACs then offer a range of services like therapy, medical exams, courtroom preparation, victim advocacy, case management, and more.

CACs provide healing, justice, and trust for child victims of abuse.

We are the voice of local CACs in public policy debates. We educate lawmakers, bringing issues of national importance and local impact to their attention. We keep our member Centers informed about new trends and best practices that help minimize trauma for abused children elsewhere, break the cycle of abuse, and hold offenders accountable.

What We Do

WVCAN serves as the West Virginia Child Advocacy Network (WVCAN) and is the statewide leader in the fight against child abuse. We connect the community and professionals to the resources they need to ensure all children have access to safe, high-quality care through our 21-member CACs — child advocacy centers.

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The West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services

West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council

West Virginia Bureau for Public Health

Public Partners:

Katharine B. Tierney Charitable Foundation

Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

The Cary Foundation

Joe & Judy Kenaston

Bernard McDonough Foundation

Foundations:

Highmark West Virginia

Harrison County Child Advocacy Center

First Bank of Charleston

Cornerstone Counseling Center

Contura Energy

Coca-Cola Bottling

Chico Enterprises – Aquila Stone

Bordas and Bordas Attorneys, PLLC

Andrew and Christina Byrd

Sponsors:

34%

Funders:

2016-2017

American Girl Patriots of the American Revolution

25%

Corporate Support

$479,528

10%

Other Income

$472,941

Grants

81%

Program Services

$406,589

Management

9%

Development Specialist

$479,528

Fundraising

10%

Staff:

34%

Executive Director

Grace Stewart

25%

Program Services

Grace Stewart

10%

Awareness & Programs Specialist

Stacy Deel

5%

Program Services

Caitlin Smith
Dear Friends –

I welcome you to WVCAN Annual Report as the newly-elected President of the Board. It’s an honor to be associated with this talented group of people helping abused children every day in our state. As you will see in the pages to come, WVCAN is a thriving non-profit organization with strong programs that have tremendous impact.

In the past year, we celebrated WVCAN’s 10th anniversary at the WV Culture Center in April – a truly amazing event honoring those that are part of the network, past and present. Since 2006, the network has grown from 2 to 20 accredited centers with one developing center that opened its doors in September 2017, CACs now cover 40 counties and 83% of the child population in the state. Before another decade passes, WVCAN’s member centers will be in a position to provide comprehensive services and coordinated care to ALL abused children in West Virginia.

The National Children’s Alliance sets forth standards for its 50 state chapters to ensure consistency in the services provided to member centers in every part of the country. WVCAN just underwent re-accreditation and was approved without recommendations, the highest level possible in the process. All state chapters and child advocacy centers across the county undergo re-accreditation every 5 years, ensuring compliance with national standards and best practices for serving child victims of abuse. West Virginia is one of only a handful of states that can boast all of its centers being nationally-accredited – something we’re extremely proud of – and we look forward to adding the new developing center in Huntington to that list soon.

I serve on this Board and volunteer my time, because I believe in WVCAN’s mission and its impact. In this Annual Report, we are proud to share with you the difference WVCAN and CACs are making in the lives of West Virginia children.

Sincerely,

John Artimez
President, WVCAN Board of Directors
Letter from the Board President

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Are you proud to share with you the difference WVCAN and CACs are making in WVCAN’s mission and its impact. In this Annual Report, we will be in a position to provide comprehensive services and coordinated care to ALL abused children in West Virginia.

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The newly-elected President of the Board.

Sincerely,

John Artimez
President, WVCAN Board of Directors

2017 – A Look Back

JULY 2017

100% accreditation – Children’s Unchanging Place in Haworthburg and Corrections Family Interventions in Shepherdstown became re-accredited, meaning that all 20 of WVCAN’s CACs are now meeting national accreditation standards set forth by the National Children’s Alliance. West Virginia is one of only a handful of states to be able to tout a 100% accreditation rate.

SEPTEMBER 2016

Membership Retreat – WVCAN’s member CACs came together for a time of connection and renewal throughout the annual membership retreat.

OCTOBER 2016

Microsoft Award – WVCAN was honored to receive an award for nonprofit excellence from the West Virginia Nonprofit Association.

Verton Grant – Verton Wireless granted WVCAN funds through their In-Kind Program to expand domestic violence prevention and awareness programs in the state. The donation from Verton helped grow and expand the continuum of care CACs and DV programs provide.

NOVEMBER 2016

Judicial and Prosectorial Summit – Founded by the WV Supreme Court, West Virginia hosted two summits to learn from judges and prosecutors in all levels of child abuse cases that come through a court about the strengths and challenges of child abuse cases that come through a court.

Recommenations from the group were presented to the Grand Impriment Project Board of the WV Supreme Court and the WV Prosecuting Attorney’s Institute, and WVCAN is working with both entities on a plan for implementation.

DECEMBER 2016

Advocacy Summit – WVCAN partnered with Marshall University, CAC staff, and local child abuse medical providers to do a formal program evaluation of our statewide medical services. Connecting kids to medical care is still a major challenge in rural communities, and to make real change we need to know what the biggest barriers to care are. The findings from this study will allow future work to improve access to medical care for children served at CACs for years to come.

APRIL 2017

10-Year Celebration – We celebrated our 10-year anniversary with a reception at the Culture Center in Charleston with donors, investigators, treatment professionals, CAC staff board members, volunteers, legislators, and others from across West Virginia. Four individuals and organizations were honored that evening with Luminary Awards for their dedication to the child advocacy center movement in our state.

State Conference – With a diverse audience of CAC staff and allied team members from their communities, WVCAN’s conference included state and national speakers on best practices and innovative strategies, ensuring children in West Virginia communities receive top-notch care all across the state.
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- **Justice**: 96% of team members believe clients benefit from the collaborative approach of the team.
- **Trust**: If caregivers knew anyone else who was dealing with a situation like the one their family faced, 99% would tell that person about the center.

Why We Do It

3,914 CHILDREN SERVED LAST YEAR

66% INCREASE SINCE 2012

34 AGE 6 OR UNDER

OVER 99% KNEW THEIR PERPETRATOR

2,424 CHILDREN WERE SEXUAL ABUSE CASES

62% INCREASE SINCE 2012

SERVICES PROVIDED:
- 3,550 FORENSIC INTERVIEW
- 937 THERAPY RECEIVED
- 687 MEDICAL EVALUATIONS
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WVCAN is also grateful for the many generous individual donors whose names are too numerous to list on this report. Your shared belief that ending child abuse is a community responsibility is core to the child advocacy center model. Thank you for your courage in taking up this difficult issue.

WVCAN Leadership

Staff:

Emily Chittenden-Laird
Executive Director

Caitlin Smith
Program Services Specialist

Grace Stewart
Director of Program Services

Stacy Deel
Awareness & Development Specialist

Funders

Sponsors:
Andrew and Christina Byrd
Bordas and Bordas Attorneys, PLLC
Chico Enterprises – Aquila Stone
Coca-Cola Bottling
Contura Energy
Cornerstone Counseling Center
First Bank of Charleston
Harrison County Child Advocacy Center
Highmark West Virginia
Joe & Judy Kenaston

Foundations:
Bernard McDonough Foundation
The Cary Foundation
Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation
Katharine B. Tierney Charitable Foundation

Public Partners:
West Virginia Bureau for Public Health
West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council
West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services

Kevin Highlander – with Arnett Carbis Toothman, LLP
Lord Hoosier, PLLC
Lumos Networks
REACHH Child Advocacy Center
Robert & Ruth Baker, Kevin Baker & Sarah K. Brown
Romano & Associates, PLLC
Saar Psychological Group, PLLC
Sheetz
Three Point Strategies, LLC
WV Beer and Wine Association, Inc.

The Rite Aid Foundation
Sisters of St. Joseph Health & Wellness Foundation
The Verizon Foundation
West Virginia Bar Foundation

National Children’s Alliance
Southern Regional Children’s Advocacy Center

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