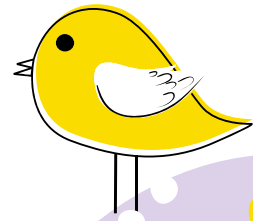




Children's  
Advocacy Center  

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for Kaufman County



Building Hope

[KaufmanCCAC.org](http://KaufmanCCAC.org)

# OUR STORY

For a child who has been sexually or physically abused, nothing is more terrifying than the thought of telling someone what has happened to them. Because most children know their abuser, they understand that their disclosure will forever alter life as they know it.

The criminal justice system — originally designed for adult defendants, not child victims — made it even more difficult for children to talk about their abuse. Children with the courage to tell what had happened to them were forced to undergo repeated questioning about the most traumatic event in their lives. They were interviewed and examined numerous times by police, medical providers, and social workers.

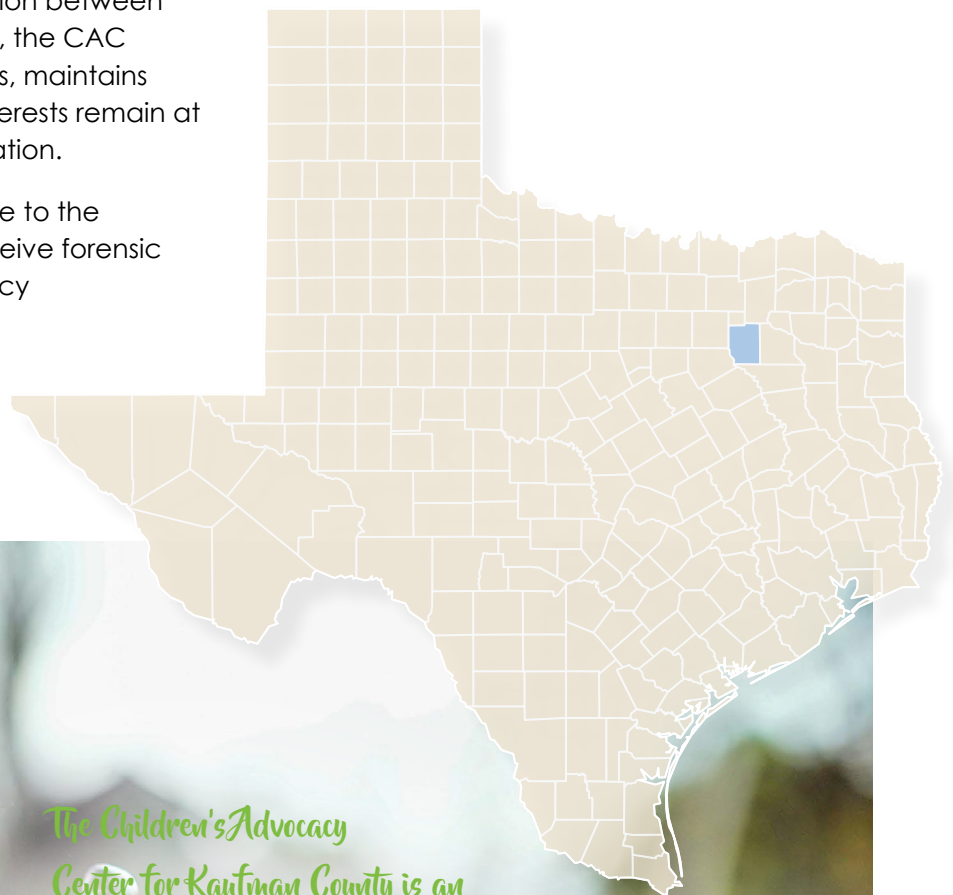
Despite the best efforts of these dedicated professionals, they were re-traumatizing the very children they were trying to help.

The Children's Advocacy Center for Kaufman County was established to coordinate the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse cases across Kaufman county. Modeled on the simple but powerful concept of coordination between professionals involved in the system, the CAC preserves the dignity of child victims, maintains their trust, and ensures their best interests remain at the heart of every criminal investigation.

Each year, nearly 500 children come to the Children's Advocacy Center to receive forensic interviews, counseling and advocacy support. All services are provided in a nurturing, friendly and safe environment at no cost to a child's family.

*You guys were the calm in our very present storm.*

~ client quote



*The Children's Advocacy Center for Kaufman County is an instrumental tool in the fight against child abuse. Kids are safer in our community because of their hard work. The Kaufman County Criminal District Attorney's Office supports our CAC and recognizes them as an integral tool in the law enforcement community.*

~ Erleigh Norville Wiley



# CASE STATEMENT



## BUILDING HOPE CAMPAIGN

Children's Advocacy Center  
for Kaufman County

PO Box 698

Kaufman, Texas 75142

972/932-6252

[kaufmanccac.org](http://kaufmanccac.org)

### Reasons for the Campaign

Since 2008, the Children's Advocacy Center for Kaufman County has served over 4,000 children who have found safety and healing from their abuse. Our mission is to provide justice and healing for children and families impacted by abuse through its support of a collaborative, child-centered response.

For every child we serve, we provide a team investigation and healing services along with case management services for **each** of these **children and their families**. Child sexual assault knows no boundaries and affects every socio-economic group and ethnicity. In the last 5 years, there have been over 3,500 child abuse investigations in our county. We provide services to these abused children in our community and unfortunately, the numbers are not declining. In 2021 we will have provided over 4000 direct services to children and families in crisis within Kaufman County. Over 600 children will be seen at CACKC this year, when we typically see around 400. Our expansion is critical so that we can continue to provide necessary advocacy and therapy services our children need to overcome their abuse and move on to a life full of promise and possibilities.

Like most counties in the Dallas Fort Worth area, our county is continuing to grow and as the county continues to grow we anticipate the number of child abuse cases to continue to increase. To meet the need we have begun a \$2.4 million capital campaign, Building Hope.

The future of our children depends on how we, as a community, respond to vulnerable children in need. Our vision is to end the effects of the abuse suffered by every child victim who walks through our doors and place the needs of the child first. **We believe that all child victims of sexual assault in Kaufman County deserve access to the caring and compassionate services provided at the Children's Advocacy Center for Kaufman County.** A new facility is essential to facilitate the collaborative work of our partners and provide hope and healing to every child victim. This campaign will allow us to move from our current modular building to 10,000 square feet. The project will increase space for:

**Investigative Services** We outgrew our little building years ago and can no longer accommodate the growing demand for investigative services. With only one interview room and waiting area on-site, we are forced to limit the number of children we see each day. The interview room we are currently using is not soundproof and children are often interrupted by the conversations of others waiting for services or street noise. There is limited space for parents to consult privately with CAC staff and receive the care, support, and attention they need. The forensic interview observation room used by law enforcement and social workers to monitor forensic interviews is also used for other purposes. With the new secure access building we will have:

- two soundproof forensic interview rooms;
- two dedicated rooms for law enforcement to view forensic interview rooms;
- a dedicated office for law enforcement, child protective investigators, or the Kaufman County District Attorney's office to use when on-site;
- separate conference room for families to meet with child advocates for case management or other needs;
- a larger conference room to accommodate case review meetings with partner agencies and Board of Directors meetings. This space will also be a multipurpose room used to help deregulate child clients during therapy.

**Counseling Program** Our current counseling program has two rooms for individual counseling, one room for play therapy, and no dedicated area for group counseling services. The new building will provide:

- five counseling rooms, two play therapy rooms, group counseling room, and deregulation space;
- four waiting areas for children and families that can also serve for case management services;
- offices for child advocates and our growing administrative team.







## BUILDING HOPE CAMPAIGN

### Empathy in Crisis

In the spring of 2020, a teenage female client was in crisis. Shortly after receiving a forensic interview for sexual assault she experienced at the hand of her father, he committed suicide. Her immediate family did not provide any support, and she was staying with a friend. In addition to her extreme situation, she was also considered high-risk due to losing a friend by suicide the past year. Due to COVID-19, therapy services had moved to a virtual platform, but her therapist recognized the need for an in-person crisis session. After using screening protocols and safety measures, the client was able to meet with her therapist at the CAC and receive the support needed for stabilization.

### Support for Sexual Assault Victims

A teenage boy was taken to CACKC after his mother committed suicide at home while he was present. While at the CAC, both the boy and his father, who had traveled from another county, disclosed experiences of sexual assault, something neither of them had ever discussed with anyone before. The CACKC advocate set the family up with support services. Through this the boy began receiving grief and grieving counseling, and both him and his father began counseling to address their trauma from sexual assault so they can heal together.



### Courage to Stop the Cycle of Abuse

Maggie was only 8 years old the first time her father sexually abused her. CACKC staff had given a presentation at an afterschool program on body safety where Maggie happened to be attending. Although many years had past since the initial abuse started, the day after that presentation Maggie found the courage to tell her friend about the abuse she had been enduring. CACKC worked with Maggie, her mother and little sister to help them find healing and restoration. While offering therapy to Maggie's little sister to help her deal with the loss (incarceration) of her father, we discovered that the father had begun the grooming process with her as well. Maggie's incredible courage enabled her abuse to stop and kept her little sister from becoming a victim as well.



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# NAMING OPPORTUNITIES



## BUILDING HOPE CAMPAIGN

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**Building .....\$500,000**

The new 10,000 square foot Children's Advocacy Center for Kaufman County will offer investigative, advocacy and counseling services to help child abuse victims.

**Counseling Suite .....\$200,000**

The counseling suite has eight (8) counseling offices and is where children and families receive evidence-based counseling to help heal them from their abuse.

**Victim Advocacy & Forensic Interview Area .....\$150,000**

The victim advocacy and forensic interview area is the first area in the Center where children who have been abused are seen. This area is where children and their families begin to receive support services and it is where the investigation into the alleged child abuse begins.

**Multipurpose Area .....\$100,000**

The large multipurpose area is a place for partner agency trainings, case reviews and a desregulation space for therapy clients.

**Medical Examination Room .....\$100,000**

The medical examination room is where our medical professionals examine and document the abuse the children have endured.

**Resource Room .....\$100,000**

This room is a 24/7 resource center where victim advocates and caseworkers can get supplies for children who are victims of abuse or neglect who have immediate needs.

**Reception/Waiting Area .....\$100,000**

This child friendly reception/waiting area will be a warm, welcoming area for children and their families. There are 4 waiting areas to help maintain confidentiality of families.

**Individual Offices are available for naming starting at \$25,000 (if acceptable to donor who might name an area or suite). The following is a list of the individual offices available for naming:**

- 8 counseling offices
- 6 Victim Advocacy & Forensic Interview rooms all located in the same area (2 - forensic interview rooms, 2 observation, 2 post-interview rooms)
- CEO office

\*Additional naming opportunities may be available. If you are interested in naming a particular area or office not listed in the naming opportunities above, please inquire.



# OUR VISION

Our vision is to end the effects of the abuse suffered by every child victim who walks through our doors and place the needs of the child first.

We believe that all child victims of sexual and physical abuse in Kaufman County deserve access to the caring and compassionate services provided at the Children's Advocacy Center for Kaufman County. A new facility is essential to facilitate the collaborative work of our partners and provide hope and healing to every child victim. Your gift will help our vision become a reality.

## Children

who visit our CAC should experience a nurturing, safe and child-friendly environment; a place where they can ask questions, explore complex emotions and feel supported as they begin the process of healing.

## Caregivers

need a comfortable, private space where it's safe to ask questions without fear of judgment; a place where they can strengthen their support system and gather the skills needed to begin moving forward.

## Our Staff

members require quiet, private office space to protect confidentiality of children and families; a welcoming, comfortable CAC designed to accommodate multiple children and caregivers simultaneously.

## Our Community

is worthy of a nationally recognized model for Children's Advocacy Center services; a leading resource for the prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse.



# Building Hope

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