



# 2023 IMPACT REPORT





## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR

At the Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County (CAC), 2023 was an intense year working to meet the acute and articulated needs of our community's most vulnerable children and their families.

We served more than 1,600 children affected by sexual abuse, physical abuse, commercial sexual exploitation and child trafficking. We educated over 5,800 members of our community to recognize, respond to, and prevent child abuse. And we continue to grow and innovate to maximize the support we provide to the children we serve, in the face of external challenges.

We launched a toolkit outlining our innovative response for missing youth that was adopted by CACs nationwide, began delivering mental health programming for preschool-aged children, and we reached more professionals and caregivers than ever before with our prevention trainings. We celebrated Susan Goldfarb's illustrious career at the helm of the CAC after her departure in April 2023 and two months later welcomed her successor, Annie Marcklinger Gordon, as our Executive Director.

The CAC's home, the Family Justice Center, was (and continues to be) under construction and suffered periodic flooding throughout the year. Despite these disruptions, our dedicated staff remained focused on delivering the best possible care to the children and families who need and deserve our no-cost expert services.

As you review this report, we hope you can see and feel the positive impact the CAC is making in the lives of the children and families we serve in Suffolk County, across the Commonwealth, and beyond. It is your partnership and support that makes that impact possible.



ANNIE



ELISABETH

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Marcklinger Gordon".

Annie Marcklinger Gordon  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elisabeth Schadae Percelay".

Elisabeth Schadae Percelay  
Chair, Board of Trustees

# MISSION & VALUES

## MISSION

The Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County (CAC) is Suffolk County's frontline responder to reports of child sexual abuse, serious physical abuse, and commercial sexual exploitation of children under age 18. Our mission is to unite public, private and community partners to ensure safety, healing and justice for children and families impacted by abuse, violence, and exploitation.

## VALUES

With new leadership in place and a growing staff, it was important for the team to come together and formalize and implement the Values of the organization. After much discussion, revision, and polishing, five values—outlined in detail on the following pages—stood out:

**Child and Family Centered • Collaborative Relationships  
Courageous • Equity and Inclusion • Leadership**

# VALUES

*We uphold our values in every interaction with partners, supporters, community members, families, and the children and youth we serve.*

## CHILD & FAMILY CENTERED

- We elevate and amplify the voices of the children and youth that we serve.
- We work to understand, honor, and advocate for the individual needs of each child and youth that we serve.
- We recognize and affirm that all children are deserving of safety, protection, care and compassion.
- We honor each child's and family's path to healing.

## COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

- We prioritize building strong and trusting relationships with families, partners, and community members.
- We respectfully and clearly communicate the needs of the children, youth, families, and communities we serve to raise awareness, foster prevention, and help children heal.
- We exemplify kindness, respect, humility, and sensitivity in all of our collaborations, with the goal of lifting the voices of those we serve.

## COURAGEOUS

- We do not settle for the status quo; we take active steps to improve systems through policy work, effective communication, and collaboration.
- We proactively take steps to overcome individual and collective barriers that prevent us from achieving our mission, even when doing so is challenging.
- We strive to rethink how systems and services work.
- We hold ourselves to the highest standard of care and collaboration, and advocate for our partners to do the same.



# VALUES

*We uphold our values in every interaction with partners, supporters, community members, families, and the children and youth we serve.*

## EQUITY AND INCLUSION

- We embrace and honor the diversity and cultural identities of our team, families, and community while acknowledging the presence of privileges and biases.
- We actively work to unlearn our biases, practice cultural humility, and hold each other and systems accountable.
- We strive to make our center and services accessible and welcoming to all regardless of their race, culture, gender, sexuality, age, ability, citizenship, language, nationality, religion, socio-economic status, or any other characteristics or identities.
- We are committed to dismantling systems of oppression and centering the voices of those most impacted by those systems in our discussions and decisions.

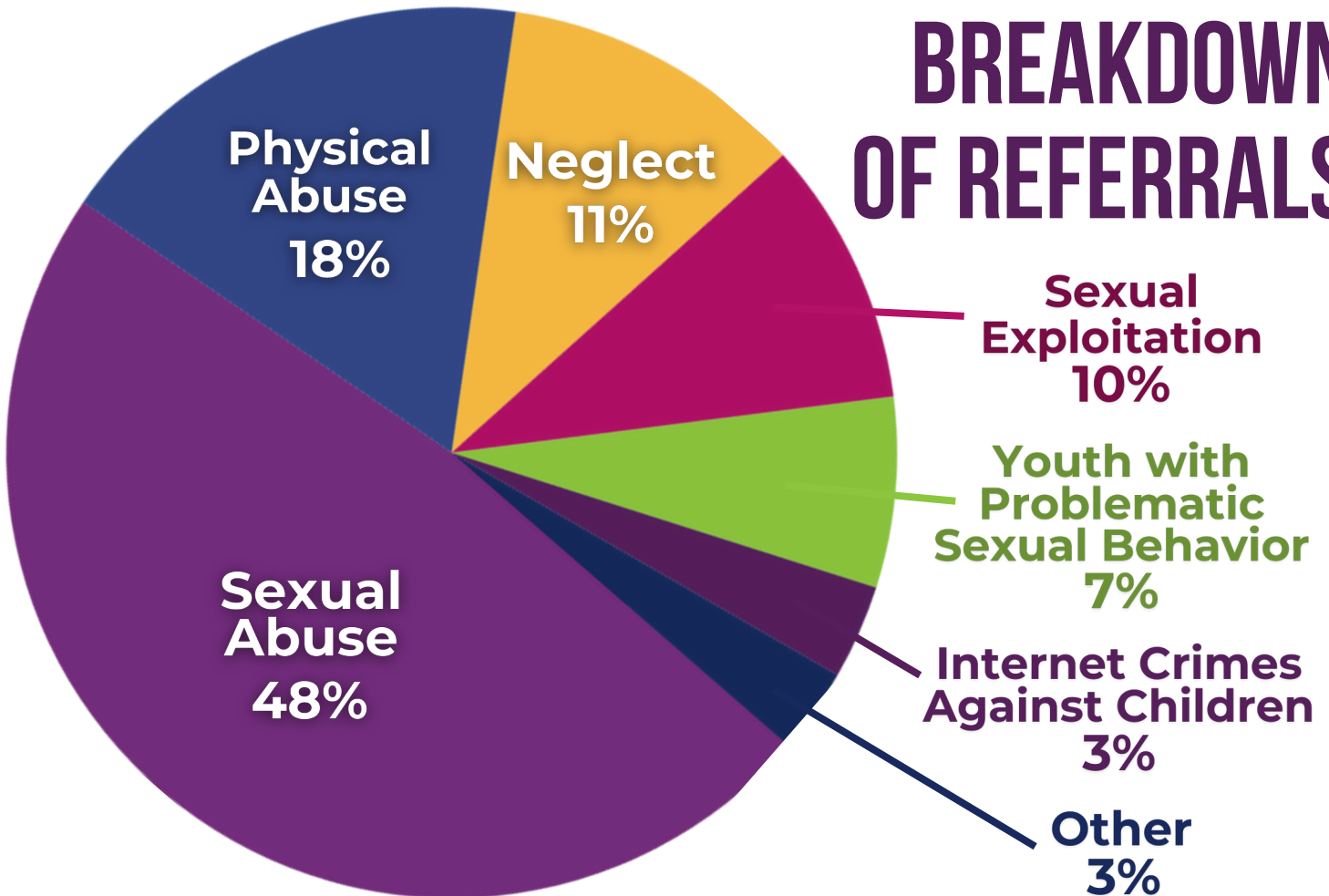
## LEADERSHIP

- We uphold and implement trauma-informed practices, promote transparency, and advocate for systemic changes that enhance the overall safety and wellbeing of children and youth.
- We are strategic, proactive, and consistent in meeting the needs of the children and families of Suffolk County, ensuring that their voices are heard.
- We keep ourselves and our community current with evolving issues and best practices in our field by prioritizing continuous education and training.

# 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

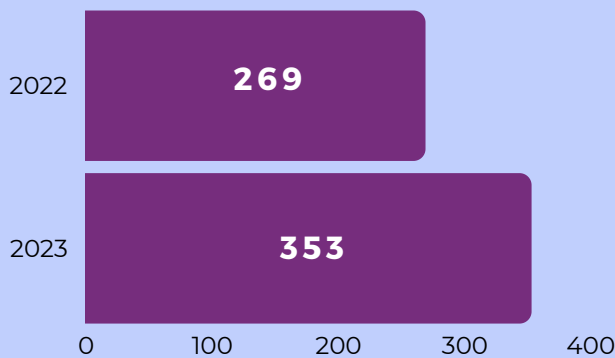


## BREAKDOWN OF REFERRALS



# MEETING INCREASED NEEDS

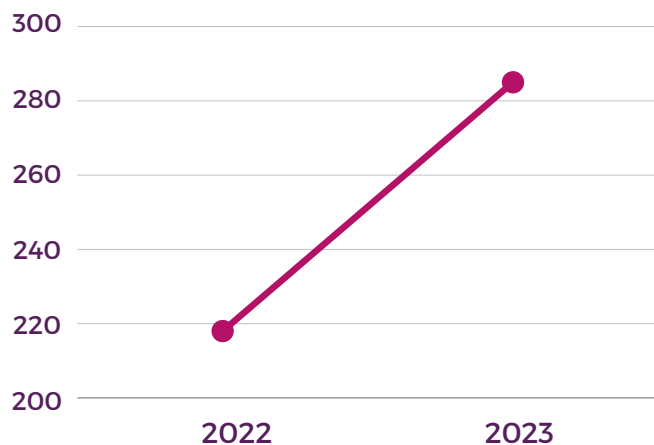
## Mental Health Therapy Sessions



**139%** increase in **Problematic Sexual Behavior - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (PSB-CBT)** sessions.

**31%** increase in sessions for all therapeutic interventions.

## Referrals for High-Risk & Exploited Youth



**31%** increase in referrals to our **Support to End Exploitation Now (SEEN)** team.

The CAC is constantly adapting to meet the needs of the children and families we serve. In 2023, we expanded services and trainings to care for two populations not previously adequately supported.

Our PSB-CBT was extended to include children ages 3-6 years old—making the CAC the only agency in the state offering this specialized intervention in-house at no cost to families.

Additionally, our SEEN program collaborated with our partners at My Life My Choice to develop a new training for professionals focused on supporting LGBTQ+ youth. In the *Identification & Trauma-Informed Engagement of At-Risk & Exploited LGBTQ+ Youth* professionals learn about the specific needs of LGBTQ+ youth who are at-risk and exploited and discuss strategies for effectively creating safe spaces and empowering youth to engage with multidisciplinary teams.



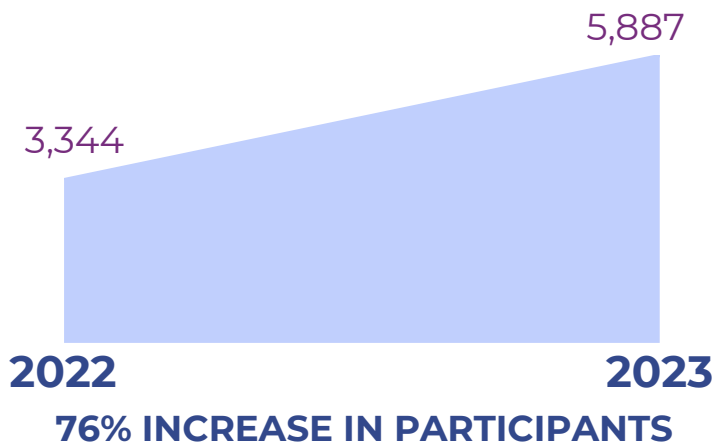
# Connecting with the Community

Our Training and Outreach Program has the mission of raising awareness of child abuse and providing professionals, community members, and caregivers with the skills to prevent, recognize, and respond to the abuse and exploitation of children. In 2023, the team did just that and more—delivering **55% more trainings**, reaching **76% more participants**, and distributing resources at **83% more community events** than the year before.

TRAININGS



PARTICIPANTS





# Educating & Learning in Suffolk County & Beyond

In 2023, CAC staff provided testimony to support survivors of trafficking, learned from other experts in the field right here in the Commonwealth and across the country, served as panelists at national conferences, and welcomed community partners for an informational Open House at the Family Justice Center.





# Coming Together as a Team



Throughout the year, the CAC staff had several opportunities to get to know each other better and support the community together.

Events included a trip to Encore Boston Harbor to help “Feed the Funnel,” a staff retreat, and a festive Fall potluck.



# Innovative and Compassionate Care



With 17 years of experience, the CAC and our Support to End Exploitation Now (SEEN) program has been a pioneer in recovering and supporting missing youth—leading countless teams to find youth missing across the country and bring them back home. We took our experience and lessons learned and created a road map for recovering and supporting missing youth.

Launched in January 2023, the “High-Risk Missing and Exploited Youth: Guidelines for the Multidisciplinary Team Response” toolkit was created in collaboration with the SEEN Steering Committee and with grant funding from the National Children’s Alliance. Beyond the recovery, this toolkit provides guidance for professionals on how to wrap a safety net around each young person to reduce the risk of them going missing again.

What sets the CAC apart is our inclusion of expert mental health, interpersonal support, social service, and youth-serving providers that work hand-in-hand with law enforcement. It is not just about removing youth from harm, but, most importantly, helping them begin to heal.

We believe every missing and exploited youth should have a specialized, expert team driving their trauma-informed intervention. The toolkit is designed to support just that.



*Associate Director Beth Bouchard and SEEN Program Manager Sheelah Gobar presented the new toolkit at the 2023 National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC) National Training Institute held in Boston.*

“After you’ve been exploited it’s hard to trust anybody. Having adults that care shows us that not everybody is there to take advantage of you.”

—*Exploited Youth*



# What's Our Why?

“I am devoted to advocating for the well-being of the children, youth, and families in our communities.”

— Gladys Sorto-Aviles  
*Family Resource Specialist and Child Fatality Review Team Co-Lead & Coordinator*



“When children leave the CAC, they can breathe again. They have the reassurance that their bodies are ok, their bodies are normal and healthy, not broken. I feel really good about that.”

— Adine Latimore, DNP, MS, PPCNP-BC  
*SANE Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse*



“I am passionate about improving systems of support for children who have experienced trauma, and by examining the data we collect on our services, we can identify what we’re doing well, where we can improve, and where we can expand our services to meet the needs of the children of Suffolk County.”

— Sam Heller  
*Data Analyst*





# FINANCIALS

## Fiscal Year Ended July 31, 2023

### ASSETS

#### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	\$3,052,404
Grants & Contributions Receivable	\$142,585
Accounts Receivable	-
Prepaid Expenses	\$52,486
Total Current Assets	<u>\$3,247,475</u>

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT, NET \$62,700

TOTAL ASSETS \$3,310,175

### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

#### CURRENT LIABILITIES

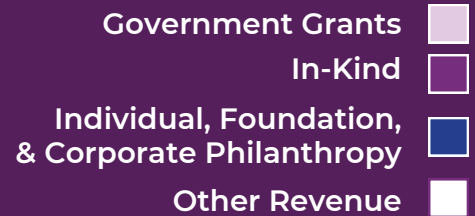
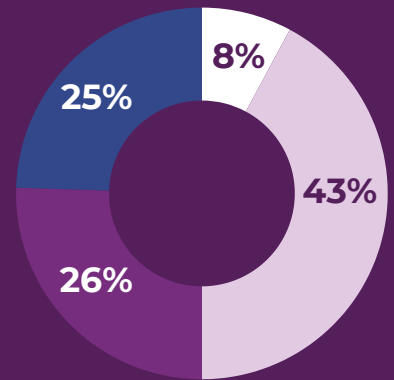
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$15,637
Accrued Payroll Related Costs	\$55,353
Conditional Grant Advances	-
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$70,990</u>

#### NET ASSETS

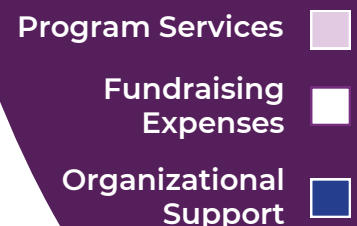
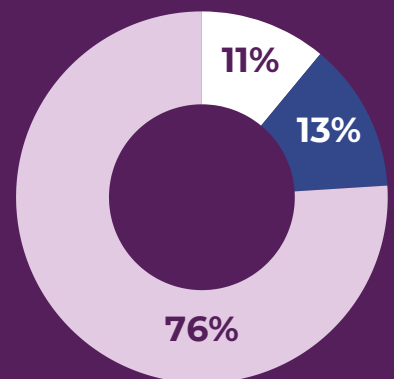
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	\$3,040,592
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$198,592
Total Net Assets	<u>\$3,239,184</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$3,310,175

### REVENUE



### EXPENSES



“

I'm grateful for the opportunity to support an organization doing such critically important work.

— CAC Donor

”

# DONORS & FUNDERS

*The Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County is able to offer our expert, trauma-informed services at no cost to the children and families we serve thanks to the generous support of the following donors and funders.*

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# WHO WE ARE

# 26

Staff Members  
& Interns

## STAFF & INTERNS

Annie Marcklinger Gordon | *Executive Director*

Gladys Sorto-Aviles | *Family Resource Specialist*

Sarah Austin, MSW | *Consultant*

Madeline Bacon, MSW, LCSW | *Mental Health Clinician*

Elizabeth M. Bouchard, MPH | *Associate Director*

Nicole Bresnahan | *Development Coordinator*

Erica Chepulis, MSW, LCSW | *Training Program Manager*

Lakeisha Clayton | *Operations Consultant*

Emily Cutts, MSW, LCSW | *MDT Coordinator/Forensic Interviewer*

Samantha DeLois, MA, NCC | *Mental Health Clinician*

Marcela Familiar-Bolaños, MSW | *Mental Health Clinician*

Sheelah Gobar, MS | *SEEN Program Manager*

Catalina Gutierrez-Perez, MSW, LICSW | *Director of Mental Health & Advocacy*

Sam Heller, MPH | *Data Analyst*

Sophie Jordan | *SEEN Case Coordinator*

Adine Latimore, DNP, MS, PPCNP-BC, SANE | *Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner*

Maria Carolina Massiani, LMHC | *Mental Health Program Manager*

En Ci Mong | *Community Outreach Coordinator*

Alyssa Santiago | *Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Program Assistant/Northeastern Coop*

Kim Sebastiao | *Chief of Development & External Affairs*

Alex Spurlock, MSW, LICSW | *Mental Health Clinician*

Mara Steed | *SEEN Program Assistant/Northeastern Coop*

Lauren Sterling | *Clinical Intern/Simmons University MSW*

Catherine Tootell, MSW, LICSW | *MDT Manager/Forensic Interviewer*

Vanessa Vicente | *Forensic Interviewer*

Alisia L.L. Waller | *Operations Associate*

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# HEALING STARTS HERE

## CONTACT US :



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