



ROOM TO HEAL

Where we've been...

- In 1998 we served 36 children. In 2010, the number had grown to 856 and in 2019 we served 1,225 children, reflecting a 3,303% increase. To meet the growing need, our staff expanded from a team of 8 in 2011 to 23 today.
- In 2012, LB 993 was passed, amending Nebraska State Statute 28-728. This important change now mandates CAC utilization for children who are 3 to 18 years of age and are alleged to be victims of abuse.
- Also, in 2012, we expanded on-site mental health services through an increased collaboration with Project SAFE and a new partnership with Lutheran Family Services.
- In 2013, the Lancaster County Trial Team was created to increase successful prosecution of offenders, facilitated by CAC Case Coordinators.
- To meet the needs of rural families we began operating two satellite offices in 2014, one in York and one in Auburn.
- In 2015, we launched a Training and Prevention Program with the goal to educate multidisciplinary teams, parents and the community on warning signs of child abuse, proper response to disclosure, reporting laws, and strategies to keep children safe. To date, we have trained approximately 20,000 individuals.
- In 2018, we began serving child victims of sex-trafficking. The number of victims has grown 350% in 3 years.
- In 2019, we formed the Lancaster County Commercial Sexual Exploitation Multidisciplinary Team. The first of its kind in Nebraska, this team assists in organizing a coordinated investigative response, identifying possible victims of sex trafficking, advocating for victims' needs, and seeking justice on their behalf.

As of October 25th, 2021

we have served 11,845 children in our current facility.



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Where we're going...

While we are proud of the strides made on behalf of child survivors thus far, we recognize there is still much to be done. The impact of COVID-19 in the last year has exacerbated the pre-existing health and safety concerns for child victims of abuse. To better address victim needs, the CAC Capital Campaign efforts will be focused on the following three priority areas:

- Co-location with the Lincoln Police Department Special Victims Unit
- Expansion of our Medical Program, specifically by
 - Hiring full-time medical staff to afford us the ability to provide medical exams to every child victim of abuse or neglect;
 - Assuming the primary responsibility of providing acute SANE exams on-site, which are currently conducted in hospital emergency rooms, taking an average for 4-6 hours per child in an intimidating environment; and
 - Implementing a process that allows the successful collection and secure storage of evidence from medical exams to be used toward the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators
- Addition of a triage space for children being removed from their homes that will
 - Provide them with an escape from the chaos to an environment where they can feel welcome, safe, and comfortable
 - Give them comfort through the power of play and imagination while also providing them with a warm meal, clean clothes, and medical care
- Expansion of the Training and Prevention Program, specifically to
 - Offer education in classroom settings;
 - Increase training efforts in rural counties

Help us provide child victims of abuse with

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