

RED RIVER  
**CHILDREN'S**  
ADVOCACY CENTER



# 20 ANNUAL 25 REPORT



# Who We Are

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## Red River Children's Advocacy Center

The Red River Children's Advocacy Center provides a compassionate and effective way to bring services to children victimized by abuse. Our public-private collaboration significantly reduces the trauma associated with reporting child abuse. We help coordinate care and investigation from first report to conviction and beyond, while keeping the child at the center of everything the team does.

## Our Mission

*To facilitate healing and justice for victims of sexual and physical abuse, neglect and exploitation, and to engage the community to protect and support children.*



# What We Do

CAC stands for Children’s Advocacy Center. CACs are community-based, child-focused organizations that work as part of a multidisciplinary team (MDT) to coordinate communities’ responses to incidents of child abuse with the goal of promoting healing and justice for victims and their families.

By coordinating the response of agencies like law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors’ offices, advocates, mental health, and medical professionals, CACs help ensure that when a child discloses abuse, they are not further victimized by the systems designed to protect them. From the initial allegation of abuse, the multidisciplinary team allows the child an opportunity to talk with a single forensic interviewer in a safe, neutral setting, thus protecting the victim from being unnecessarily interviewed by multiple people from each specific field. The team continues to work together to guide the investigation, treatment, management, and possible prosecution of the case to ensure the greatest level of protection and care for the child victim and family.

## Without CACs



## With CACs



*At its core, the model is about teamwork—bringing the agency professionals involved in a case together on the front end—and about putting the needs of the child victim first. CACs provide an array of compassionate, professional, trauma-informed services to children and their families.*

## Our Goals



Do the best job possible in finding out what happened.



Help make the process as comfortable as possible.



Work in cooperation with other services/programs to help children and families.



Help families begin to heal.

# Our Services

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Connecting to RRCAC's services starts with a referral from Law Enforcement or Social Services following reported allegations of any type of child abuse, maltreatment, or exploitation. Our professionals set in motion a process that will begin the **healing for children who have been abused**, as well as their family members.

Red River Children's Advocacy Center **provides services at no cost** to children and families. These services are the stepping stones that enable our staff and partners to work as a team to support children and help them heal.



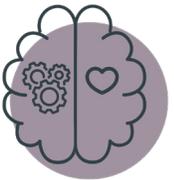
## Forensic Interviews

Specially trained Forensic Interviewers work with the MDT to ensure children are not interviewed unnecessarily and allow them to share their experience in a safe, legally sound, and neutral setting.



## Advocacy Sessions

Advocacy focuses on the needs of children and non-offending caregiver(s), providing them with needed support and information along with a compassionate, listening ear.



## Mental Health Care

Specialized trauma-specific and evidence-based mental health screening, assessment, and treatment are offered to children and families to help them cope with the trauma and work toward healing.



## Medical Exams

Specialized medical evaluations are offered to ensure the health and safety of each victim, identify any evidence of abuse, and make referrals to additional care as needed.



## MDT Collaboration

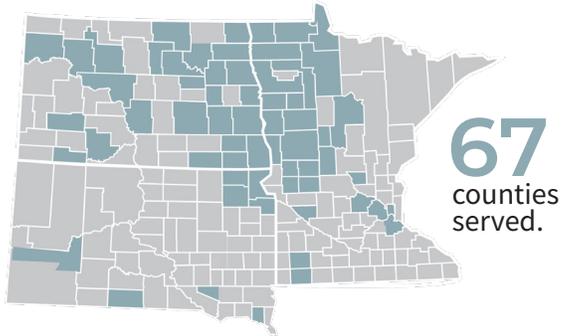
Professionals from the CAC and multi-disciplinary team work together and share their expertise to reach the best outcomes for children.



## Prevention Education

Child abuse prevention education strengthens our community's ability to protect children. Through presentations, workshops, and resources, we aim to educate others about the issue of child sexual abuse and how we can work together to eliminate it.

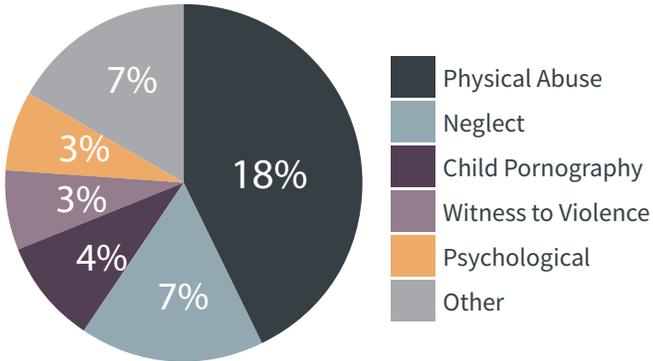
# Who We Serve



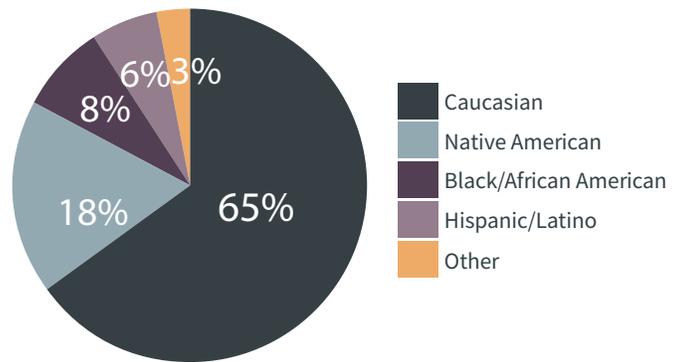
**70% Female 30% Male**



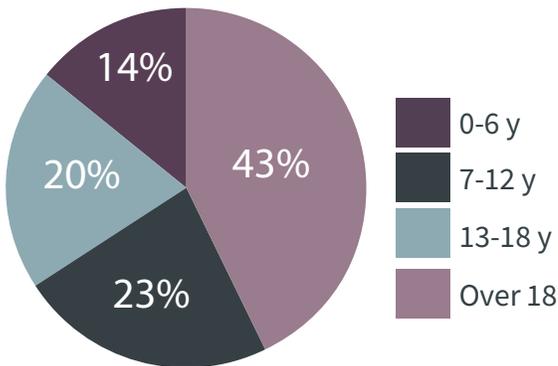
## Types of Abuse



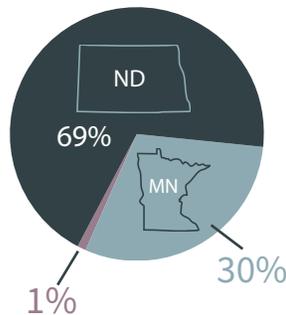
## Race



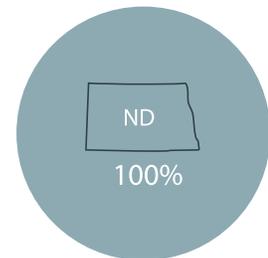
## Age



## Victims Served by State



## State/Federal Funding Received by State



We receive no funding from Minnesota and provide more than \$570,000 worth of services/year.

*The Red River Children's Advocacy Center exists to change those numbers and lead the fight against the cycle of child abuse through a more coordinated and compassionate approach.*

# Our Year in Review

## Our Numbers



**1,075**  
people



**11,141**  
services



**100+**  
presentations and tours  
to increase awareness and  
community engagement

## Our Services



**504**  
Forensic Interviews



**91**  
Medical Exams



**9,702**  
Advocacy Services



**844**  
Mental Health  
Sessions



**368**  
MDT Members Attended  
Forensic Interviews and  
Case Review

## Our 2025 Highlights



RDO selected us for its Caters Taters charity, raising \$87,280 for our important services to children and families.



The women of Oxbow Country Club hosted a wonderful charity event, raising an incredible \$15,310 for our programs.



Our Devil's Lake location achieved full accreditation status, reflecting the highest standards of care to children and families.



Our forensic interviewers attended a training that enhanced their skills in interviewing youth with a developmental disability, language delay, or autism.



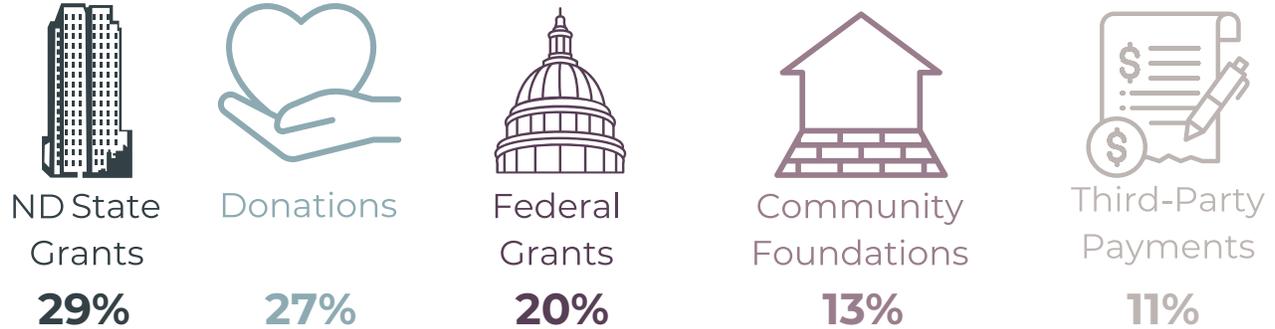
Our very own Chislaine Weisz was recognized as Child Advocate of the Year by the Grand Forks community for her work as a family advocate.



20 Stand to Protect trainings on child abuse prevention reached 252 adults and established ongoing monthly sessions at the YWCA shelter for residents.

# How We Are Funded

## Revenue



As a non-profit organization, we are dependent on the generosity of the communities we serve. Our services are provided at no cost to children and families. We are funded through grants, foundations, and community support.

## Partners in Our Success

Our work is made possible through the generous donations of individuals, agencies, businesses, and foundations. We thank all our partners and supporters who make the work we do in helping children possible!



# Our Impact

Exceptional Impact in the Courtroom

**“We were very impressed**  
*with Emma’s forensic interview and her testimony  
in trial. The conviction was made possible by the  
strength of that interview.*”



— Craig Danielson,  
West Fargo Police Department

## Transforming Lives



A child completing therapy recently shared they “haven’t felt this good in a really long time,” reflecting the impact of consistent, trauma-informed care.



One teen who began treatment facing instability and limited family connection has shown significant reduction in trauma symptoms. Through coordinated support, the family now has stable housing, improved communication, reliable transportation to school, and access to community resources that support long-term stability.



Participants in our SPARCS trauma group reported strong connections and meaningful growth throughout the program. At graduation, several teens shared they would miss the group and the support they experienced there.

## Expanding Access to Care

### Connecting Students

Our telehealth SPARCS group currently connects 7 students from 7 different schools across North Dakota and Minnesota, expanding access to specialized trauma treatment across geographic boundaries.

### Supporting Families

Through collaboration with caregivers and partners, our team has successfully supported families in ways that help prevent placement disruptions and strengthen long-term stability for youth.

We continue to build partnerships with school districts, bringing services directly to students and reducing barriers to care for families in our region.

### Parent Feedback

Feedback from parents and caregivers reflects the impact of our services:

“I believe my child felt safe at the center.”

— **100% agree**

“The RRCAC provided me with resources to support my child.” — **100% agree**

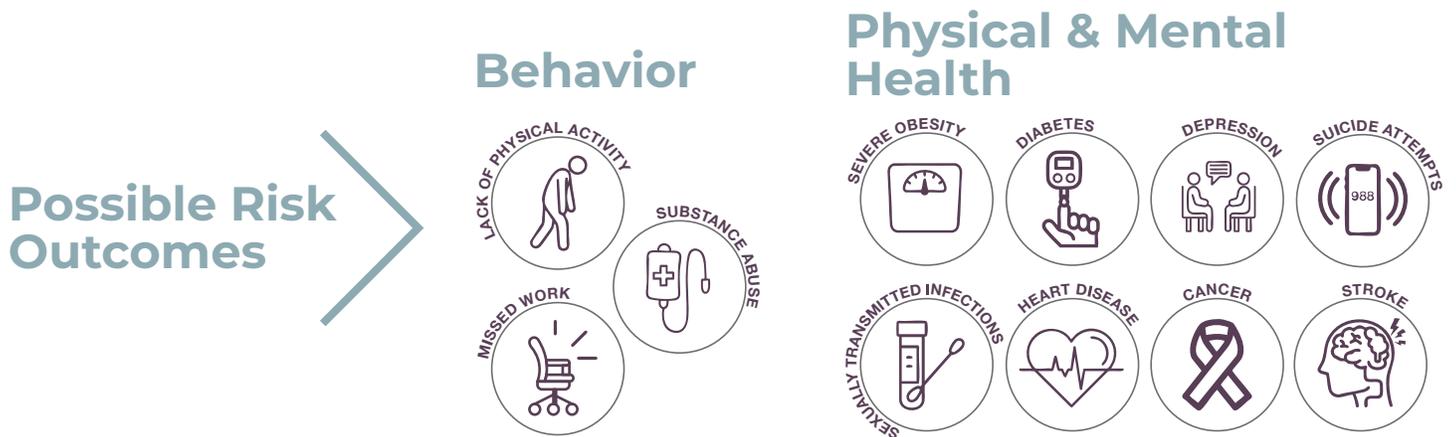
*Together, we are strengthening families, supporting healing, and improving outcomes for children in our community.*

# Why It Matters

## The impact of childhood trauma can last a lifetime.

Child abuse and other forms of trauma can have lifelong effects on children, families, and communities.

Many studies have shown the strong relationship between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which include childhood trauma like abuse, and serious outcomes such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, substance use, health problems, and even poverty and early death.



## Trauma is both common and costly to society.

How many children are we talking about? Nearly half of all U.S. children experience at least one type of childhood trauma. That exacts a toll on children, their caregivers, their community, and our country as a whole. For in addition to the physical, emotional, and social costs of child abuse, such trauma also carries economic costs.

### Abuse and other forms of trauma are common.

Nearly half of all U.S. children—

some **34 million**—have experienced at least one type of childhood trauma, while

**16 million** have experienced two or more types of trauma.<sup>2</sup>

### Abuse carries a heavy cost.

The lifetime cost for each victim is

**\$210,012**

Each year, total lifetime costs of new cases of child abuse reach approximately

**\$124 billion<sup>1</sup>**

1. Fang et al. (2012). Child Abuse and Neglect, 36(2), 156–165.

2. Bethell et al. (2014). Health Affairs, 33(12), 210–2016.

# How You Can Help

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The services of the Red River Children's Advocacy Center (RRCAC) are made possible because of the generous support from our communities. Because of your donations, we are able to respond to and prevent the abuse of our children. Please consider partnering with us today to make our mission possible.

The RRCAC is funded through grants and donations.  
Every dollar donated helps make a difference in the lives of children.

**Give Online**  
[www.RRCAC.org](http://www.RRCAC.org)



**Mail Checks To:**  
Red River Children's Advocacy Center  
2601 12th Ave. S. Suite B  
Fargo, ND 58103

**Charitable Giving**  
EIN (Tax ID): 20-1095721  
501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization  
Including RRCAC in your will, trust, or estate plans is a meaningful way to support our mission of providing hope, healing, and justice for children and families impacted by abuse.

**Host a Fundraiser**  
Host a fundraiser or supply drive supporting our organization. Volunteer at one of our events:

- Giving Hearts Day
- Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Children of Courage Gala



**Backed by  
National Children's Alliance®  
Accredited Member**

For more information on how you can help visit our website  
<https://rrcac.org/make-a-difference/>.

