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# What is the Children's Advoeaey Center?

Incorporated in 1997, the Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center ((AC) is

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**Children's Advoeaey Center have been made possible by:**

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LAKE SUMTER



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the culmination of our community's volunteers and agency representatives

working together to provide child abuse

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victims with all necessary services in a single location. Based on a successful national model, our CA( is a collaborative effort of local government and community agencies dedicated to the investigation, treatment and

prosecution of child abuse.

The (AC warks in collaboration with: the Lake County Sheriff's Office, the Sumter County Sheriff's Office, various municipal police departments, the State Attorney's Office, the Department of Children & Families, the Guardian Ad Litem program, and other community service agencies.

# Our Mission Statement

The mission of the LakeS4mter,Children's Advocacy Center is lo provide a child-friendly, community-based facility where a child victim can be safely interviewed, provided with crisis counseling, receive medical exams and long term specialized therapy, when needed.

The (AC also assists in the coordination of investigations and intervention services by bringing together professionals and agencies as a multidisciplinary team to create a child­ focused approach to child sexual and physical abuse cases.

Our philosophy is in accordance with community directives established by the U.S. Department of

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Justice for victims' rights and services. Our ·,.;

Center is also a Fully Accredited (AC in ,; : good standing with the National Children's

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Alliance.

**SNEf** Helping Kids Shine Grant

Florida Department of Health

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Hans & Cay Jacobson Foundation

Lake County Children's Services Council

Matthew & Mildred Hunter Charitable Foundation National Children's Alliance

Orlando Sentinel

Publix Supermarket Charities Rogers' Foundation

State of Florida

Sumter County Commissio·ners Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

*Private Donations* • *In-Kind Donations Fundraising Events*

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child protection team

**Children's Medical Services**



**Working With You**

**to STOP**

Child Abuse

300 S. Canal Street

Leesburg, FL 34748

Phone:(352) 323-8303

Fax:(352) 323-1394

**eae4ki .or**

**Can You Help? Progi'aJ.llS & Serviees**

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***stop Child Abuse" License Plate*** \_

When you purchase a "StopChild \I· 11



***4K/DS***

Abuse" license plate, you help . **,r.'** publicize the need to stop child ***...t-.*** - -- abuse while supportingevery CA( **\:1' '(t)I'-"**•**'**

in the state of Florido. *Jo tnt t:>ri.ve*

Our CA( receives o portion of the funds for \' AgAtll\St every licenseplate purchasedin Lake and Cl-tfl.J:) Al!'.IA.56 Sumter Counties.

The "StopChild Abuse" tog costson additional $25, all of whichgoesto child abuse preventionand interventionprogramsin Florido.

Order thistogwhen it's timetorenew! The best wayto purchase the "Stop ChildAbuse" tog istocontact your local tax collector'soffice.Purchaseyour "StopChildAbuse" tognowor at thetimeof yourrenewal.

***Our"WISH LIST" includes financial contributions towards our everyday operating costs, sponsors to help with our routine maintenance, funds to provide drinks and snacks to the children we serve and all kinds of craft supplies to be used during therapy sessions.***

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

***Despite our best efforts, child abuse continues to occur in lake and Sumter Counties. Our CAC provides services to over 1,000 children each year.***

***The CAC has developed programs*** *in* ***response to community need to protect and educate children al all ages. All***

***services are provided at no charge to the family. Our service1s include:***

**Counseling**

Our Master's level licensed therapists provide crisis counseling und long term therapy to the child victim. Specialized therapies such as Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Play Therupy, Art Therapy and Animal Assisted Therapy are used to help the child deal with the issues regarding the abuse.

**Child Abuse Education and Prevention Programs**

The staff of the CAC provides trainingto other professionals in thecommunity on the prevention of child abuse, the identification of child abuse and guidelines on how to respond to childdisclosures of abuse. Presentations are also given to schools and community organizations.

**Medical Exams**

Specially trained medical providers conduct medical exams at our CAC facility. Our CAC maintains state-of-the-artequipment that enables the medical team to observe and document injury. We have one Board Certified Pediatrician and two ARN P's on

**PRESIDENT:** Dr. Doug Moffett, O8-GYNAssociates of Mid-Florido,PA **VICE PRESIDENT:** Meredith Kirste, M.MeredithKirste, P.A. **SECRETARY:** VaneeseCollins, Community Volunteer **TREASURER:** Alex .OgilvieIll, CommunityVolunteer

staff to provide these specialized exams.

**Victim Advocacy**

The Victim Advocate is a designated, trained volunteer who provides comprehensive, coordinated victim support and advocacy

Mary Lou Clark CommunityVolunteer

Kayla Dees CommunityVoluntee

Sheriff Bill Farmer Sumter CountySheriff'sOffice

Peggy Fuller Community Volunteer

Sarah Jane Hewitt Hewitt Companies

Stephen May

Chick-Iii-A of The Villages

Sue Purdy CommunityVolunteer

John Rohan VillagesCommunity Development Districts

Jacqueline Summers SummersEnterprises

Paula J. Stinson

. CommunityVolunteer

Katie Stradinger Propertiesof TheVillages

*Directors Emeritus* Pete Wahl Community Volunteer

Cindy Clark Community Volunteer

Chris Heaton CommunityVolunteer

Jill McDowell Community Volunteer

services to the child and non-offending family members.

**Child Protection Team**

The Child Protection Team provides Forensic Interviewsm, edicCIIexams, specialized interviews, psycho-social assessments and other services to child victims of abuse and their family members. It also facilitates Multidisciplinary Team Staffings to assure no child "falls through the cracks."

**Recorded Forensic Interviews**

This interview is conducted by specially trained CAC Forensic Interviewers in our non-threatening, child friendly environment. Video recording of the child's statement reduces trauma by keeping the child from having to repeat the story again and again. The recording is entered as evidence and may prevent the child from having to testify in court.