



# ChildSafe

Expert Care for Abused Children  
Especializando en el Tratamiento de Niños Abusados

2016 Annual Newsletter



*ChildSafe and Our Multi-Disciplinary Partners (left to right):  
SAPD Deputy Chief Anthony Trevino; Kim Abernethy, ChildSafe  
President/CEO; Bexar County Sheriff Susan Pamerleau, and Bexar  
County District Attorney Nicholas 'Nico' LaHood*

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

## Service Statistics for the period of July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

*ChildSafe provided evidenced-based trauma-focused services and prevention services to 4,359 new children and their non-offending family members and caregivers — a 16% increase of the prior fiscal year.*

### SERVICES STATISTICS

#### ChildSafe served 4,359 children and their non-offending family members

1,162 forensic interviews were conducted

3,270 children and parents/caregivers (victims) served in client services

1,890 children and parents/caregivers in secondary services – includes radKIDS® and Stewards of Children® trainings

An average of 670 new and continuing clients, children and parents/caregivers, served each month

#### Education and Prevention Services

11,202 individuals trained

School employees from 16 Independent School Districts in and surrounding Bexar County

AVANCE

Bexar County Juvenile Probation

Bexar County Sheriff's Department

Child Protective Services

City of San Antonio Healthy Start

Boys and Girls Club

DoSeum

Family Service Association

First Baptist Church in Castroville

Freedom Life Church

Haven for Hope staff, families, and children

Hector Garza Center

Life Church

Majik Theatre

Say Sí

San Antonio Museum of Art (camp staff)

Silver and Black Give Back

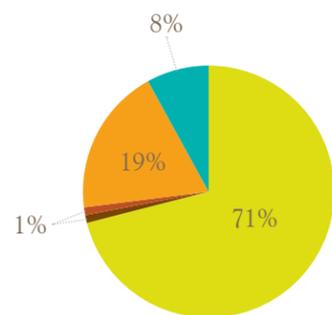
San Antonio Spurs (camp staff)

San Antonio Police Department

YMCA of Greater San Antonio (Precious Minds New Beginnings parents and centers' staff)

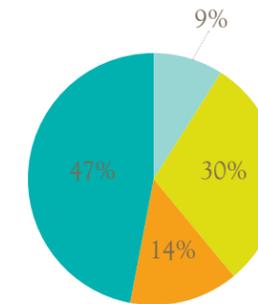
#### Primary Allegations of Abuse

- Sexual Abuse
- Drug Endangered
- Neglect
- Physical
- Witness



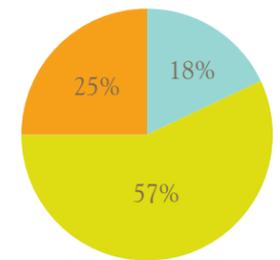
#### Age of Clients Served – Children & Adults

- 0-5
- 6-12
- 13-17
- 18-47



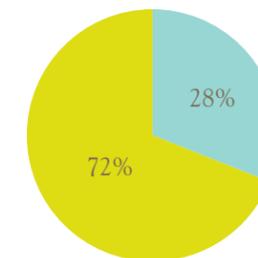
#### Age of Clients Served – Children

- 0-5
- 6-12
- 13-17



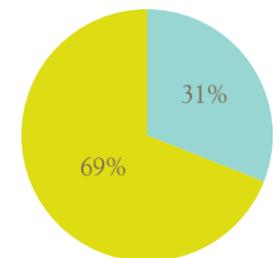
#### Gender Clients Served – Children & Adults

- Male
- Female



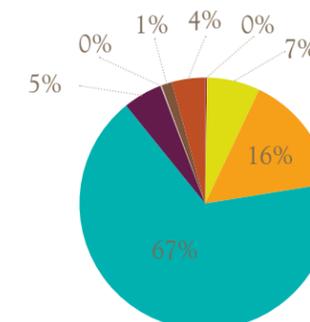
#### Gender Children Receiving Forensic Interviews

- Male
- Female



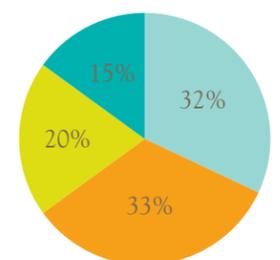
#### Ethnicity of Clients Served – Children & Adults

- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Black
- Caucasian
- Hispanic
- Multi-Racial
- Native American
- Other
- Unknown



#### Perpetrator's Relationship to the Child

- Parents/Caregivers
- Other Relation
- Know to the child not related
- Unidentified



# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

## Financials for the period of July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

#### Support and Revenue

|                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| United Way                        | \$157,753          |
| University Health Systems         | 175,587            |
| Government contracts – federal    | 83,516             |
| Government contracts – state      | 367,616            |
| City of San Antonio               | 77,068             |
| Contributions and grants:         |                    |
| Foundations                       | 976,042            |
| Corporations and businesses       | 30,529             |
| Individuals                       | 412,455            |
| Other                             | 4,456              |
| Special events, net expenses      | 63,434             |
| Program revenue                   | 18,954             |
| Investment earnings, net          | 3,728              |
| In-kind support                   | 105,500            |
| Other revenues                    | 209                |
| <b>Total support and revenues</b> | <b>\$2,470,510</b> |

Temporarily restricted \$393,600

#### Expenses

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Program services      | \$1,865,670        |
| Supporting services   | 212,571            |
| Fundraising           | 110,160            |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>\$2,188,401</b> |

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

#### Assets

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Current Assets:                              |                    |
| Cash and cash equivalents, unrestricted      | \$124,303          |
| Cash and cash equivalents, board designated  | 421,801            |
| Investments, at fair value, board designated | 493,044            |
| Accounts receivable, net                     | 102,500            |
| Pledges receivable, net                      | 110,000            |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets    | 32,684             |
| <b>Total current assets</b>                  | <b>1,284,332</b>   |
| Noncurrent Assets:                           |                    |
| Pledges receivable, long-term                | 50,000             |
| Property and equipment, net                  | 1,091,143          |
| Other noncurrent assets                      | 30,200             |
| <b>Total non-current assets</b>              | <b>1,164,243</b>   |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                          | <b>\$2,448,575</b> |

#### Liabilities & Net Assets

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Current Liabilities:                    |                    |
| Accounts payable                        | \$19,421           |
| Accrued expenses                        | 40,994             |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>        | <b>60,415</b>      |
| Net Assets:                             |                    |
| Unrestricted:                           |                    |
| Available for operations                | 123,016            |
| Board designated                        | 914,845            |
| Invested in property and equipment      | 1,112,523          |
| Temporarily restricted                  | 237,776            |
| <b>Total net assets</b>                 | <b>2,388,160</b>   |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b> | <b>\$2,448,575</b> |



As a new year begins, motivation is strong to improve, enhance and be more resourceful; and, that holds true for ChildSafe. We are continuously striving to improve our services, reach more children and families, and educate our community about child abuse and its devastating effects. While our mission of serving sexually abused and physically abused children and their families is steadfast, we also work hard to make every dollar matter, and spend each dollar efficiently and wisely. We are responsible not just to those we serve, but also to you and the many friends and donors who support ChildSafe.

ChildSafe is currently located on the far west side of the city, near Lackland Air Force Base. ChildSafe owns three buildings on eight acres, with a combined space of 13,000 square feet. In our current space, we house 23 ChildSafe staff, two San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) Detectives, three Bexar County Sheriff's Office Detectives, and three Bexar County Community Resources staff members. Last fall we relocated our four Education and Training Department staff members because of limited space in our buildings and on our campus. On September 1, 2015, we moved five of our counselors to an off-campus rental space, and two counselors to the Bexar County Juvenile Probation Office. ChildSafe works closely with Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department, serving victims of domestic minor sex trafficking by providing Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). ChildSafe's staff also works closely with Judge Laura Parker's Restore Court, where we provide services and TF-CBT to those graduating from her court, in an effort to restore broken lives.

Over this last year, along with our Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) partners — SAPD, Bexar County Sheriff's Office, Bexar County District Attorney's Office, Bexar County Juvenile Probation, and Texas Child Protective Services — we have

been planning to build a new facility to meet the growing demands of our agency. We have been working to find the ideal property for our new facility in an area of town easily accessible for the families we serve throughout the community and the MDT partners with whom we work so closely. We hope to have property under contract by the time you receive this newsletter.

Because of the hard work and dedication of ChildSafe's building committee and leadership staff, we now have a facility program plan for a facility that will not only house ChildSafe staff, but our MDT partners as well. Our new facility will be 72,000 square feet to meet present and future needs; this includes shared common space and meeting space, shared training space to seat a maximum of 250 people, and adequate office space to accommodate growth for up to 149 employees. The 149 employees will be comprised of 84 ChildSafe employees, 35 Texas Child Protective Services employees, seven SAPD detectives, six Bexar County Sheriff's Office detectives, 14 Bexar County Juvenile Probation Officers, and two Bexar County District Attorney's Office attorneys. Our new facility will be the first urban Children's Advocacy Center in the country to have a Juvenile Probation unit co-locating within a Children's Advocacy Center.

ChildSafe is here to serve the community by meeting the needs of abused children and their families and educating individuals about child abuse. But protecting our children is something we, as a community, must all share. Each of us has compassion and understanding for abused children. The community must begin to understand what these children and their families experience and how to recognize and report child abuse. Abuse comes in many forms and can manifest itself in so many ways. It is imperative that we break the cycle of abuse. We must stand together and make the commitment toward an extraordinary goal of eradicating child abuse and neglect from our community.

If your family has been touched by child sexual or physical abuse, I urge you to find help at ChildSafe. If your family has not been affected, please let the plight of these children and families touch your heart. Listen to the voice of your compassion — to your heart — and generously support ChildSafe.

Join us this year in our goals to serve more children and families, create more awareness in our community, and build a new facility that is a national model and example of our community's commitment in conquering child abuse.

**Kim Abernethy, President/CEO**

*Above: Kim Abernethy, President/CEO accepts a donation from the Tim Duncan Foundation and the BlackJack Speed Shop.*

## More Children and Enhanced Services Dictate Need for More Space



ChildSafe's leadership strategically plans staffing increases as more children seek services. As the program articles in this newsletter attest, ChildSafe has expanded its employee staff of counselors, family support specialists, and education and training staff in direct response to new programs and an increase in the demand for services. On a campus where available space is non-existent — and a new building takes time to build — ChildSafe chose not to delay any services to abused children. Creativity and collaboration resulted in staff being located off-campus.

The education team typically trains groups at locations other than ChildSafe. Therefore, this team was a logical choice to move into temporary quarters, and, now is officed at the Mexican American Unity Counsel (MAUC) building on East Commerce. Two serendipitous results of this move are that many of the scheduled trainings are very near this location and MAUC has a conference room at ChildSafe's disposal as an additional training venue. Additionally, the expansion of the counseling staff resulted in five counselors moving to offices near Callahan and Loop 410. Now ChildSafe has options of locations for the convenience of our clients.

The collaboration with Juvenile Probation in its work with children rescued from minor sex trafficking resulted in two counselors dedicated to this special population with offices provided by Juvenile Probation in one of its centers.

With an eye on the goal of providing more services to more children, ChildSafe staff will easily weather this challenging time of separation as we all look forward to returning to one new larger building that accommodates a growing staff and many more of our Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) partners.

**Sue Ellen Ruggles, Director of Operations**

*Top: ChildSafe Counselors Necia Harp, Cecilia Gamboa, and Adam Campos office at the Austin Building.*

*Center: ChildSafe Education Department Christina Polanco, Gladys Ojeda, and Clarissa Zamora office at the MAUC Building.*

*Bottom: ChildSafe Counselors Cassandra Limon and Holly Ulman office at the Andy Mireles Juvenile Probation Center.*

*Opposite: Clarissa Zamora, Director of Education, presenting to a group of Valero employees at a "Lunch and Learn"*



## Innovation in Education

What an innovative and record setting year it has been for the education department at ChildSafe! We trained 11,877 individuals in 2015. These individuals ranged from law enforcement officers and deputies, child protective case workers, educators, mental health professionals, nurses, foster care workers/parents, university students, parents, children, and other members of our community. Of the individuals trained, 199 were law enforcement officers and deputies and 167 new Child Protective Services case workers.

The education department continues its partnership with the YMCA of Greater San Antonio. We provided training to 344 YMCA staff and parents. Children at Haven 4 Hope were provided the opportunity to attend our radKIDS® training. This year, we had 11 children complete the training. A new partnership started in January with the Bexar County Jail and their MATCH/PATCH Program (mothers and their children/papas and their children). The goals of these Bexar County programs are to strengthen the parent-child relationship during parental incarceration and to motivate incarcerated parents towards healthy lifestyle changes. This is done through participation in parenting/education classes, and parent/child contact visitation sessions. Detainees participate approximately five hours per week to earn a bi-monthly one hour contact visit with their children on Thursday evenings. We are providing a weekly two-hour training on child abuse to the program participants.

We showcased the expertise of our ChildSafe therapists by offering a one-day conference called "Let's Talk Trauma". Topics ranged from understanding the impact of child traumatic stress, to creative intervention when dealing with post-traumatic stress behaviors to human trafficking. Due to the overwhelming positive response, we plan to offer this one-day conference annually.

This was our second year offering our Nurse's Symposium and 83 nurses attended. We are appreciative of Laurel Ridge Treatment Center who provided the nursing credit hours and lunch for our attendees and to Region 20 for providing the venue.

A new endeavor made possible by of the generosity of Azteca and Thomas J. Henry was the creation of our online training for educators called "Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse" — available in both English and Spanish. This training meets Texas Education Agency's (TEA) guidelines and mandated requirements that all educators and auxiliary staff in all public schools and public charter schools must complete a training on the four types of maltreatment, how to recognize child abuse, and reporting responsibilities and procedures.



Individuals are able to view the training video via our training website called ChildSave™. The course may be accessed via computer, tablet, and/or cell phone. Each person completes a pretest and a posttest. At the conclusion of the training, a printable certificate of completion is available to submit to the participants' schools. Currently we serve Edgewood ISD, Southside ISD, Natalia ISD, BASIS charter school, New Frontiers charter school and PreK4SA who have each signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with us. To date, 2,431 individuals have completed the training. We welcome new schools to take advantage of this professional and easily accessible form of training.

We know that education is critical to the prevention of child abuse. Therefore, we created a 30-minute parent video that every school district who signs an MOU with us can provide to their parents at no charge to the parents. The video contains pertinent information about child safety and the importance of recognizing signs of child abuse. We encourage every person who watches the video to have the courage to report suspected abuse.

We are grateful for the funding and excited about our online video; and, we understand it is also important to continue face-to-face trainings to school staff, students, and parents. In person we've trained 2,492 educators/auxiliary staff, 1,083 parents, and 1,941 students. We are hoping that next year the numbers will continue to grow.

**Clarissa Zamora, Director of Education**

*For more information on training opportunities for your organization, please contact Clarissa Zamora at 210.208.5759.*

## The Evolution of Six Years of FEAT



ChildSafe celebrated six years of adventure therapy in 2015. The Family Enrichment Adventure Therapy (FEAT) Program, founded on principles of clinical theory and trauma-informed care, has been helping families heal together in outdoor settings from the effects of child abuse and neglect. This sixth year was marked by great transitions and growth, similar in character of the families served in our program.

ChildSafe's original Adventure Therapy Coordinator, Annette Pelletier, left the agency to develop her own adventure therapy program serving homeless women and children in Austin. While losing her was difficult, we are proud Annette was able to take her experiences she gained in the FEAT Program to help other deserving populations experience the power of adventure therapy. Her departure left room for us to welcome Carla Fikes, MA to the adventure therapy team. Carla brings with her a contagious energy that feeds families out on the ropes course or when camping under the stars. She has a remarkable way of engaging our families with her smile and laughter, which is important when families are working through uneasiness while rock climbing or paddling a kayak for the first time. Carla has jumped wholeheartedly into our culture of giving to and respect

for our clients. As testament, she is currently working on a project called Band Together SA, an opportunity for her to share her talents as a musician as she helps fundraise for ChildSafe this year. Look for that to happen later this year in April.

Carla was also instrumental in coordinating a day of adventure programming for families adopted by the San Antonio Chapter of Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA). Children spent a day strengthening self-confidence and building relationships with their caregivers and their BACA sponsors. This was a new endeavor for the FEAT Program as we worked on a larger scale to help our clients strengthen connections to their community supporters. We look forward to partnering with other groups sharing our mission to restore dignity, trust, and hope in the clients we serve.

Another growing element of the FEAT Program is the professional development of our clinicians at ChildSafe and in the community at large. Our Adventure Therapy Manager, Federico A. Borroel, MS, LPC-S, continues to offer trainings and workshops promoting trauma-informed adventure therapy. Apart from conducting local trainings, Fred presented at the 2015 Therapeutic Adventure Best Practices Conference in Denver, Colorado. As a pre-conference workshop to the first International Adventure Therapy Conference hosted in the United States, Fred used archery as the driving force to promote principles of trauma-informed adventure therapy. Clinicians from around the globe attended his workshop and contributed to dialogue about honoring clients' experiences with trauma through adventure-based programming. A few months later, Fred presented a workshop at the 2015 Association for Experiential Education's International Conference in Portland, Oregon. Here, he collaborated with authors of the new book *Power of Family* and other leaders in the adventure therapy field, to educate clinicians on adapting adventure-based interventions to family therapy settings. This year, Fred and Carla will present at the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Child Abuse in Huntsville, Alabama. This symposium is sponsored by the National Children's Advocacy Center and will mark the first time our clinicians present to a group of professionals from children's advocacy centers around the country about trauma-informed adventure therapy. The title of the workshop is Trauma Informed Adventure Therapy: Enriching Families through Movement and Metaphor.

*Above: ChildSafe FEAT staff and ChildSafe counselors provide families with a High Ropes Course adventure.*

*Opposite: ChildSafe FEAT Manager Fred Borroel and FEAT Adventure Therapist Carla Fikes ready for their next adventure.*

Locally, to continue our aim in providing trauma-informed services to our clients, the adventure therapy program continued to host focus groups for our participants. As trauma-informed services are marked by giving a voice to clients being served, children and their caregivers shared their perceptions of the program and offered feedback for its improvement. Families expressed an appreciation for the diverse programming offered through the FEAT Program and shared statements such as, "We think this is a great program! We wouldn't be able to afford this type of care privately, and I don't think they would have anything that would compare." Families also shared an appreciation for participating in the program alongside other trauma survivors and the impact this type of therapy had on their healing.

In response to other feedback, the FEAT Program is now offered in a growing number of natural areas around the city and county. For example, we have taken families hiking and geocaching in a growing number of parks to bring adventure to our clients' neighborhoods. Now we look forward to scouting more paddling trails to meet the needs of our clients. We also look forward to helping professionals experience the healing potential of adventure therapy by serving social service workers in outdoor settings to minimize the effects of secondary trauma. Exciting times ahead for ChildSafe's FEAT Program!

**Federico A. Borroel, MS, LPC-S,**  
*CARE & Adventure Therapy Manager*



*For more information on the FEAT program, please contact Fred Borroel at [FredB@ChildSafe-sa.org](mailto:FredB@ChildSafe-sa.org).*

## Helping Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation

For the past year, ChildSafe has been slowly becoming more and more involved in treating and identifying the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth (CSEC/Y) — or human trafficking — in San Antonio. CSEC/Y is defined as any situation in which an individual younger than 18 years of age performs a sexual act or is exploited in some other way in exchange for something of value. The biggest issue for prosecuting the exploiter of these youth and providing services to this population is the identification of the youth. Many of the youth are under-identified or do not report being victims due to the stigma, shame, and many times belief that their exploiter is someone who loves and cares for them. This poses a problem for the exploited youth because they will return to the life, and, as a result, places them at a higher risk of pregnancy, STDs, long-term mental health problems, and substance abuse problems. In addition, exploited youth typically experience high levels of ongoing trauma including sexual assault and witness to or victims of significant violence which may include ongoing physical abuse and possibly murder.

In the twenty years that I have been working with youth, I have never met a 12 year old (typical age of introduction into prostitution for exploited youth) that said, “I want to grow up and be a prostitute.” So how do children wind up being sold for sex? First, there has to be a market for it; and, there is and it is thriving. Then, there needs to be an exploiter otherwise known as a “pimp”. Often times CSEC/Y have a history of complex trauma or a history of diagnosed mental illness. Many times these are youth who have chosen to run away from home due to abuse/neglect, parent abandonment, living in transitional housing, parent’s criminal activity, or they are youth running from the foster care system. These are youth who feel they have no real home. Abuse, regardless of the type, is about the perpetrators’ ability to exert their power and control over the victim. These are youth who have been disempowered due to their history of abuse/neglect and/or removal from their homes. In a study performed by the West Coast Children’s Clinic in 2013 entitled “Research to Action: Sexually Exploited Minors (SEM) Needs and Strengths,” 75% of the youth described experiencing child abuse or neglect, while 70% reported multiple episodes of maltreatment that were classified as chronic. Previous victimization places a child at a higher risk of subsequent victimization including sexual exploitation. Looking at all this, it is not hard to then connect the dots to see why a child will fall prey to an exploiter. The lack of food, shelter, and love leaves children vulnerable. As an exploiter, I choose to offer that child some sense of value albeit monetarily



or emotionally — or many times both — coupled with a sense of freedom. As an exploiter, I fulfill a great emotional need. The hard work for the exploiter was done in the early years of the child’s life, when they suffered chronic abuse and/or neglect often times by the people who are supposed to provide that sense of value through unconditional love. That history of abuse makes the acceptance of exploitation and on-going abuse easier. I recently saw video testimony of a child victim who said she already saw herself as a commodity due to her history of abuse/neglect so being sold for sex was no different. Her abuse history made it normal and acceptable to be sexually assaulted, but at least this time she was in “control,” or so she thought. The sense of value and freedom the exploiter provides reinforces the bond between exploiter and victim. This is why it is so hard to identify these youth and why it is so easy for them to be manipulated and then forced to stay in the life of prostitution.



While CSEC/Y is not a new problem facing our community and has been around for years, it is only within the past few years that it has begun to receive the attention that it deserves. Treatment for the population is complicated and lacks any evidenced-based models. We suspect that within the next few years, best practice and evidenced-based treatments for the population will begin to arrive. While we wait for those treatments, ChildSafe and a number of other governmental and non-profit organizations have begun to take action. ChildSafe has strengthened its relationship with the Bexar County Juvenile Justice System and currently has two Licensed Professional Counselors to assist in the treatment and identification of possible victims of sexual exploitation. These counselors are housed at the Bexar County Juvenile Probation Office. In September of 2015 we began working with the West Coast Children’s Clinic of Oakland, California to explore training our staff and the San Antonio community on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) screening tool. While there is no one screening tool that is all encompassing in identifying these youth, the CSE-IT is currently being studied to be the first standardized evidenced-based screening tool for identifying CSEC/Y. ChildSafe will be offering training to the community on the tool February 22, 2016. In addition, ChildSafe counselors continue to participate in monthly advanced consultation calls to implement a modified version of trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy to CSEC/Y. Finally, in the coming year we will continue to strengthen our relationship with West Coast Children’s Clinic

and implement a modified version of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths for Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CANS-CSE). The CANS-CSE is an evidenced-based assessment that will assist in driving treatment and needs for the identified youth. It will also assist in measuring outcomes for the population. ChildSafe and other Children’s Advocacy Centers across the state are beginning to see how they fit into serving this population. We are excited about the possibilities ahead for this program as we continue to grow and implement only evidenced-based practices at ChildSafe.

**Randy McGibeny, MA, LPC, Director of Programs**



## Why ChildSafe?

*The true character of a society is revealed in how it treats its children.*  
— Nelson Mandela



I am thrilled and honored to be a part of the ChildSafe team. When asked why I work here, my instinctive answer is simple — I am a mother. The greatest treasure in my life is the blessing of my family, and the greatest desires of my life are to keep my children safe, healthy, happy, and equipped to accomplish every desire their hearts and minds can dream to achieve. ChildSafe has that same desire for every child living in Bexar County.

Unfortunately, child abuse is pervasive and ranks as one of the nation's most pressing public health and social concerns. It also remains a commonly under-reported crime. One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday, and only one in ten children who are sexually abused will ever report their abuse.

In Texas, a child is abused or neglected every 8 minutes — a statistic representing one of the worst child abuse records in the country — and Bexar County has one of the highest rates of confirmed child abuse cases in the state. Last year, there were 5,434 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect in Bexar County, second only to Harris County, which has twice the number of children; and, 12 of those children died from abuse at the hands of an adult.

The impact of maltreatment on children and society is staggering and disheartening. Without meaningful intervention, child abuse victims are at high risk for developing a host of future problems including mental illness, violent behavior,

unwanted pregnancy, substance abuse, and suicide. The real, long-term costs of child abuse and neglect add exponentially to cost estimates of the immediate consequences. It is estimated that child sexual abuse alone costs our country \$124 billion each year.<sup>1</sup> In Bexar County, the direct and immediate costs of child sexual abuse are nearly \$19 million annually.<sup>2</sup>

Perhaps the best way to categorize 2015 for ChildSafe is with the word “growth.” We provided exceptional trauma-focused care to 4,359 individuals. This was a 16% increase over the previous year. The cost per client was \$451.

So again, why do I work at ChildSafe? To the data driven sociologist with over two-decades of work experience in nonprofits — ‘it just makes sense’. There is a persuasive case for ChildSafe, just for the impressive return on investment reasons that goes beyond the obvious commitment to human dignity and opportunity. I know my contribution is not just impactful in ending the intergenerational cycle of abuse; it also makes long-term financial sense for the community.

The need for our services continues to grow and so does our need for funding. ChildSafe looks to its donor community to provide more than two-thirds of the financial support to continue providing its critical services. Your support truly makes a difference between basic care and quality care that changes lives.

I hope you will consider making a sustained gift commitment, becoming part of our Legacy Circle, or creating a memorial or tribute in memory of a loved one to ChildSafe. If you are a business, I invite you to consider becoming one of our Companies for Kids. Without your support, it would be impossible for us to continue our mission to restore dignity, hope, and trust to children traumatized by abuse and neglect. Because you care, together we can shape the future of our community...one child at a time.

**Maliha K. Imami**, Director of Development

1. Fang, X., et al. The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention. *Child Abuse & Neglect* (2012), doi:10.1016/j.chiabu.2011.10.006  
Childhelp, <https://www.childhelp.org/child-abuse-statistics/> Accessed October 10, 2015

2. Darkness to Light, *End Child Sexual Abuse*.



## IT'S HAPPENING EVERYWHERE!

### APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

In an effort to bring attention and awareness to child abuse, and intervene and prevent further abuse, ChildSafe created the Cardboard Kids® Campaign. The campaign was started in 2014 with over 5,800 cardboard cut-outs and grew to a display of over 20,000 across Bexar County in 2015.

Last year there were 5,434 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect in Bexar County, second only to Harris County which has twice the number of children; and, 12 of those children died from abuse at the hands of an adult. We created Cardboard Kids® to illustrate the pervasiveness of the issue and the fact that every story is different and every child unique.

### ON THURSDAY, APRIL 7

Thousands of decorated Cardboard Kids® will be placed all over San Antonio on this one-day event to represent child victims of abuse and neglect in Bexar County — both those who have made an outcry and those who continue to suffer in silence.

There is no cost to participate in the Cardboard Kids® Campaign, however, donations to ChildSafe can be made online or at any of the distribution sites.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers to help with distribution on pick up days and packaging large orders ahead of time! Please contact ChildSafe's volunteer coordinator if you can help with this part of the Cardboard Kids Campaign.

**Lauren Zuniga**, [LaurenZ@childsafesa.org](mailto:LaurenZ@childsafesa.org) or 210.233.5931

*ChildSafe would like to thank Valero Energy Foundation for sponsoring the 2016 Cardboard Kids Campaign, helping us bring awareness and attention to child abuse throughout our community.*

## JOIN THE CAMPAIGN! THURSDAY, APRIL 7

We invite individuals, corporations, businesses, schools, and everyone to join in this effort by picking up a Cardboard Kid at any of our distribution sites in March and decorating them for placement on April 7.

### Distribution Dates, Times & Sites:

March 11–13 and March 18–20

Fridays 1pm – 6 pm; Saturdays 10am – 6 pm,  
Sundays noon – 5pm

Ingram Park Mall

(lower level outside of Dillard's)

North Star Mall

(lower level under escalators leading to Food Court)

Rolling Oaks Mall

(lower level center court near Guest Services)

The Shops at La Cantera

(center court on the compass star)

For large orders or special pickup/delivery arrangements, please contact our director of development. **Maliha Imami**, [MalihaI@childsafesa.org](mailto:MalihaI@childsafesa.org) or 210.801.7700

### COLLECTOR'S MEDALS

Medals to be worn at Fiesta celebrating the 2016 Cardboard Kids Campaign will be available at the distribution sites and then at ChildSafe's office.



To learn more about how to discuss the subject of child abuse visit: [www.CardboardKidsSA.com](http://www.CardboardKidsSA.com)

## Expansion and Creativity



What an awesome year it has been for ChildSafe volunteers and interns! As ChildSafe thinks back to what over 400 volunteers have accomplished and what they have contributed to ChildSafe, we are overwhelmed with gratitude to everyone who has helped us fulfill our mission. In 2015, we had volunteers and interns help us provide an array of services at ChildSafe. We cannot thank our volunteers enough for the help they have offered us.

In addition to our amazing volunteers, Liz and Emil Swize and Sharon Thompson who lovingly tend to our therapy garden, we had a surge of regular volunteers help children feel safe and comfortable when they arrived at ChildSafe. And it was not only volunteers who helped us at ChildSafe. This year, students from the Dr. Newsome's Gender and Crime class at the University of Texas at San Antonio selected ChildSafe as their site to complete their service-learning project. We are proud to announce that one student group received the Outstanding Service-Learning Project of the Year through the Center for Civic Engagement because of their service with our organization. One of the service-learning students emailed ChildSafe about his experience saying, "I enjoy volunteering at ChildSafe because even if it's just for a while I can put smiles on their faces and they can put aside the troubles they are facing. Every member of the staff at ChildSafe has made me feel very happy. They are very passionate about their duties, and they(sic) are a great organization."

Volunteers are essential to client services and getting the word out about the services we provide at ChildSafe.

Our volunteer honor roll also includes Jake Blan, a 12-year old student who selected ChildSafe as the recipient of his Eagle Scout Project by organizing volunteers to make 117 fleece blankets which he donated for ChildSafe's children.

It also includes every volunteer who helped us distribute nearly 5,000 Cardboard Kids at four malls during distribution weekend. In July, another first happened at ChildSafe. We became a Community-Based Work Study site through UTSA and accepted our first work-study student in the education department.

Another great volunteer experience we had this year was having the Rackspace Emerging Leaders program host a Dr. Seuss and Charlotte's Web book party for our children. Rackers, dressed in costume, read books to our kids and brought gifts for our kids to take home. Volunteers and generous donors also helped us provide school supplies and Christmas presents to over 400 children this year alone.

Regardless of whether a volunteer has donated 1 hour of time, or comes weekly to work with our children, we are truly grateful for your continued support. We cannot do our work without you.

You may feel like what you are doing is small in comparison to what needs to be done, but every act of kindness, and every act of generosity that our volunteers show is critical to our mission. Volunteers may not always see the long term impact of their service, but it is there. We are grateful to our friends who have opened their hearts to help us. Thank you!

**Felicia Travieso**, Volunteer Coordinator

*To find out how you can help ChildSafe as a volunteer contact [Lauren Zuniga at LaurenZ@ChildSafe-SA.org](mailto:LaurenZ@ChildSafe-SA.org) or 210.233.5931.*

*Above: Counselor Necia Harp accepting a donation of books from illustrator Suzan Browning*

## Volunteer Opportunities



### SPECIAL OCCASIONS

#### Easter Baskets

Collect and organize Easter baskets to ensure our kids receive a visit from the Easter bunny.

#### Cardboard Kids Decoration and Delivery

Beginning in March we will need volunteers to help us decorate and distribute Cardboard Kids for Child Abuse Awareness month in April. To coordinate or oversee a group decoration/delivery, contact us.

On April 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> we will need volunteers to help us deliver Cardboard Kids to various agencies and organizations throughout San Antonio.

#### School Supply Drive

School Supply Drive is an annual campaign that runs from July 20 – August 20. The goal of the Supply Drive is to collect enough school supplies and cash to send 1,000 students in need back to school with the tools needed to learn and achieve.

There are a few ways to participate:

1. Sign up now to be a collection site!
2. Donate online! A \$25 donation provides a child with everything necessary to go back to school.
3. Volunteer to help collect and distribute donations.

#### Santa's Shop

Volunteers will help us collect and sort donations of toys and stocking stuffers for our children. Parents will pick out presents for their children and volunteers will help wrap them.

*Above: Rackspace Volunteers hosted a Dr. Seuss and Charlotte's Web book party at ChildSafe.*

### RECURRING ACTIVITIES

#### Greeters and Friendly Faces

Help us make our clients feel special by spending time with children as they wait in the waiting room. Activities include reading, playing board games, arts and crafts. Set your own recurring schedule during our work hours.

#### Stuffed Animal and Necessities Drives

Volunteers are always needed to coordinate stuffed animal drives so that every child who completes a forensic interview at ChildSafe leaves with a new stuffed animal to comfort them. We also need necessities drives for items such as clothing, snacks, diapers, toiletries, emergency gift cards, Santa's gifts, and back to school supplies.

#### Arts and Crafts

If you are an artist, even one at heart, you can help our kids complete small art projects while sitting in the waiting area or create a special project for them to complete.

#### Staff Volunteer

Prefer to give our staff support as they complete their duties? We want your help! No task is too small for you to help us with.

Are you great with children?  
An excellent speaker?

Do you love coordinating your friends to participate in collection drives? Do you like raising awareness about child abuse and neglect? No matter your talents and abilities, we ask that you consider sharing them with us by volunteering. At ChildSafe we want to give you the opportunity to help with the healing process of an abused or neglected child. As we grow our agency, we need your help to ensure that together we accomplish our mission.

# With Grace & Gratitude

Thank you to our generous friends, donors, and volunteers who have supported our mission in 2015. We truly could not do this important work without you!



Top: Valero Energy Foundation displaying their Cardboard Kids

Bottom left: Kim Abernethy, President/CEO, and Maliha Imami, Director of Development, accepting a donation from Valero employees

Bottom right: DaVita Employees donating their time working in the ChildSafe Santa's Shop



Volunteers helping in the ChildSafe Santa's Shop



Volunteers accepting school supplies at the ChildSafe School Supply Drive held at Tripoint Event Center

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*We are grateful for all of our donors but unable to list everyone. The above list includes donations made above \$200 in the calendar year 2015, as of December 15. We hope we have included everyone, but if we have missed you or don't have you in the right category, please notify our Development Office by email [Malihal@ChildSafe-sa.org](mailto:Malihal@ChildSafe-sa.org) or phone 210.801.7700.*

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