A Catalyst for Healing

The outcry of abuse by a child or teen is the first step on the road to healing and recovery. For many young survivors, this is only the beginning of a stressful, frightening, and difficult journey through the adult-minded criminal and civil justice systems. ChildSafe provides an integral part of the healing process. We offer a safe, child-friendly atmosphere where a talented team of mental health professionals, child protective services, and law enforcement agencies work together to coordinate strategies and care plans which are sensitive to the needs of each individual child and family. Our clients receive an array of evidence-based, trauma-focused services, therapy, extended care, and individual case management to ensure that the journey toward healing is not overwhelming. ChildSafe strives to create an environment which encourages our clients to feel as though they are part of a caring community of support. Follow-up services are also offered until the child reaches adulthood. In short, ChildSafe endeavors to facilitate healing at every step of the way.

Our mission is to restore dignity, hope, and trust to children traumatized by abuse and neglect.
A Network of Support

A children’s advocacy center works best when all partners can work together under one roof in order to determine the best care plan for each child. By collaborating with our Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT) Partners, we strive to create an environment that puts the child at the center and surrounds them with the services and support necessary to help them heal. This singular, child-centered space helps reduce the burden and anxiety produced by traveling from agency to agency and helps ensure our clients are able to safely take their next steps on the path to recovery.

Our Multi-disciplinary Team Partners

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
18 Local Law Enforcement Jurisdictions
Bexar County Criminal District Attorney’s Office
Children’s Hospital of San Antonio Center for Miracles
Children’s Hospital of San Antonio Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) Program
Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program
Bexar County Juvenile Probation
Bexar County Children’s Court Division & Programs
Growing Pains

Our unique combination of services is in great demand. ChildSafe annually sees significant growth in the number of services we provide, the number of children and families reaching out for assistance, and the number of staff we employ. ChildSafe served 3,408 clients in Fiscal Year 2015 (a 5% increase from 2014) and 3,845 clients in Fiscal Year 2016 (an additional 13% increase). We provided 60% more counseling sessions and increased the number of clients receiving these services by 49% in 2015, only to again increase counseling sessions by 20% and the number of clients receiving these services by 33% in 2016. We conducted 1,230 forensic interviews in 2015 (a 6% increase) and 1,485 forensic interviews in 2016 (a 21% increase). Consequently, our staff size has increased 47% to address this increased demand.

With only 13,000 square feet, we are unable to meet the growing needs of Bexar County children and families. The need for a larger, centrally located facility with green space and easy pedestrian and vehicular access has become urgent. Our vision is to create a new home for ChildSafe — a spacious, modern campus that will serve as a sanctuary for children, their families, and the professionals who care for and protect them. This new facility will allow us to serve thousands more children and families in the decades to come.

“You gave me back my son’s wonderful personality. You gave him the strength to say ‘I am a survivor; I am not a victim.’ Those are the bravest words I’ve ever heard. And ChildSafe made them possible.”

– Mother of a ChildSafe client
A Community Asset

Situated within 36 acres of green space, our new campus will not only be transformative to the children and families we serve, it will also be a beautiful, natural space shared with the entire community. Twenty-one acres of land will be deeded to the City of San Antonio for the creation of a public park.

While additional space is necessary to house our staff and partners and to keep pace with our outreach efforts and growing number of clients, an accessible location is also key for individuals and families with logistic obstacles. Our new site, located along IH-10 at East Houston Street, offers pedestrian access and close proximity to public transportation thus making our services even more available for those in need.

Local Talent

The selection of Overland Partners as project architect was an easy one. Their distinct ability to create welcoming, inspiring places and spaces while respectfully weaving together the built and natural environments made them a clear choice. Our shared values, dedication to community, and passion for our mission laid the foundation for a lasting partnership.

Guido Construction has been selected to help our dreams come to fruition. Their stellar reputation and long history in San Antonio coupled with an extensive portfolio of non-profit projects and fundraising assistance made them the perfect addition to our project team.

We are proud to utilize local talent and grateful to both Overland Partners and Guido Construction for their proven excellence, enthusiasm for our project, and their generous donations of both time and funds. Our shared commitment to this project will ensure its resounding success.
Dreaming Big

Key staff members from ChildSafe participated in multiple dialogues and design charrettes with Overland Partners to clearly define project goals, clarify client and staff needs, identify what qualities, characteristics, emotions, and values the new campus should convey, and dream big about all the possibilities and potential for what a transformative healing center could be.

Through collaborative discussions between Overland Partners and ChildSafe advocates, a clear project mission and 6 guiding design principles emerged.
The ChildSafe facility will be a beacon of hope that will support total care and restoration for our county’s abused children.

Safe – Above all, the campus must be a place of mental, emotional, and physical refuge.
Our New Home

The resulting design plans are dynamic, inspiring, and greater than any of us could have individually imagined. A beautiful and inviting entryway will welcome clients into peaceful and comforting interior spaces. Our new building will be surrounded by 43,000 square feet of green spaces, rooftop gardens, courtyards, outdoor therapy and activity areas for clients, and respite areas for staff members who continually provide essential services under extraordinary conditions.

Our new 65,000 square foot building will allow us to house our rapidly growing ChildSafe staff and our Multi-disciplinary Team Partners while also offering room to grow as our staff increases well into the future.

Shared spaces for all groups housed within the building will also be provided including meeting spaces, a training space for up to 150 people, a large breakroom, an exercise room, and a resource room containing emergency needs for clients.

{ 2 } Restorative – It will provide a welcoming, caring, warm, and peaceful atmosphere that fosters resolution, healing, and support for clients and staff alike.
{3} Transformative – It will be a transformative space for the clients we serve and stand as a physical presence to increase awareness of child abuse and thus transform the community as well.

Above: Healing garden

{4} Connected to Nature – Interior spaces will be infused with daylight in order to harness the healing powers of nature. Outdoor areas will be park-like with ample vegetation and green spaces for everything from quiet meditation to play.
“For me it was an instant relief from months of incredible stress. My daughter and son relaxed during their first visit and even wanted to come back. They did not feel like victims.”

– Mother of ChildSafe clients
Symbolic – The building will serve as a beacon in the community, a physical symbol of ChildSafe’s mission, and convey ideas of strength, hope, and that every individual matters.

Sustainable – The building will be operationally and environmentally sustainable.

Above: Waiting room with view of exterior courtyard and gardens
“Because of ChildSafe, our family is stronger today, and I learned that I am not defined by the trauma I experienced but by the future that lies ahead.”

- ChildSafe client
Sustainable Strategies

While caring for the needs of our children and their future well-being, it would be irresponsible to ignore stewardship of the landscape. If we are able to reap the restorative and healing powers of nature for our children and ourselves, we must do so sustainably, with gratitude in the present and generosity for the future.

Our facility will utilize a variety of sustainable design features. In addition to preserving our environment, these design elements will significantly reduce our long-term maintenance and operation costs allowing us to focus our dollars directly on programs and services for children and families in need.
Design Details

• Parking and pathways are designed to guide visitors easily and intuitively to the main entry.

• Landscaping will be woven into the parking areas in order to create smaller lots and a more welcoming experience.

• Each of these smaller parking lots will be clearly designated for staff, visitors, or law enforcement.

• Separate entrances for clients, staff, and law enforcement create additional security and privacy.

• A centralized path through the building allows for easy navigation by new clients and facilitates collaboration between ChildSafe staff and MDT Partners.

Occupancy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>STAFF MEMBERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Protective Services</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protective Services (mobile workers)</td>
<td>66 (max)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement Officers</td>
<td>21 (max)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bexar County Assistant District Attorneys</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>ChildSafe</td>
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# Project Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LAND ACQUISITION</strong></td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 36.372 acres are located east of IH-10 and south of East Houston Street in an undeveloped green space north of Salado Creek. The property is bound on the west by commercial development and to the southeast by the Wheatley Heights Sports Complex.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION</strong></td>
<td>$26,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design and construction of a 65,000 square foot building and surrounding green space allows ChildSafe to provide nationally recognized services to the children and families of Bexar County. Costs include design, construction, furniture, fixtures, equipment, and contingencies.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FACILITY OPERATIONS &amp; MAINTENANCE FUND</strong></td>
<td>$4,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>These funds are allocated for the anticipated operating costs of the new campus as well as for a capital maintenance reserve that will ensure the investment in ChildSafe programs and its facility are protected.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROJECT RELATED COSTS</strong></td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expense estimates include interest associated with project bridge loan, new markets tax credit consulting costs, campaign materials, donor events, recognition, project management, and professional services.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$33,500,000</td>
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Stand With Us

This campaign is about more than bricks and mortar — it is about lifting up those who are most vulnerable by providing them with hope, refuge, and a chance to rebuild their lives after surviving the horrors of abuse and neglect.

Stand with ChildSafe as we strive to serve more children, increase awareness, and build a new facility that is a national model for how a community can come together to achieve an extraordinary goal.

CONTACT

Kim K. Abernethy
President/CEO
Kima@ChildSafe-sa.org
210.573.2080

Maliha K. Imami
Chief Development Officer
Malihai@ChildSafe-sa.org
210.801.7700