



Children's
Advocacy Project



Years of Service

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

“ Child maltreatment can negatively impact a child and their family for a LIFETIME. I am honored to be part of a forward-moving, collaborative organization whose mission is to provide support to child victims and their families. I appreciate that CAP works with multiple agencies in the interest of children's safety and health, while increasing community awareness of child abuse and neglect.”

- Board Member



20 Years of Advocacy



OUR MISSION

The Children's Advocacy Project is a team of committed agencies and individuals who work together to provide coordinated forensic and comprehensive services for alleged victims of child abuse and neglect in order to minimize trauma to children, break the cycle of abuse, and foster a more effective and efficient community response to child maltreatment.

20 Years of Hope

“When people think about ways to help children in need, it is often through services that provide basic needs: food, shelter, clothes. While these needs are so important, there is another service I believe is imperative to helping our children, and most people don't think about it, because they don't know, or because often it is too hard to think about. Children's Advocacy Project provides services to help protect our children when they have been through some of the worst trauma. They provide essential interviews after this trauma that had led to countless convictions of child molesters and abusers. Law enforcement relies on CAP's expertise to gather the information in the best way possible, by working through the trauma, not exacerbating it. CAP also provides counseling. They help the victims and help protect all other children through these services. I can't imagine our community without this organization and the selfless employees who do this hard work, even if we all wish it wasn't necessary.”

- *Community Member*



A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Twenty years ago, our community's leaders joined together and developed a plan to implement an improved system to address one of our community's most devastating issues—child abuse. Whether it be child physical abuse, sexual abuse, or severe maltreatment and neglect, they knew there was a better way. A better way to investigate, a better way to address childhood trauma, a better way to advocate for victims, and a better way to hold perpetrators accountable.

Through their hard work and dedication, and with the support of the community, the Children's Advocacy Project (CAP) officially opened its doors in 2002. CAP is proud to have spent the last 20 years providing child forensic interview services and support to THOUSANDS of children experiencing abuse.

Thank you to the leaders who brought this idea forward, and thank you to the many community members, board members, and team members who have supported our efforts.

Twenty years have flown by! We look forward to twenty more and beyond! On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and children we serve, thank you for your continued support!

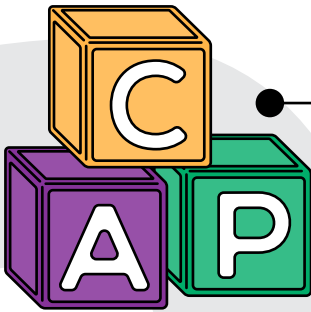


Stacy M. Nelson, Executive Director

A Look Back at the LAST 20 YEARS

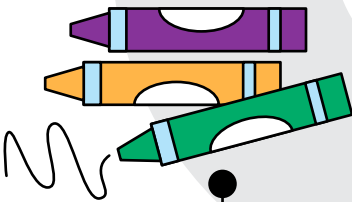
2000

After attending a national conference on severe child maltreatment, members of child abuse investigation and prosecution became aware of the Child Advocacy Center Model and began a mapping process to identify gaps in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse in Casper



2002

With generous support, the Children's Advocacy Project moves into a facility constructed to provide a child-friendly and safe environment for child victims and their families



2002

The Community Health Center of Central Wyoming hired a project coordinator to carry out tasks necessary to coordinate the actions of all professionals involved in responding to allegations of child abuse

2002

The Department of Family Services, Sheriff's Office, Casper Police Dept., Evansville Police, Mills Police Dept., and District Attorney's Office join together to form the multidisciplinary team

2006

The once advisory committee becomes a full functioning board of directors with members from partner agencies and vested community members



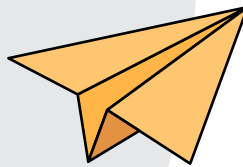
2007

The Children's Advocacy Project becomes the first child advocacy center in Wyoming to receive the prestigious National Children's Alliance Accreditation



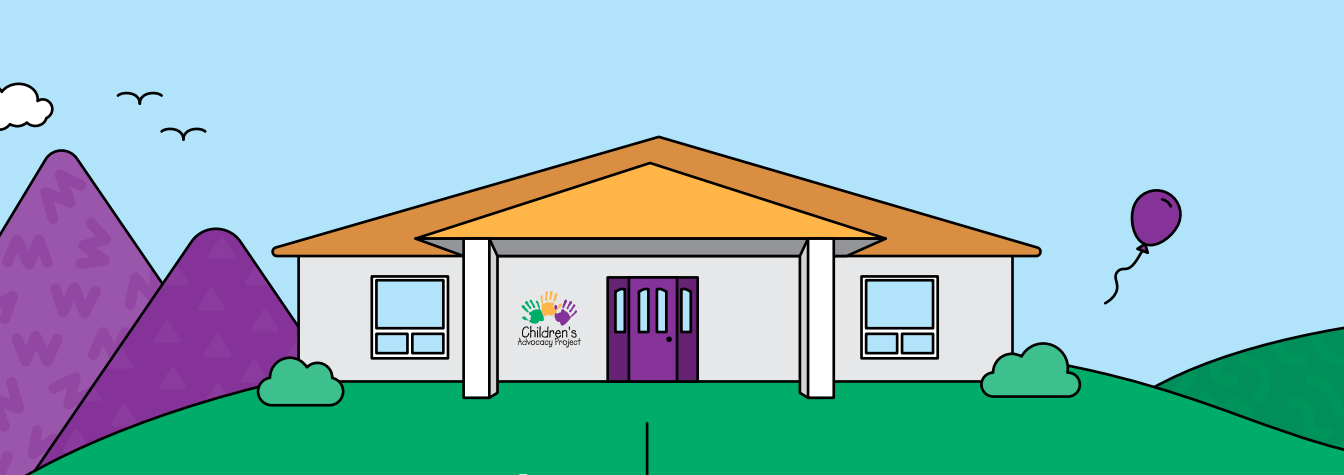
2022

After 20 years of service, the Children's Advocacy Project continues to serve child victims of abuse in the state and surrounding areas, work to minimize further trauma to child victims, improve the quality of evidence collected, and increase community awareness of child abuse



2019

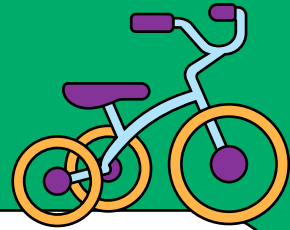
A new website design is launched with the addition of a blog to be able to continue to provide families and the community resources about child abuse and prevention



Into the **FUTURE**



We will continue to serve as a multidisciplinary resource for the expansion of this program to other communities in the state.



We look forward to a time children will be free from abuse of any kind.

We will continue to increase community awareness of child maltreatment through online engagement, training courses, etc.





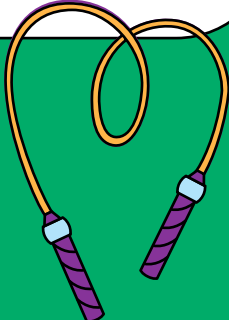
We look forward to a time when children are excited about their future.

Until then....
The Children's Advocacy Project will be here to help ensure there is hope for the children who do continue to endure the abuse they are experiencing.

We look forward to a time when children will be living happy and productive lives.



We look forward to a time where kids CAN JUST BE KIDS.




20 Years of Healing




Last 20 Years BY THE NUMBERS



5,001
Children have bravely
completed a forensic interview




23
Counties supported
in the last 20 years



6,493
Individual counseling sessions
conducted since 2003



2,410
Children attended
a CAP in-school
training



1,200
Adults attended a CAP community
training in the last 10 years

2022 *by the Numbers*

282

Forensic interviews
conducted in 2022

14

Emergency/after-hour
interviews conducted in 2022

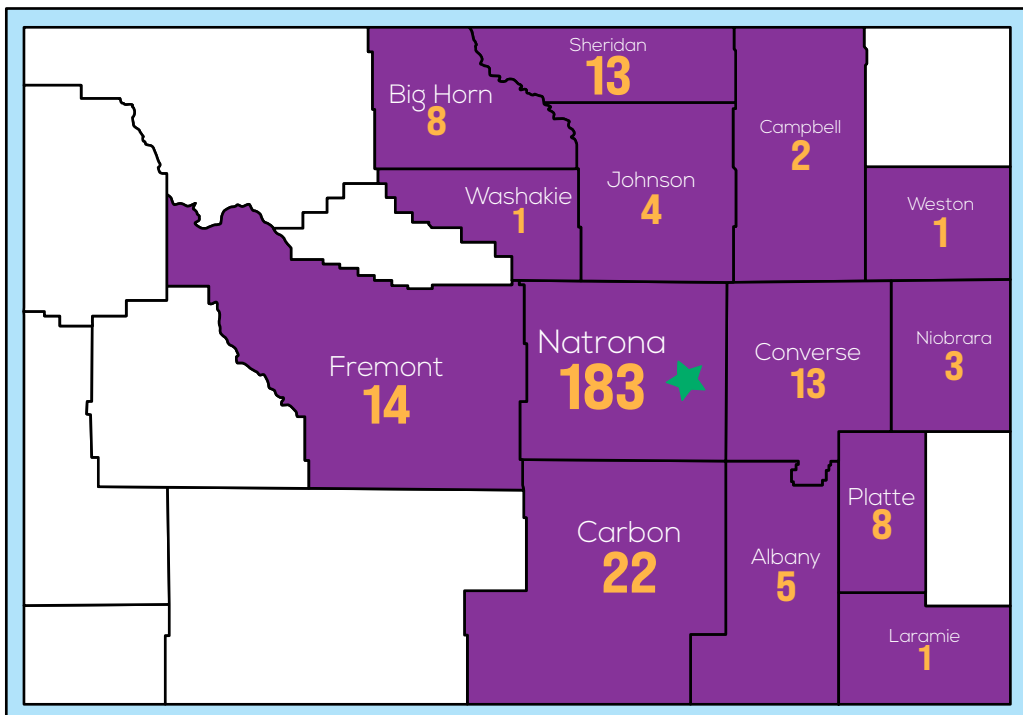
207

Individual counseling
sessions conducted in 2022

14

Counties in Wyoming
served in 2022

FORENSIC INTERVIEWS BY COUNTY



Other Courtesy Interviews: California **1**, Colorado **2**,
South Dakota **1**, Montana **1**, Indiana **1**

GENDER OF VICTIM



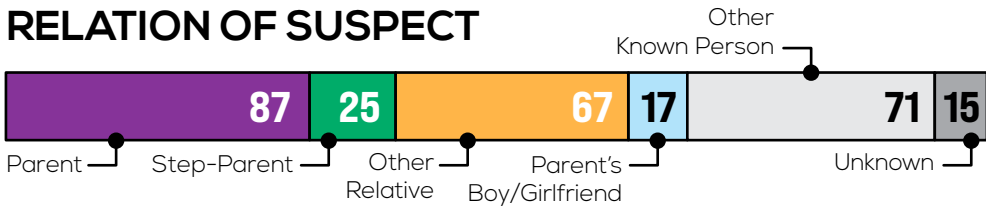
AGE OF VICTIM



TYPE OF ABUSE



RELATION OF SUSPECT



AGE OF SUSPECT





One Story from **THE 5,002 CHILDREN SERVED 20 YEARS**

Sixteen-year-old Hailey had a long history of migraines dating back about three years. They were debilitating, often sending her to bed in agony for more than a day. Because of her health, her family decided online schooling was a better option for her. Hailey found online schooling unchallenging and had gone from a straight A student to barely passing.

She had undergone many tests including MRI's and CT scans, blood work, and nerve conduction studies, and had been seen by doctors in Wyoming and Colorado. Hailey was taking seven prescriptions daily that left her tired and unable to focus. Finally, her local neurologist told her parents that there was no physical reason for condition and suggested the underlying cause was most

likely related to “some sort of trauma or mental health issues.” As it sometimes happens in these cases, Hailey’s fourteen-year-old cousin had disclosed sexual abuse by her father the week before, which immediately raised alarms in her mom’s mind.

Hailey’s mom took her for a “mother/daughter date” that included pedicures and ice cream. When they got home, her mom sat in the car and quietly asked, “did your tio touch you?” Hailey denied emphatically. Her mom’s “mommy sense” didn’t buy it and she went on to tell Hailey that her cousin, Maria, had disclosed sexual abuse by her father, Hailey’s uncle. Hailey promptly broke into tears, “He told me he’d leave her alone if I didn’t tell.” Her mom promptly started the car and then called Hailey’s dad from work

telling him to meet them at the Casper Police Department where Hailey made a statement.

Hailey spoke quietly and thoughtfully with the detective while her mom and dad listened in stunned silence. They were a close-knit family and did everything with Maria's family. Hailey and thirteen-year-old sister, Adelina, practically lived at Maria's house. They often spent the night and, after Maria and Adelina were asleep, Hailey's tio would come get her out of bed and sexually abuse her. He threatened to do the same with Adelina and Maria if Hailey ever told anyone and Hailey kept the secret for three years before learning he lied and was also abusing his step-daughter, Maria. Adelina was also interviewed and it was determined that she had not been victimized.

The detective scheduled forensic interviews for both Hailey and Adelina at The Children's Advocacy Project. Adelina denied any abuse and it was determined she had not been victimized. Hailey disclosed and was referred to counseling with a trauma therapist at CAP. Over a period of two years, Hailey participated in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) and EMDR as she processed the abuse and began to heal. The therapeutic process took time. While healing emotionally, Hailey began to have fewer migraines and cut back on prescription medications. She began to focus better, and her grades and outlook improved. She even reached out to the best friend she'd cut herself off from.

When time came to prosecute her tio, Hailey and her family decided to accept

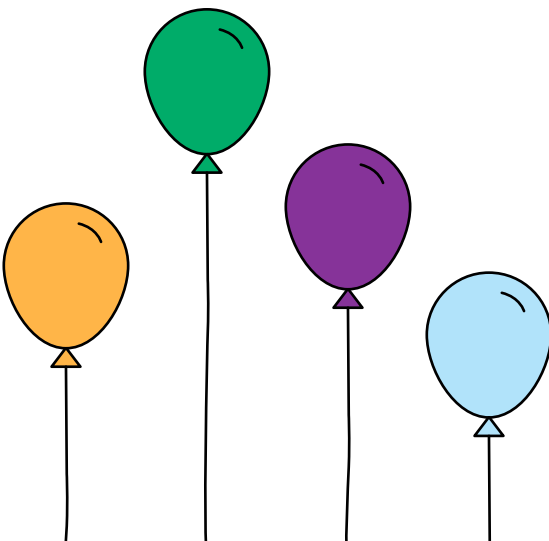
a plea agreement that would allow both Hailey and Maria to avoid testifying. At the sentencing hearing, Hailey faced him while she told the judge the story of her abuse, the threats and manipulation she had experienced. She carried with her a copy of all 725 pages of her medical record and a bag containing empty bottles that had once held both the prescription and over-the-counter medications she had once taken on a daily basis to show the judge. Her uncle was sentenced to twenty years and will be deported upon release from prison.

It's been eight years since Hailey made her statement to a detective. She still struggles with depression and anxiety, but has attained a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Wyoming and works with underprivileged children in another state. In 2020, Hailey met her future husband and they now have a daughter, Isabella, named after Hailey's maternal grandmother.

Trauma doesn't look the same from victim to victim. In Hailey's case, she exhibited somatic health concerns, specifically migraines. She completely isolated herself from friends and became anxious when she left the house. Her grades fell. Other child victims have been known to go from average to straight A students, or suddenly keeping a spotless room. Still others become promiscuous or begin engaging in high risk behaviors including drugs and alcohol. The common denominator is that the changes can't be attributed to a known event, are extreme, and happen suddenly.

“ We live in a world where bad things happen, and when they do the overwhelming emotions for parents & children are so difficult to work through. I will be eternally grateful that CAP was available as a resource to my family when I was at a loss as to how to help my child work through those overwhelming emotions. The staff provides a warm & welcoming environment for every child that comes to CAP. I've observed firsthand how my child has benefited from therapeutic services, customized to his individual needs, allowing him to work at his own pace, and develop the skills to manage daily life and thrive after trauma. I know that in the years ahead I will look back at this experience and breathe a sigh of relief that CAP came into our lives and made such a lasting impact on my child.”

- Parent of a Therapy Client at the Children's Advocacy Project



20 Years of Justice



20 YEARS IN REVIEW

2003

James Scalia, of Evansville, WY, was sentenced to two and one-half to five years in prison, after pleading guilty to one count of failure to maintain current sex offender registration and one count of possession of child pornography. After that, he will serve a three and one-half to six-year suspended prison sentence, with 10 years of probation, after pleading guilty to a separate charge of possession of child pornography. Scalia admitted that he had looked at child pornography on his computer. Investigators obtained a search warrant for the computer and found a total of 750 child erotic images. Scalia is a registered sex offender and was convicted of third degree sexual assault in 1995, and of second degree sexual assault in 2003.

2003

Steven Sanchez will serve life without parole for the first-degree murder in Evansville in the death of his ex-girlfriend's baby. The 17-month-old died of a blow to the head equal to the force of a 100-mph fastball.

2009

Christopher Eckman, 35 of Mills, was sentenced to 12 to 15 years in prison for sexually abusing a child. The victim stood at the courtroom's podium "I just felt bad and disgusting and gross. I realized when I did tell someone [about the abuse], it did a lot of good." As the Assistant District Attorney gave an overview of the crime, some of the

victim's family members held hands across aisles and wept as the specifics of the abuse were laid out.

2013

Casper man Greg Mayo, convicted of sexually abusing a 7 year old-girl, will spend up to 35 years in prison on three counts of first-degree sexual abuse. Mayo was convicted of molesting the girl in his home by touching her inappropriately, performing oral sex on her and forcing her to perform oral sex on him. The girl told an interviewer at the Children's Advocacy Project that she tried to run at one point during the incident, but Mayo grabbed her. He told her not to tell anyone about what was happening, the girl reportedly said.

2015

"Jeremy Morgan took something -- innocence -- from a 10-year-old girl she will never have again and gave her something -- distrust -- that will haunt her for a lifetime," the mother of a sexually abused child said Wednesday. Morgan, 40 of Casper, pleaded guilty to two counts of second-degree sexual abuse of a minor. The mother said her daughter had trusted Morgan, her step-father, as her own father, but what happened for 45 minutes once while he was babysitting her has caused her to fear men to the point that she doesn't want to get married. She asked Forgey to give him a sentence long enough so her daughter could reach adulthood without having to fear he would be in society.

2016

Sonya Smiley, of Casper, is sentenced to 18-20 years imprisonment on one count of accessory before the fact to second-degree sexual abuse of a minor after she admitted to “coaching” young girls to perform sex acts on her husband. Her husband, Leonard Smiley will spend 45-70 years in prison. Mothers of each victim gave victim impact statements to the court, one woman said “[my child] feels like an object. That she isn’t a living breathing person.”

2019

Trae Smith will spend at least 48 years in prison for sexual abuse of two vulnerable adults and the rape of a 15-year-old girl. The parents of one of the vulnerable adults said that they and their disabled daughter trusted Smith and he violated that trust.

2021

Daniel Hendricks, of Casper, will serve 45 years in federal prison after he was accused of sexually abusing toddlers and filming the act and subsequently convicted of four counts of producing child pornography. According to a complaint filed in the case, Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation agents received numerous cyber tips from Facebook related to the "possession and distribution of child sex abuse materials." Hendricks was arrested and taken to the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation's Casper office where he “ described his preferred age of sexual interest in children as being females in the eight to 13 years of age range," the complaint states. "Hendricks would search for sister child porn or daddy/daughter child porn."

2021

Mills man, Ryan Hilyard who was convicted of child abuse against his son and stepson, leaving one boy with permanent brain damage, lost his appeal to the Wyoming Supreme Court. Hilyard was found guilty of two counts of child abuse in late 2021 after he and his wife, Sarah, drugged, beat and kicked a child in their home, the court’s ruling states. A Natrona County judge sentenced Ryan Hilyard to up to 30 years for both child abuse convictions. Sarah Hilyard accepted a plea agreement, pleading guilty to two counts of child abuse and no contest to an attempted second-degree murder charge. She is serving up to 45 years.

2022

Natrona County resident Samuel Rosamond and his girlfriend, Zabrina Thornton, were sentenced in a child sex abuse case as a result of a 2021 joint investigation with the Natrona County Sheriff’s Office and DCI ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children). In 2021, Rosamond confessed that on at least one occasion he sexually assaulted a juvenile in the home, and that during the occasion he recorded several video files with his cellphone. Throughout the continued investigation and collection of evidence, Thornton also confessed to participating in sex acts with Rosamond and juveniles in the home, on multiple occasions. Rosamond was sentenced to 38-50 years in prison. Thornton was sentenced to 5-10 years in prison per a plea agreement for two counts of Conspiracy to Commit Sexual Abuse of a Minor in the 3rd degree.

20 Years of Community



ANNUAL BUDGET

FUNDING SOURCES	
VOCA Federal Funding	\$128,000.00
Natrona County and City of Casper	\$74,583.00
Other City & County Funds	\$37,250.00
Program Income	\$50,000.00
Fundraising	\$45,000.00
Natrona Collective Health Trust	\$100,000.00
McMurry Foundation	\$30,250.00
United Way of Natrona County	\$16,672.00
National Children's Alliance	\$14,000.00
Donations/Other Funding Grants	\$20,000.00
	\$515,755.00

EXPENSES	
Salaries & Benefits	72%
Contract Services	6%
Equipment & Supplies	3.5%
Training & Travel	4.5%
Fundraising	3%
Accounting	3%
Building (Utilities, Phone, Internet, Insurance, General Maintenance, Housekeeping)	3%
Advertising, Website, Education	2%
Meetings, Memberships, Dues	1%
Legal Services	1%
Printing & Postage	1%
	100%

20 Years of Support

THANK YOU!

On behalf of our board, staff, and the hundreds of children that we serve annually, we want to say thank you to the individuals, businesses, and partners who continue to support our mission and most importantly the children in our community. Our 20 years of work would not be possible without you!

If your name is not included in the list of donors please know we sincerely appreciate your support and apologize for the omission.



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our services, please contact us!*



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