IMPACT REPORT

ANNUAL FIGURES

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3,135
individual therapy hours for child victims of abuse and their non-offending family members

total attendees of CARE House's Family Support Group

7,269
adults and children participated in prevention trainings

40 YEARS OF HELPING CHILDREN.

CARE HOUSE
OF OAKLAND
COUNTY

120
children received health & wellness examinations at CARE House

babies and toddlers from low-income families benefited from Early Head Start services

children in Oakland County foster care benefited from CASA services





1 in 10

children will be sexually abused before they turn 18

There are

1.24 million people
in Oakland County
273,000 are children

27,000 children are likely victims of sexual abuse

In 2016,
14,727
investigations
of suspected
child abuse
occurred in
Oakland County

Dear Friends,

Harmony* is 10 years old (just like my daughter) and lives in Clawson. I met her this past December and she stood out to me because she was clutching a pack of markers and a sketch pad (just like my own daughter would).

Harmony is incredibly passionate about her art and spends almost all of her free time drawing in her journal. She takes a lot of pride in her work, which is why her mom was surprised when Harmony went several days without showing her anything new. Harmony told her mom over and over that she'd just lost interest in drawing.

Not long after, she received a call from Harmony's school saying that she'd been acting out in class repeatedly, which was very out of the ordinary. After that call, suspecting that "something" was going on, her mom took a look at Harmony's journal, and discovered that there were drawings with sexually explicit imagery.

When she asked Harmony about it, this beautiful, talented little girl broke down and told her mom that during her recent visits to her best friend's house, her friend's adult brother had been coercing her to perform sexual acts, and that it had been going on for months.

Harmony's story is one that is more frequent than we want to think about or accept. Last year, 814 kids came to CARE House, as Harmony did, for a forensic interview. What's worse, is that I know that 68% of children will <u>never</u> disclose their abuse. That's 1,730 children last year, in Oakland County alone, that were sexually abused and <u>did not</u> tell anyone. And <u>never will</u>.

The journey of healing for children at CARE House is difficult, but they are able to work toward reclaiming their lives because they have a champion to rely on: **you**.

Today, I ask you to do just one more thing to help.

Take a few minutes...and tell just one person you know about CARE House, and about Harmony. Ask them to find out a little bit more by visiting our website or calling us to come in for a tour.

Thank you for being Harmony's champion. *Thank you* for believing that it shouldn't hurt to be a child.

With warmest regards,

Blythe Spitsbergen



40 YEARS STRONG



5,808 Mandated Reporters - people who, due to their profession, are required by law to report suspicions of abuse and neglect are now certified because of support from the Detroit Auto Dealers Association. We can now offer online certification as well as in person training (we recommend both).

Visit: https://mandatedreportertraining.carehouse.org/ to start the online training.



Our seven skilled therapists provide one-on-one therapy to 111 clients each month, at no cost, for as long as needed. We expanded services this year and now offer Family and Marriage therapy as families recover together from the trauma of abuse. The Samuel and Jean Frankel Health and Research Foundation provided support, allowing us to increase our impact.



Nurturing Oakland Parents is a new program for at-risk families with kids aged 5 to 12. Over the next three years, a grant from ImpactI00 Oakland County will give 72 families tools to learn to build communication skills and family bonds, helping reduce the risk that children will ever become victims of abuse or neglect.



CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) program connects dedicated, passionate volunteers with children in foster care, providing care and consistency during an especially tumultuous time. The CASA program has recently doubled in size! More children are now benefiting from these supportive relationships.



Early Head Start teaches low-income parents with infants and toddlers how to ensure their children grow up healthy and safe. Our Family Educators provided 7,632 hours of weekly in-home visitations. Additionally, we host regular health, hearing and vision screenings, along with playgroups aimed at building support systems with other families.



An essential component of the community's response to allegations of child abuse and neglect, CARE House provides forensic interviews and crisis counseling sessions for children and their caregivers, all the while maintaining neutrality and sensitivity during the child's forensic interview. Working with law enforcement and the prosecutor's office, CARE House staff conducted 814 interviews and 685 crisis counseling sessions.



44765 Woodward Ave. Pontiac, MI 48341

40 YEARS OF HELPING CHILDREN



2017 was CARE House's biggest year yet, with over 8,000 people benefiting from our services. Without the financial support from individuals and organizations in our community, like you, we could not impact the safety of our children right here in Oakland County. Our gratitude for you is difficult to put into words; suffice it to say we are continually humbled by the enthusiasm and passion we see from each of you. Thank you for believing it shouldn't hurt to be a child.

To see a full list of 2017 donors, visit our website at www.CAREHouse.org

