

# Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center

## Annual Report 2021



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For Safe Harbor staff contact information, visit our website! https://www.safeharborhelpskids.org/

## A Message from Leadership

#### Dear Friends,

After an anticipated quieting of activities in 2020, we came roaring back in 2021 with Safe Harbor serving over 400 children, more than ever to date. Our Family Advocates served 436 caregivers, providing over 1,900 advocacy contacts to assist with immediate needs, mental health referrals, and crisis counseling. Our work is essential, and is always provided in person.

In 2021, as children had more contact with mandatory reporters (adults outside of the home who must report disclosures of abuse), there was a 25% increase in referrals to Safe Harbor. We also saw an increase in severity of physical abuse, as well as an increase in drug endangered children, as the opioid epidemic reaches new heights.

This reality can be discouraging and painful. But our tenacious, kind, and skilled staff know that we make a critical difference as we provide trauma-informed forensic interviews and advocacy, guiding children and families onto the path of healing and justice. We do this with the invaluable partnership of law enforcement, child protective services, forensic health care, and mental health professionals. Together, we work as a team to minimize the trauma of children who have suffered abuse. We feel inspired by the courage and resilience we see every day.

Safe Harbor, the only Child Advocacy Center in Dane County, wouldn't be here without the support of our all-volunteer Board of Directors, and the generosity of private donors, foundations, and government funders. We are grateful to our community for ensuring that Safe Harbor is here to serve.

In peace,

Junifer Strasburg

Jennifer Ginsburg, MSSW, LCSW Executive Director



## **Our Mission & Services**

#### **OUR HISTORY**

Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center opened in 1999. We are the only Child Advocacy Center in Dane County. There are 16 Child Advocacy Centers in Wisconsin and over 900 nationwide. Law enforcement, child protection, prosecutors, and medical providers come together to this single location to collaborate and ultimately reduce the number of times the child has to share and relive their story. Since opening our doors, we have served more than over 4,000 children and their families free of charge.

#### **OUR MISSION**

Safe Harbor seeks to reduce the trauma to children who are victims of abuse or neglect or witnesses to crimes, by promoting the coordination of multidisciplinary investigations, conducting forensic interviews in a child-friendly environment, and providing ongoing advocacy to affected children and families.

#### **OUR SERVICES**

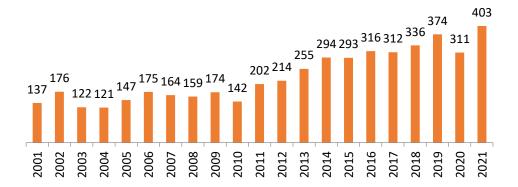
Our services are engaged through referral from law enforcement or child protective services.

Forensic Interviews in a Child-Friendly Environment	Safe Harbor provides a safe and friendly place for a child to talk about what has happened to them. Safe Harbor forensic interviewers are highly trained in best practice interviewing methods and child development. The forensic interview is video recorded, so that the statement can be considered for use in court.
Ongoing Advocacy to Affected Children & Families	Safe Harbor provides family advocacy services to non-offending caregivers of children who are interviewed at Safe Harbor. Family Advocates provide support for caregivers both at the time of the interview and on an ongoing basis. In addition, Family Advocates can voice concerns of the caregiver to the investigative team.
	Family Advocates provide families with <b>quick access to mental health services</b> through referral to immediate crisis counseling and/or longer term treatment. Family Advocates assist the team and the family in <b>considering and scheduling</b> <b>important medical exams</b> at Meriter's Forensic Nurse Examiners Program or the UWHealth Child Protection Program at American Family Children's Hospital. Many families who attend Safe Harbor are in need of basic resources. Family Advocates connect families with <b>Emergency Assistance funds</b> such as gas and grocery gift cards, rental assistance, energy bill assistance, and more.
Promoting the Coordination of Multidisciplinary Investigations	Safe Harbor brings together a multidisciplinary team of professionals with the philosophy that collaboration is essential for an effective investigation and intervention process.

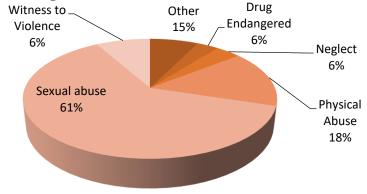
## **Forensic Interviews**

Safe Harbor provided **403 child forensic interviews** in 2021. The chart below shows the number of interviews each year since Safe Harbor was founded.



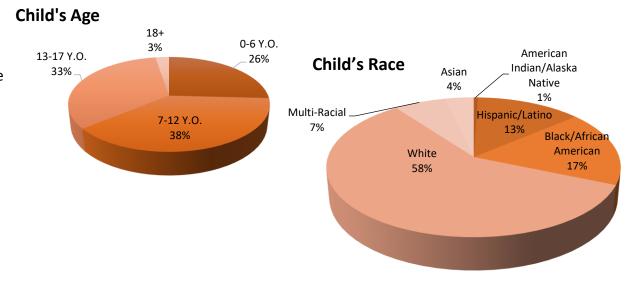


### **Types of Alleged Maltreatment**



The chart to the left illustrates the breakdown of forensic interviews at Safe Harbor in 2021 by maltreatment type. The vast majority of cases involve allegations of sexual abuse, followed by physical abuse, witness to violence, neglect, and drug endangered children cases.

The pie charts to the right show clients by age and race in 2021. The majority of abuse victims are 12 years old or younger. Based on mental health referrals, we observed that ~75% of clients identify as female and ~25% identify as male.



## **Advocacy & the Team Response**

### **Family Advocacy**

Family Advocates provided services to 426 caregivers in 2021. This work entailed making 1,952 contacts with caregivers over the course of 2021.

### **Referral to Mental Health Treatment**

A critical service to help traumatized children heal is trauma-focused mental health treatment. Safe Harbor facilitates and funds mental health assessments as well as crisis counseling for child abuse victims and their caregivers. These services are expedited, without barriers and geared specifically for traumatized children. In 2021, Family Advocates made 164 referrals for mental health services.

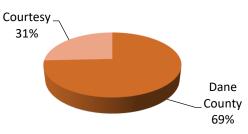


### Protocol for the Multidisciplinary Team Response

In addition to providing services, Safe Harbor coordinates county-wide best practice protocols. An important goal is to institutionalize best practices, so that there are clear standards and expectations for all the systems that come into play when child abuse is exposed. These protocols include child abuse response, drug endangered children, and commercial sex trafficking. Safe Harbor also coordinates monthly case reviews, to ensure that the protocols are being followed and the team is working together effectively.

### **Serving Surrounding Areas**





Safe Harbor serves Dane County. However, we also provide services to other counties as a courtesy if the child lives in Dane County or there is no Child Advocacy Center available in the county where the incident occurred. In 2021, Safe Harbor provided **120 courtesy interviews** for outside counties. Outside of Dane, the top 3 counties who accessed Safe Harbor in 2021 were Sauk, Juneau, and Richland.

## **Financial Report**

### FY2021 (Oct 1 2020- Sep 30 2021)

### **Support & Revenue**

As a non-profit, Safe Harbor is reliant on the generosity of the community to fulfill our mission. The graph to the right shows we are funded through grants, fundraising, and our community partners.

Grant and contract Revenue: \$555,913 [61%]

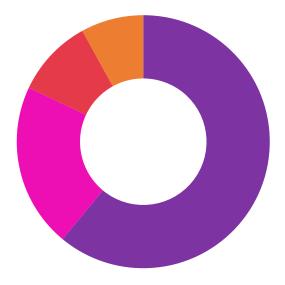
Contributions: \$196,339 [21%]

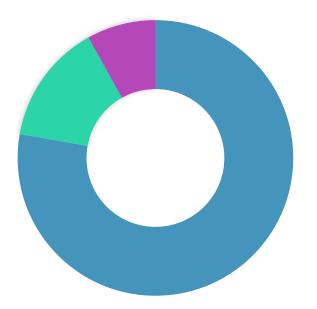
Investment return, net: \$91,554 [10%]

Paycheck Protection Program Loan (forgiven): \$73,600 [8%]

Interest income: \$4 [~.000004%]

Total Support & Revenue: \$917,470





### **Expenses**

As you can see to the left, the vast majority of our expenses go towards direct services for the children and families we serve. This is vital to providing support and a trauma-informed, healingfocused environment.

Program Services: \$545,009 [77%]

Management and General: \$98,803 [14%]

Fundraising: \$60,111 [8%]

Total Expenses: \$703,923

## **2021 Financial Supporters**

#### **Government Contracts**

Dane County Department of Human Services State of Wisconsin Office of Crime Victim Services Wisconsin Department of Justice

#### **Event Sponsors**

#### **Business/Foundation/Organization Sponsors**

**AFSCME Dane County Professional Social Workers** Local 2634 **Balisle Family Law** Boardman & Clark, LLP Borns Law Office LLC Colony Brands Foundation, Inc. **CUNA Mutual Group DeWitt Law Firm LLP** Fetch Rewards, Inc. Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin Madison Professional Police Officers Association Miner Barnhill & Galland, P.C. Numbers 4 Nonprofits **Perkins Coie** Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, Beta Xi Chapter **TASC Give Back Foundation** The Perkins Coie Foundation Wegner CPAs LLP

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## Thank you to our Safe Harbor Staff, Board of Directors, Volunteers, & Funders!

#### Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Personnel

Jennifer Ginsburg, Executive Director Mikel Domnitz, Development Director Heidi Figueroa-Velez, Family Advocate/Bilingual Foren Interviewer Robyn Klaila, Forensic Interviewer & Forensic Interview Program Manager Emily Oler, Child Life Specialist/Marketing Assistant Meaghan Reindl, Family Advocate/Data Manager Carrie Sachse, Family Advocate/Forensic Interviewer Jenny Rusch, Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator Numbers 4 Nonprofits CPA Kollath and Associates CPA Spark, LLC - Human Resources

#### Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Board of Directors

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ent Director	Vice President Anna Engelhart, Station Manager, WKOW
ily Advocate/Bilingual Forensic	Treasurer Peter Benson, Vice President Business Banking, Park Bank
rviewer & Forensic Interview	Secretary & Past President Meg McGrane, Human Resource Professional (Retired)
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ocate/Forensic Interviewer	Mary Beth Keppel, Retired Dane County Court Commissioner
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A	Wil Nichol, Director of Player Development, Las Vegas Golden Nights
A	Stephanie Hindson, Medical Record Compliance Manager, SSM
rces	Health@Home
	Debie Evans, Anesis Center for Marriage and Family Therapy, Assistant Director

#### Volunteers

Volunteers contribute to Safe Harbor in the following capacities: Board Members, Event Planning Committee Members, Day-of-Event Helpers, and Office/Childcare Assistants. We also host a yearly UW School of Social Work or Madison Area Technical College Intern. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, volunteers were limited. Our all-volunteer Board continued to meet every month virtually.