



FY 2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY & PROTECTION CENTER
of Catawba County



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Reflecting on the past year, we are deeply grateful for the many individuals and organizations who make our work possible. To our donors—your generosity sustains our mission and ensures that children and families in our community receive the support and protection they need. To our dedicated staff and multidisciplinary team members—your professionalism, compassion, and unwavering commitment continue to be the backbone of everything we do. To our Board of Directors—thank you for your leadership, guidance, and tireless advocacy. We are also incredibly thankful for our volunteers and community partners, whose collaboration and shared vision for a safer, healthier Catawba County strengthen our efforts every step of the way. Most importantly, we are humbled by the strength and courage of the children and families we serve—it is their resilience that inspires us daily and drives us forward.

At the Children's Advocacy & Protection Center, our work is driven by a deep and unwavering commitment to building a community where every child is safe, supported, and heard. Our mission—to advocate for the protection of children through education, coordinated response, and trauma reduction—guides every decision we make. The vision of a safer future for every child in Catawba County remains at the heart of all we do.

One of the most meaningful indicators of our impact is the feedback from those we serve. This year, we are proud to report that 97% of all program survey responses were positive, surpassing our target of 90%. This result reflects not only the quality and effectiveness of our services but also the dedication of our team to creating a supportive, trauma-informed experience for every child and family who walks through our doors. Whether through direct advocacy, education, or coordinated intervention, this level of positive response affirms that our approach is making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

While celebrating these successes, we recognize uncertainties ahead, especially regarding federal and state funding supporting our programs. To prepare, we focus on thoughtful planning, stronger community partnerships, and sustainability to ensure uninterrupted service. Our commitment to advocacy, prevention, and trauma-informed care remains steadfast, even in the face of potential financial challenges. We invite you to explore the stories, data, and people behind our impact—and join us in shaping an even stronger future.



Thank you for standing with us in this vital work. Together, we can continue to protect, empower, and uplift the children of Catawba County.

With gratitude,

Adrienne Opatz
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Mandated Reporting Campaign

Did You Know...?



Every adult in North Carolina
is a mandated reporter.

Community Engagement & Education

FY 2024-2025

Pinwheels for Prevention is a national campaign that uses pinwheels as a symbol to raise awareness about child abuse prevention. In April, volunteers planted **1,884 pinwheels** that were sponsored by community members.

As a part of our commitment to prevention efforts, we partner with ***Darkness to Light*** to offer ***Stewards of Children®*** trainings for adults across our community. In local schools, we offer trainings for children by the ***Monique Burr Foundation for Children***.

21 Darkness to Light
Training Locations

377 Darkness to Light
Participants

1704 Children trained in
Monique Burr

Prevention Council

Linda Baker
Maggie Bartlett
Andrea Benfield
Quintin Knight
Becky Less
Victoria Morales

Ben Nobles
Shelby Pierce
Lauren Redd
Linda Robinette
Gianella Romero
Nichole Silver

Sharon Smith
Maria Stobbe
Chief John Thomas
Jenny Williams

Research shows that at least **1 in 10 children will experience sexual abuse before they turn 18**, and only 10% of those children ever tell someone. An adult speaking up can be the first step in protecting a child and potentially saving a life. It's not just a moral responsibility—it's also the law.

During National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Children's Advocacy & Protection Center's Prevention Council launched a Mandated Reporting Awareness Campaign, reminding the community that every adult in North Carolina is a mandated reporter of child abuse. **More than 500 copies** of the campaign materials were distributed throughout Catawba County, reaching schools, churches, daycares, businesses, doctor's offices, churches, nonprofits, and libraries. The message was also shared widely through social media, email, and even included in city water bills.

The mandated reporting campaign's impact also spread statewide through the **Children's Advocacy Centers of North Carolina**, highlighting the power of collaboration and community partnership in protecting children.



Scan the QR code
to [view the flyer](#).

Share it today — awareness saves lives.

Clinical & Forensic Services

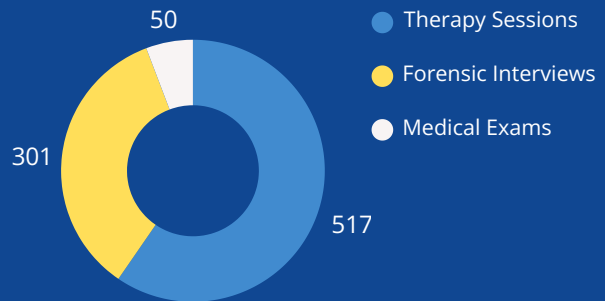
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The Children's Advocacy and Protection Center delivers a comprehensive range of clinical and forensic services designed to support child victims and their families.

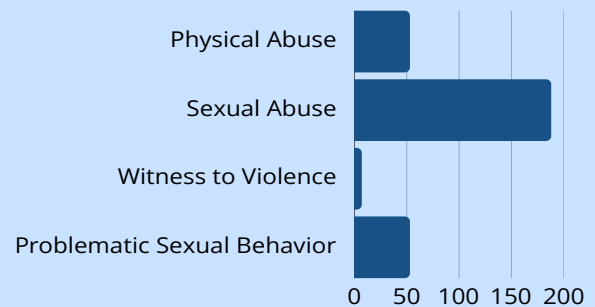
These services are evidence-informed and rooted in best practices, ensuring high-quality, trauma-informed care. We are committed to accountability and continuous improvement, utilizing tracked **outcome performance measures** to evaluate our impact and guide service enhancements.

We are proud to be an **NCA-accredited Child Advocacy Center**, meeting rigorous national standards for excellence in service delivery, multidisciplinary collaboration, and child-focused care.

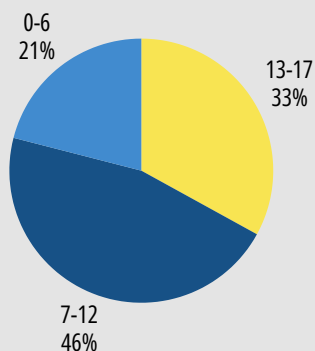
Summary of Services



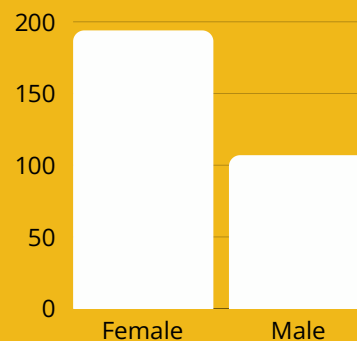
Case Allegation Type



Child's Age

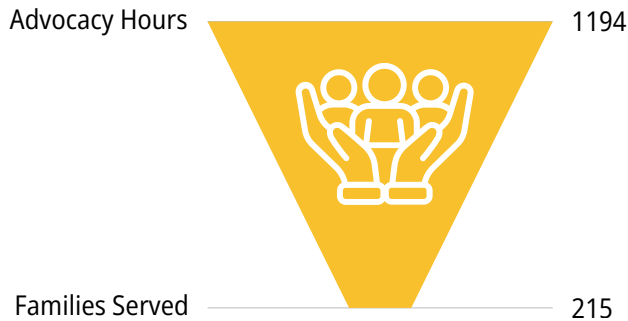


Child's Gender



Child & Family Advocacy

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Our Child and Family Advocate, Melissa Swartley, supports children and non-offending caregivers through the forensic interview and court process. She provides emotional support, explains each step, and connects families with resources for healing. Melissa says that "Many parents and caregivers often feel alone and are not sure where to turn when their child discloses abuse. Enter HOPE Class."

Did You Know...?

- **1 in 4 girls** and **1 in 6 boys** will be sexually assaulted before the age of 18.
- **90% of child sexual abuse** is committed by relatives, close family friends or an adult that the child knows and trusts.
- **301 children** were interviewed at our Center this year for allegations of abuse.

HOPE CLASS

In HOPE Class, caregivers:

- Gain an understanding of the effects of child sexual abuse
- Learn how to recognize the signs of abuse and how to protect children
- Learn about resilience
- Gain parenting insight
- Give and receive support from others with similar experiences
- Share concerns and triumphs
- Support the child

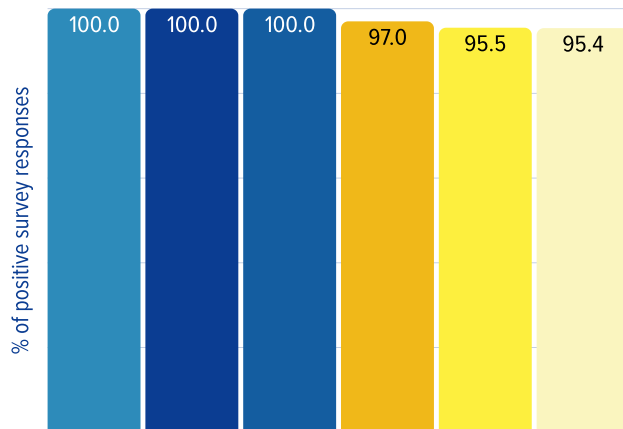
HOPE Class meets for 7 weeks with meals, curriculum, childcare and gas vouchers provided at no cost to the caregiver. Caregivers who completed the most recent class shared their appreciation, with one saying, "I am thankful for this opportunity to gain more knowledge... before this class I had lots of questions," and another saying, "This kind of program opens our eyes to how things are... it's nice to know we are not alone."

Initial Visit Youth Surveys

I loved it here and
they made me feel
so much better!

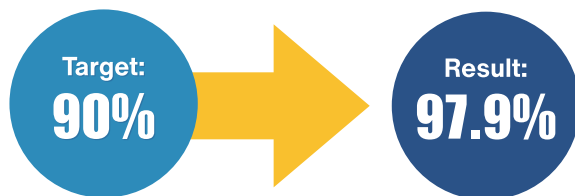
Child, 2025

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- What were the people at the center like?
- Did they help you understand what to expect...?
- Were they good at listening to you?
- Did they help you feel safe?
- Did they care about you?
- How good were they at answering your questions?

Positive Feedback



Survey Quotes

"They are very welcoming, nice, sweet and caring. It's warm inside and cozy. I love it here."

"Everyone listened to me instead of saying I was lying or not telling the truth."

"[I liked] everything, the gift, the room, the people. I loved it here and they made me feel so much better."

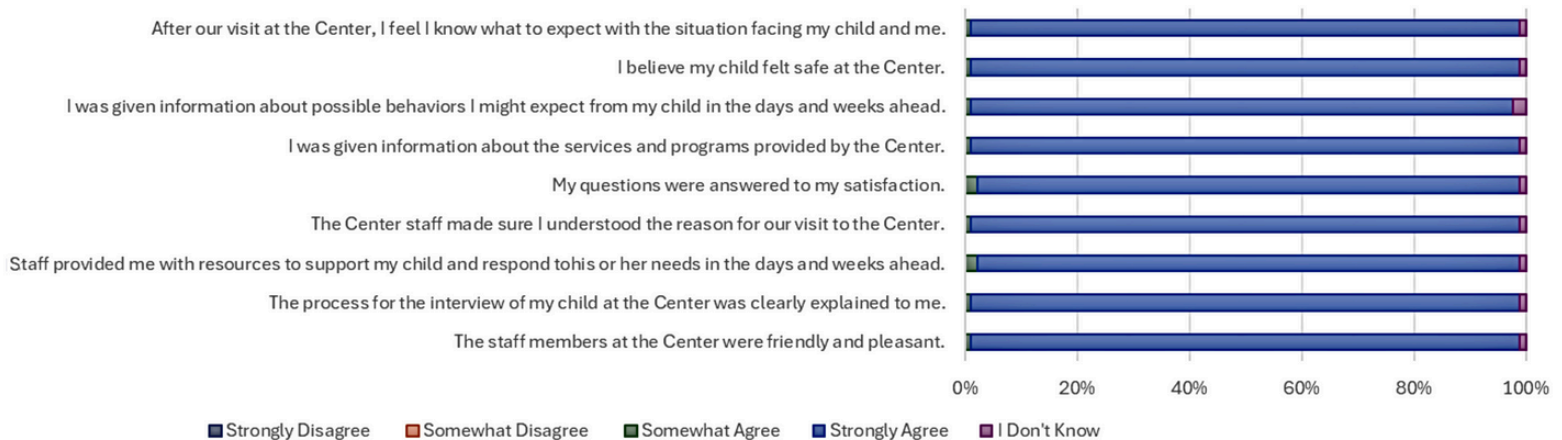


Initial Visit Caregiver Surveys

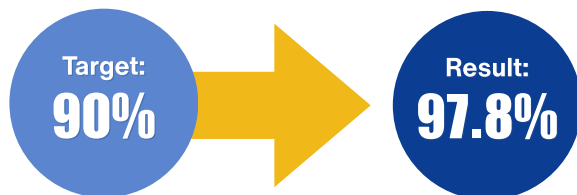
“I am very thankful for the professionalism and compassion we received today.”

Parent, 2025

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Positive Feedback



Survey Quotes

“They were angels when we were at our lowest.”

“Thank you for helping us through this scary time.”

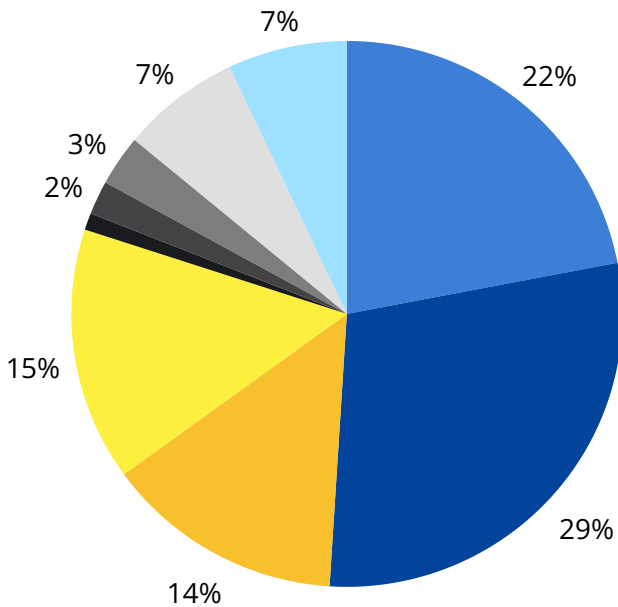
“They were here to support my children and myself.”

“Thank you for listening & going above and beyond with us!”



Income Analysis

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Grants	\$444,482
● Federal Grants (GCC)	\$169,261
● State Funding (NCDHHS)	\$222,685
● General Grants	\$52,536
Fundraising & Donations	\$221,585
● Corporate/Business/Churches	\$104,066
● Individuals	\$117,519
Program Income	\$41,024
● Medical	\$17,746
● Mental Health	\$23,278
Other Income	\$2,540
● Social Services Contribution	\$51,173
DSS Donations	\$29,000
DSS Forensic Interview Contract	\$22,173
Total Income	\$760,804

Because of you, we achieved remarkable success this past year, strengthening our programs and ensuring financial stability. Looking ahead, we face a projected \$300,000 decrease in government funding for 2025–2026. Your ongoing support will help us continue delivering vital services and creating lasting impact.

**Your support shapes our future —
make a gift today.**

Visit catawbacountycapc.org to donate online.

Checks can be made payable to “CAPC” and mailed to:
4360 County Home Rd, Conover, NC 28613



Denim & Diamonds



Denim & Diamonds Annual Fundraiser

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At Denim & Diamonds, the Center's annual fundraiser, the community comes together to celebrate, to connect, and to have fun while raising money for our kids and families. Through sponsorships, raffle tickets, paddle raises, and auction sales, **Denim & Diamonds raised \$99,097** this year, more than any prior fundraising event!

For the paddle raise portion of the evening, our community raised **over \$10,000** in support of on-site medical care for children. These services are often needed urgently—sometimes in the middle of the night—and provide children with a safe, welcoming space for medical care. Because of your generosity, we can continue to offer that care when it's needed most.

Thank you for showing up in your best denim, boots and bling, for giving so freely and generously, and for helping us grow the support our Center needs.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Ray of Hope Sponsor



Diamond Sponsors



The Ames Family



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Kemp Sigmon Construction Co.

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Catawba Valley Health System
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PeoplesBank
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