## WHO WE SERVE

We serve children up through the age of seventeen with reported cases of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse. Families and caretakers are also served through the investigation and treatment process.

## **OUR SERVICES**

- A safe, child-friendly atmosphere for interviews and medical exams for sexually-abused children
- Coordinated services provided by a multidisciplinary team comprised of law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, and medical and human service professionals
- Child-sensitive forensic interviews
- On-site medical examinations
- Trauma-informed counseling and referrals for victims and families
- Court preparation and support for victims and families during court proceedings
- Community awareness and advocacy to address the issue of child sexual abuse

Families are referred to the WCAC by law enforcement agencies and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

If you think a child has been sexually abused, contact your local law enforcement agency or MDHHS at 855.444.3911 immediately.



#### **Our Vision**

is to help people live safe, meaningful, and independent lives, in a more just community.

#### We Change

lives by stepping up every day and responding to the very real needs in our communities.

### **Through Service**

CSSW actively

addresses the causes and consequences of poverty, family chaos, and violence. We tackle problems brought on by age, mental illness, substance abuse, disability, and stress through a wide spectrum of services designed to help people at all stages of life.

#### Visit us at: www.csswashtenaw.org/wcac





NATIONAL



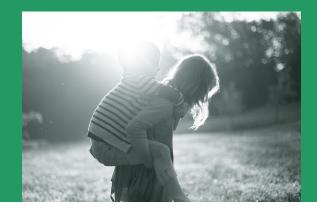


### Catholic Diocese o

# Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center

#### Support • Protect • Advocate

A program of Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County



### Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center

555 Towner Street Ypsilanti, MI 48198 734.544.2925 wcac@washtenaw.org





Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center 555 Towner Street | Ypsilanti, MI 48198

734.544.2925 | wcac@washtenaw.org www.csswashtenaw.org/wcac

We Seek Justice, and Change Lives

# WHO WE ARE

The Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center (WCAC) is a collaboration involving all eleven Washtenaw County law enforcement jurisdictions, the Washtenaw County Prosecuting Attorney's office, Michigan Medicine/Child Protection Team, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), St. Joseph Mercy Hospital SANE program, and Washtenaw Community Mental Health.

The WCAC provides a coordinated, comprehensive response for children and teens referred for suspected child sexual abuse and/or severe physical abuse. Services include forensic interviews, trauma-informed short and long-term

counseling, medical exams, court support and advocacy, and referrals to community resources. Services are also provided to non-offending family members. All services are provided at no cost.



Our program is based on a national model for child advocacy centers. The WCAC is fully accredited by the National Children's Alliance and the Council on Accreditation.

The Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center is supported by Crime Victim Assistance Grant Award CVA #20960-13V15, through the Crime Victim Services Commission of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. 80% of the grant award of \$182,050 comes from the Federal Crime Victims Fund, established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984. Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County, along with the Redies Foundation and local designations, provides the required cash match. This publication does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice or the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.







Nearly

40%

Over

90%

100% of

Children

of child victims of sexual abuse are under the age of twelve

of all children are sexually abused

of sexually-abused children are

before the age of eighteen

abused by family members

of sexually-abused children are abused by older and/or larger children

of sexual-abuse cases involve children and families who know and trust the abuser

regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, age, income, or family structure are at risk for sexual abuse

#### WCAC PROVIDES:

Multidisciplinary Team Approach Counseling

Forensic Interviews

c Court Support s and Advocacy

Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center 555 Towner Street | Ypsilanti, MI 48198

# WHAT TO DO

When children disclose sexual abuse, they may be worried they won't be believed or frightened they will be punished. False reportings of child sexual abuse are rare. To reassure the child, follow these tips:

- Stay calm and find a private place to talk
- Don't react with anger or disbelief
- Listen to what the child says and praise him/her for being so brave
- Refrain from questioning the child about details or pressuring them to tell more
- Allow the child to use his/her own words—don't guide them in what to say
- Reassure the child that telling you was the right thing to do
- Explain that now you will tell others about the abuse to make sure he/she stays safe
- Assure the child that the abuse was not his/her fault, and he/she is not going to be punished
- Remind the child that he/she can always come to you for help
- Report all suspected cases of abuse



734.544.2925 | wcac@washtenaw.org www.csswashtenaw.org/wcac