2019 GRATITUDE REPORT

RELATIONSHIPS

HEART

EXCELLENCE

GRIT

Baltimore Child Abuse Center
30 YEARS PROTECTING CHILDREN
How We Help

ANTI-TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION
BCAC’s anti-trafficking & exploitation team provides a comprehensive response, from prevention to aftercare, to individuals who have been trafficked, used in child sexual abuse images and victimized through internet crimes.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION
We strive to get ahead of abuse before it happens. To best prepare professionals and community members in Baltimore and beyond to identify and report suspected abuse, BCAC hosts educational presentations and workshops designed to better inform professionals, youth-serving organizations and community groups in the prevention, identification and reporting of suspected abuse. We work with youth-serving organizations to help them assess their strengths and vulnerabilities in their child protection policies and procedures. We also run programs like DIVAS (Developing Inner Values to Acquire Success) to help young people find support and prevent past traumas from defining their futures.

MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
Medical examinations play an important role in the investigative process, providing law enforcement and prosecution with physical evidence of sexual abuse. Additionally, medical exams can be helpful in cases where physical signs of abuse indicate that the child is at increased risk even if he or she did not disclose abuse during the forensic interview. Our team also provides medical exams for kids entering foster care. BCAC added our sixth clinician this year to its Mental Health Clinic to be able to provide both short and long term treatment. Approaches used include: trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, play therapy, art therapy, expressive therapies, and holistic therapy.

For over 30 years, Baltimore Child Abuse Center has provided victims of child sexual abuse, trauma and other Adverse Childhood Experiences in Baltimore — and their non-offending caretakers — with comprehensive forensic interviews, medical treatment and mental health treatment with a goal of preventing future trauma. BCAC is a nonprofit subsidiary of LifeBridge Health.

Our Mission

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Our Core Values

As one of the first child advocacy centers in the nation, our team at BCAC strives to help as many children and those impacted by trauma as we can. We are guided by our core values, approaching every challenge and every child with Grit, Heart, Relationships, and Excellence. In doing so, we aim to provide the most trauma-informed and high quality experience possible.

Reflecting back on our planning process four years ago, I can say that BCAC has made many steps toward our bold future. We said that we wanted to add an onsite mental health program; we did. We said we wanted to grow our family advocate program and develop more supports for families; we did. We said we wanted to strengthen our legislative strategies to bolster support for laws that protect children; we did. We said that we wanted to create stronger community partnerships; we did.

This past year, we sat down as a team to define our core values. What is it that makes BCAC continue to strive toward our bold future? Qualities that exemplified our team and our approach: Grit, Heart, Relationships, and Excellence. Grit, exemplified by our forensic interviewers patiently establishing trust with a child who has experienced sexual abuse until they feel comfortable enough to talk. Heart, embodied by our child development team who engage children in games and crafts to make them feel welcome and safe in a trauma-informed, child-centered environment. Relationships, demonstrated by many partnerships we have built not just in the city but across the state and country, which allow our impact to go well beyond Baltimore. And Excellence, for always asking ourselves: what more can we do, and how can we do it better?

One answer to this question came to fruition in January 2019, when BCAC became a subsidiary of LifeBridge Health. We are thrilled to be expanding our successful strategic partnership with one of Baltimore’s preeminent healthcare communities. This alliance with LifeBridge Health helps meet some of our final goals in our strategic plan about our future, enabling BCAC to expand our presence in the community and create a greater impact on child protection. This unique new partnership creates sustainability for BCAC programs while empowering us to explore how our nationally accredited program can maximize your investment. We will tap into LifeBridge Health’s resources and public health commitment while providing expertise and professional staff to meet the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences and needs of child victims of trauma and violence in and around Greater Baltimore.

With Grit, Heart, Relationships, Excellence — and you — we look forward to this coming year and we continue to look boldly toward a future where we can make an even greater impact treating and preventing abuse, trauma and violence for children and families. Stay tuned for what comes next.

With gratitude, Todd and Adam

Defining Our Core Values, Planning for Our Future

Back in 2015, staff and board members met to set BCAC’s five-year strategic plan to take us through 2020. One part of this process was to create a statement about what a bold future would look like for BCAC, and we came up with a vision statement: In 2020, BCAC will be a nationally recognized leader in cutting edge innovation and best practices to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse, trauma, and other Adverse Childhood Experiences.

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Holding mandated reporters accountable

After more than a decade of opposition and defeat in the Maryland General Assembly, in 2019 we finally saw successful enactment of the mandatory reporter penalties act, which follows the lead of 48 other states and provides criminal penalties for professionals and administrators (such as those in the Larry Nassar and Jerry Sandusky cases) who willfully fail to report known child abuse. Senator Susan Lee (D-Montgomery) and Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary (D-Howard) championed this bill on its landmark passage through the General Assembly.

LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES

This past session, BCAC took the lead on building coalitions to pass two important bills and worked with coalition partners on several others. Here are some of our main successes:

Expanding access to children’s advocacy centers

Passing into law on its very first attempt, the Expanding Access to Child Advocacy Centers Act helps make sure that all Maryland children have access to an accredited children’s advocacy center to help address child abuse and trauma. Drawing in part on similar legislation around the country and on nationally recognized accreditation standards, BCAC worked closely with members of the Maryland Children’s Alliance to draft and pass this bill. Senator Susan Lee (D-Montgomery), freshman Delegate Emily Shetty (D-Montgomery) and their staff were the legislative champions of this work. Other advocates to prevent child abuse and sexual abuse such as the State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect and the Coalition to Protect Maryland’s Children lent support to this bill.

GRIT

Bill signing for the Expanding Access to Child Advocacy Centers bill.

BCAC Advocacy Day in Annapolis.

FY19 STATISTICS

- **1,875 clients** and families supported by BCAC
- **639** forensic interviews conducted
- **784** medical exams conducted
- **1,315** mental health sessions conducted
- **4,147** family advocacy interactions
- **22 clients** received bilingual services
- **173 services** provided to trafficking victims and victims of technology-facilitated crimes
- **157 services** provided to child witnesses to domestic violence, homicide and other forms of violence
- **7,602** total services provided to clients and their families at BCAC
- **925** hours volunteered by 95 individuals
- **Over 8,000** professionals trained to identify, report, and prevent abuse, resulting in **30,000 children being safer**

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In 2019, volunteer community members dramatically increased the support BCAC provides to children and caregivers with an extra set of hands to help our child development team, donations for our operation resource room, facilities clean up projects and legislative advocacy. Thank you to our 95 volunteers who donated a total of 925 hours of their time and talents this fiscal year!

During the week, you can always see trained volunteers in the family room with kids before they go in for a forensic interview, therapy session or medical exam. Instead of fear, you can see and hear laughter and smiles as volunteers work with our team to make children feel at ease. Volunteer Lydia Roderick says, “I chose to volunteer at BCAC because I have a passion for helping others and working with children. Everyone is so positive and truly enjoyable to work with; that’s what makes me keep coming back. Just knowing what I do can make a small difference in the kids’ lives makes it all worth it.”

In April 2019, we began hosting a volunteer Day of Service one Saturday every month. Volunteers participate in arts and craft preparations for the kids, help with facility improvements, and complete projects, all to put a smile on the faces of the children and families who come to BCAC. One recent project built a play grocery store for the kids, with play food, treats and snacks. It was an instant favorite for the children when they arrived. This form of play therapy helps children who are very withdrawn open up to our therapists. We wouldn’t have been able to see those successes if it wasn’t for our volunteers who dedicated their time.

In 2017, BCAC launched its Mental Health Clinic staffed by two full-time therapists. Since then, we have expanded to six full-time therapists and two care coordinators. In Fiscal Year 2019, BCAC therapists provided 1,315 mental health sessions to children at no cost whatsoever to the family. The addition of onsite mental health services has increased the number of children helped at BCAC by 130%. BCAC provides onsite therapy for children and families who have experienced a traumatic event or incident. The mental health team also treats chronic runaway and missing youth to get to the root causes of their trauma and work to divert them from greater risks such as trafficking and exploitation. All therapy is done by our licensed professionals who have specific training in trauma-informed care. BCAC’s mental health team uses a variety of approaches, including play, art, and expressive therapies, EMDR, CFTSI and TF-CBT to best help children and caregivers.

Every child who experiences a traumatic event can heal. At BCAC, children can play through their wounds and heal at their own pace. Parents and families are supported in the process and encouraged to engage in their own treatment or their child’s treatment.

Thank you to our volunteers who donated a total of 925 hours of their time and talents.

IF YOU’RE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT BCAC, CONTACT NICOLE AT NICREED@LIFEBRIDGEHEALTH.ORG
important to talk about. When I was younger and being abused, I didn’t realize it was sexual abuse. I was always warned about ‘stranger danger,’ but it’s not always a creepy man who is the abuser. It can really be anyone, and we need to change the dialogue. It didn’t occur to me at the time that someone I trusted could be hurting me.”

Special thanks to our amazing event co-chairs Mandee and Steven Heinl and Brett and Julie Cohen. Be A Hero co-chair Mandee Heinl put it best: “This is not a problem that impacts one demographic or another. This impacts everyone.”

We could not have had such a successful event without our corporate partners, individual donors and volunteer planning committee. Thank you, everyone!

**ANNUAL COMMUNITY GATHERING**

Over 100 people had the opportunity to meet Sasha Neulinger and hear his story of surviving multigenerational sexual abuse on Feb. 16, 2019 at our Annual Community Gathering. Sasha’s first feature length documentary, “Rewind,” is an autobiographical film about his life surviving multigenerational child sexual abuse. Sasha uses his voice as a survivor to raise awareness and advocate for reforms in child advocacy and child abuse prevention. At the event, Sasha previewed scenes from his film which has been making the rounds at the Tribeca film festival and other national festivals. To Sasha and all survivors, we thank you for your strength and courage, and for impacting the lives of thousands by owning your stories and bravely finding your voice. Special thanks to the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention for supporting this event.

**PSA CAMPAIGNS TO PROTECT KIDS**

This past spring, BCAC partnered with Storyfarm, a video production agency in Baltimore, and the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention on two important PSA campaigns. “Think Before You Send” addresses teen sexting and digital safety, and “You Can Be The Difference” brings awareness to child and teen survivors of homicide and other violent crimes. Collectively, the two campaigns reached over 2.3 million viewers. View the PSAs and find out more, including what prevention and education resources are available, at stopsexting.org and youcanbethedifference.org.

**BE A HERO**

BCAC’s 6th annual Be A Hero Gala was held May 10, 2019. The event was a phenomenal success, raising over $284,000 to help BCAC continue to offer a safe, trauma-informed, child-centered space for children and families to begin the recovery and healing process.

Be A Hero celebrates community heroes in the fight against child sexual abuse. This year’s honorees included: Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary (District 13, Howard County); Councilwoman Cathy Bevins (District 6, Baltimore County); The Honorable Governor Larry Hogan; BCAC past president Colby Simon; Assistant State Attorney Lisa Marts; Detective Shawntad Randall of the Child Abuse Unit, Baltimore Police Department; and Family Services Case Worker Darlene Winder. Whether through public service, advocacy or working on the front lines every day, their efforts on behalf of Maryland’s children are unparalleled, and we are so grateful for these relationships. Be A Hero also featured special guest Olympic gold medalist and survivor advocate Aly Raisman. In her own words, she summarized why our work is so crucial: “This is something that is
Over the last four decades, the science and utilization of forensic interviewing has grown substantially. Forensic interviewing is more than ever an important tool in the fight to end child abuse, to uncover previously undisclosed trauma, and to give children and victims voices, all in an effort to aid with healing.

After a two-year team effort involving research review, expert consultation and interview method assessment, BCAC’s Forensic Interview Toolbox (FIT) has been approved as an accepted national interview protocol by the National Children’s Alliance, the national accrediting body for over 800 child advocacy centers. BCAC is thrilled to be able to offer this new national model for use by any forensic interviewer at a child advocacy center or multidisciplinary team. Regional and national trainings will be offered beginning in 2020.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION TRAININGS ACROSS THE COUNTRY
Over the last year, BCAC’s Anti-Trafficking and Exploitation Program team was invited to conduct 19 trainings for almost 1,100 participants in seven different states, including the territory of Puerto Rico, on different dynamics of human trafficking, child sexual abuse imagery and internet crimes against children. In Puerto Rico, along with our forensic interview team, they conducted a presentation, “How Human Trafficking Affects Vulnerable Populations: Persons with Disabilities,” to more than 300 participants at the 3rd Annual Sexual Abuse Symposium.

Closer to home, the team provided three half-day trainings for Better Today Starts Tomorrow (BTST) Services in Frederick and Prince George’s counties and Baltimore City.

At the end of the day, true excellence is measured by how we help the children and families who come through our doors.

[OUTCOME MEASUREMENTS]

The following are results of an initial and follow-up survey provided to caregivers about their experience at BCAC:

- 100% of caregivers felt like the BCAC staff made sure they understood the reason for their visit and that the process for the interview was clearly explained to them.
- 97% of caregivers believed their children felt safe at BCAC.
- 100% of caregivers felt that staff members at BCAC were friendly and pleasant.
- 99% of caregivers felt that staff members at BCAC did everything they could to help them or their child.
- 93% of caregivers felt like the BCAC staff made sure they understood the reason for their visit and that the process for the interview was clearly explained to them.
- 97% of caregivers were provided with information about how to get support services for themselves.
- 100% of caregivers agreed that BCAC provided resources to support their child and respond to their needs in the days and weeks ahead.
- 95% of caregivers would recommend BCAC if they knew anyone else who was dealing with a situation like their family faced.
Our Partners

Accelerent
Archdiocese of Baltimore
The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore
Baltimore City Department of Social Services
Baltimore City Health Department
Baltimore City Police Department
Baltimore County Department of Social Services
Baltimore County Police Department
Behavioral Health System Baltimore
CHAMP
CHANA
CJAC
Committee to Protect Maryland’s Children
Darkness to Light
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Department of Homeland Security
Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Governor’s Office of Children
Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention
Governor’s Family Violence Counsel
HealthCare Access Maryland
House of Ruth
Inspirations
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Johns Hopkins School of Social Work
Kennedy Krieger Institute
Maryland Children’s Alliance
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Maryland State Fatality Review Board
Mayor’s Office on Criminal Justice
Mercy Medical System
Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
National Children’s Alliance
Office of the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City
Project Linus
Safe Streets Baltimore
Southern Regional Children’s Advocacy Center
State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect
Storyfarm
TumAround, Inc.
United States Attorney’s Office of Maryland
United Way of Central Maryland
University of Maryland, School of Medicine
Youth Equality Alliance

How We Are Funded

- Raised $3.9 million
- Individual donors: individual gifts, special events, workplace giving
- Government grants: all local, state and federal grant awards
- Fee for service: rental income, training and technical expertise, sexual assault reimbursements
- Foundations: all restricted and unrestricted foundation awards

Expenses By Category

- Program: 85.93%
- Fundraising: 7.55%
- Management and General: 6.52%

Financials

- Individual Donors: 74.09%
- Fee for Service: 10.66%
- Foundations: 9.47%
- Government Grants: 5.75%

Advisory Committee

Chair: Todd Pattison
Maxient

Vice-Chair: Jason White
Exelon Power

Hirsh Ament
Venable, LLP

Stuart D. Blumenthal, DDS
Joppa Green Pediatric Dentistry

Christopher S. Carroll
Kelly Benefit Strategies

Brett Cohen
Kitchen Savers

Heather Dondis
T. Rowe Price

Carrie Freshour
Clinician

Ashley Fundack
Notre Dame of Maryland University

Scott Melamed
ProMD Health

Camille Mihalic
B & Dee’s Baltimore Love

Laura Neuman
Entrepreneur and Public Servant

Brigid Peterson
Brown Advisory

Jennifer Sachs
Educator

John Sherman
Storyfarm

Colby Simon
Advocate

Bridget Stickline
Wee Chic
Ja’Ara McCoy, who recently received her Masters of Science in Criminal Justice, works as one of BCAC’s Anti-Trafficking and Exploitation Coordinators.

BCAC’s mission is not new to her—Ja’Ara has always known about BCAC from her family of criminal justice professionals. As a child, Ja’Ara watched as her family bought and donated toys and baby gear to BCAC during the holiday season. When she was fourteen, her best friend disclosed that she had been abused, which made rape real and tangible to Ja’Ara for the first time. A few weeks later, another friend disclosed her abuse history. Ja’Ara realized that she wanted to create change somehow by working in the criminal justice field. She first interned at BCAC during her Spring 2016 semester, then was hired shortly after as our forensic services assistant.

Ja’Ara currently helps organize resource fairs and community events, talks to the community about recognizing trafficking and how to respond, and participates in multidisciplinary team conference calls. She and the rest of the anti-trafficking team are expanding her position to include advocating for child trafficking victims who require specialized services.

During her time at BCAC, Ja’Ara notes how BCAC reduces trauma by putting the best professionals in their fields in one place for children to receive services. She has become one of those professionals herself and constantly displays a spirit of kindness backed by a resolute determination to make a difference for abused children, working towards a future in which no more children are abused.