

THE PROBLEM

The devastating reality of child abuse: every seven seconds in America, a child is born, and every ten seconds, a case of child abuse is reported.

Children of every gender, age, race, ethnicity, background, socioeconomic status and family structure are at risk of child abuse. No child is immune. Confirmed incidents of child neglect in Clackamas County have doubled over a four-year period. Confirmed incidents of physical abuse in Clackamas County have increased by more than 60% during the same period. The fallout from child abuse and neglect extends beyond these young victims, destabilizing families, fracturing communities, and increasing the financial burden on law enforcement, social services, and the health care system.

And sadly, an average of 20 children are killed as a direct result of child abuse, in Oregon alone, every year.

WHO WE ARE

Children's Center is an integral partner in Clackamas County's response to child abuse and the answer to a child's pain. A private, non-profit medical evaluation center, Children's Center supports children and families in cases of suspected physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, drug endangerment, and witness to violence. Core services include:

- **Forensic Medical Evaluations:** Comprehensive head-to-toe exam to determine and document a child's health and safety by Medical Examiners trained in diagnosing child abuse and neglect.
- **Forensic Interviewing Services:** Videotaped forensic interviews with Child Interviewers specially trained to talk to children of all ages and developmental levels. Child Interviewers work with the Medical Examiners as part of the medical evaluation.
- **Family Support:** Support, referrals, education, and case management for families in Clackamas County struggling with issues of abuse or neglect. These services are offered to non-offending family members of children receiving evaluations at Children's Center as well as families in the community.
- **Community Education and Outreach:** Trainings, presentations and resources for local professional and community groups.

HOW YOU CAN BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Though we hope to prevent child abuse from ever occurring, there is a national movement in April to recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month. Working with strong community leadership, we are undertaking our first-ever comprehensive public education and engagement campaign. Our goals are to increase calls to our local Child Abuse Hotline and decrease incidents of child abuse in Clackamas County.

Many community partners will play a role in the success of our campaign. We hope you will consider joining us as we all work together to prevent child abuse and neglect in Clackamas County. We welcome the opportunity to talk with you more about how we can work together to end child abuse in our community.