## Dear Community Partners,

Sarah was 5 years old when she first walked through the doors of S.a.M. Child Advocacy Center, face hiding closely in the side of her aunt, tightly clutching her the by hand. I got down

on her level, and softly began to introduce myself. Sarah sheepishly began to look around the side of her aunt and showed a little interest in the new surroundings. I then showed Sarah and her aunt to our family waiting room and began to explain the process of how their time at the center would go. Sarah slowly began to look around and eventually explore.



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Skipping ahead a bit, Sarah was able to walk hand in hand with me down the hallway filled with colorful paintings and art from children all over our community, to our interview room. As we sat, coloring a picture of a pig in a Farm Friends coloring book, her story began to unravel with her little voice about the horror and fright that she had endured at the hands of her mother and mother's boyfriend for as far back as her little mind could remember. Detail after detail of execrable acts began to pour out, just as if she was telling me that her favorite color was Pretty Princess Pink and her favorite TV show was Paw Patrol. To her, this was normal conversation, her unfortunate daily reality.



Sarah's story is similar and also different to the hundreds of encounters we have had with children and youth, aging from 3 to 18 years old and their families. Each child and family come from various backgrounds and situations, but all come through the doors of S.a.M. CAC for one purpose..... Healing.

Since 2016, S.a.M. CAC has served and continues to serve over **950** children that have been victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, and/or witnesses to violent crimes. We are able to walk alongside the children and their supportive family members, helping them navigate the uncharted territories of the days, weeks and years to come.

Each and every child that becomes part of the S.a.M. CAC family is offered services such as Child Forensic Interviews, Child Medical Evaluations, ongoing advocacy and support services, crisis intervention services, mental health referrals and more, all at **no cost to families**.

Through the resilience and bravery of each and every child we see, the collaboration of investigating agencies and systems, and YOU, children and families are able to begin their journey of healing.



Thank you for being a difference maker 🔗

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