



S.a.M. Child Advocacy Center

Together, healing begins here...



WELCOME ABOARD!

My name is Cara Gill and I am the founder and Executive Director at S.a.M. Child Advocacy Center.

At S.a.M. CAC, we take a multidisciplinary team approach to tackle child abuse within Vance and surrounding counties. We work closely with the Department of Social Services, Law Enforcement, the 11th Prosecutorial District, mental health, medical and other community agencies to create a neutral, child-centered approach. We offer Child Forensic Interviews, Child Medical Evaluations, advocacy, community outreach and education and more.

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OUR BELIEF:

Every child has a voice that deserves to be heard, believed and supported.

OUR VISION:

We envision a world where every child has a safe place to share their experience and begin their journey to healing.

OUR MISSION:

To advocate for children who have been impacted by abuse and trauma through collaborative care in allowing the healing process to begin.

OUR VALUES:



The safety of every child



The voice of every child



The healing of every child and family

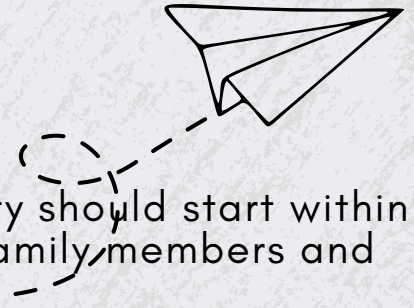


The dignity and worth of every child



“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.” — Andrew Carnegie

THE NEED...



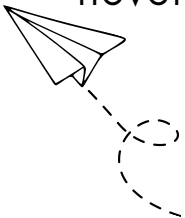
When you're a child, safety is everything. And safety should start within the walls of your own home and the arms of your family members and loved ones.

Yet for at least 1 in 7 children across the United States, that is not the reality. Instead, these children face the awful impacts of abuse in various forms, from physical and sexual to emotional and neglect – most often at the hands of a family member, known person, trusted adult, or authority figure.

Child abuse and neglect are complicated forms of trauma, as many children don't fully understand what is happening to them, or why. When they suffer abuse at the hands of a trusted adult, the complex emotions are compounded by the manipulation they experience, such as through:

- receiving special treatment, attention, or gifts
- feeling pressured to not get the perpetrator in trouble (underlying devotion, despite the abuse)
- blackmail (especially with teenagers and the darker side of the internet)
- fear and embarrassment
- not being able to articulate what is happening to them and the wrongness of it (some children aren't old enough yet to speak)

With Snapchat, TikTok, and other applications and websites on the rise, it's easier than ever for perpetrators to take advantage of minors. With the ever-changing risk increasing, the need for our holistic, child-friendly programs at Strength and Mending Child Advocacy Center has never been greater.



THE HEART OF S.a.M. CAC

PROVIDE A SAFE HAVEN:

Provide a safe and secure space for children and families who are alleged victims of violent crimes and/or witnesses to abuse

PURSUE A GENUINE UNDERSTANDING:

Pursue an understanding of children's experiences through conducting necessary interviews and medical evaluations

PROMOTE HEALING:

Promote the first steps to healing for children and supportive family members through trauma reduction plans, mental health, and needed referrals to community agencies

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP:

Partnering not only with children and families, but also with other pertinent community agencies to promote the healing and justice for all.

OUR WHY...

In the simplest terms, our children are worth it.

Working in the field of child abuse is not an 8-5 job, where we close our computers at the end of the day and move on to the next thing. Not only does child abuse affect the children and families first hand, but also all of those that have a part in working with the children and families throughout the entirety.

In the majority of child abuse cases, there is no physical evidence. In fact, it is estimated that 98% of cases lack physical evidence. That adds even more importance to the coordinated, multidisciplinary approach and response.

But more than the legal outcome of the case, we care about the true healing of a child and family.

That's why obstacles don't stop us from continuing to help survivors heal, process their experiences, and emerge from their trauma stronger than ever before. Each child and family that walks through our doors, motivate us to serve more children and families in the future. It's ultimately the children we serve who inspire us to continue in this often painful, hard work. Because they are the future. They are resilient, courageous, and worthy. Their voices matter and they deserve to be heard. And when life throws awful, confusing, and unfair circumstances at them, they need a team of support to help them navigate the path toward healing, understanding, and freedom.

We don't see children as victims but as heroes. At S.a.M Child Advocacy Center, we simply give them their capes in the hopes that one day they realize that, too. Because together, healing can begin here.



HOW YOU CAN HELP...



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