



Canopy Center

2021 ANNUAL REPORT





ABOUT **CANOPY CENTER**

In 1977, a young mother who had experienced abuse as a child noticed the impact her past trauma was having on her own parenting. This led her to start a parent support group in Madison, and Canopy Center was born. Today, Canopy Center serves hundreds of people annually, providing trauma-informed therapy, advocacy, and support to families and children who have experienced neglect or abuse. We are proud to offer the highest quality human services with the vast majority of services provided free of cost to clients.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to help strengthen families and support children, teens and adults impacted by trauma and adversity.

OUR PHILOSOPHY AND BELIEFS

Every person has worth, dignity and potential for growth. Every person is unique and deserves to have a voice in identifying and addressing their needs. Every person needs positive social connections to fully develop their sense of self and community.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

Canopy Center will provide equal services and not discriminate against clients or prospective clients on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, marital status, cultural differences, ancestry, physical appearance, political beliefs, arrest or conviction record, or military participation.



A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

These recent years have brought with them unique challenges as well as opportunities, and 2021 was no different. After 24 years in service to this agency, twelve of those years in the role of Executive Director, Donna Fox announced her retirement. She shared with us some reflections:

In (my) time, I have worked with some of the best people I have ever had the good fortune to meet. I've known parents who worked so hard to be the best parent they could be for their child. I've known children who took their first courageous steps toward moving from victim to survivor. I've worked beside amazing social workers, therapists, case coordinators, financial specialists, and more. I've also worked with other professionals around Dane County and learned much from their experience and wisdom.

I was privileged to have the opportunity to lead this agency following her departure. My prior role had been running our CASA program. In pursuit of a new CASA director to take my place, we began the process of merging the Dane and Columbia County CASA programs, bringing on Columbia County CASA ED Cheri Dvorak to serve as the new multi-county CASA Director. While the merger took us into following year, our Board of Directors stepped up to provide support and guidance during these significant transitions.

My years running and supporting the CASA program brought with them immense respect and gratitude for my community. For volunteers to dedicate the time they do to make such an impact is always awe-inspiring. I often said that the self care for doing this work is so wonderfully built into the CASA model. When things are hard, you are reminded that the community shows up and cares for the outcomes for families.

As I transitioned into a role supporting CASA in a new way, and also the Oasis and Parent to Child programs, I was reminded of the value of our agency model as a multi-program design. It comes with its challenges, however the resources to pivot for families, to be able to adapt, has proven to be especially valuable during these recent years.

Oasis staff and families did really hard work in a virtual environment, but were able to return to the play therapy rooms and other intentionally designed treatment spaces of our agency. While transitions can be difficult, the value of in-person engagement made the shift worth it. The families being served were up against new and complex hardships, and the Oasis team has shown up for them over and over again.

Family visitation is another aspect of programming that we were pleased to see back in full-force in person. You simply can't replicate quality family time with children in a virtual environment, as so many of us experienced first-hand. Parent to Child also commits to creating a learning environment for those training to enter the child welfare and related fields, while providing high-quality supervised visitation. Interns from a variety of schools are able to gain hands on experience while providing crucial support to families in our community.

I'll close with an expression of gratitude to all those that do the hard work of healing within our programs, to the staff who dedicate their time and energy to this the programs, and to all that support our agency making it all possible.

Sincerely,

Meaghan Henry, Executive Director



2021 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

5,597

VOLUNTEER

232

CLIENTS SERVED

5,250

SERVICE HOURS

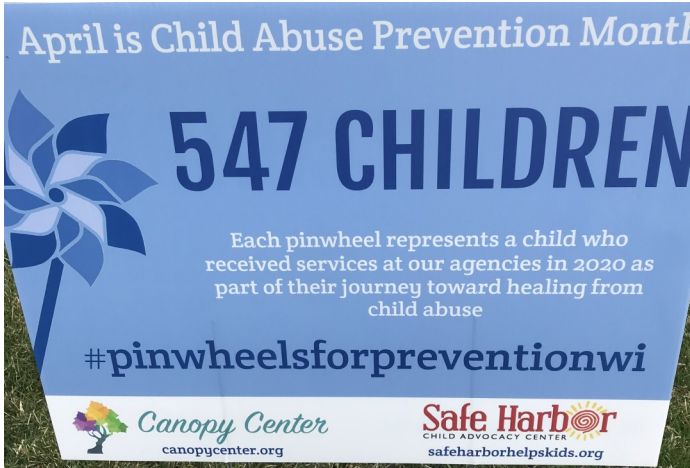
\$280,084

IN DONATIONS





2021 PHOTOS AT A GLANCE



Canopy Center & Safe Harbor together served 547 children in 2020



Staff working on the pinwheel display for Child Abuse Prevention Month



Staff celebrating Pride Month as they returned to work in office



We got a chance to honor Donna Fox's retirement



Supporters enjoyed a fun scavenger hunt, including a visit to the Capitol



Stand Up and Sing for Kids, our annual event, returned with live music, including karaoke from our Parent to Child team

DANE COUNTY CASA

CASA is part of a nationwide organization of Court Appointed Special Advocates with 939 chapters in 49 states, and nearly 98,000 volunteers. CASA volunteers serve children who are under the legal protection of the courts due to abuse or neglect. The volunteer advocates are community members who come from all walks of life. The commonality is they make a commitment to making a difference for children. The program works in collaboration with the Dane County Juvenile Court system, the Department of Human Services, as well as attorneys, service providers, foster parents, and families. In 2021, advocates with the program volunteered 1,380 hours of their time to serve 50 children.

WHAT DOES CASA DO

Our volunteer advocates are appointed by a judge and assigned to a case where they spend time getting to know the child(ren) involved. Their purpose is to gather as much information about the child(ren), as well as all the stakeholders in their life, such as family of origin, foster placement, doctors, teachers, therapists, CPS workers, etc. All of this information is then compiled into regular reports for the court to inform decision making. CASA volunteers also work with supportive people in the child's life, consider whether appropriate physical and mental health assessments are completed to ensure the child's safety and well-being, and share their observations when appropriate with family and social workers. They also make sure that educational assessments are completed and educational supports are in place. CASA volunteers provide a consistent presence in a child's life and work to build a supportive relationship with the child during the time they spend under the protection of the courts.

TRAINING & SUPPORT

Advocates with the CASA program must be 21 years old and pass a background check. The CASA staff, including Program Director and Case Coordinators, then step in to provide the training and support needed to be successful in this role. This begins with 30 hours of initial training. Advocates train on the function of the child welfare system and court involvement, as well as difficult family dynamics that they may encounter in their role. At the conclusion of training, advocates are sworn in by a Juvenile Judge to serve in their role with the court system.

Once in the role, advocates are supported by their CASA Case Coordinator. Case Coordinators help advocates understand the court process and their role, and how to effectively support or advocate for services for the children and families they serve. Advocates often serve the same child for over a year, some for a few years, and are the foundation of the program's success.



WHAT DOES OASIS DO?

The Oasis Program supports the healthy functioning of families who have been affected by child sexual abuse. We offer group, individual, and family therapy. Oasis therapists help children as well as parents and caregivers reduce the short and long-term effects of sexual abuse, using evidence-based, trauma-informed practices that help clients integrate traumatic experience into everyday life, one that feels manageable and safe. In 2021, Oasis served 117 clients with 2,576 hours of service.

INDIVIDUAL AND COLLATERAL SERVICES

Oasis therapists provide ongoing individual therapy to children who have experienced sexual abuse as well as their affected family members. Therapists use a variety of treatment modalities and work closely with the caregiver in their child's therapy session. Therapists use team treatment coordination and are active in the development and maintenance of services in Dane County's child sexual abuse prevention and treatment network. Therapists can also support, strategize and advocate for clients facing trial, and accompany families to hearings when requested.

GROUP SERVICES

Groups are facilitated by an Oasis therapist and follow a trauma-focused curriculum that provides clients with age-appropriate education around sexual abuse as well as concrete skills for managing trauma responses.

Parents and caregivers of children who have been sexually abused can be served by Oasis through individual, family, and/or group therapy. Group therapy helps caregivers learn how to respond to the particular trauma-based needs of their children as well as to learn effective and protective strategies to parent their child in the aftermath of abuse. Groups, in particular, are beneficial for caregivers to see that they are not alone, this has happened to other families, and that there are others who understand from a very personal perspective.

Adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse can attend group therapy to build skills to help survivors manage trauma symptoms that have continued from childhood trauma. Education about the impact of trauma is a focus throughout the group curriculum. This group offers space for group members to share their personal experiences in a safe environment with others who can relate to a topic that is often very isolating.

"[Oasis] has helped me so much in terms of feeling like I'm not alone and learning strategies for myself and others - my daughter and husband. I am very thankful for the program."

PARENT TO CHILD

The Parent to Child (P2C) program provides supervised visitation in a family-like setting on evenings and weekends. These are valuable times within the week for families to spend time together, and Parent to Child works hard to ensure the space is set up in a welcoming and comfortable way. The program utilizes a beautiful outdoor space for writing with chalk, rolling down hills, or tossing a ball. When inside the rooms are set up for a specific age group in mind, from toddler to teen.

In 2021, P2C recorded 2,042 service hours to provide supervised visits to 65 families. The program was able to provide this service with the help of 24 interns and volunteers. Primarily this service is offered for parents working with the Dane County Department of Human Services, though also is able to support families from the community in need of supervised visitation services.

Supervised visitation has been shown to greatly reduce the amount of time a child is in out-of-home care. We know from research that the trauma of being removed from the home can be nearly as bad as the trauma that caused the removal. Parents and children (and siblings) need regular contact to reduce the effects this separation is having on each member of the family.



Parent to Child spaces available at Canopy Center include both comfortable indoor space as well as a fun outdoor environment

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STAFF

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Kate Essenburg, *Oasis Therapist*

Russ Faulkner, *CASA Case Coordinator*

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Cecilia Goldschmidt, *Oasis Therapist*

Meaghan Henry, *Executive Director*

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Ella Kowski, *Childcare Specialist & Receptionist*

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Emmy Lita, *Parent to Child Program Director*

Ryan Main-Luu, *Administrative Assistant*

Amy O'Brien, *Oasis Therapist*

Nicole Wells, *Oasis Administrative Director*

VOLUNTEERS

The Canopy Center has a strong history of supporting many amazing volunteers who help us do the important work of the agency. Because we provide services for 14 hours a day every single day of the year, we rely heavily on the efforts provided by people in our community. Our volunteers: support a safe environment for family interaction; co-facilitate support groups; provide child care; advocate for children in court and educational settings; participate in special events; or assist in the office. We are so grateful for the efforts of our volunteers!

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
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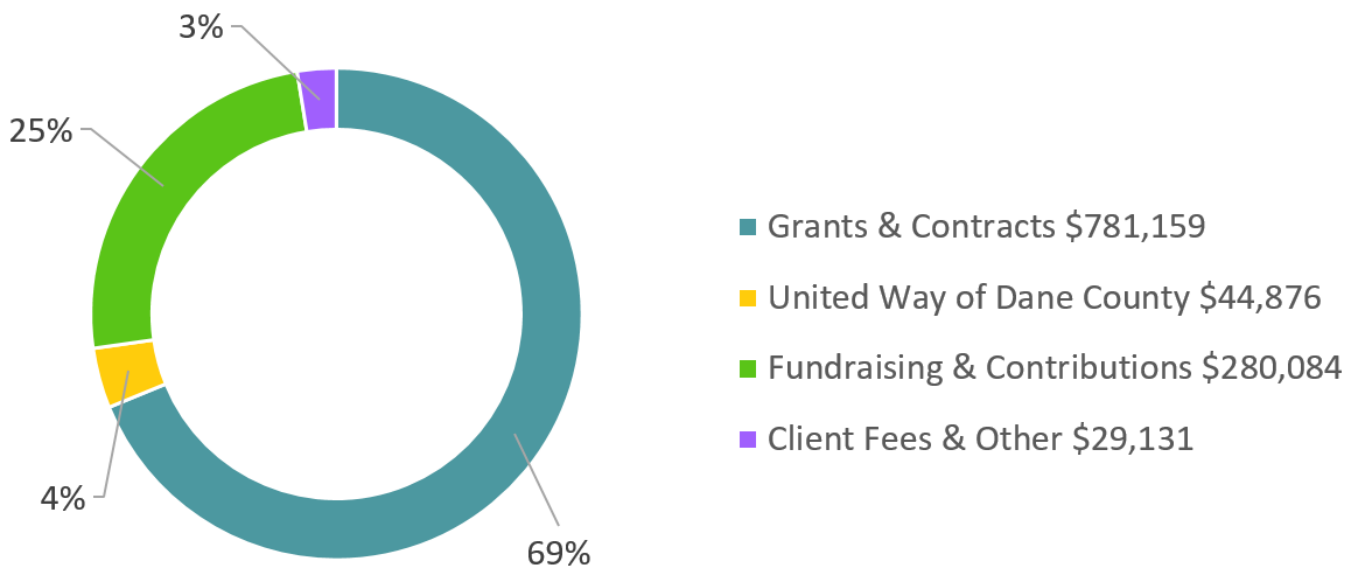
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Crescendo Espresso Bar + Music
Cafe
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Devils Lake Climbing Guides
Dexter's Pub
Discovery World
Diventures
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Dragonfly Hot Yoga
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I'm Board Games and
Family Fun
Incredible Bank
Java Cat
Just Coffee Cooperative
Klein's
Klinke Cleaners
Kneaded Relief
Kwik Trip
Lake Country Marina
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GAGE Marine Corp
Legacy Academy
Liliana's Restaurants
LiveFre
Lucille
Lucky Dog Daycare
Madison Ballet
Madison Mallards
Madison Radicals
Milwaukee Art Museum
Milwaukee Brewers Baseball
Club
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Household
Movin' Shoes
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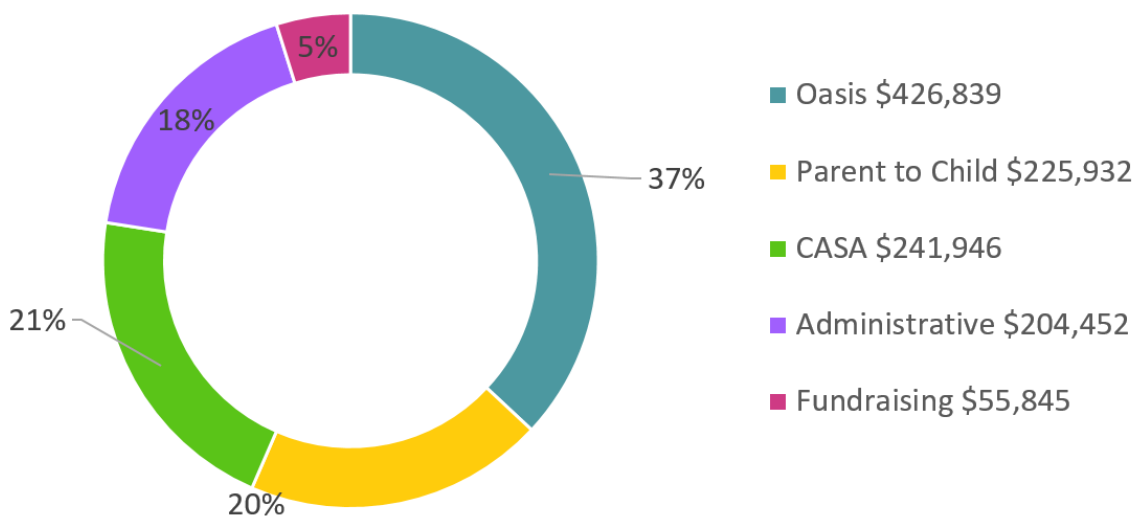


FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

SUPPORT AND REVENUE:



EXPENSES:



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Canopy Center

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