



2025 Annual Report

Providing Compassionate
Services to Children
Victimized by Abuse



NORTHERNPLAINSCAC.ORG



Who We Are

Northern Plains Children's Advocacy Center

When a child experiences abuse, it can be overwhelming—for them and for the people who care about them. In those moments, families need a place that feels steady, supportive, and focused on what comes next.

At Northern Plains Children's Advocacy Center, children are met with care and respect from the moment they arrive. We bring together professionals from across our community to respond as one team, so children don't have to share their story over and over, and families don't have to navigate the process alone.

By working together, we help reduce additional trauma, strengthen the response to abuse, and ensure children and families are connected to the support they need.

At the heart of our work is a simple goal: to protect children, support families, and hold systems accountable in the way we respond to abuse.



*When we work together,
children and families don't
have to face this alone.*

Our Mission

To protect children by providing on-site agency collaboration utilizing a multi-disciplinary team approach in prevention, investigation, assessment and referral for prosecution and treatment of child abuse.



What We Do

The Challenge

Without a Children’s Advocacy Center, a child may have to share their experience multiple times—to different adults, in unfamiliar settings—often reliving the trauma with each conversation. This can be confusing, overwhelming, and can impact both the child and the outcome of the case.



Without CACs



With CACs

The Solution

At Northern Plains Children’s Advocacy Center, children are supported in a safe, child-focused environment where they can share their story once with a specially trained professional. Behind the scenes, a team of professionals works together to coordinate next steps—ensuring the child’s safety, supporting the family, and strengthening the response to abuse.

How We Show Up



Collaboration

Work together to strengthen support for families.



Care

Providing thoughtful, high-quality support



Safety

Create a safe, supportive experience for every child.



Healing

Help children and families begin healing.



Response

Reduce additional trauma through a coordinated response



Our Services

When a child experiences abuse, families are often left trying to make sense of what happens next. At Northern Plains Children's Advocacy Center, we provide support, guidance, and specialized services to help children feel safe and begin healing.

Each family's needs are different. Depending on the situation, services may include:



Forensic Interviews

A child-friendly conversation where children can share their experiences in a safe, supportive environment with a specially trained professional.



Advocacy Services

Advocates walk alongside non-offending caregivers, offering guidance, information, and ongoing support throughout the process.



Medical Referral

When needed, medical evaluations focus on the child's health, safety, and overall well-being.



Mental Health Services

Trauma-focused therapy helps children and families process what they've experienced and begin moving forward.



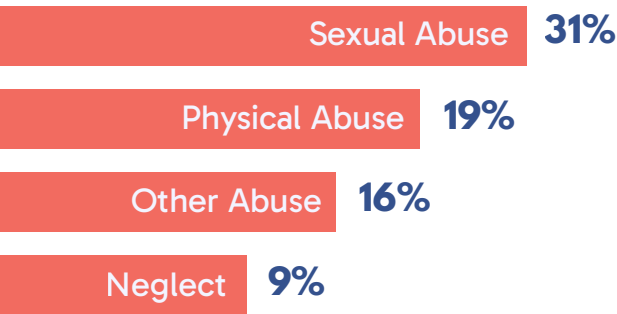
Working Together for Children

Behind the scenes, professionals from multiple disciplines work together to coordinate care, strengthen the response, and reduce additional trauma for the child.



Who We Serve

Types of Abuse Reported

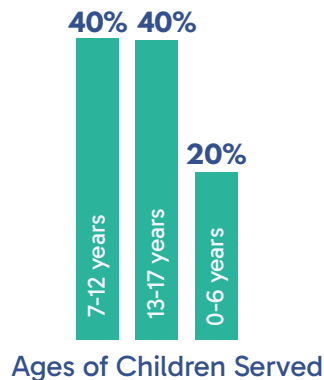
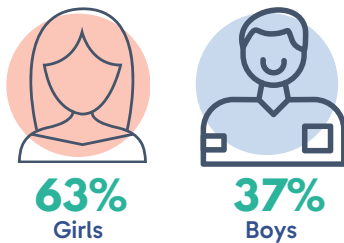


96%

of children know the person who harmed them.

Children served experience many forms of abuse, with **sexual abuse** reported most often.

Abuse Impacts Children of All Ages & Backgrounds



Race & Ethnicity

Caucasian	59%
Native American	30%
African American	4%
Multiple Races	4%
Hispanic/Latino	3%

Supporting Youth Through Specialized Care

Some cases involve youth who have harmed another youth. These situations call for developmentally appropriate assessment and care. Our Problematic Sexual Behavior (PSB) services provide evidence-based intervention that helps youth build healthy behaviors, supports families, and promotes safety and healing.

16%

of offenders are under the age of 18.



Our Year in Review

This year, our work reached children and families across northwestern North Dakota—each one representing a moment where support, safety, and care mattered.

Children were given a safe space to share their story, families received guidance and support, and mental health services helped begin healing. Prevention and education efforts also expanded, strengthening awareness and helping create safer communities.



**Supporting Children.
Strengthening Families.**

The Reach of Our Mission



18,157 total services provided



928 children and families served

Direct Support for Children and Families



201

Forensic Interviews



31

Medical Evaluations



3,460

Mental Health Sessions



2,830

Advocacy Services

2025 Highlights



Access to Care

Reaching children and families across rural and underserved communities.



Respond to Complex Needs

Supporting children experiencing a wide range of abuse types.



Coordinated Response

Working alongside partners to ensure a unified response for every child.



Mental Health Support

Providing therapy and reducing barriers to ongoing care.



Stories of Impact



Shannon Hilfer

A Legacy of Listening

3,500 children sat across from Shannon Hilfer and found someone ready to truly listen. That is Shannon Hilfer's legacy. After nearly 20 years serving Children's Advocacy Centers across North Dakota, seven of them here at Northern Plains CAC, Shannon is retiring as the longest-employed CAC clinician in state history. The children she served, the families she supported, and the colleagues she mentored carry her impact forward. Shannon, thank you for everything.

A Partnership Rooted in Trust

Three Affiliated Tribes (TAT) Victim Services

Access to care should never depend on geography. This year, a partnership with TAT Victim Services brought therapy services to New Town every other week. Care came directly to the community, and for the children and families served together, that means support that finally feels close to home.

What Safety Looks Like

Benjamin Parker, LCSW

One young man who once feared returning to an abusive home now has a very different worry on his mind: which girl to ask to prom. A small moment. A powerful one. That is what healing looks like.

"When we can break these cycles and raise healthy kids into healthy adults, everyone benefits."

— Benjamin Parker, LCSW, Child & Family Therapist



Did you know?

Northern Plains CAC also offers mobile forensic interview services. Contact us to learn more.



Powered by Community



Everyday Hero Award

Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Lutheran Church has shown up for Northern Plains CAC in ways that go far beyond a single act of generosity. They transformed an unused storage space into a welcoming group therapy room, stock snacks and backpacks, provide lunches for staff, and volunteer year after year at the Champagne & Ice Gala and Save Jane events. This year, we are proud to recognize them as our Everyday Hero Award recipient.

\$50,000 Anonymous Gift

This year, Northern Plains CAC received a transformational \$50,000 gift through the Minot Area Community Foundation. The donation covers nearly one in every twenty-five dollars needed to operate for a full year. It freed up funding to hire an additional family advocate and ensured that no child would wait for services. Gifts like this do more than sustain our work. They signal deep belief in our mission and strengthen everything we do.





645 Names.
One Community.
One Powerful Night.

Volunteers gather each year — to stand together, to speak names aloud, and to remind every child that they are seen, they are known, and they are not alone.

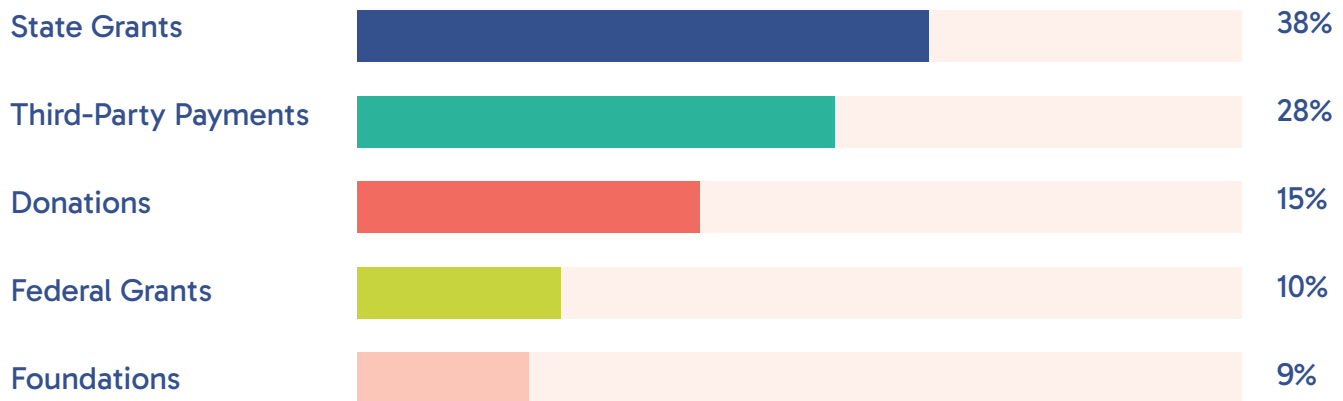
SAVE JANE. JOIN US. 10/2/26



How We Are Funded

Every service we provide is free to families. That is only possible because of people and organizations who believe children deserve better.

HOW WE ARE FUNDED



In 2025, every dollar meant a child in our community **didn't have to face this alone.**

Our Funders

We are grateful to the partners who make this work possible.





How You Can Help

Every child deserves to feel safe, supported, and heard.

The work of Northern Plains Children's Advocacy Center is made possible by people who choose to show up for children and families in our communities.

Whether you give your time, resources, or support, you are helping create a place where healing can begin.

Wish List

Help create a welcoming, child friendly space by donating items families and children can use every day.

[Wish List: northernplainscac.org/wishlist](https://northernplainscac.org/wishlist)



Give Financially



Get Involved



Partner With Us



Scan to Donate

northernplainscac.org
(701) 852-0836





Every number in this report represents a child, a family, and a moment when support was there.

Thank you for being part of that.

Our Locations

Minot

20 1st St SW Ste 202
Minot, ND 58701

Stanley

501 12th Ave SE Ste 109
Stanley, ND 58784

Bottineau

516 Main St
Bottineau, ND 58318