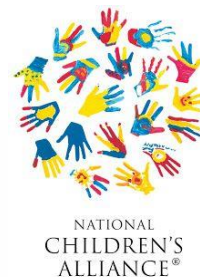




# Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center

## Annual Report 2020



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For Safe Harbor staff contact information, visit our website!  
<https://www.safeharborhelpskids.org/>

# A Message from Leadership

Dear Friends,

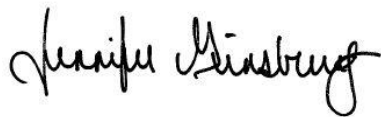
The year 2020 was an unprecedented time of difficulty, confusion, and grief. But while we were all in the same storm, we were not all in the same boat. Some of us had reliable, strong life rafts. We had a safe family, food on the table, and reliable internet. But not all boats were built for the hardships. Some had to jump out and swim. Some took on water. And in those boats, many people were suffering, with nowhere to go.

People still needed help, some more than ever. And thus we kept our doors open, to be a Safe Harbor for kids. Child abuse doesn't stop in a pandemic, and neither did we. Our amazing staff and Board faced uncertain times with determination. We adapted our office space to create as much safety from COVID-19 as possible, put on our PPE, and continued to help the children and families who needed us. In addition to forensic interviewing, advocacy, and coordination of the multidisciplinary team, we provided emergency assistance such as vouchers for food, gasoline, clothing, and housing. Our staff was as brave and compassionate as ever. And Teddy, our facility dog, provided much comfort to staff, team members, and the people we serve.

Our fundraising changed dramatically as well. We cancelled our two major events, The Labor Day Dash and the Rent Event. But local businesses headed the call and we raised over \$80,000 in corporate donations.

Despite the changes and hardships, Safe Harbor continued to fulfill its mission and serve our community. We did this with a reaffirmed commitment to the values of justice, equity, and healing.

In peace,



Jennifer Ginsburg  
Executive Director



# Our Mission & Services

## OUR HISTORY

Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center opened in 1999. We are the only Child Advocacy Center in Dane County. There are 16 Child Advocacy Centers in Wisconsin and over 900 nationwide. Law enforcement, child protection, prosecutors, and medical providers come together to this single location to collaborate and ultimately reduce the number of times the child has to share and relive their story. Since opening our doors, we have served more than over 4,000 children and their families free of charge.

## OUR MISSION

Safe Harbor seeks to reduce the trauma to children who are victims of abuse or neglect or witnesses to crimes, by promoting the coordination of multidisciplinary investigations, conducting forensic interviews in a child-friendly environment, and providing ongoing advocacy to affected children and families.

## OUR SERVICES

Our services are engaged through referral from law enforcement or child protective services.

### Forensic Interviews in a Child-Friendly Environment

Safe Harbor provides a safe and friendly place for a child to talk about what has happened to them. Safe Harbor forensic interviewers are highly trained in best practice interviewing methods and child development. The forensic interview is video recorded, so that the statement can be considered for use in court.

### Ongoing Advocacy to Affected Children & Families

Safe Harbor provides family advocacy services to non-offending caregivers of children who are interviewed at Safe Harbor. Family Advocates provide support for caregivers both at the time of the interview and on an ongoing basis. In addition, Family Advocates can voice concerns of the caregiver to the investigative team.

Family Advocates provide families with **quick access to mental health services** through referral to immediate crisis counseling and/or longer term treatment. Family Advocates assist the team and the family in **considering and scheduling important medical exams** at Meriter's Forensic Nurse Examiners Program or the UWHealth Child Protection Program at American Family Children's Hospital. Many families who attend Safe Harbor are in need of basic resources. Family Advocates connect families with **Emergency Assistance funds** such as gas and grocery gift cards, rental assistance, energy bill assistance, and more.

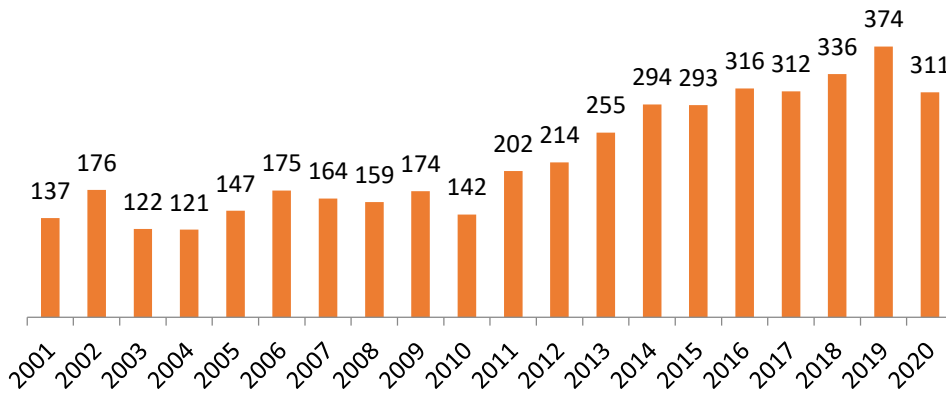
### Promoting the Coordination of Multidisciplinary Investigations

Safe Harbor brings together a multidisciplinary team of professionals with the philosophy that collaboration is essential for an effective investigation and intervention process.

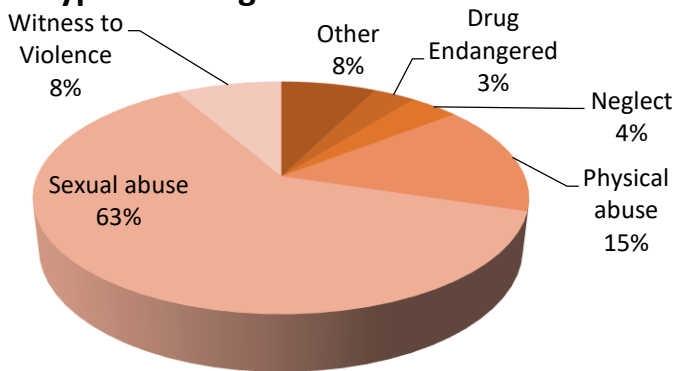
# Forensic Interviews

Safe Harbor provided **311 child forensic interviews** in 2020. The chart below shows the number of interviews each year since Safe Harbor was founded.

### Forensic Interviews of Children



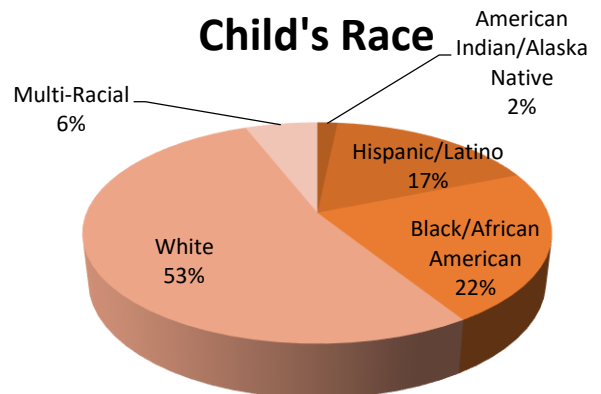
### Types of Alleged Maltreatment



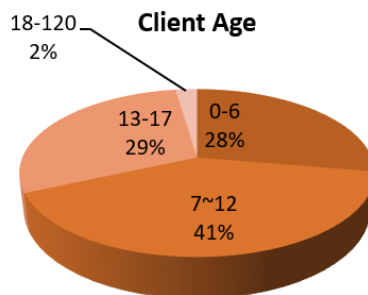
The chart to the left illustrates the breakdown of forensic interviews at Safe Harbor in 2020 by maltreatment type. The vast majority of cases involve allegations of sexual abuse, followed by physical abuse, witness to violence, neglect, and drug endangered children cases.

The pie charts to the right show clients by age and race in 2020. The majority of abuse victims are 12 years old or younger. In addition to these demographics, 63% of children served identified as female and 37% identified as male.

### Child's Race



### Client Age



# Advocacy & the Team Response

## Family Advocacy

**Family Advocates provided services to 345 caregivers** in 2020: 287 new caregivers in 2020 and an additional 58 caregivers received ongoing family advocacy services. This work entailed making **2,151 contacts** with caregivers over the course of 2020.

## Referral to Mental Health Treatment

A critical service to help traumatized children heal is trauma-focused mental health treatment. Safe Harbor facilitates and funds mental health assessments as well as crisis counseling for child abuse victims and their caregivers. These services are expedited, without barriers and geared specifically for traumatized children. **In 2020, Family Advocates referred 79 individuals for mental health services**, including 45 crisis counseling services that were provided immediately following the forensic interview.



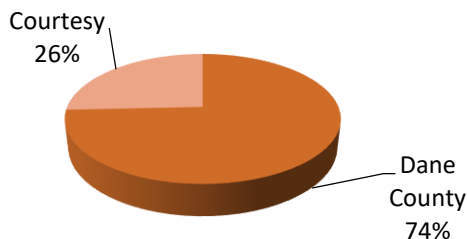
Safe Harbor Family Room

## Protocol for the Multidisciplinary Team Response

In addition to providing services, Safe Harbor coordinates county-wide best practice protocols. An important goal is to institutionalize best practices, so that there are clear standards and expectations for all the systems that come into play when child abuse is exposed. These protocols include child abuse response, drug endangered children, and commercial sex trafficking. Safe Harbor also coordinates monthly case reviews, to ensure that the protocols are being followed and the team is working together effectively.

## Serving Surrounding Areas

### County of Investigation



Safe Harbor serves Dane County. However, we also provide services to other counties as a courtesy if the child lives in Dane County or there is no Child Advocacy Center available in the county where the incident occurred. In 2020, Safe Harbor provided **80 courtesy interviews** for outside counties. Outside of Dane, the top 3 counties who accessed Safe Harbor in 2020 were Sauk, Juneau, and Richland.

# Financial Report

FY2019-2020 (Oct 1- Sep 30)

## Support & Revenue

As a non-profit, Safe Harbor is reliant on the generosity of the community to fulfill our mission. The graph to the right shows we are funded through grants, fundraising, and our community partners.

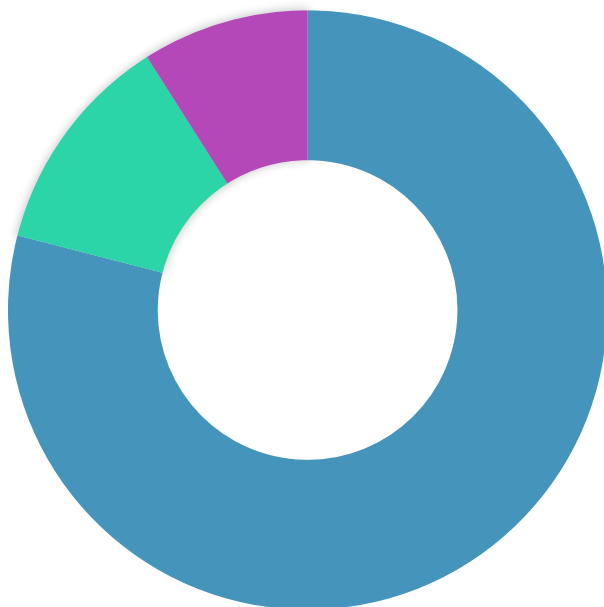
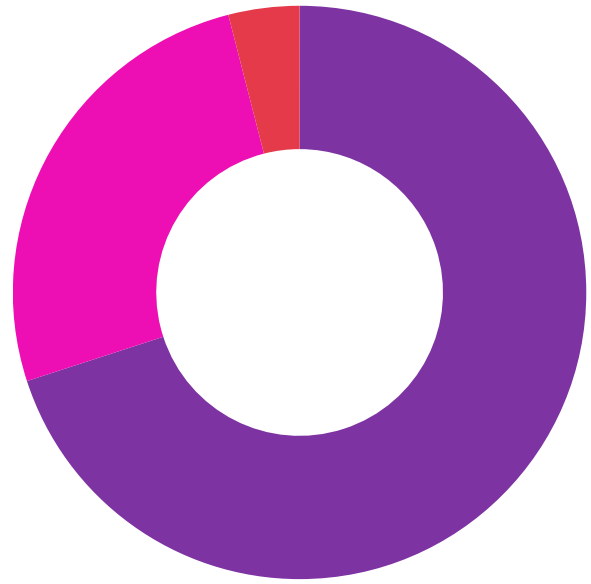
**Grant and contract Revenue:** \$524,448 [~70%]

**Contributions:** \$199,788 [26%]

**Investment return, net:** \$31,185 [4%]

Interest income: \$8 [~.001%]

Total Support & Revenue: \$755,429



## Expenses

As you can see to the left, the vast majority of our expenses go towards direct services for the children and families we serve. This is vital to providing support and a trauma-informed, healing-focused environment.

**Program Services:** \$550,213 [79%]

**Management and General:** \$80,579 [12%]

**Fundraising:** \$63,261 [9%]

Total Expenses: \$694,053

# Thank you to our Safe Harbor Staff, Board of Directors, Volunteers, & Funders!

## Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Personnel

Jennifer Ginsburg, Executive Director  
Numbers 4 Nonprofits, Accountant  
Mikel Domnitz, Development Director  
Heidi Figueroa-Velez, Family Advocate/Bilingual Forensic Interviewer  
Robyn Klaila, Forensic Interviewer  
Emily Oler, Child Life Specialist/Marketing Assistant  
Meaghan Reindl, Family Advocate/Data Manager  
Carrie Sachse, Family Advocate/Forensic Interviewer  
Jenny Rusch, Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator  
Ashlee Alrich, MSW intern

## Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Board of Directors

**President** Jason Buehrle, Certified Financial Planner, Edward Jones  
**Vice President** Anna Engelhart, Station Manager, WKOW  
**Treasurer** Peter Benson, Vice President Business Banking, Park Bank  
**Secretary & Past President** Meg McGrane, Human Resource Professional (Retired)  
Maureen McGlynn Flanagan, Retired from Wisconsin Department of Justice  
Dr. Aaron Friedman, Professor of Pediatrics, University of Minnesota  
Mary Beth Keppel, Retired Dane County Court Commissioner  
Peggy Crooks Mishacoff, Attorney, State Bar of Wisconsin  
Wil Nichol, Director of Player Development, Las Vegas Golden Nights

## Volunteers

Volunteers contribute to Safe Harbor in the following capacities: Board Members, Event Planning Committee Members, Day-of-Event Helpers, and Office/Childcare Assistants. We also depend on the help of a yearly UW School of Social Work Intern. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, there were no in-person volunteers and special events were cancelled. Our all-volunteer Board continued to meet every month virtually.

# THE EVJUE FOUNDATION

## THE CAPITAL TIMES



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of Dane County



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