



40 YEARS OF HELPING CHILDREN.

**CARE HOUSE
OF OAKLAND
COUNTY**



**CARE HOUSE OF OAKLAND COUNTY
IMPACT REPORT**

2020



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CARE HOUSE OF OAKLAND COUNTY IMPACT REPORT

2020

Dear Friends,

The past year has posed challenges for all of us, including CARE House. With a phenomenal team and our amazing supporters and volunteers, we were successful in adapting our programs and services to meet the needs of the children and families who need our help. Now, we are working more diligently than ever to keep the existing trauma, inequities, and stressors that our children and families face from growing into deeper fissures of suffering.

The pandemic caused many aspects of life to pause or halt altogether, but incidents of child abuse and neglect have not ceased. In fact, it has become clear over the past year that the problem has worsened. According to Bridge Magazine, reports of child abuse in 2020 dropped by 50% in comparison to 2019, and it is not because abuse stopped. Sadly, children are often trapped at home with their offenders, with little opportunity to break free from dangerous environments. Avenues for reporting abuse, such as schools and doctors' offices, have also been eliminated and are only slowly being merged back into regular life.

Our quality services and professionals are key to halting the cycle of child abuse and creating brighter futures for children and our community. Amid the chaos of the past year, CARE House was able to overcome barriers to providing services to our children and families who so badly need them. The stories and information we are sharing today attest to the need for our work and the value of our services to child victims of abuse.

Early on, when the shelter in place order was in full effect, we heard time and again - we may be in the same storm, but we are not all in the same boat. This has been our focus at CARE House during the past year and continues into 2021. Children are at enormous risk without the lifeboats of school, extracurricular activities, and the eyes and ears of adults in the community that look out for them.

We continue to provide early interventions and a positive, supportive relationship with us is the best defense against the long-term negative effects of trauma and abuse.

Addressing the needs of those we serve in order to exact real change includes helping to improve day-to-day life and harnessing the strengths of children and families, while also working to fix broken systems. At the forefront of our work at CARE House is supporting partnerships between researchers, nonprofits, community partners, and community members in an effort to find solutions to child abuse and neglect.

We will continue to work toward our vision to impact the safety of every child in Oakland County, and we stand ready to help the children who need us most. Thank you for believing it shouldn't hurt to be a child.

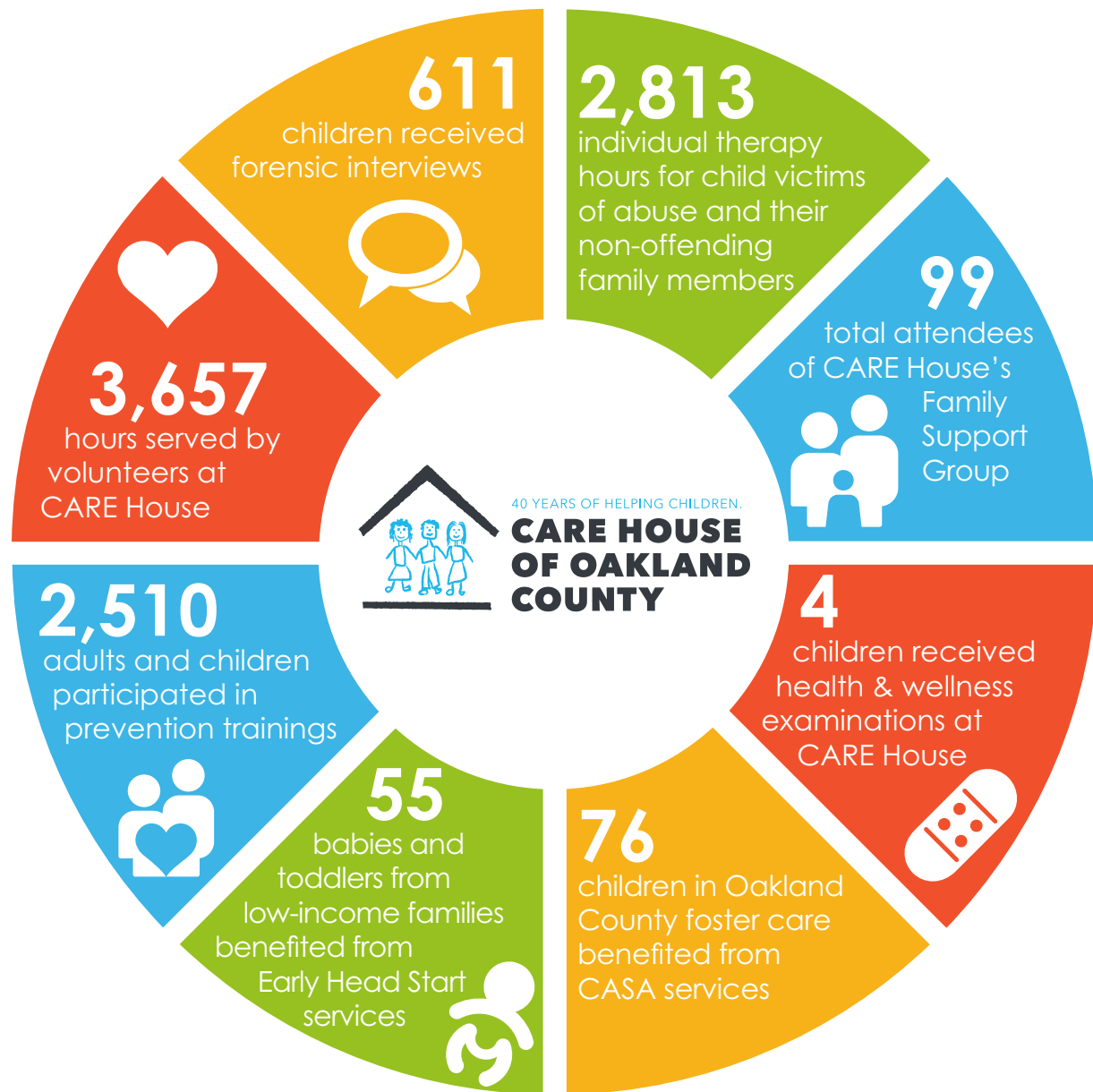
Warmest regards,

Blythe Tyler
President and CEO

Eliot Weiner
Board Chair



ANNUAL FIGURES



1 in 10 children will be sexually abused before they turn 18

There are **1.24 million** people in Oakland County **273,000** are children

27,300 children are likely victims of sexual abuse

In April 2020, The Children's Trust Fund reported that the number of confirmed victims of child sexual abuse & neglect increased by **33.7%** statewide since 2019

12,000 children are currently in the Michigan foster care system

Michigan ranks **12th** in the **U.S.** in Termination of Parental Rights



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— VISION STATEMENT —

CARE House will impact the safety of every child in Oakland County through prevention, intervention, and treatment.

INTERVENTION & TREATMENT

3,424 interviews & sessions

We coordinate and facilitate forensic interviews in a safe environment for children to disclose abuse, with trauma focused therapy for child victims and any non-perpetrating family members.

EARLY HEAD START

1,866 home visits

Our Family Educators make weekly home visits to low-income and at-risk families with infants and toddlers. Children and parents benefit from learning new skills and tools to raise happy, healthy kids.

PREVENTION

3,251 individuals trained in abuse prevention

Education for children and adults about how to break the cycle of abuse. By educating ourselves, we gain the power to collectively stop abuse in its tracks.

CASA

1,808 volunteer hours

Volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates provide children in foster care with much needed consistency and stability. Guidance and support, both in and out of court proceedings, can make a critical difference until the child leaves the system.

OVER 40 YEARS OF HELPING CHILDREN.

We need you. Find out how you can help CARE House, visit CAREHouse.org or call 248.332.7173

HERE'S WHAT ELSE CARE HOUSE FAMILIES HAD TO SAY ABOUT 2020

CARE HOUSE FAMILIES SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ON 2020

It is difficult to believe that by the time this report is published we will have lived through the COVID-19 pandemic for over a year and half. At the beginning of 2020, most of the world shut down and many lost so much – family and friends, daily freedoms, jobs, and connection. Specific to those we serve at CARE House of Oakland County, the ability to purchase household groceries and supplies became difficult, and avenues for reporting abuse and neglect were removed. However, in the midst of such dire circumstances, CARE House and its partners brought some light. Because of your support and our dedicated staff, hope was not lost. During this time of crisis, our children and families were able to keep growing strong through substantial emergency donations.

Caring individuals and businesses donated services. One of our parents shared with our Philanthropy Department that, "My husband and I both lost our jobs. We had never experienced before the worry and uncertainty of not being able to put a meal on the table. The food boxes and all other supports from CARE House truly made a difference for our family." Your donations also helped our most vulnerable families and CARE House is humbled by your response.

CARE House had to act quickly to keep our children and families safe, while continuing to provide services. We were able to meet their needs by providing virtual group trainings and mental health services via telehealth. A parent who took part in our Community Engagement virtual services told us, "With all the children in the house, at all times, our weekly calls have become more like self-care sessions. I feel calmer and ready for what's ahead that day." Not all families, however, have the ability to partake in virtual programming, and a disruption in services can be catastrophic for them.

Disparities quickly became apparent to our clinicians during the pandemic and it was imperative that we put technology in the hands of our families that had none, including internet access to use the technology. Families expressed their deep gratitude for this assistance. One parent told us that, "Family Support Group let me participate with other families who have experienced trauma with their kids as well. Knowing we are not alone, and these things happen more often made us feel a lot better and helped with feelings of guilt."

For cases that required in-person services, CARE House enacted strict COVID-19 practices. Our treatment and intervention teams continued to consistently follow pandemic guidelines.

Your generous support, past and present, empowers children and families to shape their own futures, saving lives in the process. [Thank you for supporting CARE House.](#)



Blue Canary Confections in Birmingham has provided lunches for several families. Children in these homes had received free lunches at school. The additional cost of providing lunches at home was a problem which Blue Canary solved.

"We [Blue Canary Confections] were really interested in finding a tangible way to help make an impact on food insecurity in our community. We have always donated left over product to various agencies, but we knew from the outset of the pandemic that many people were going to be missed by traditional services. We wanted to find a way to reach children that lost access to food through school and were so excited to get paired up with CARE House. One of our major goals was to ensure that the food we were providing in the lunches were minimally processed and made from whole foods as much as possible. It was a really fun challenge to keep things interesting and unique from week to week but also healthy and nourishing. We hope the families we were able to help serve felt a little relief during a difficult year, we were grateful to offer a small comfort."

— Annie from Blue Canary Confections

"First and foremost I thank God for bringing CARE House into my family's life. I wasn't working and I'm still not, I can't express how much this program has meant to me and my family."

— Karen B.

"The program was so helpful for me to be able to feed my four girls. Thank you so much for getting us through during the pandemic."

— Karl G.



ADVOCATE HIGHLIGHT

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate Program) wants to highlight one of our seasoned Advocates, Kate Pogany, who has actively worked on the same case since 2008 (13 years). Now, that's dedication! "Sam" entered foster care in 2006, along with his two siblings, due to physical abuse by his father and failure to protect by his mother. Parental rights were terminated shortly after they entered foster care, and he and his siblings were adopted. Unfortunately, due to Sam's numerous behavioral problems, the adoption failed. Sam was exceptionally troubled and displayed several extreme behavioral problems that continuously impacted his complex trauma. Severe physical abuse, neglect, extreme isolation and exposure to domestic violence caused Sam to act and react in ways that impeded his ability to be adopted.

Kate's assigned case required her to ADVOCATE proactively on behalf of his past trauma, manage his needs at a surface level as well as address his underlying issues. Kate has maintained and continued contact with Sam during the duration of his case. She has also maintained contact with service providers and researched counseling options and other potential therapeutic resources for him. Whenever anything good, bad or indifferent happened in Sam's life, Kate was the first person he called.

Needless to say, she was ecstatic to learn that his case closed. Sam finally found a stable home and someone to maintain guardianship. She was also saddened to know that her journey with him as a CASA has come to an end. Sam has chosen to continue his relationship with Kate as she has been the consistent adult in his life for more than 13 years and was always there for him no matter what he needed.

CASA's are truly remarkable volunteers, and Kate is no exception. If you would like to learn more about becoming a CASA, visit www.CASAOaklandcounty.org.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO AT CARE HOUSE IN 2021 AND BEYOND!

CARE House of Oakland County has a podcast! We are very excited to announce that "It Shouldn't Hurt to Be a Child" has already been picked up by all major podcast platforms. We'll be having the tough discussions that need to be heard in order to combat the pervasive public health issue of child sexual abuse. Our first episode will feature a former CARE House client (Therapy and Teen Survivor Group) and a current CARE House volunteer. We hope that you will tune in and spread the word!

Originally funded by a generous grant from Impact100 Oakland County, Nurturing Oakland Parents is a vital program that brings parents and kids together to help bridge gaps and build empathy over a fifteen-week period. At risk families with kids aged 5-12 come to CARE House, share a meal, and break into groups, while parents meet for guided discussions designed to reinforce these values: positive self-worth, empathy, empowerment of children, discipline, and open communication. The structure of the program helps to strengthen familial bonds, and to establish new ones among program participants. We rely on volunteers to help us to make this program work and the program will restart in person in the Fall. Interested? Reach out to Robin Krohn, our Volunteer Coordinator at rkrohn@carehouse.org or 248.332.7173.



carehouse.org/podcast



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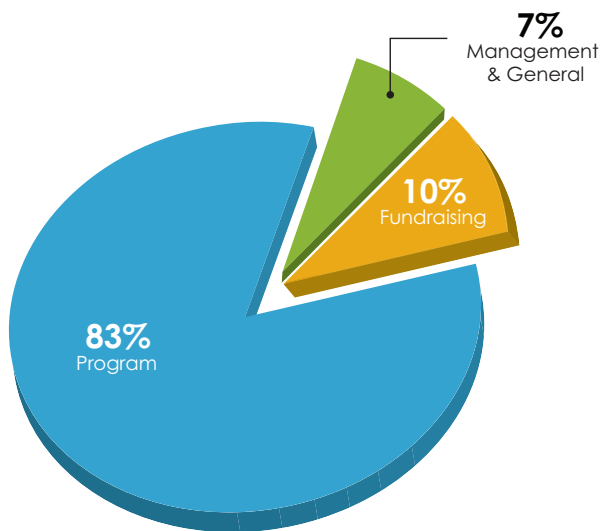
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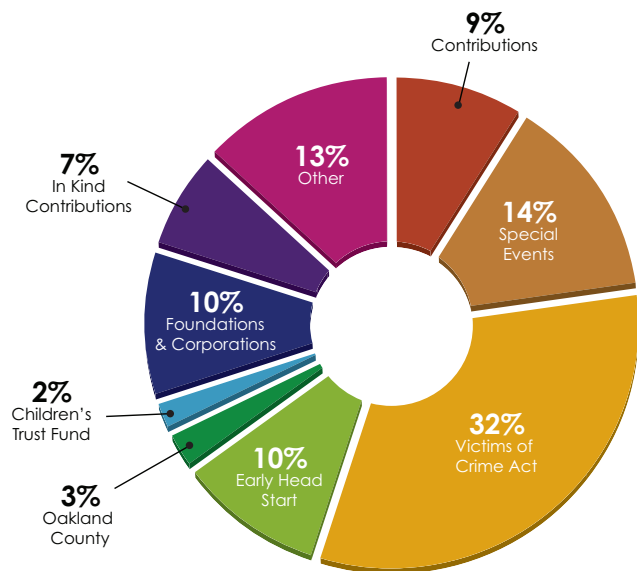


**2020
 IMPACT
 REPORT**

2020 FINANCIALS



\$2,747,761
 2020 OPERATING EXPENSES



\$3,178,204
 2020 OPERATING REVENUES