



Children's
Advocacy Project

A Chance to
DREAM
Again



2018
ANNUAL
SUMMARY





Children's
Advocacy Project



Our **MISSION**

The Children's Advocacy Project is a team of committed agencies and individuals who work together to provide coordinated forensic and comprehensive services for alleged victims of child abuse and neglect in order to minimize trauma to children, break the cycle of abuse, and foster a more effective and efficient community response to child maltreatment.

ALWAYS **BELIEVE**
THAT **SOMETHING**
Wonderful
IS ABOUT TO **HAPPEN**



A Letter from our **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends,

Fairytales. We all grew up with them and most of us dreamed of our own fairytale life. The “perfect fairytale life” looks different for each person, but it is, undoubtedly, a picture of happiness. For many kids who come into CAP, their fairytale dream has been shattered and their happiness altered due to the trauma of being sexually abused, physically abused or from witnessing something horrific. The team at the Children’s Advocacy Project strives to provide these children the opportunity to have their voice and empower them to dream again of a happy life. In 2018, the CAP team coordinated their efforts and worked to help 312 children as they shared their experience, worked in counseling to address their trauma and for some, found the courage to share in court the trauma they endured.

As 2019 begins, the CAP team continues to dream of a future when children do not have to endure the trauma of abuse. In the meantime, our team continues to provide a safe environment for children to begin to heal and to dream again of their future. Thank you for your continued dedication and support of the children we serve!



Stacy M. Nelson

Stacy M. Nelson, Executive Director



By the NUMBERS

3,958

Children have bravely completed a Forensic Interview since opening



312

Forensic Interviews Conducted in 2018



610

Individual Counseling Sessions



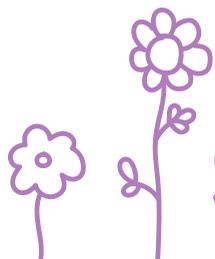
360

Children Attended a CAP In-school Training



249

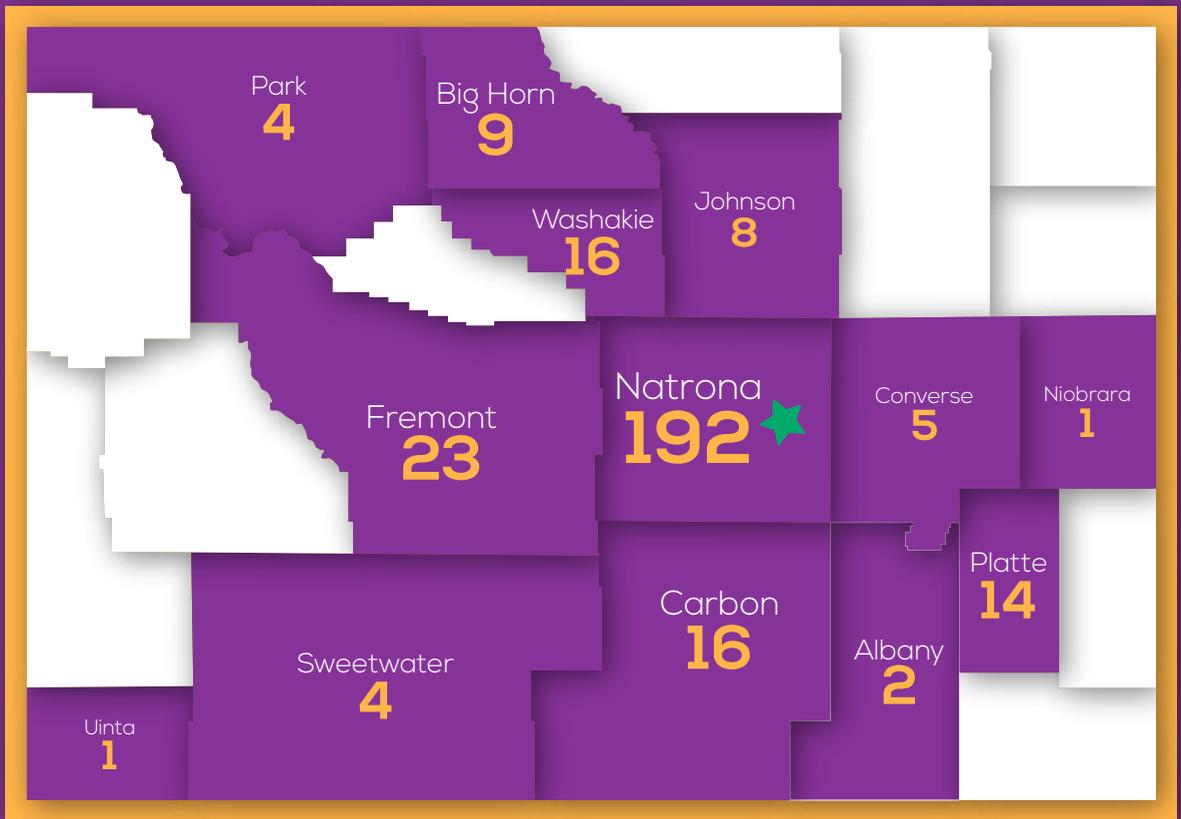
Adults Attended a CAP Community Training





FORENSIC INTERVIEWS

By County



Other Courtesy Interviews: Arizona: **1**,
California: **2**, Colorado: **1**, Iowa: **3**, Missouri: **1**, Montana: **3**,
Oregon: **3**, Utah: **3**, Washington: **3**, FBI: **3**





Once UPON A TIME

Matthew is the baby in a family with five children. Matthew comes from a family who struggles to meet the daily challenges of life. His dad recently took a cut in pay to work for a local company at a job that allows him to be home every night. Matthew's mom died of a drug overdose when he was four and his dad went to prison for drug use. During that time, he lived alone with his aunt Brittney while his older siblings all lived together with another aunt and uncle. When his dad got out of prison, all of the kids moved in with their dad. Matthew was so excited to have his family back. His older siblings had grown closer to each other and seemed like strangers to Matthew. His dad met and married Becca. She was "nice" but didn't know how to be a parent and relied on the older children to keep the younger ones in line. When any child was bad, all the kids had to sit on the outside steps until dad got home from work, regardless of the weather. This created more division between the

children as one's behavior resulted in consequences for all the children when dad got home from work.

Matthew was 8 years old the first time he participated in a forensic interview at The Children's Advocacy Project. His second grade teacher noticed bruises behind his ears and down his back. She immediately contacted DFS, who conducted a safety interview at his school. Matthew told the DFS investigator he had gotten in trouble the night before when his mom found food in his room. Matthew admitted his dad had been "really mad" and pushed him against the wall, which resulted in the bruises. CAP was contacted and Matthew was transported to CAP for an emergency forensic interview.

Matthew did not disclose any abuse at CAP. During the forensic interview, he told the interviewer he had fallen off his bed while jumping on it. He denied telling the DFS investigator about being pushed and insisted that he was "a liar." Matthew

stated he felt safe at home and that no one ever hurt him. His injuries were inconsistent with his report of how they happened. However, because he didn't disclose abuse he was allowed to return home that evening. DFS offered the family support in the form of a voluntary case management plan. This would have allowed the family access to multiple services including parenting classes and individual and family counseling.

Not all interviews result in a child disclosing abuse. There are many reasons for this including pressure or coaching from the perpetrator, fear of getting in trouble for "telling", reluctance to talk to strangers. Some allegations reported by concerned adults are simply unfounded and the child is truly safe. In Matthew's case, he was afraid his dad would find out and he'd get in even bigger trouble.

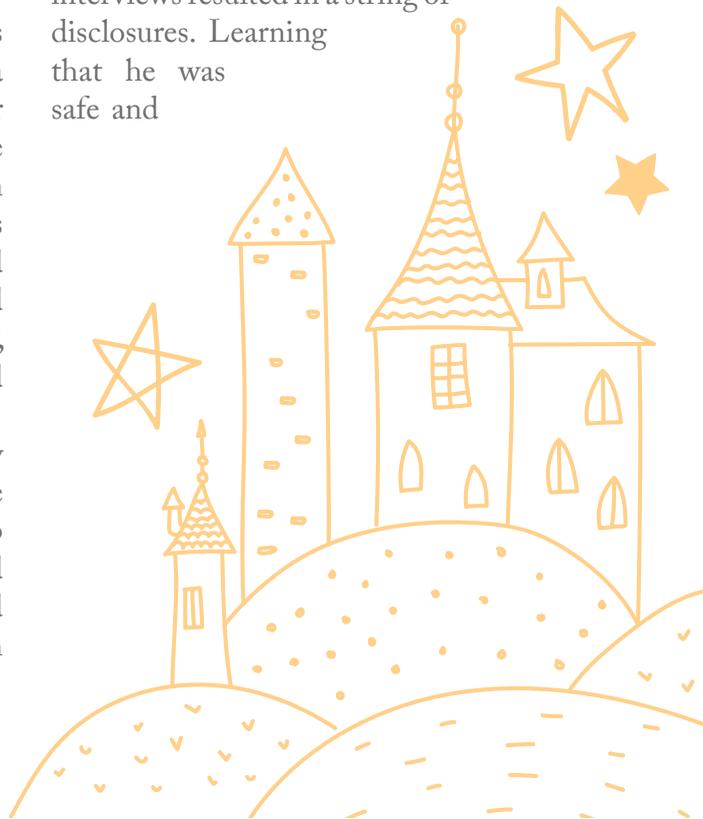
Once a child has made a disclosure, even if they later deny it, they are likely to disclose again. Matthew was 9 years old the second time he participated in a forensic interview at CAP. His teacher noticed he had a black eye. He told the school counselor his dad had hit him in the face for "telling his step mom off." His next oldest brother, Levi, had intervened and also been hit. The teacher notified DFS and, after a brief safety interview, Matthew and Levi were both transported to CAP.

Matthew once again denied any hitting or hurting happening in the home. He admitted he'd been mean to his stepmom and that his dad had yelled at him but not hit him. He stated he had gotten the black eye "horseplaying" with

his dad and that his dad "said sorry" for hurting him.

Levi told a different story. Levi stated he was "fed up" with getting in trouble at home. He described the recent incident where Matthew received the black eye as he had reported at school. Levi went on to describe several other incidents in which he or Matthew had been "beat up". Levi had recently run away after being hit and had bruises in several states of healing to show for various incidents. Levi was worried about the consequences he would face for telling and begged the interviewer to help him "get out." He also expressed concern for his siblings, particularly Matthew, and was able to describe several recent abuse events.

DFS took protective custody of all five children based on Levi's disclosure. In the following days, the other three siblings were interviewed at CAP. Those interviews resulted in a string of disclosures. Learning that he was safe and



not going to have to go home, Matthew admitted to being physically abused and acknowledged abuse of his siblings. Unfortunately, it was impossible to keep all five children in the same foster home. Matthew, Levi and their oldest brother were placed with one family and the two other siblings were placed with another.

At first, the children really struggled in foster care. They had become accustomed to parenting and protecting each other; learning to be children took time and patience on the part of each child and adult. The oldest brother in particular worried about keeping everyone safe and was tormented with worry, wanting to be reassured constantly that his siblings were safe. Levi was concerned about money and bills. He didn't feel safe unless he knew how much money his foster family had and if it was enough to pay for rent and utilities. Many conversations occurred at the foster home and in therapy before Levi was able to trust the adult business to the adults and focus on being a kid.

Matthew is particularly sad and wishes his dad was home. In counseling, he struggles to understand why his dad did "those things" and desperately

wants to be "good enough" for his dad to love him. Matthew's dad was charged with felony child abuse and is currently serving a prison sentence. Matthew will be a teenager before his dad is released from prison. Despite her knowledge of the abuse, Matthew's stepmom is allowed to have supervised contact with all five children. In addition, she is receiving counseling and participating in parenting classes in hopes of eventually re-unifying the family.

The Children's Advocacy Project interviews children who have disclosed, or are suspected of being victims of physical and sexual abuse as well as gross neglect. In addition, we interview children who may be victims of sex trafficking. We provide a gateway to assist local agencies in determining what further actions will be taken from case management to prosecution. In addition to forensic interviews, CAP also provides trauma counseling and family support where appropriate. There is never any charge for our services.





Happily
EVER AFTER
STARTS HERE

Before the CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY PROJECT



She tells her teacher she is being hurt at home. She then has to talk to the principle and the school nurse, who then examines her



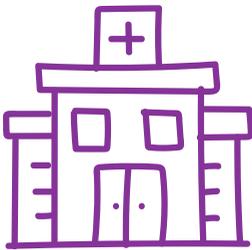
School calls hotline and police



She then goes to the hospital where she talks to a nurse, social worker, and doctor who then examines her



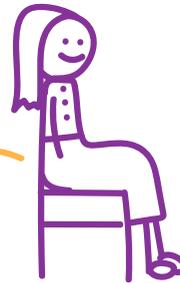
Police Officer talks to Emma



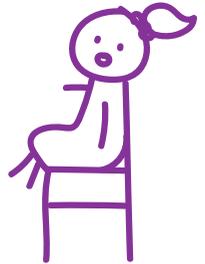
A detective is assigned and brings Emma to a specialized hospital where another nurse, social worker, and doctor talks to her and examines her



"Why do I have to talk to so many people?"



A Counselor needs to talk to Emma



A Child Protective Investigator needs to talk to Emma



A Lawyer needs to talk to Emma

With the



Children's
Advocacy Project



"This place is great!"



Emma is referred to a counselor who will help her heal



Emma's mom talks to an advocate to help her understand the system



Emma sees a doctor for a sexual assault exam



Emma tells her story to a trained forensic interviewer while a detective, DFS worker, and District Attorney listen and record the interview as a team



Emma comes to the Children's Advocacy Project with her mom

START
HERE!



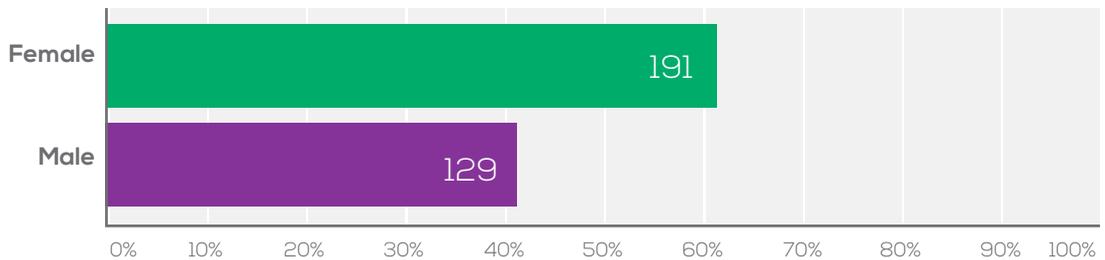
Emma tells her teacher that she is being hurt by her mom's new boyfriend at home



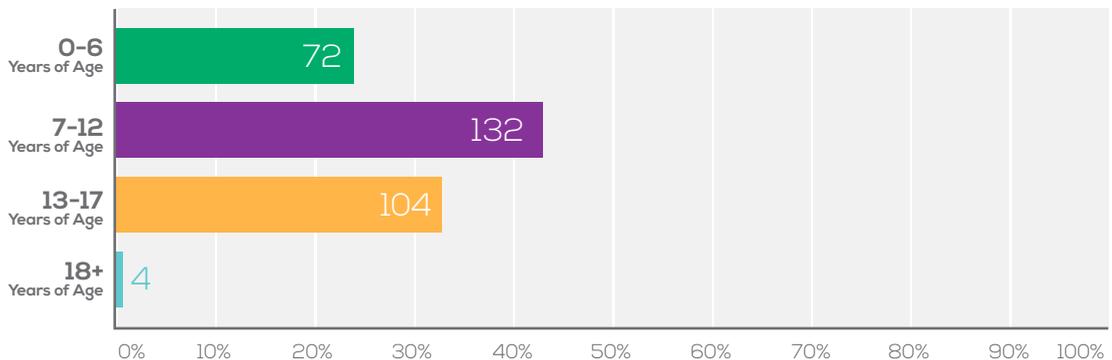
YOU ARE **BORN** TO
BE **ANYTHING YOU**
Dream to Be



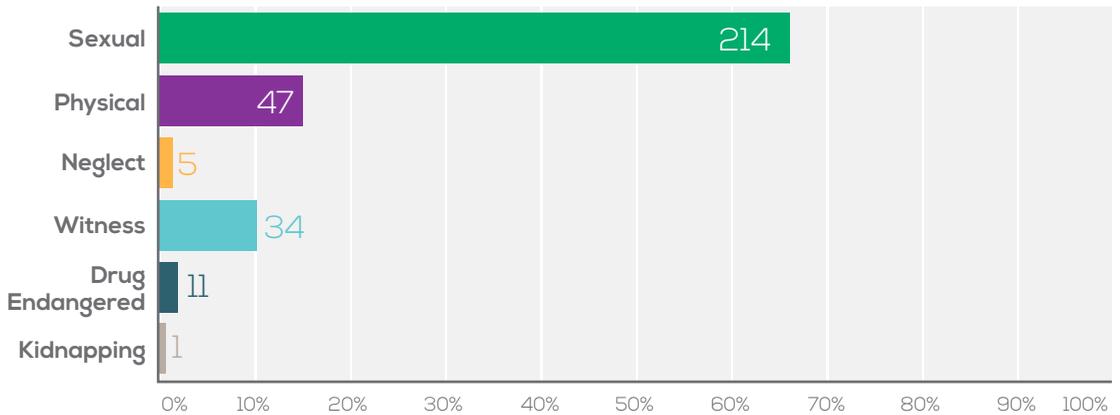
GENDER OF VICTIMS



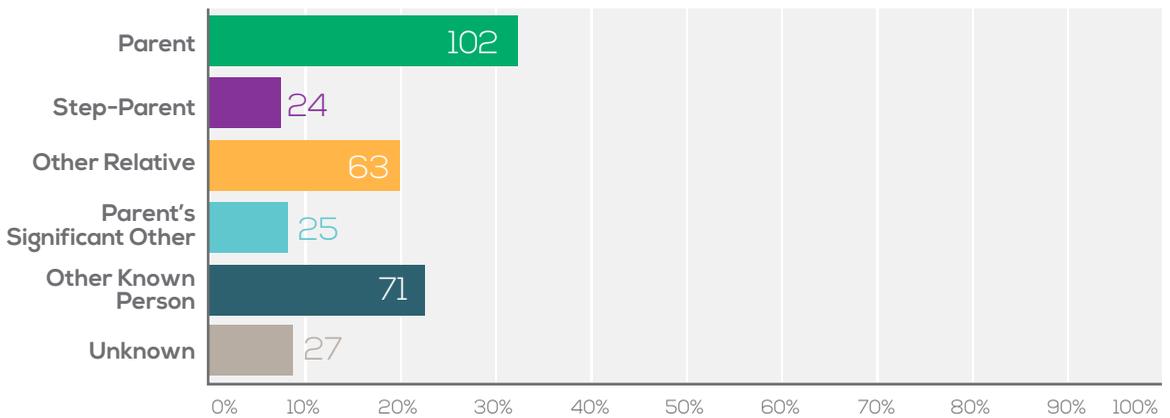
AGE OF VICTIMS



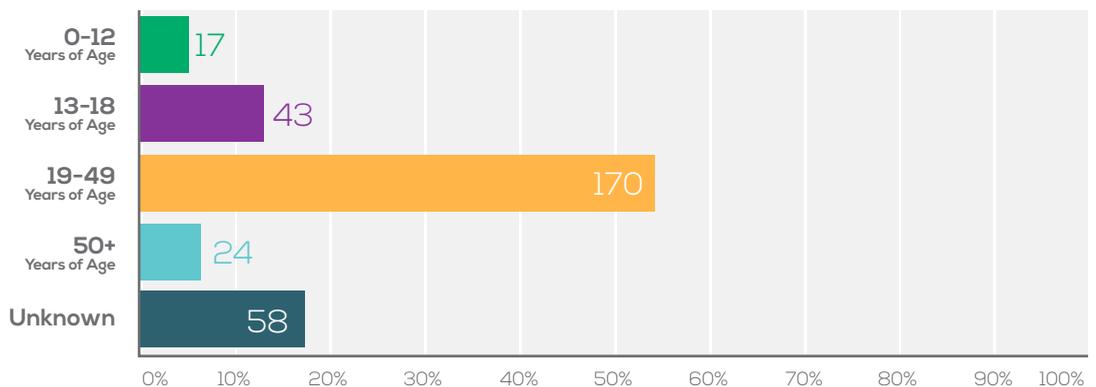
TYPES OF ABUSE



RELATION OF SUSPECT



AGE OF SUSPECTS





Year in REVIEW

January

Joseph Neilson of Gillette gets life in prison for first-degree murder of his girlfriend's 3-year-old boy.

January

Casper resident, Miguel Martinez is found guilty of first-degree and second-degree sexual abuse of a minor and is sentenced to 30-45 years in prison. Nurses at Wyoming Medical Center completed a sexual assault exam and found evidence that the girl had been assaulted.

February

Authorities arrest, Evanston man, Joseph Moore on a warrant for charges of human trafficking of a child, aggravated exploitation of prostitution involving a child, human trafficking for forced sexual exploitation, and aggravated exploitation of prostitution. All of the charges are first or second-degree felonies.

February

A proposed bill that would authorize school districts in Wyoming to provide education on child sexual abuse has been endorsed by a legislative committee and was sent to the full Senate. SF 93, was enacted in March 2018. The law allows school districts to provide opt-in education and training to parents, students, and school district employees on child sexual abuse.

March

Stefan Voltaire of Casper faces 11 felony counts for sexually abusing a 10-year-old over the period of 9 months. Photos exist of Voltaire sexually abusing the child, who is on the autism spectrum. Voltaire pleaded guilty July 2018 to three felonies. Attorneys recommend he serve 30 to 50 years in prison.

June

A California man, Navy veteran and former Boy Scout leader, Dennis Francis Boyle was sentenced to prison for enticing a 14-year-old girl in Wyoming to send him sexually explicit photos to make child pornography. Boyle received two 15-year prison terms to be served concurrently with a seven-year term for similar crimes in California as part of a plea agreement.

July

Allan Wilson, a member of Green River City Council faces charges of sexually abusing a minor in two counties had his trial combined to Sweetwater County. Court documents say that the same boy, a family member, was victimized in each county. The alleged abuse occurred when the victim was as young as 7-years-old. In Dec 2018, Wilson pleaded guilty as part of a plea agreement to one count of second degree sexual abuse of a minor.

August

Former Wyoming Catholic Bishop, Joseph Hart faces a third child abuse allegation. The new case came as a result of diocese's announcement that their investigation concluded Hart had abused two Wyoming boys. The third person came forward about the allegation of abuse in 1980.

October

Cheyenne man, Thomas Langhorne spanked his 5-year-old daughter to the point that she was bleeding in her underwear. He was sentenced to five years of probation after admitting that he “might have over-done it.”

October

Jason Wenner of Cheyenne, who killed the family dog in front of his children was sentenced to 18 to 36 months in prison. Wenner was charged with three counts of child abuse-mental injury, unlawful contact-touch and cruelty to animals-resulting in death.

October

Casper man, Nickolas Jones denies a felony charge of alleging that he bit a toddler on the cheek. He faces a single count of child abuse and if convicted could spend up to 10 years in prison. Three children were taken into protective custody, one child participated in a forensic interview at the Children’s Advocacy Project and made a number of allegations involving physical violence by Jones against herself and the two other children.

November

Casper woman, Latisha Leigh Sholes was arrested after she allegedly got into a physical fight with a 17 year-old girl, leading police find methamphetamine and marijuana inside her apartment. She was booked on charges of child abuse, child endangerment and drug possession.

December

Forrest Freeman of Natrona County is sentenced to 13 to 15 years in prison for sexually abusing a 4-year-old. Freeman forced the girl to perform oral sex on him and showed her pornography.

December

Casper police officers arrested three people and took a baby into protective custody after a probation compliance check led to the discovery of drugs. When police entered the apartment, it was in a state of disarray. Reports indicated it smelled strongly of feces and urine.





2018 EVENTS

CAP, Cabernet & Calcutta

240 Attended Event
57 Silent Auction Items
9 Live Auction Items

Shoot Trap for CAP

15 Heavy Hitter Teams
8 Rec League Teams
115 Total Shooters

2018 Total Raised:

\$55,630.00



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A SPECIAL *Thank You*

We want to give a special thank you to all of our supporters, partners, and friends for their generosity, kindness and commitment to the Children's Advocacy Project in 2018. We could not give children a chance to dream again without all of you!





LIFE IS A
Fairy tale
BUT TO SEE IT
YOU MUST OPEN
YOUR EYES





ANNUAL BUDGET

FUNDING SOURCES

VOCA Federal Funding	\$159,550.00
Natrona County and City of Casper	\$86,421.00
Program Income	\$60,000.00
Fundraising	\$58,000.00
Wyoming Community Foundation	\$50,000.00
Other City & County Funds	\$41,140.00
McMurry Foundation	\$40,000.00
United Way	\$20,000.00
Donations	\$15,000.00
National Children's Alliance	\$7,000.00
Other Grant/Donation Income	\$23,500.00
	\$560,611.00

EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits	64.0%
Contract Services	14.9%
Advertising, Website, Education	2.0%
Training & Travel	4.4%
Accounting	2.8%
Building (Utilities, Phone, Internet, Insurance, Housekeeping)	3.2%
Equipment & Supplies	2.7%
Meetings, Memberships, Dues	1.0%
Legal Services	1.0%
Printing & Postage	4.0%
	100%

★ Thank You ★

TO ALL OF THE 2018 SUPPORTERS OF THE
CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY PROJECT!



1890 Craft Apparel
307 Healing Waters
307 Orthodontics
All Creatures Veterinary
Hospital
Allure Beauty
Anchor Designs
Andrea Gomez / Advocare
Arbonne
Artisan Alley
Ashby Construction
Ashley Lundblade
Aspen Creek Massage
Avalanche Harley Davidson
Backwards Distillery
Big Horn Polo Club
Big O Tires
Bloedorn Lumber
Brad & Natalia Follensbee
Brattis Meat Market
Brenna & Nimo Gatimu
Brittany Tarvares
Butterfly Pavilion
C85 Restaurants
Casidy Mittelstadt
Casper Animal Medical
Casper Events Center
Casper Fire Fighters
Casper Police Department
Central Wyoming
Counseling Center
Central Wyoming
Medical Aesthetics
Cheyenne Frontier Days
Chris & Tiffany Elhart
Chris Hadlock
Cloud Peak Energy
Coleen Edwards
Colorado Symphony
Communication Technologies
Computer Logic
ComTech
Dan's Meat Processing
Denver Museum
of Nature & Science
Denver Zoo
Digital Blues Print Shop
Donnell Tate
Douglas Golf Club
Dr. Roussalis
Dsasumo
Durbin Street Golf
Dustin & Baleigh Hite
Ed & Linda Toohey
El Marko Lanes
Firerock
Floral Rhino
FOP Lodge #6
Fox Field Services
Frosted Tops
Gaslight Social
Gear Up & Get Out There
Girl In Air
Global Specialized
Services LLC
Global Sporting Safaris
Good As Sold Inc.
Great Harvest Bread Company
Greater Wyoming FCU
Gudahl Williams
Investigative Security
Hair of the Dog
Hampton Inn & Suites Riverton
Hilltop National Bank
Holiday Inn Sheridan
Honalo Farms
Indian Ice
IPA Machining
Jackson Hole Golf
Jackson Hole Outfitters
Jackson Restaurant Group
Janet Zambai
Jen Wilson / Rodan + Fields
Jennifer Schieck
John's Crazy Socks
Johnson Restaurant Group
Kalico Kat Quilt Shop
Katie Boulter
Keefe's Flowers
Kids Works
Killmer & Associates
Kimberly Mittelstadt
Kristin Songe / LuLaRoe
La Cocina
Lagoon
Leah & Chad Schieck
Leslie Gilliland
Lifetime Health
& Fitness Center
Meador Environmental
Consulting
Mike & Meegan Steinberg
Modern Electric
Mouthful
Outback Steakhouse
Paradise Valley Country Club
Paragon Painting
Paul & Leslie Fritzier
Peak Asset Managers
Powder River Armory
Qdoba
Quality Auto
Quinn & Kayleigh Clark
Ramkota Hotel Center
Rib & Chop House (Sheridan)
RJ's Carpet Cleaning
Rocky Mountain Discount



Sports
Rootz Salon
Rose Fry
Rosemary Bartle
And Tara Fairbanks
S.F.G. (So Freaking
Good) Cupcakes
S&S Outfitters
Salon 307
Salon Savvy
Sams Club
Saratoga Resort & Spa
Science Zone
Service First Insurance
Shannon Green Photography
Sherry's Place
Sierra West
SM Energy
Smile Doctors Braces by Braces U
Snow King Resort
Southern Flare Lash
Spruce Nail Bar
Stacy & Bob Nelson
Stacy Hill
Stamp It Up
Stirling Skin Care
Sunsations Tanning Salon
T Bee S Pollination
Tara Ashcraft / Salon Savvy
The Flour Bin
The Spence Law Firm
The Wort Hotel
Thrive Therapeutic Massage, LLC
Tom Lukas Artwork
Tomahawk Lake Country Club

Toy Town
Triggers Gun Shop
& Mercantile LLC
Uncorked Wine & Spirits
US Bank
Wagner's
Walmart
White's Mountain Motors
Wholehealth Group
Wild Well Control
Wildlife Art Museum (Jackson)
Williams Porter Day and Neville
Wind City Books
Wind City Dental
Wind River Casino
Wyoming Behavioral Insitute
Wyoming Dinosaur Center
Wyoming Mountain Song Soaps
Wyoming Otolaryngology
Wyoming Symphony Orchestra
WyOMing Yoga and Massage
WyoMovies
YMCA
Zimmerman Family Foundation





If you would like to make a donation or if you have any questions about our services, please contact us:
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