



ALL CHILDREN

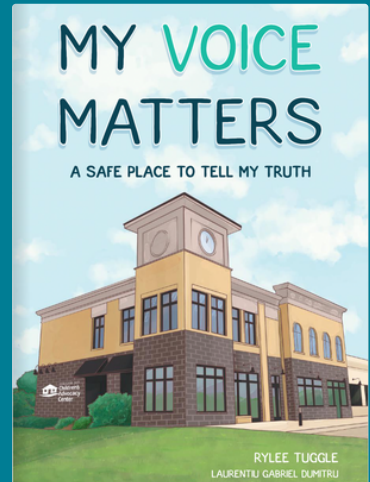
# SAFE AND THRIVING

2022-23 COMMUNITY REPORT



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## VISION

Our vision is a world without abuse in which all children are safe and thriving.

## MISSION

Our mission is to provide a coordinated, multidisciplinary response to allegations of child abuse in a child-sensitive, trauma-informed environment; to offer therapeutic treatment for those who have been harmed; and to strive toward a world without abuse through prevention education, outreach and awareness.

## STRATEGIC GOALS

- Ensure both short and long-term financial stability.
- Continue to strengthen intervention support and services.
- Expand prevention efforts throughout the Grand Traverse region and beyond.
- Continue to make Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center *the* place to work for child protection professionals.
- Make Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center *the* place the community turns to for information, help, and service for allegedly abused/abused children in our region and beyond.

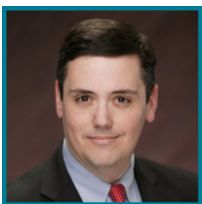
## SERVING 6 COUNTIES, 7 JURISDICTIONS IN NW MI

Antrim  
Benzie  
Grand Traverse

Kalkaska  
Leelanau  
Wexford

Grand Traverse Band of  
Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Wilson "Bill" Brott**  
Board Chair  
Tribal Prosecutor,  
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa  
& Chippewa Indians



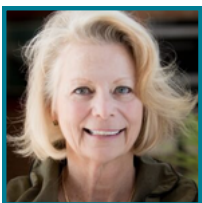
**Tifini McClyde-Blythe**  
Vice Chair  
Associate Vice President  
Human Resources,  
Interlochen Center for the Arts



**Karen Browne**  
Treasurer  
President/CEO,  
TBA Credit Union



**Mimi Appel**  
Secretary  
Regional Program Director  
(Retired),  
New Teacher Center



**Dr. Jayne Mohr**  
Past Board Chair  
Associate Superintendent  
(Retired),  
Traverse City Area Public Schools



**Dr. Peter Springsteen**  
Physician,  
The Walk-In Clinic



**Cmdr. Andrew Schanno**  
Commanding Officer,  
United States Coast Guard,  
Traverse City Air Station



**Barb LaRue**  
Director,  
Grand Traverse County,  
Michigan Dept. of Health and  
Human Services

# Our Staff



Jenna Baker  
Intervention Specialist



Elizabeth Carrillo, MA, LPC  
Director of Clinical Services



Deanna Couture, LPC-S,  
NCC, RPT  
Play Therapist



Jourdan Dean  
Clinical Intake Coordinator



Jessie Fousset  
Marketing & Events  
Coordinator



Nicole Hollis  
Intervention Specialist



Ben Little  
Graduate Intern



Heather Lucynski  
Intervention Specialist



Teresa Lutke  
Director of Intervention  
Services



Lisa Lynch-Witham  
Intake & Operations  
Manager



Devin Moore, LLMSW  
Trauma Therapist



Reggie Noto  
Sr. Advisor of Primary  
Prevention



Madeline Saucedo  
Director of Fund  
Development



Hayden Scott, MA, LLC  
Trauma Therapist



Melissa Socia  
Prevention Coordinator



Sophie Wyatt  
Graduate Intern

# Report to Our Community

## A letter from our Board Chair

Dear Families, Friends and Colleagues,

The work to ensure that all children are safe and thriving in our community is never ending. And since demand for child forensic interviews increased 53% between 2020 and 2022, the Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center (TBCAC) has experienced tremendous evolution. To meet this increased demand, we scaled our direct service resources in order to meet the growing intervention and trauma therapy needs of children and families throughout our rural six county region.



Wilson "Bill" Brott

We are grateful to our community partners, among them Noelle Moeggenberg, who took the lead in sharing their concerns about transparency, staff culture at the Center, and the execution of our mission. They called on us to examine our practices and it was a good opportunity to conduct independent reviews of our governance, finances, and staff culture, while continuing to deliver high-quality support to survivors of child abuse and their families. After a brief pause in our partnership, we re-established those relationships and continue to restore trust during our period of renewal. We are so proud to share the exceptional work of our team to support survivors of child abuse and their families in this report.

From meeting the unprecedented demand for forensic interviews, to enhancing communication with regional school districts, to hosting collaboration circles with members of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the past year has presented an abundance of opportunities for TBCAC to continue its commitment to community outreach. All the while, we are strengthening partnerships that promote the well-being and safety of youth throughout Northwest Michigan.

We thank you for your support as we collectively strive toward realizing our vision of "a world without abuse".

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilson Brott".

Wilson "Bill" Brott  
Chair, TBCAC Board of Directors

# Our Renewed and Strengthened Partnership

## A letter from the Grand Traverse County Prosecuting Attorney

Dear TBCAC supporters,

My office has always made the protection and well-being of the children of our community a top priority. Working hand in hand with the Traverse Bay Area Children's Advocacy Center has allowed us to do that job in a manner that is efficient, child-friendly, and better assists the families of children who have been abused.

As many of you are aware, earlier this year, due to concerns about transparency, the focus of the Center, and the treatment of its employees, it became necessary to suspend the relationship between my office and the Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center (TBCAC). Gratefully, the pause in our cooperative efforts was a short one.

After internal restructuring at the center, a noticeable increase in transparency, ongoing efforts to support employees, and meaningful discussions that led to restored trust among the Center and multidisciplinary team members, we reinstated our former partnership in June 2023.

Since that time, the TBCAC and its Grand Traverse County multidisciplinary team members have worked together to provide the best possible services to children and families in our area. TBCAC intervention specialists have conducted numerous forensic interviews of children who are suspected of having been the victims of physical or sexual abuse. The families of these children are provided information and resources and every child who is interviewed at the Center is eligible for free counseling with one of the center's amazing trauma therapists.

I extend my gratitude and appreciation to these partners, as we continue to collaboratively strive to provide justice and healing to those who have experienced abuse.

Sincerely,  
Noelle Moeggenberg  
Grand Traverse County Prosecuting Attorney

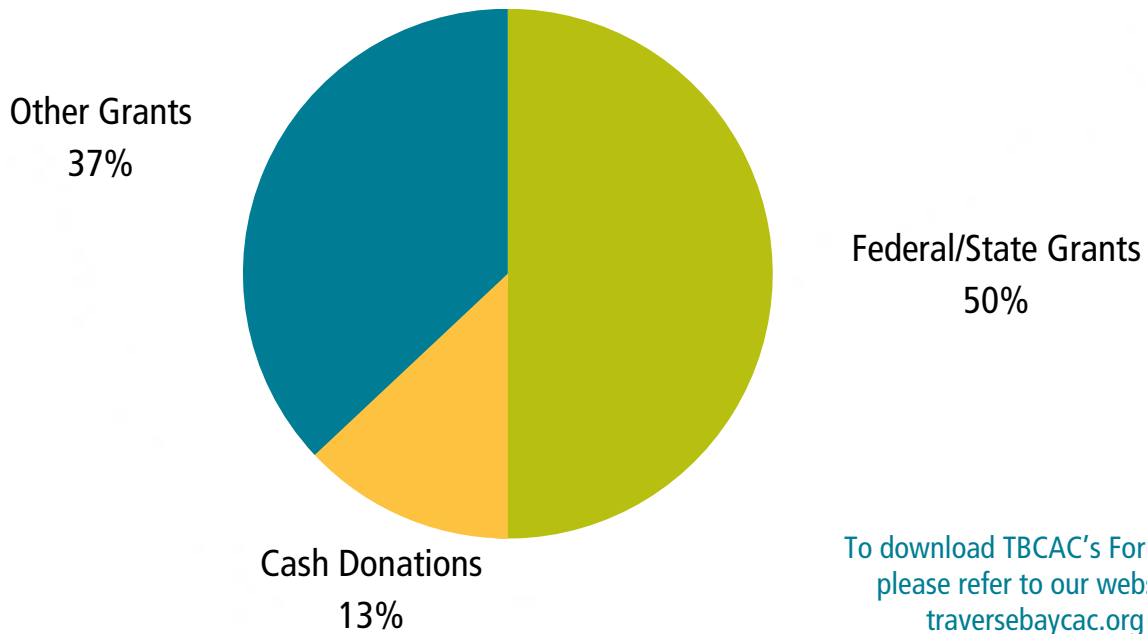


Noelle Moeggenberg  
Grand Traverse Co. Prosecuting Attorney

# Grant Administration

As TBCAC financial audit outcomes support, grant funds have been properly administered and accurately appropriated based on the terms outlined by each individual grantor.

Approximately 50% of TBCAC revenue comes from federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. Each year, TBCAC participates in either two (2) desk audits or a more comprehensive site audit. In 2022, TBCAC successfully completed a site audit that reviewed the period of October-December 2022. All other desk audits were successful.



## VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) AUDIT TIMELINE

2019



Successful audits

2020



Successful audits

2021



Successful audits

2022



Successful audits

2023



Successful audits

# Client Testimonials

Q: WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE CENTER?

"That they care, they understand, and try to help."

- 14 years old

"Interacting with people I trust."

- 9 years old

"I was not forced to go into detail about what happened."

- 16 years old

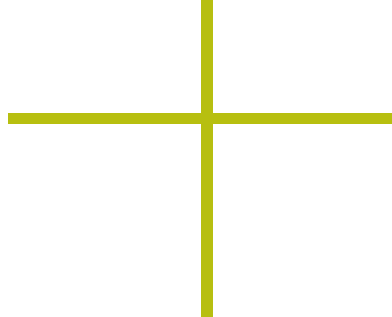
"It was nice talking to someone."

- 12 years old

"The people, puzzles, and games."

- 5 years old





# Our Impact

## What We Know

**1 in 10** children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday

**1 in 7** children experienced abuse and neglect in the past year

**+53%** child forensic interview increase from 2020 to 2022



of children sexually abused in our region know their abuser

**7-12 yrs & 13-15 yrs**  
ages most frequently seen at TBCAC

## What We're Doing

**422**

Forensic Interviews Performed in FY23

**521**

Prevention Education Attendees in FY23

**36**

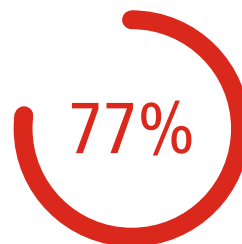
Prevention Education Sessions in FY23

**1,944**

Counseling Sessions Conducted in FY23

**3,800**

youth have participated in forensic interviews at TBCAC since 2010



of cases at TBCAC involve allegations of child sexual abuse

# TBCAC Building Renamed

## The Lagina Family Building

Since the very beginning, Martin and Olivia Lagina have forged new ground for children and families served by TBCAC. Their countless contributions to the legacy of our Center were honored at the annual 2022 Garden Party where the TBCAC facility was renamed to The Lagina Family Building.

A founding member of the TBCAC Board of Directors, Olivia helped establish our region's Child Advocacy Center (CAC); and she and Martin generously helped provide both of our Center's homes (originally on Front Street in downtown Traverse City and now in the Village of Chartwell off of Hammond Drive). In 2013, the Lagina Family donated the majority of the existing building which houses TBCAC today.



That generous donation has helped establish TBCAC as the regional response center for crimes against children in Northwest Michigan, not to mention one of the largest and most impactful CACs in the state. And the Lagina Family didn't stop there—in 2022, they also donated a significant portion of the 18 acres around our Center to TBCAC! Their legacy continues to grow as they continue their selfless support of children involved in allegations of abuse throughout Northern Michigan.



Olivia and Martin were honored at the 2022 Garden Party with both Gubernatorial and State Legislative Proclamations presented by Governor's Office Liaison Haley Bennett (pictured right) and State Rep. John Roth.

# Why Do We Need Child Advocacy Centers?

CACs are how communities mount a coordinated response to allegations of child abuse. To understand what a CAC is, you must understand what children face without one. Without a CAC, a child may end up having to tell the worst story of his or her life over and over again, to doctors, police, lawyers, therapists, investigators, judges, and others. They may not get the help they need to heal once the investigation is over, either.

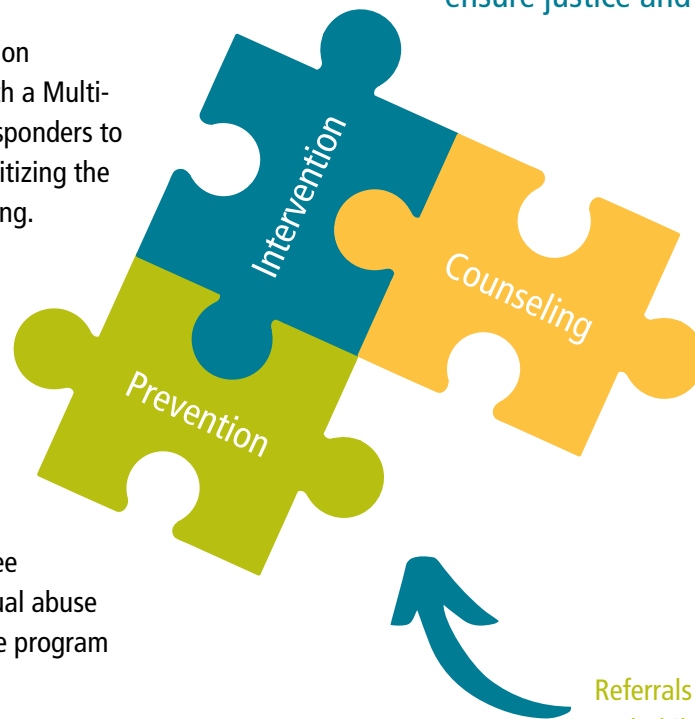
When police or child protective services believe a child is being abused, the child is brought to the CAC—a safe, child-focused environment—by a caregiver or other “safe” adult. At the CAC, the child tells their story once to a trained interviewer who knows the right questions to ask. Then, based on the interview, a multidisciplinary team that includes medical professionals, law enforcement, mental health providers, prosecution, child protective services, victim advocates, and other professionals make decisions together about how to help the child. Finally, CACs offer a wide range of services like therapy, medical exams, courtroom preparation, victim advocacy, case management, and more.

Source: National Children’s Alliance (where TBCAC is accredited)

## Our Model

**INTERVENTION:** The Intervention Services team collaborates with a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) of responders to gather information while prioritizing the child's protection and well-being.

**PREVENTION:** We provide free evidence-informed child sexual abuse prevention training under the program Talk·Protect·Report™ in the community.



Intervention, Counseling, and Prevention are all important “pieces of the puzzle” to ensure justice and healing for survivors of child abuse.

**COUNSELING:** All children and non-offending family members living in the same home are referred to our free counseling services after their interview at TBCAC.

Referrals come from law enforcement and Child Protective Services (CPS), based on specific circumstances: suspicion of sexual abuse, physical abuse, witness to violence, or neglect.

# Intervention

## Key to long-term healing

Not only is early intervention crucial when child abuse is suspected, it is key to long-term healing in the wake of abuse. A forensic interviewer is a trained professional who takes a child's statement. They are unbiased and specialize in speaking with children at various age levels. Their training is in correlation with the Prosecuting Attorney Association of Michigan's protocol. They are regularly peer reviewed and perform professional development.

When youth who participate in child forensic interviews disclose they have experienced abuse, our team conducts a youth trauma assessment using the Care Process Model (CPM).

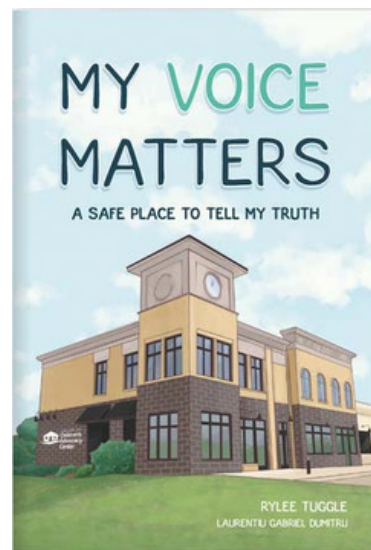
This year, community partners, including law enforcement, child protective services, prosecuting attorney offices, and school districts from NW Michigan, attended orientations and tours at TBCAC. They got an inside look at our services and programs, which focus on intervention, counseling, and prevention.



Wexford Co. Sheriff's Dept. Detective Chris Piskor discusses the importance of the MDT collaboration in child abuse investigations.



With grant support from the Children's Advocacy Centers of Michigan and the National Children's Alliance, TBCAC broke new ground with onsite tele-forensic interview capabilities.



With the help of Eagles for Children and Traverse City Country Club, we've given hundreds of "My Voice Matters" books to children visiting TBCAC. The book illustrates what they can expect, with the goal of easing their anxiety about coming to the CAC.

# Counseling

## Care and compassion

The Clinical Services Team at TBCAC offers evidence-based treatments that are free of cost to families, provided by experienced therapists who specialize in helping survivors of extreme trauma.

Staff are trained in many treatment methods, including:

- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)
- Problematic Sexual Behavior Treatment
- Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)
- Play Therapy

Here are some highlights from our Clinical Services Team over the past year:

- Hired two of our master's level interns as full-time therapists and brought on two additional master's level interns.
- Delivered nearly 2,000 counseling sessions and also conducted therapy groups at Traverse City High, an alternative high school for youth who have struggled in other public schools. Our therapists offered a group for male-identified students on relationships and communication, and another group offered art therapy.
- Two therapists became trained in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy and are utilizing this highly-effective treatment with their clients.
- Three staff members attended an intensive Diversity, Equity and Inclusion course and formed a group that will bring an equity lens to TBCAC's policy, procedures, and recruitment practices.



9&10 News "Michigan This Morning" interviews Director of Clinical Services Elizabeth Carrillo about trauma therapy services

### Peace Ranch Partnership

Thanks to a generous grant from the Clark Family Foundation, children who experience sexual abuse, physical abuse or witness other acts of violence received specialized Egala® trauma-informed equine therapy at Peace Ranch.

The experiential nature of therapy offered at Peace Ranch helps people make tremendous strides in their journeys of healing in a matter of a few months or less, greatly facilitating the healing process from trauma.

We are seeking new sponsorship of this program to continue offering equine therapy to clients in 2024 and beyond!

# Prevention

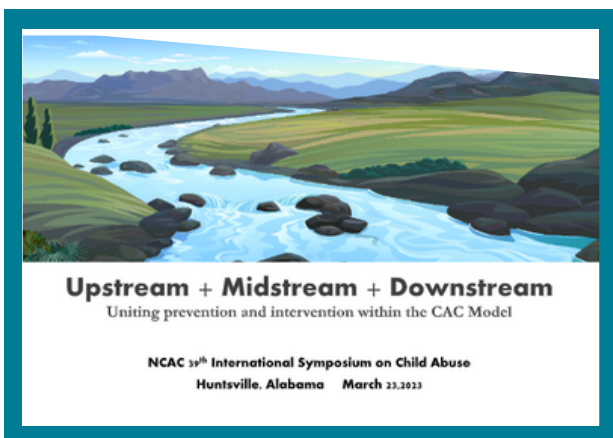
## Project Prevention is in full swing

For the past several years, TBCAC has collaborated with organizations such as Michigan State University to research ways in which to shift social norms so that communities at large are empowered to proactively exercise protective behaviors towards all children. TBCAC is unique in this research initiative, the results of which hold the potential to significantly change the trajectory of child safety and well-being not only in our region, but throughout Michigan and even all of the United States.

We continue to deepen our ongoing partnerships with Michigan State University faculty and students. Each year we engage undergraduates in the College of Communication Arts and Sciences and advanced graduate students in the School of Social Work on assignments relating to community assessment and messaging around the prevention of Child Sexual Abuse.

Here are some highlights from the year in Project Prevention:

- **March 2023:** TBCAC staff presented at the 39th International Symposium on Child Abuse in Huntsville, Alabama. This symposium attracts an international audience of over 1,600 participants and 50 exhibitors from around the world. Their presentation, "Upstream+Midstream+Downstream: Uniting Prevention and Intervention within the CAC Model" explored the different levels of prevention – primary, secondary, and tertiary – and the role CACs/MDTs play in reducing risks to children’s safety and well-being.
- **July 2023:** TBCAC staff held a workshop at the 13th annual CAC of Michigan conference in Detroit with nearly 350 CAC and MDT professionals from around the state and the Midwest. "Measuring Community Social Norms: Data for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse" outlined the steps we took to survey attitudes and social norms about child sexual abuse in the six-county area the Traverse Bay Children’s Advocacy Center serves. We discussed the process of survey instrument design, the findings from our Child Safety Survey, and the subsequent community data walk we conducted.
- **Throughout 2023:** After a meticulous interviewing and hiring process, we are working with MPHI (Michigan Public Health Institute) in Okemos to help us develop a comprehensive evaluation framework for our secondary and primary prevention efforts.



The title slide from the TBCAC’s presentation at 39th International Symposium on Child Abuse.



Teresa Lutke, Jourdan Dean, Jenna Baker, Reggie Noto, Melissa Socia, and Deanna Couture attend the 13th Annual Child Advocacy Center of MI Conference.

# Prevention Education

## Educating adults to keep kids safe

Making our vision of a world without abuse come true requires community support and education. TBCAC offers two types of child sexual abuse prevention training for FREE to youth serving organizations and parent groups throughout the Grand Traverse Region:

**Talk-Protect-Report™** is a 2-hour FREE evidence-informed child sexual abuse training program designed for adults in youth serving organizations and parents.

**Safe Team** is a FREE 1.5 hour evidence-informed child sexual abuse prevention training program specifically designed for team-based youth groups - customized training for students, coaches and parents.



To schedule a free training  
for your group, call  
(231) 929-4250



Physical Education and Health teachers from Northwest Education Services (formerly TBAISD) participated in TBCAC's child sexual abuse prevention education program Talk-Protect-Report™ (TPR).

# Shoutout to Supporters

## Organization & Foundation Support

In addition to hundreds of personal donations totaling nearly \$159K from caring people throughout the Grand Traverse Region, the generous support of several organizations and charitable foundations, TBCAC was able to scale operational resources to meet the growing demand for intervention, trauma therapy and prevention education services.

We are eternally grateful for the support shown by the following groups in Fiscal Year 2022/23:

Antrim County Sheriff's Office	Isenhardt Electric LLC
Aspire North Realtors	Jacob's Farm
Bay Life North	Kegley Family Foundation
Beers Family Foundation	Maidens of Michigan
Benzie County Child Abuse Prevention Council, Inc. Berkshire	Maritime Heritage Alliance
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Michigan	Michigan Division of Victim Services
Broad Family Foundation	Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation
Buddy Fund	Moomers Homemade Ice Cream
Children's Advocacy Center of Michigan	Morsels
Children Trust Michigan	National Children's Alliance
Clark Family Foundation	Network For Good
CyberGrants LLC	Newton's Road
Dean Transportation	Northwest Education Services
DeVries Designs, Inc.	Old Town Properties, LLC
Downtown Traverse City Association	Oleson Foundation
Eagles for Children	Oleson's Foods, Inc.
Ethanology Distillation	Oryana Food Cooperative, Inc
EXIT Realty Paramount	Power Book Bags
Family Fare Supermarket (Cadillac)	Preston Feather
First Congregational Church	Refuge Salvage & Salon
Fitzmaurice Garvin Insurance	Rehmann
Fortress Security	Rite Aid Foundation KidCents
Frey Foundation	Rotary Charities of Traverse City
Fustini's Oils & Vinegars	SendAFriend
Grand Bay Marine LLC	Short's Brewing Company
Grand Traverse Pie Company	Socks Construction
Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation	TBA Credit Union
Grand Traverse Resort and Spa	TC Community Quest
Great Turtle Toys	Transition Title Agency
Green Brick Foundation	Traverse Bay Modern Quilt Guild
Greenleaf Trust	Traverse City Optimist Club
Grocer's Daughter Chocolate	Traverse City Professional firefighters L646
Hamilton Community Foundation	Troy and Bobbi Scott Family Foundation
Hayden Foundation	Walstrom Marine LLC
Heritage Broadcasting	Wildfong Family Foundation
Honor Bank	Zonta Club of Traverse City
Independent Bank	






Circle of Friends  
2023

TBCAC hosted its first in-person Circle of Friends luncheon since the pandemic, where we highlighted our work in Northwest Michigan and raised over \$70,000 thanks to the generosity of our community. We're profoundly grateful for the support in creating a world in which all children are safe and thriving.



# Our MDT Partners

## Partners in child protection

Working hand-in-hand in the investigation, prosecution, and healing efforts when child abuse allegations are made, nearly 50 Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) organizations and school districts collaborate to protect and heal children throughout Northwest Michigan.

It is TBCAC's honor to partner with these organizations in finding hope, healing and justice for children who experience abuse or witness other acts of violence.



Pictured L-R: Det. Mike Bankey, LCSO; Tpr. John Hetfield, MSP and S/A Garrett Croon, FBI.

ACE Classrooms (Northwest Ed)  
Alba Public Schools  
Antrim County Prosecutor's Office  
Antrim County Sheriff's Office  
Bellaire Police Department  
Bellaire Public Schools  
Benzie County Central Schools  
Benzie County Prosecutor's Office  
Benzie County Sheriff's Office  
Bridge Way School  
Buckley Public Schools  
Cadillac Area Public Schools  
Cadillac Police Department  
Central Lake Police Department  
Crawford School- Excelsior District #1  
C.S. Mott Children's Hospital  
Elk Rapids Police Department  
Elk Rapids Schools  
Ellsworth Police Department  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Forest Area Public Schools  
Frankfort-Elberta Area Public Schools  
Frankfort Elementary Schools  
Frankfort Police Department  
Glen Lake Elementary School  
Glen Lake Secondary School  
Grand Traverse Academy  
Grand Traverse Band Police Department

Grand Traverse Band Anishnaabek Family Services  
Grand Traverse County Prosecutor's Office  
Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office  
Greenspire High School  
Kalkaska County Prosecutor's Office  
Kalkaska County Sheriff's Office  
Kalkaska Memorial Medical Center  
Kalkaska Village Police Department  
Leelanau County Prosecutor's Office  
Leelanau County Sheriff's Office  
Leland Public Schools  
Mancelona Police Department  
Manton Consolidated Schools  
Manton Police Department  
MI Department Health & Human Services  
Michigan State Police  
Muson Medical Center  
New Horizons  
Northport Public Schools  
Northwest Education Services Career Tech  
St. Ann School  
Sutton's Bay Elementary School  
Traverse City Area Public Schools  
Traverse City Police Department  
Trinity Lutheran School  
Wexford County Prosecutor's Office  
Wexford County Sheriff's Office  
Woodland School

“Children give me hope for a kinder, gentler and more loving tomorrow. Even in their greatest suffering, children somehow show us their strength, openness, and deep desire for healing.

When youth and families have the opportunity to work with empathic, safe, and knowledgeable professionals, like we are lucky to have at Traverse Bay Children’s Advocacy Center, healing and a brighter tomorrow are possible, even when the unthinkable has happened.”

**Elizabeth Carrillo**

TBCAC’s Director of Clinical Services



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