

# Child Advocacy Centers

Imagine you are six years old. You don't feel sick, but you are in the emergency room. The police are there. They ask you questions – questions you have already answered, about someone you trusted. Someone who hurt you. You feel like they don't believe you. You feel like you have done something wrong.

**It doesn't have to be this way.**

## **What is a CAC?**

At a co-located Child Advocacy Center (CAC), victims of child physical and sexual abuse and their families find the help they need - fast and in one location. The purpose of a CAC is to ensure that a child victim of abuse only has to tell his or her story one time, to one person.

The police, Assistant District Attorneys, medical professionals, counselors, and child protective caseworkers are all working together under one roof in a child-friendly environment that minimizes the emotional distress of disclosing abuse and begins the healing process from the moment the families step through the door.

## **How you can help children in your neighborhood:**

- ☀️ Donate children's clothes and toys.
- ☀️ Volunteer your time.
- ☀️ Give money.
- ☀️ Donate office supplies.
- ☀️ Write your legislature.

Child Advocacy Centers can be found in communities across the country. A great many of these facilities are underfunded and rely heavily on the generosity of private citizens. Most CACs welcome donations of children's items in good condition.



The National Children's Alliance, one of our Hope Shining partners, is a national association of more than 600 Children's Advocacy Centers nationwide.

Visit [www.nca-online.org](http://www.nca-online.org) to find a CAC near you!

To learn more about Hope shining, visit us online  
[www.hopeshining.org](http://www.hopeshining.org)