



**Dee Norton**  
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

# 2022 Impact Report



# A Year in Review

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for your continued belief in the life-changing work that happens every day at the Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center. Because of you, families in our community have a safe, child-friendly place to turn when the trauma of abuse is a concern.

The roller coaster of the pandemic continued in 2022. At Dee Norton, we experienced the greatest impact in January and February. Thankfully, as the spring approached, we began to see relief from the restrictions of the pandemic, and with guidance from MUSC Back2Business guidelines, we moved to “return to normal” operations at the beginning of April. By year-end we had seen 970 children and families come through our doors.

Although many questions or concerns remained in the air, the one thing that never wavered during this recent tumultuous time has been our focus on the child and the family. Dee Norton has always approached the issue of child trauma holistically. Our work involves supporting the child and the caregivers and working collaboratively with our community partners. While the abuse is perpetrated on the child, the trauma can impact the whole family. We know that caregivers are key to how a child may assimilate the trauma, and that increased engagement with the caregiver from the beginning provides the greatest opportunity for the best outcomes for the child and family.

I am grateful for each of you and the role you play in making sure every child and family has access to all they need to move beyond the trauma. You may not see the children and families you help—but through your support, you stand alongside them, providing protection and healing.

While the work is complex and challenging, together we are changing the world, one child at a time. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Beverly Hutchison  
Executive Director



Lane Ballard  
2022-2023 Board Chair

Each of us has the power to make a difference in the life of a child. Learn more about how to report concerns of abuse by visiting [deenortoncenter.org/protect](https://deenortoncenter.org/protect).



# What We Do

The Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center is a safe, child-friendly place to turn when there is a concern about abuse. Our full-spectrum approach ensures that every single person has the resources they need to help every single child. Because our children give us everything, we believe they deserve everything in return.

## What is a CAC?

Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) are a national model for the multidisciplinary, collaborative response when there is a concern for abuse. CACs bring together social services, law enforcement, prosecutors, and medical and mental health professionals to provide a coordinated, comprehensive response for victims and their caregivers. As an Accredited CAC by the National Children’s Alliance, the Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center has demonstrated adherence to standards designed to improve the community’s response to allegations of child abuse.

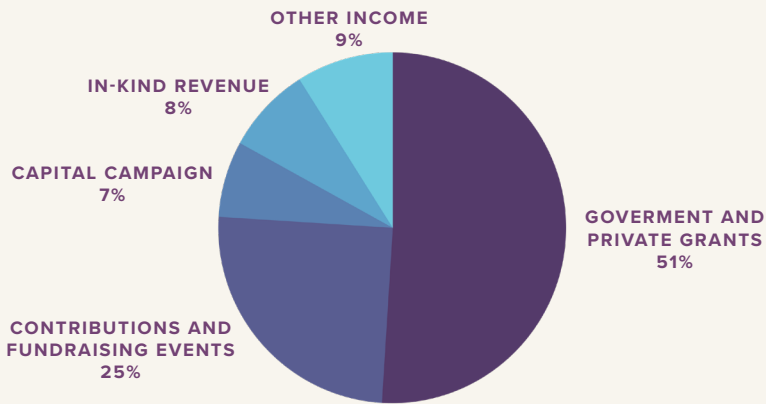
## 2022 Impact

### BY THE NUMBERS

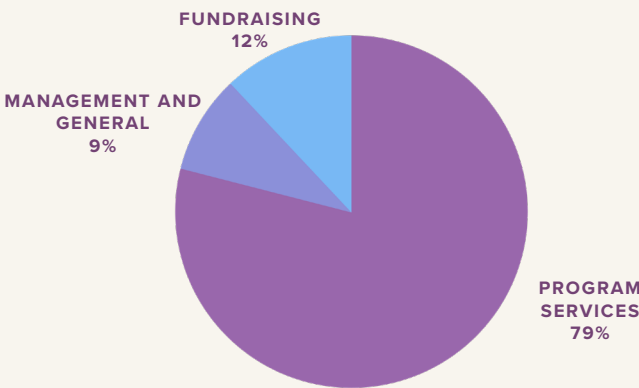
|                 |                     |  |   |   |                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------|--|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 970             | 844                 | 138  | 400   | 570                                     | 1,836                           |
| CHILDREN HELPED | FORENSIC INTERVIEWS | MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS FOR 134 CHILDREN | MEDICAL EXAMS<br><i>(Appointments for 394 children)</i> | THERAPY SESSIONS<br><i>(Child Only)</i> | COMMUNITY PROFESSIONALS TRAINED |

## Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Financials

### Revenue - \$3,559,827



### Expenses - \$4,190,626





# Prevent Abuse

## Changing Lives

Cara Lynn Cannon began her leadership in the community while raising her family in Spartanburg. She and her husband Chris were involved in many civic organizations over the years and Cara Lynn developed a skill set for fundraising events—creating, planning and leading them. She spent so much time involved in these events that her children would say she worked in the Auditorium. After moving to the Charleston area full-time, she sought out opportunities to give back in her new home community and found the Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center.

Starting out on the Dinner Auction Committee in 2018, Cannon continued her leadership as chair of the Dinner Auction Committee in 2019 and 2020. She joined the Board of Directors in 2020. While she says that usually her husband, Chris, is typically the board member from their family—she’s enjoying serving and seeing the difference Dee Norton is making from another angle.

For Cannon, she says what is most important to her is not just the dollars that are raised, but the feelings that come around them. She fondly recalls being at the Dinner Auction and witnessing ‘Raise the Paddle’ begin as we talk about what we do at Dee Norton. “You see everyone raise their paddles—and it’s all for the right reasons. You just don’t often get the opportunity to see a crowd so moved by what they are hearing that they continue to give and give. It was humbling to witness everyone doing the right thing. When we reached the million-dollar goal (for the first time) it was beautiful!”



“It is your job in life to give. I was raised by the best people. They taught me it (giving) wasn’t just financial—it was talents. It doesn’t matter what you give, it’s your job to give to those less fortunate or those who can’t do what you can do.”

– Cara Lynn Cannon

## Impact on Prevention

Childhood should be carefree and safe from harm. In 2022, 1,836 community professionals gained the tools through prevention training to make that eight-word statement a reality.

If you ask our Education Coordinator what makes our trainings impactful, she will tell you that the key is creating a non-judgmental space where people from all walks of life, different cultures and diverse backgrounds can feel safe to ask the questions they need to ask to better understand child abuse in our community. The trainings give the attendees the skills and words needed to create a safe space and to become a safe person for children in their lives.

With the foundation of understanding safety, there are additional lessons to learned: abuse does not always mean a failure by caregivers to protect; believing a person they trusted could hurt someone they love can be hard; and while your heart and your mind may disagree, your gut is rarely wrong. Lastly, there is hope.

With prevention, we have the power to change the world one child at a time. Small acts of kindness combined with knowledge lead to great acts of change.



## JARROD’S STORY

While doing an exercise on healthy and unhealthy relationships during a prevention training—a teen, Jarrod\*, created a list based on unhealthy behaviors and began to check them off. Following the presentation, the teen asked our Education Coordinator for guidance when he realized that he was isolated from his friends and felt no one believed in him. They then had a conversation and ultimately went to the counselor at the school for resources and support. While Jarrod was at the cusp of 18—Dee Norton worked with him to give him the tools to move forward.



*\*Name and details changed to ensure confidentiality*

## Did you know?

**Our Facility Dogs Braelynn and Viper were used in Forensic Interviews this year for the first time!**





# Protect Children

## Thank You

Since 2015, reported cases of child trafficking across the Lowcountry have grown by more than 12 times. Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center is integral in the community response to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), commonly referred to as child sex trafficking.

With funding from a three-year grant from the Office for Victims of Crime in support of the tremendous need for services in our community, Dee Norton will continue to deliver services to at least 200 youth over the next three years. Dee Norton is also able to provide trainings for more than 150 professionals in how to identify those most at risk for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), commonly referred to as child sex trafficking.

The target population for the proposed project is youth from birth to age 18 who are suspected to be, or confirmed victims of, CSEC in our service region. Consistent with OVC funded initiatives, the proposed project will implement an innovative, coordinated intervention that leverages partnerships with key governmental and private victim-serving agencies. This is the third consecutive round of funding we have received for Improving Multidisciplinary Partnerships to Address Child Trafficking (IMPACT) from OVC.

Dee Norton and the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) are committed to enhancing the capacity to assist crime victims and to provide leadership in changing practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime. Since our inception with the Office for Victims of Crime in 2016, more than 75 youth and children disclosed CSEC and were seen to begin their journey into their little wins and healing.

**THANK YOU TO THE OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME FOR HELPING US TO PROVIDE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH TOWARDS JUSTICE AND HEALING.**

## Impact on Protecting

The 2022 Annual Report released by one of our partners, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, found that nearly 96% of the human trafficking cases seen in South Carolina were minors. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), commonly referred to as child sex trafficking, refers to a range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for anything of value (including monetary and non-monetary benefits) given or received by any person.

Dee Norton's IMPACT (Improving Multidisciplinary Partnerships to Address Child Trafficking) Program assisted 31 confirmed child and youth victims of trafficking in addition to serving 52 youth identified as being suspected victims, or at-risk, of trafficking in 2022. Like other types of child abuse, often the first sign or symptom of CSEC is the child or youth disclosing. Children who are exposed to violence, exposed to substance abuse, have unstable or no housing, have unexplained luxuries or cash, have repeatedly run away or are truant have a higher risk of being exploited by perpetrators.

To truly address CSEC in our community, we as a community must first be willing to see the situation for what it is. A child cannot give consent. Most often, traffickers prey on at-risk children, using coercion and mental manipulation. The internet has opened another vehicle for child victimization, with social media and online chat rooms. No matter how trafficking presents itself in the Lowcountry, we are there to advocate for, and support, the youth from the first point of contact.

Office for Victims of Crime  
**OVC**



## JACQUELINE'S STORY

When Jacqueline\* was brought to our center, she believed the word trust—was just that, a word. Jacqueline was a lonely teenager who had been acting as a sole caretaker of her little brother Benjamin. Once promised a safer and happier life in Charleston, that all came to an end when their parents were deported. After moving in with their uncle, Jacqueline recalled him as attentive and caring at first until he began spending his time and money at a local bar rather than with them at home. Seeking solace in social media, she befriended who she thought was a 15-year-old boy. She thought trust was building, when he started to send her cash through apps to, as he said, “get something that made her smile.” So when he asked her to go to a party, she was flattered.

Following many late nights, Jacqueline's teacher took notice of her exhaustion and new attire—reporting her concerns to DSS. Her response when asked about the new clothes were they were gifts but refused to say from whom. DSS contacted law enforcement and Dee Norton. Once at Dee Norton, Jacqueline was still unwilling to share any information about these gifts or the “boy she had met online.” She could not bring herself to trust the system. Our Youth Advocate offered Jacqueline her contact information for when and if she was ready to talk.

When things got worse at her uncle's house, she ran. After Jacqueline had been missing for a few days, she reached out to our Youth Advocate to let her know that she was safe, and she had food, shelter and clothes. The check-ins and conversation continued between Jacqueline and Dee Norton until she revealed her location and was ready to move into foster care, where her needs could be met in full. With the youth, it is the small wins of contact and trust that become the big wins!

*\*Name and details changed to ensure confidentiality*

## Did you know?

Dee Norton attends community events like Farmers Markets and the Charleston RiverDogs Games—come see us!



# Heal Families

## Thank You

For the Butlers, their story with Dee Norton begins ahead of the pandemic at the 2020 Dinner Auction in February. After hearing about the services provided at Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center that night and feeling the electricity in the room—Paul and Molly found the center valuable and local. “You hear all these stories, and hopefully my children won’t need it but it’s there if they do. Or if they have friends who come to them. They have been to Dee Norton, have taken the tour and learned about what happens there, so if friends come to them, they know that there is a place that can help. When we decided to sponsor Braelynn, the Facility Dog at Dee Norton, we knew that there was an impact.”

The family said they had a friend who had complications during birth and the friend’s son was delivered with a life expectancy of 2 years. He lived to 16 years old. At one point, his family enlisted the help of a service animal that would go to school with the child. The Butlers recall the positive role the dog played in their friends’ lives. Paul said, “dogs fill a spot and place that humans can’t.”

Paul said when investing in organizations, he feels there’s a responsibility to open people’s eyes—which includes their own children’s. “There is an obligation and a responsibility whether it is donating money or just showing up and helping where you can. What you guys see on a daily basis is very different than what we experience and what our kids see here. But we have a daughter who is going off to college in a couple of years and she will be faced with things that she has not faced before and she needs to know what is right, what is wrong, what to do if there is a problem, who to talk to, or that you should talk about it and get help. They know that there is a place that they can go.”



**“We want to be  
partners with  
organizations.”**  
THE BUTLERS

## Impact on Healing

The goal of disseminating evidence-supported treatments throughout the state of South Carolina so that every child who has experienced trauma has access to evidence-based treatment is becoming a reality through Project BEST. Through funding from the Duke Endowment, Project BEST is co-led by the Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center and the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center of the Medical University of South Carolina.



Started in 2007, the effort was initially spearheaded by Elizabeth Ralston, Ph.D. (the Founding Executive Director of Dee Norton) in collaboration with Benjamin E. Saunders, Ph.D. (Professor Emeritus, MUSC) to deliver trainings in TF-CBT (Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) through learning collaboratives across South Carolina. Since then, Project BEST has continued to make training in other evidence-based treatments available using this same dissemination method including training in Problematic Sexual Behavior-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (PSB-CBT), Alternatives for Families Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (AF-CBT) and Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT). Most recently, Project BEST has begun delivering training that provides skills to helping professionals to lessen the impact of secondary traumatic stress on their own well-being and improve their ability to sustain a career at a trauma professional—Components for Enhancing Career Experience and Reducing Trauma (CE-CERT).

Rooted in collaboration—Project BEST laid strong foundation for promoting collaboration across the spectrum of agencies serving child abuse victims, working with both the mental health professionals who deliver EBT and agencies in the child welfare system that refer child victims. Such collaboration has been identified as critical for enhancing access and successful completion of mental health treatments.

In 2022, 1,109 clinicians were rostered with Project BEST, meaning they completed didactic clinical training, the required training cases, and participated in consultation calls. Since its inception, Project BEST has trained over 1,143 mental health professionals and 330 child welfare staff.

“

**“As for all of your incredibly knowledgeable support and guidance throughout this TF-CBT training process, thanks again for that! I feel very grateful to have had you as both a trainer and group call coach!! Your great expertise and collaborative approach have been appreciated beyond measure.” (TF-CBT Training)**

**“Absolutely LOVED the training and would want all clinicians and those in any helping position come through this. This was one of the best trainings I have ever attended in my life!” (CE-CERT Training)**

*\*Names removed to ensure confidentiality*



# Thank You

## To Our Partners

BERKELEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
CHARLESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CHARLESTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS (FBI)  
FOLLY BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SULLIVAN'S ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT  
GOOSE CREEK POLICE DEPARTMENT  
HANAHAH POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ISLE OF PALMS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
U.S. MARSHALLS OFFICE  
THE CHARLESTON CENTER

MONCKS CORNER POLICE DEPARTMENT  
MOUNT PLEASANT POLICE DEPARTMENT  
NORTH CHARLESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION (SLED)

CHARLESTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
BERKELEY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS CENTER  
THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
9TH CIRCUIT SOLICITOR'S OFFICE OF BERKELEY  
9TH CIRCUIT SOLICITOR'S OFFICE OF CHARLESTON  
WINDWOOD FAMILY SERVICES  
CAROLINA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER

# To Our Volunteers

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ALEX WINTERS

## Hope Grows Here Auction Committee

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CARA LYNN CANNON  
JESSICA DANIEL  
AMY DAVIDSON  
CHRISTY DURBIN  
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STACY SMALLWOOD  
JOHN WALSH  
SILVIA WARING  
KATI WINTERS, *CO-CHAIR*  
JESSICA YARBOROUGH, *CO-CHAIR*

# 2022 Events

## APRIL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

April is recognized nationally as Child Abuse Prevention Month, a month where communities are reminded that a childhood should be carefree and safe from harm. In 2022, thanks to the generosity of our corporate partner JEAR Logistics, we were able to engage with the community through strategic digital and print marketing, media interviews, speaking engagements and community event participation. We are grateful for Mayor John Tecklenburg of the City of Charleston and Mayor Will Haynie of Mount Pleasant for their continued support in taking the pledge to prevent abuse and declaring our towns and cities as Pinwheel Cities.

## HOPE GROWS HERE 2022

On May 5th, 270 guests gathered to attend our annual Hope Grows Here Dinner Auction. It was an incredible evening of inspiration, connection, hope and generosity. In one night, a community came together to fund life-changing protection and healing for more than 681 children.

We are so thankful for our donors, table hosts, auction committee and for our sponsors: Blair and Teddy Turner, The Cedar Room Partners, Yarborough Applegate Law Firm, Anchor Sign, Boeing, Volvo, and Hill Construction for making this evening possible.





# 2022 Donors

Our mission to prevent abuse, protect children and heal families would not be possible without your support. Thank you to the following donors who invested in our work in 2022.

167 Raw  
5th Street Group  
Mr. and Mrs. Todd M. Aaron  
Abide-a-While Garden Center  
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Anglin Smith Fine Art  
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Bright Start  
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**1 in 5**  
**CHILDREN**  
**EXPERIENCED CHILD**  
**ABUSE OR NEGLECT IN**  
**OUR COMMUNITY**

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In memory of Lois Smoot, Catherine Eason's  
mother

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Mr. and Mrs. Charley Hodges  
Mr. and Mrs. Pat Hogan  
Hollipop's  
Holy City Tennis Shop  
Home Team BBQ  
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In memory of Lois Smoot, Catherine Eason's  
mother

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**CHILDREN REFERRED**  
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**TRAFFICKING**

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J. Henry Stuhr, Inc  
J.H. Walker Legacy Foundation  
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Jane Pope Jewelry  
Jane Smith Turner Foundation  
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Fund of the CCF  
John and Jo Ann Middleton  
John Anthony Vineyards  
Johnson & Johnson, Inc.  
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Jordan Lash  
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Jorgensen  
Joseph J. Schott Foundation  
Mrs. Jacquelyn Joye  
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Ms. Rosalyn Keels  
Keely Sells LLC  
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Mr. and Mrs. Michael Koon  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas G. Korte  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Korte  
Ms. Julia Kundert  
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Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc. of the Holy  
Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
Ladies Philoptochos Society  
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Ms. Francine LaPointe  
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Le Farfalle  
Mr. and Mrs. James Ledlie  
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Mr. and Mrs. William D. Swails  
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Health Services Administration  
U.S. Department of Justice, Office for  
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*Every effort has been made to accurately  
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cprzetak@deenortoncenter.org if you note any  
errors or omissions.*

Child abuse does  
not define who a  
child is—or who  
they become.





## Downtown Location

1061 King Street  
Charleston, SC 29403

## Mount Pleasant Location

677 Long Point Road  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

## Contact

P: (843) 723-3600

F: (843) 720-7106

[deenortoncenter.org](http://deenortoncenter.org)



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Charleston, SC 29403