



DURANT
CHILDREN'S
CENTER

"The House Where Healing Begins"

Planting A Seed of Hope



in **WILLIAMSBURG
COUNTY**

WHAT IS A CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER?

Nationally, children's advocacy centers (CAC) have been created to reduce the trauma to child abuse victims caused by the investigative process, to facilitate healing, and to hold accountable those who commit crimes against children more effectively. All CACs start with the idea that no single agency or professional alone can prevent and treat the problem of child abuse. A multi-disciplinary response is necessary. It brings together all of the professionals and agencies needed to provide comprehensive services:

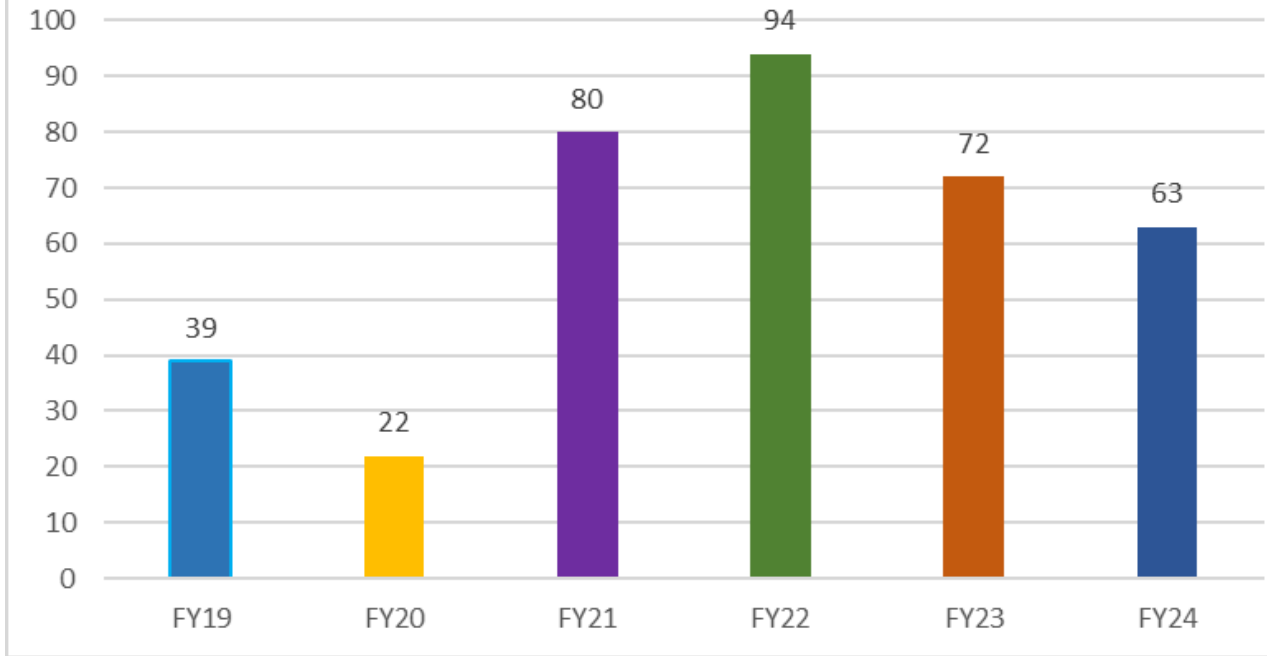
- Law enforcement (Sheriff's Office and Police Departments)
- Child protective services (Department of Social Services)
- Prosecution (Third Circuit Solicitor's Office)
- Victim advocacy (CAC)
- Mental Health Services (CAC, Private Practitioners, WMHC)
- Medical community (CAC, MUSC Williamsburg County)
- Schools (Williamsburg County)

The SC Gap Map indicates that the counties of the 3rd Judicial Circuit are covered by Durant Children's Center's Third Circuit Satellite in Sumter (SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers.) However, parts of Williamsburg County are more than an hour's drive to Sumter and Florence. Ideally, children should reside less than an hour's drive from a fully operative CAC.

Thus, the Durant Children's Center's Third Judicial Circuit Satellite for Williamsburg County needs to be established in Kingstree to serve Williamsburg County. The SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers has endorsed this effort, which will be a community collaborative led by Pee Dee Coalition.

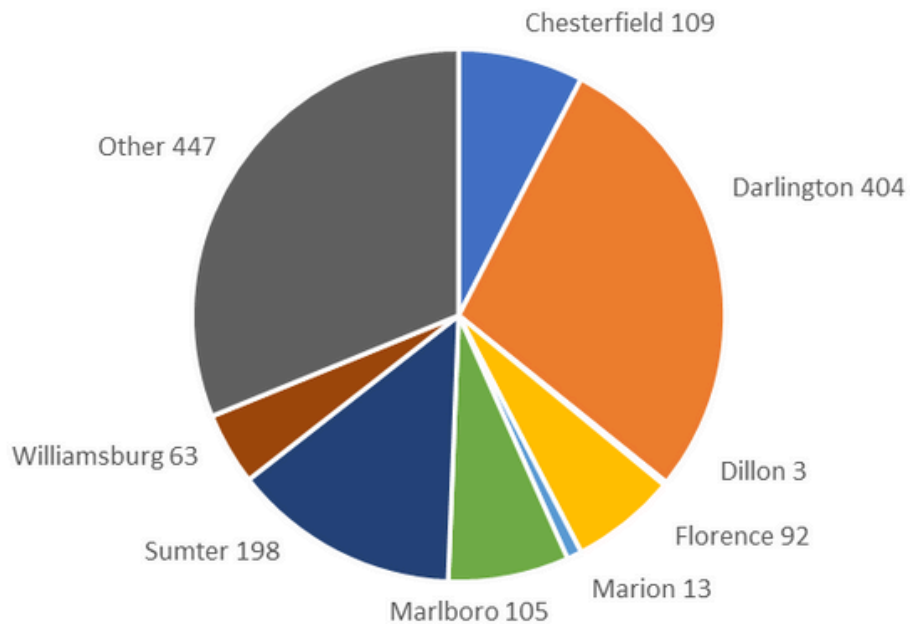


**WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY CHILDREN ASSISTED AT DURANT
[JULY 2018-JUNE 2024]**



During FY24, the Durant Staff completed 40 medical exams and 37 forensic interviews for children from Williamsburg County. These children received services at the Durant Children’s Center in either Sumter or Florence.

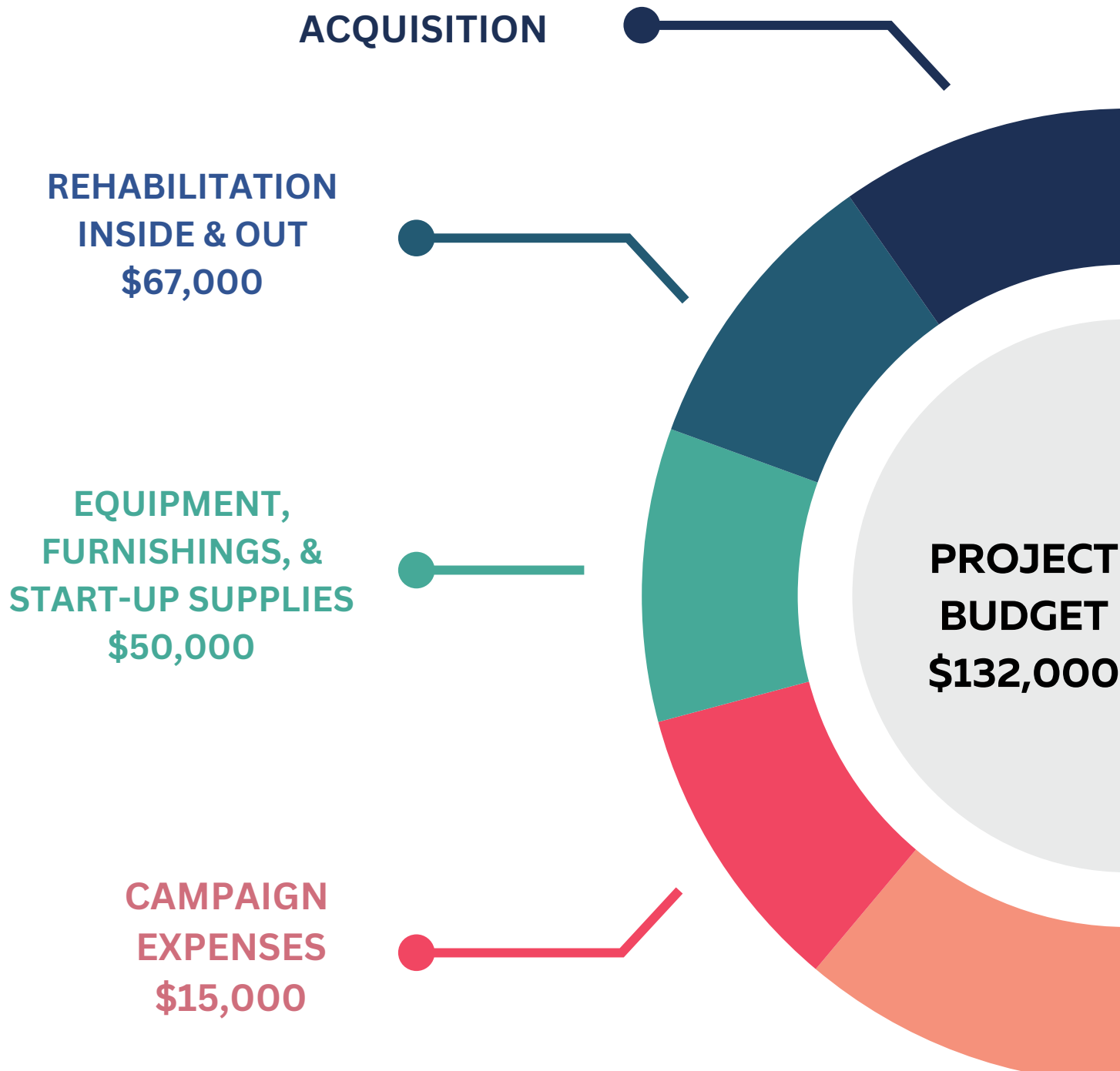
**FISCAL YEAR 24 TOTAL CHILDREN
ASSISTED BY DURANT CHILDREN’S CENTER**



PEE DEE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

DURANT CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER IN WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY

Planting A Seed of Hope





ROOM FUNCTIONALITY

FAMILY ADVOCACY

Throughout the assessment and treatment process, the Family Advocate seeks to identify specific needs of the family that can be addressed or coordinated through referrals to other Pee Dee Coalition programs or to other community agencies. The advocates work to remove barriers and help families navigate the system.

FORENSIC INTERVIEW

Conducted by certified forensic inter-viewers whose primary purpose is to determine facts about the alleged abuse. Interviews are recorded using video technology. Professionals involved in the investigative process may observe the interviews through a one-way mirror and utilize an earbud to speak with the interviewer if clarification is needed.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION & TREATMENT

A comprehensive health care evaluation for children suspected of having been physically or sexually abused. A qualified Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or a Physician who has specialized training provides this detailed forensic evaluation.

TRAUMA-FOCUSED THERAPY

May be provided on-site for children and their non-offending parents, individually and in a group setting. The therapist (either LISW or LPC) has the training and experience required to help abused children heal from the emotional damages of the trauma they have experienced.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM (MDT)

Under the leadership of the Center's Directors, community professionals meet to review and staff cases. The case review begins with information from the Center's forensic interviewers and medical staff. The sharing of critical information enables all professionals involved in the review process to make an informed case determination and to provide for the protection and treatment of the child and his/her family.



ELIZABETH PETTIGREW DURANT'S CHILDREN'S CENTER

HISTORY

- Task force organized in 1989
- 2nd CAC established in SC, Durant Children's Center, opened in Florence in 1994
- 4th Judicial Circuit Satellite established in Hartsville in 2009
- 3rd Judicial Circuit Satellite established in Sumter in 2020
- Serving eight counties and accepts overflow from other CACs in the state if no appointments are available in their area. No child is ever turned away.

PURPOSE

- To lessen the trauma of child physical or sexual abuse by supporting the victim through a coordinated multidisciplinary response
- To provide a comprehensive assessment for children suspected of having been maltreated, thereby centralizing the services and reducing the trauma experienced by the child
- To provide a safe, child-friendly place where agency representatives and/or professionals can interact with the child in a safe, child-friendly environment.



****Fully Accredited by the National Children's Alliance**



THEME

The Durant Children's Center Satellite in Kingstree will 'Plant A Seed of Hope' for children primarily in the Third Judicial Circuit.

MISSION

Established in 1986, Pee Dee Coalition is dedicated to the reduction of sexual assault, family violence, and child abuse and to meeting the needs of victims.

VISION

Through the efforts of Pee Dee Coalition in its entirety, the region will be a safer, more compassionate community.

CASE STATEMENT

Child Abuse is a community problem requiring a community solution. Whether it is physical, mental, emotional, or sexual abuse, most people are not aware that child abuse and neglect occur at alarming rates and that children may have to share their experiences over and over with numerous professionals who are involved in the case, such as law enforcement, prosecutors, social service workers, medical professionals, victim advocates, and mental health professionals. This process can be both frightening and painful, as well as traumatize a child who has already suffered so much. Children's Advocacy Centers, such as the Durant Children's Center, are designed to change that experience by providing a coordinated effort where the child is interviewed just once by a specially trained forensic interviewer at the Center in a "child-friendly environment."

The need for such a Center in Williamsburg County to serve the 3rd Judicial Circuit is crucial. These numbers do not indicate the full extent of the prevalence of child abuse and neglect in Williamsburg County as well as in the other counties since it is historically under-reported. It is estimated that abuse occurs at a rate three times higher than reported! (Statewide, in 2023, there were 16,969 reports of child abuse or neglect). The Durant Children's Center assisted 369 children from Williamsburg County during the past 3 years. Children and their families had to travel to Durant in Sumter or Florence to access the services.

The need for a collaborative effort is apparent. Children who are victims of physical and sexual abuse, or witnesses to Domestic Violence require services from multiple systems. To reduce the trauma to the child and facilitate the healing process, the Durant Children's Center Satellite in Kingstree will provide child-sensitive forensic interviews, medical evaluations, therapeutic intervention, victim advocacy and support, multidisciplinary case reviews, and ongoing case tracking. All of these services will be provided in one child-friendly, centrally located center.

Campaign Goal: \$50,000

Purpose of Campaign: To renovate and provide equipment and furnishings for the site at 119 Hampton Street in Kingstree, SC, and provide operating funds for the first year.

Acquisition and Insurance - Renovations: Interior and Exterior - Equipment and Furnishings - Campaign Expenses



CONTACT

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Pee Dee Coalition

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**PEE DEE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC
AND SEXUAL ASSAULT
ANNUAL GIFT CLUB LEVELS**

**VISIONARY SOCIETY
\$10,000 +**

**PRESIDENT'S SOCIETY
\$5,000 - \$9,999**

**LEADERSHIP CLUB
\$1,000 - \$4,999**

**ADVOCATES CLUB
\$500 - \$999**

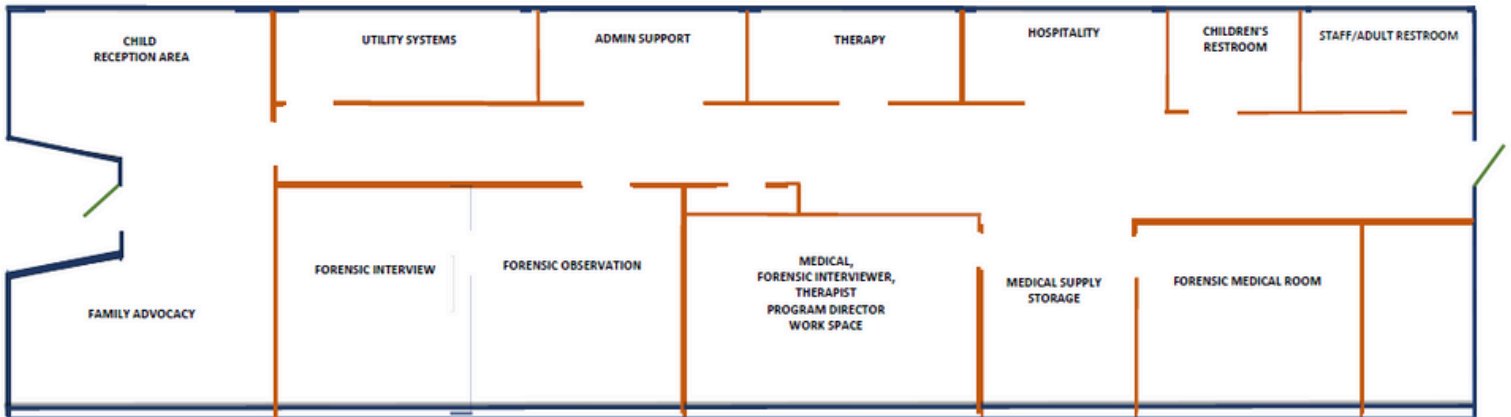
**CENTURY CLUB
\$100 - \$499**

**GRASSROOTS CLUB
\$1 - \$99**



FLOOR PLAN

119 HAMPTON AVENUE, KINGSTREE, SC 29556



CHILD RECEPTION AREA

FORENSIC OBSERVATION

CHILDREN'S RESTROOM

FAMILY ADVOCACY

THERAPY

FORENSIC MEDICAL ROOM

UTILITY SYSTEMS

WORKSPACE

STAFF/ADULT RESTROOM

FORENSIC INTERVIEW

HOSPITALITY

ADMIN SUPPORT

MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE



Serving Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, and Williamsburg Counties, Pee Dee Coalition is dedicated to the reduction of sexual assault, family violence, and child abuse and to meeting the needs of victims.

Florence:	226 S. Irby Street	(843) 664-4357
Hartsville:	510 W. Carolina Avenue	(843) 332-9299
Sumter:	411 N. Salem Avenue	(803) 757-1570
Kingstree:	119A Hampton Ave	(844)540-1889

Elizabeth Pettigrew Durant's Children's Center
A program of Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault
PO Box 1351
Florence, SC 29503-1351