



Tomorrow begins today



CARE
HOUSE
Child Advocacy Center



Children

The promise of tomorrow...
Because tomorrow begins today.

Five years after being established in Montgomery County, CARE House is now a fully integrated part of the child protection system in our community. An accredited member of the National Children's Alliance (NCA), CARE House provides a unique response to child victims of abuse and their family members. Over 2,400 children have been served since our doors were first opened in January 1999. These children have benefited from the coordinated, multidisciplinary response the advocacy center provides.

CARE House is recognized as the model for best practice in the investigation and prosecution of the most serious cases of child abuse. The commitment to this initiative remains strong. The strength and expertise of the specially trained multidisciplinary investigative team is reflected by the success we have experienced in prosecuting these challenging cases. Partnering with the medical and mental health community ensures that children who come to CARE House are linked with services to promote their recovery.

As we proudly share our accomplishments of this past year, we enthusiastically face the challenges of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Libby Nicholson, MSSW, LISW

Director

CARE House

Mathias H. Heck, Jr.

Prosecuting Attorney

Chair, Executive Steering Committee



Dear Friends,

Mission

The mission of CARE House is to provide a multidisciplinary team response to child abuse for the purpose of protecting and supporting children and their nonoffending family members, holding offenders accountable, and educating the community.

Vision

CARE House will be the community leader and model for the multidisciplinary team approach to addressing and preventing child abuse.

Team

The CARE House team is made up of social workers, doctors, therapists, prosecuting attorneys, victim advocates, child protection workers, detectives from all law enforcement agencies throughout Montgomery County and other professionals. CARE House is a community collaborative — we all have a role to play in ending the cycle of abuse.

What happens at CARE House?

- Child forensic interviews
- Medical evaluations
- Therapeutic intervention
- Victim support/advocacy
- Interagency case review
- Prosecutorial services
- Community education

A stylized letter 'C' logo. The letter is white with a green outline and a green circle in the center, set against a green square background.

COLLABORATION

Working together to help ensure children are kept from further harm

A stylized letter 'A' logo. The letter is white with a blue outline, set against a blue square background.

ADVOCACY

Voicing the need for change to stop the cycle of abuse

A stylized letter 'R' logo. The letter is white with a red outline, set against a red square background.

RESPONSE

Providing an immediate, comprehensive response to child abuse victims

A stylized letter 'E' logo. The letter is white with a yellow outline, set against a yellow square background.

EDUCATION

Educating the community to better recognize, respond to and prevent child maltreatment

Comments from our families...

Thank you!



- *What a wonderful program! It is nice to see many agencies collaborating for the benefit of the family.*
- *My kids loved the teddy bears they picked out--it made them feel really special. Thank you!*
- *I'm so glad there is a place like this.*
- *Everyone was wonderful. All staff were sensitive and supportive. Information provided was very helpful.*
- *Thank you for being there for us.*

What our community partners have to say...

- *We are fortunate to have an organization such as CARE House within our greater Miami Valley community.*
- *I have had a couple of cases with CARE House and I can't tell you how good I felt about the help my complainant received.*
- *CARE House is an asset to our community.*

Volunteers at CARE House

Volunteers at CARE House play a special role on the team. Thanks to their generous gift of time and energy, we are able to make the advocacy center a better place for kids. During 2003-2004, our volunteers gave 355 hours of valuable service at the advocacy center. Whether engaging children in play activities, performing clerical duties or general upkeep and yard work, our volunteers help us provide the best possible service to the children and families that visit the advocacy center.

Special thanks to the following volunteers for their contribution during fiscal year 2003-2004:

Dave Ames	Sherry Eaton	Kristin Ligus	Meredith Quiqley	Yasmin Waring
Theresa Becker	Jennifer Huscroft	Melissa Mowery	Jenny Voss	Carrie Wise
Staci Corporal	Casey Hunnicutt	Diana Poole		

Our statistics



In 2003, CARE House coordinated services for 504 of the most serious cases of child abuse in our community. The following statistics reflect the types of cases coordinated by the advocacy center, age breakdown of victims and a five-year comparison of the number of children receiving services at CARE House. The volume of children being seen at CARE House demonstrates the seriousness of child maltreatment right here in our own backyard.

TYPES OF ABUSE

Sexual	420
Physical	62
Neglect	19
Other	3

Total Number of Children Served.....504

AGES OF CHILDREN

0-6 yr	189
7-12 yr	205
13-18+	110

Total Number of Children Served.....504

PERPETRATOR'S RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD

Other Known Person	128
Other Relative	153
Parent/Stepparent.....	170
Parent's Boy-/Girlfriend	52
Stranger.....	1
Identity Not Disclosed.....	23

AGE OF PERPETRATOR'S

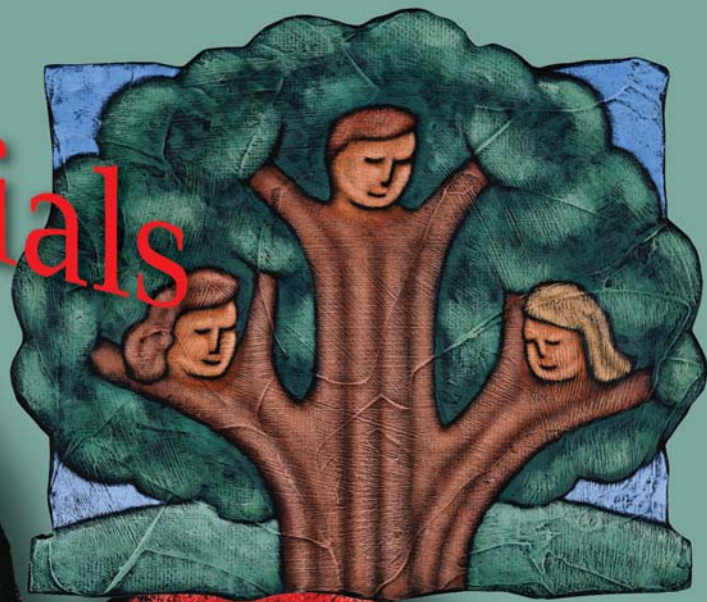
Age 18+	375
Age 13-17	78
Under 13	51
Not Indicated	23

FIVE-YEAR COMPARASON

1999	389
2000	445
2001	520
2002	488
2003	504

Total Number of Children Served2346

Our financials



Montgomery
County
Children
Services

47.72%

Gifts and
Contributions
18.42%

The
Children's
Medical
Center
In-Kind
17.01%

Victims of
Crime Act
12.33%

Miscellaneous Funding
1.26%

National Children's
Alliance
3.26%

Looking ahead...

Now a fully integrated part of the child protection system in Montgomery County, CARE House is working toward the prevention of child maltreatment in our community. In 2004, CARE House began developing and implementing a child abuse prevention program, and added a prevention specialist to our staff. Please contact CARE House at 937-512-1670 for more information on our latest initiative.



Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow....

Accomplishments: Five years and going strong....

- Provided services to over 2,400 children
- All members of our on-site investigative team specially trained in the forensic interviewing of children
- CARE House social worker trained as a child forensic interviewer
- Child abuse prevention specialist hired to develop and implement prevention program
- Fifth Annual CARE House Conference held on interdisciplinary investigations of child abuse cases
- Funding secured to support CARE House programming
- Mat Heck, Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney, elected to the Board of Directors of the National Children's Alliance

Challenges: Without challenges, we couldn't be champions for children....

- Changing leadership of partner agencies
- Continued support of the community
- Sustaining the multidisciplinary team
- Long-term funding and facilities plan
- Putting an end to child abuse

Sitting in the emergency room of The Children's Medical Center of Dayton on December 4, 2002, I remember feeling that this has to be the worst day of my life. My husband and I will never forget hearing the words, Shaken Baby syndrome, come out of the physician's mouth as he spoke of our son. Emotions overcame us. How could this be? Would our son live or die? What would his future hold? All of these questions and dozens more flooded our thoughts as we watched his life hang in the balance.

Approximately six days later, our one-time friend and sitter confessed to the horrible crime of shaking our son on two separate occasions. By now, we had been introduced to the grueling process of the legal system. I think that the trial and all that preceded it would have been more unbearable had it not been for CARE House and its amazing staff. From the victim advocate, to the detective and the prosecutors, each person kept our son as their focus and worked hard to seek justice for him in every way. Our family grew close to those who advocated on our behalf, and this bond endures still two years later. Despite his severe injuries, we continue to see miracles in his life. The progress he is making is beyond what some doctors ever thought was possible. We can't say enough about the support and professionalism that was shown to us at CARE House and we are so thankful that they were there in our time of crisis.

— *Cari C. Maynard*
Will's Mom

A parent's story...



Our Generous Contributors

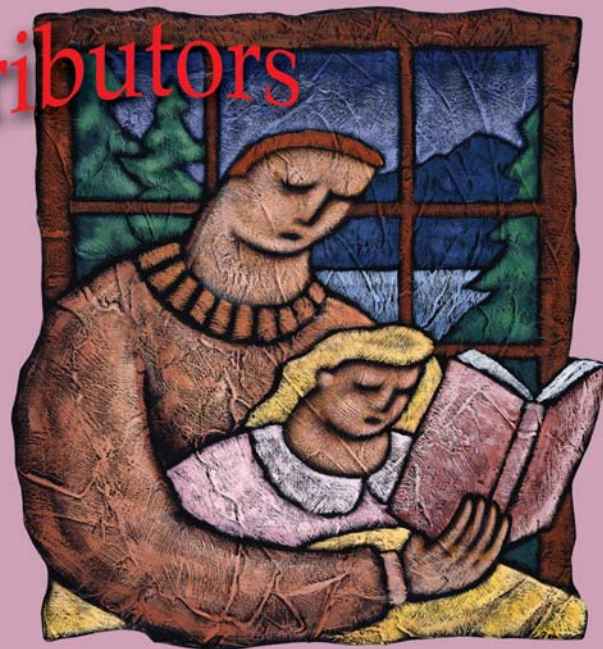
The following individuals, corporations and organizations made a gift to CARE House from January 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. Thanks to all of our donors for their wonderful generosity. Please forgive any omissions as they are unintentional.

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Air Combat Command Systems
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Anonymous donation on behalf of
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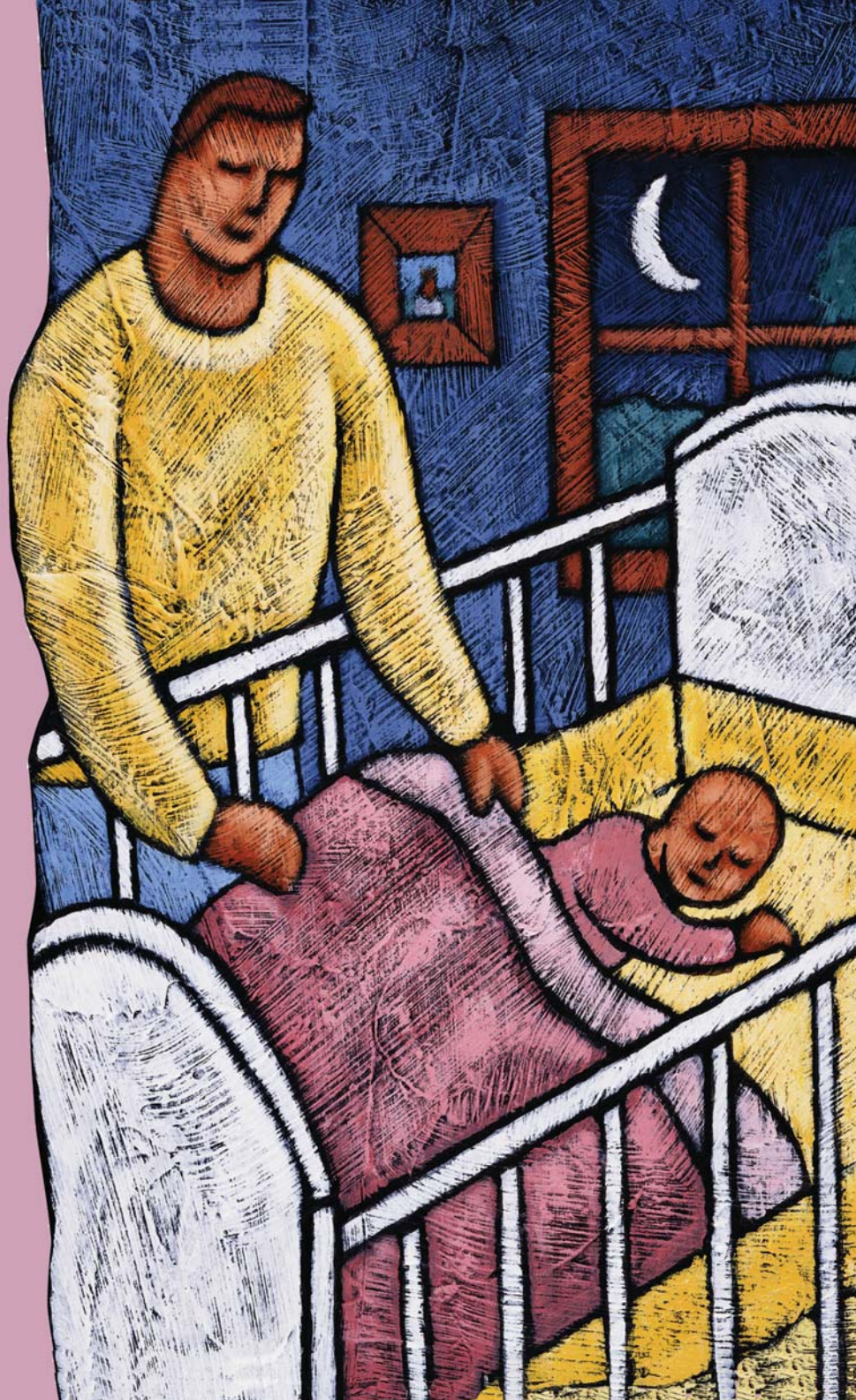
In-kind Contributions

Alpha Epsilon Delta,
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ASC/EN, WPAFB
Staci Alcorn
Brad Baugh
Judy Bell
Connie Bethel
Brownie Troop #1902
Sondra Campbell and Family



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Girl Scout Troop #1369
Girl Scout Troop #1876
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Our 2003 annual report