



## CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS OF CALIFORNIA

**April is Child Abuse Prevention Month**, a time to highlight the needs of children and families in our communities, to promote healthy, happy childhoods, and to work to end child abuse. Every year thousands of children are abused. **In 2018, 486,634 children in California were involved in reports of child abuse.** Luckily, there are heroes throughout our state committed to addressing these reports, creating happy and healthy childhoods, and ending child abuse.

These **heroes work in Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs)**. At these child-friendly facilities, law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical, and victim advocacy professionals work together to investigate abuse, help children heal, and hold offenders accountable.

We are Children's Advocacy Centers of California, and it is our honor to support the heroes working at CACs, including the center serving your neighborhood. Children's Advocacy Centers of California helps local CACs respond to allegations of child abuse in effective and efficient ways – and put the needs of child victims first. Children's Advocacy Centers of California provides training, support, technical assistance, and leadership statewide to local child advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams throughout California responding to child abuse and neglect reports.

**Your Community.** Children's Advocacy Centers of California supports CACs in 42 counties. CACs like:

This is where your CAC's write-up would go!

CALICO is Alameda County's Children's Advocacy Center. Founded in 1997, CALICO achieves justice and healing for over 600 toddlers, children, adolescents, and adults with developmental disabilities each year. Children and adults come to CALICO due to sexual abuse and exploitation, physical harm, neglect, drug endangerment, or severe violence they have witnessed in their home or community. For these individuals, CALICO is often their first opportunity to tell in full what happened and their first step to recovery.

"Fifteen years ago, a children's advocacy center helped me feel safe by protecting me from having to repeatedly relive the worst moments of my life and put me on a path to healing. Children's advocacy centers are a huge step toward ensuring that all victims of child abuse receive the love and care they need and definitely deserve," says survivor Ally Loo.

**You Can Help These Heroes.** This Child Abuse Prevention Month, we ask you to join the heroes working to end child abuse by donating. Every donation you make to Children's Advocacy Centers of California is shared with your local center. Your contribution will go directly to supporting and growing local centers and teams and improving the lives of children across our state.