

March 2022

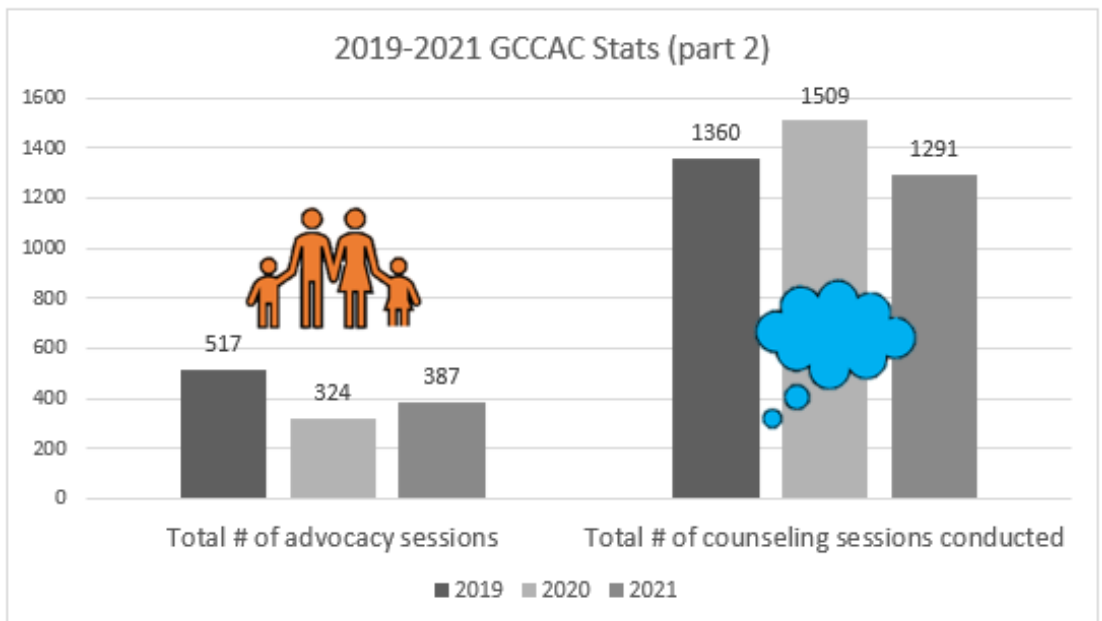
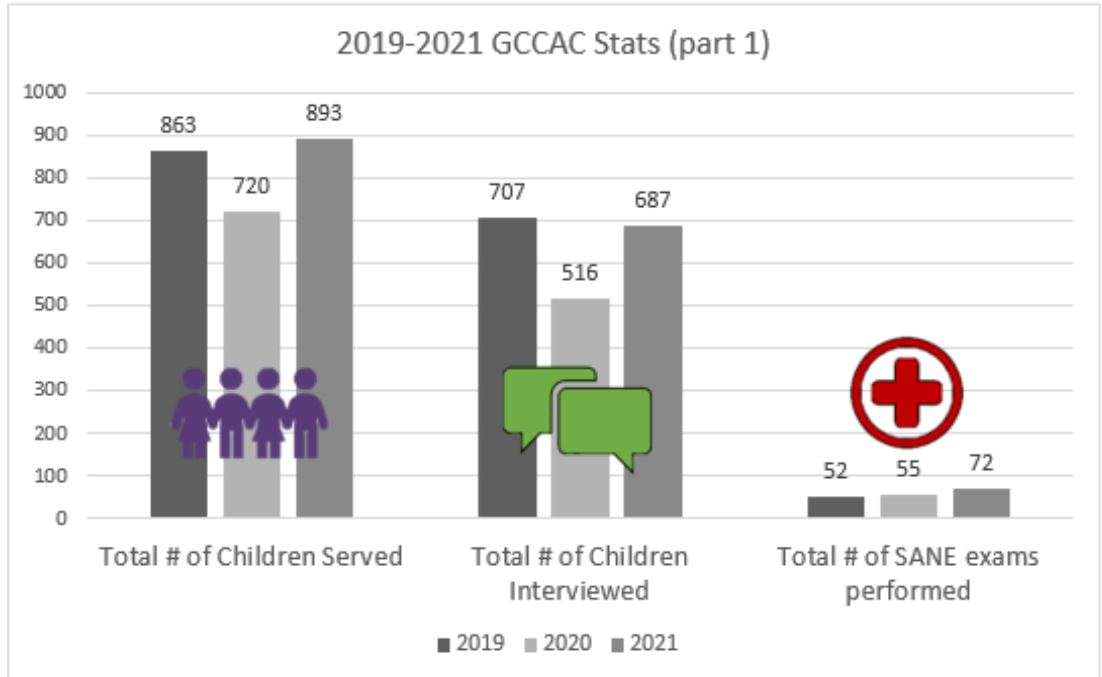
RETURNING TO PREPANDEMIC NORMS

2021 GCCAC STATS COMPARISON



Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center

Friends of Courage!



In 2021, the GCCAC saw an increase in services provided compared to 2020 as schools went back in session and child abuse reports recovered after the decreases caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to new legislation and increased advocacy, the number of children receiving medical exams has also increased over the past few years. Counseling session numbers were lower in 2021 due to open therapist positions.

In 2021, **893**
Courageous
Children

were served at the
Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center.

This was possible because of community support
and Champions for Courageous Children (CCC)!

As we approach April, Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month,
we hope you will join us for our 2022 CCC fundraising campaign.

Will you donate to the CCC campaign?

Will you raise funds for the hundreds of children who will receive
Safety, Justice, and Healing through our specialized services?

We can't do this without YOU!

Will you be a 2022

Champion for Courageous Children?

Go to www.gccac.net - "Events and News" to find
more information about this year's
Champions for Courageous Children campaign.

Reach out if you need assistance or want more
information. Call 830-303-4760, follow the text
instructions below, or email gccacinfo@gccac.net

Give a Child a Voice!

www.gccac.net

Text "GCCAC" to 44-321



APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

On Friday, April 1st, we set up 893 pinwheels at locations across Guadalupe County to recognize the 893 children served by the GCCAC in 2021. Here are some of the highlights! Thank you to everyone who came out to help us!

Christian Brother's Automotive - Schertz



Department of Family and Protective Services - Seguin



Cibolo Fire Department #2 - Cibolo



Texas Lutheran University - Seguin

Other locations with pinwheels:

Cibolo Soccer Fields
Word of Life Church - Cibolo
Schertz Police Department
Schertz United Methodist Church - Schertz
RE/MAX Corridor - Schertz

Zorn Bowling Club - Zorn
Faith Lutheran Church - Seguin
Guadalupe County Courthouse - Seguin
McQueeney Baptist Church - McQueeney
Veterans Memorial Park - Marion
First Presbyterian Church - Seguin

FUTURE EVENTS

Thursday, June 23, 2022 - Casino Night
Friday, July 15th, 2022 - 12th Annual Knock-out Child Abuse Bowl-a-thon
Thursday, November 3, 2022 - Seguin Designer Purse Bingo
April 1-30, 2023 - Champions for Courageous Children 2023
Thursday, May 4, 2023 - Schertz Designer Purse Bingo

Friday April 8, 2022 is **GO BLUE DAY!!**

Monday, May 2nd - Pinwheel takedown



CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING CARE COORDINATION PROGRAM IN THE WORKS

The GCCAC has served children who experienced sexual abuse for more than 18 years now, including those who have been sex and/or labor trafficked. What we have learned is that these cases are more complex and need a different approach. Efforts have been made across Texas and the nation in the past few years to figure out a best practice approach when working with this population. In September, the GCCAC was fortunate to receive a grant from the Office of the Attorney General and other state funds appropriated to CACs in the last legislative session to help fund a Child Sex Trafficking (CST) Care Coordination Initiative, and the process of building this program is under way.

The process of meeting with stakeholders and team members has begun, and they will soon be drafting protocols to create a Care Coordination team to better serve child sex trafficking victims in our community. This team will ensure that child sex trafficking victims receive the additional advocacy and resources they may need throughout and after the investigation process. The team will also hold case review meetings to staff each CST case and ensure each child has received all of the services needed for restoration.

In addition, we have been creating social media posts to share resources and educate the community about human trafficking, and will continue to post more information in the future. Although the program is still in the very early steps, we are excited to be able to offer these specialized services to a particularly vulnerable population in our community.

AMAZON SMILE SUPPORT

Do you ever shop on Amazon? One easy way to support the GCCAC is to use Amazon Smile when doing your normal online shopping! So far, the Center has received \$809.67 in donations from Amazon Smile. But with your help, we can increase that number even more!



If shopping on a web browser, go to smile.amazon.com and choose Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center as your designated charity. Make sure that when you are checking out, you are using the smile.amazon.com URL or Amazon will not make the donation. If using the Amazon app, make sure Amazon Smile is ON under settings. If you need assistance setting up Amazon Smile, email Christine Jaecks at cjaecks@gccac.net.



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If you would like to receive news and updates from the GCCAC electronically rather than by mail, please send an email to gccacinfo@gccac.net with the following information:

First and Last Name, Physical Address, and Email Address

If any of your contact information has changed, you can email us at gccacinfo@gccac.net and let us know.

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The mission of the Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center is to advocate for and provide services to children and families when there are allegations of abuse and neglect throughout the investigation, prosecution, treatment, and prevention of child abuse, and to reduce the trauma to children by coordinating a multi-disciplinary approach.

