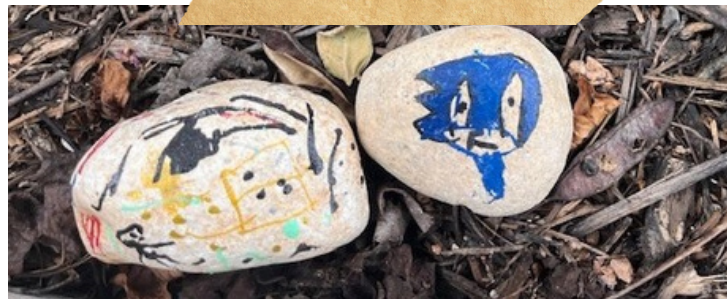
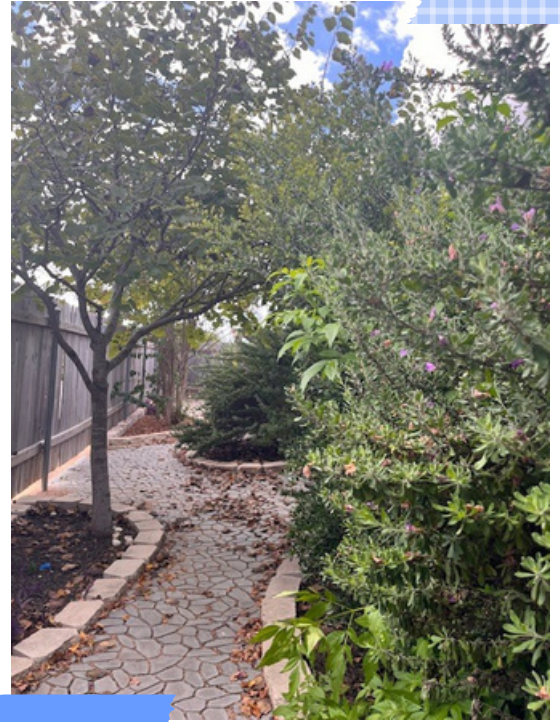




# Friends of Courage!

## Fostering Growth and Healing through Nature

Here at the GCCAC we offer our Therapy Garden for a location in which we can conduct therapy sessions, take a fresh air break during sessions, or even for our therapists to get in touch with nature! According to the Mental Health Foundation, people who are more connected with nature are usually happier in life, have lower levels of depression and anxiety, and experience more positive emotions such as joy, calmness, creativity and increased concentration. I personally have used the therapy garden with clients as a part of art therapy. Having clients engaged in mindfulness painting, coloring or sculpting while sitting in the garden has brought peacefulness, and self-insight that perhaps would not be achieved in an office setting. A breath of fresh air is just as good for the mind as it is for the body! - Bre Newman, MS, LPC Associate



At the GCCAC's Therapy Garden, we not only facilitate growth and healing but we also celebrate it! One of the most cherished aspects of the garden is our Graduation Rock Tradition. In their final session, clients are invited to paint a rock, then walk with their therapist to place it in the garden. In a way, this act symbolizes both release and transformation. The rock becomes a lasting marker of their resilience and progress, set in a place of peace and safety. As a therapist, it's truly inspiring and a privilege to be part of this very special moment. - Jennifer McGovern, LPC, NCC

# A Year in Review

September 2023-August 2024



**Interviews Conducted  
with Children**  
597



**Families Receiving  
Advocacy Services**  
417



**Children Receiving  
Medical Services**  
64



**State-wide Intakes  
Reviewed for  
Guadalupe County**  
2,485



**Children Receiving  
Trauma-Focused  
Mental Health Services**  
226



**Case Reviewed by  
Multidisciplinary Team**  
347



**Trauma-Focused Mental  
Health Sessions  
Provided to Children**  
2,783



**Children Completed  
Prevention Curriculum**  
295

## More Than Numbers

What do these numbers mean? These numbers reflect the children who came through the doors of the GCCAC due to allegations or concerns of sexual abuse, physical abuse, human trafficking, neglect, maltreatment, drug endangerment, witnessing family violence, or being a victim or witness of another criminal act or safety concern. The GCCAC also works with protective caregivers to provide support at their initial visit and then through follow up support services. These numbers only capture how many families were supported but not the number of times they were offered support. These numbers also do not reflect the therapy sessions provided to protective caregivers.

# Celebrating 20 years of promoting Safety, Justice, and Healing for children!

In 2002, W.C. “Bud” Kirkendall, the district attorney at the time, along with his staff, law enforcement, and Child Protective Services, started the movement to create this children’s advocacy center to enhance the investigation process with forensic interviews and build stronger cases for prosecution to use to ensure **Justice** for the victims and the **Safety** of victims and the community. The goal was also to alleviate the burden on children and their families brought on by the investigative and judicial processes.

The GCCAC opened in 2004 to provide services to children and families when there are allegations of abuse and neglect and to be an ongoing resource to the families served. It was intended to aid clients through the **Healing** process by providing advocacy and counseling services free of charge for as long as is needed, ensuring children and families will go on to be productive and successful members of the community.

In January 2024, the GCCAC celebrated 20 years of providing services to children and families in our community! The work of the center and the multidisciplinary team is essential to providing **Safety, Justice, and Healing** to children and families in Guadalupe County. We are committed to our ongoing work and ensuring that future generations of children will also have a safe place to heal. We are extremely grateful for everyone who has supported our work over the last 20 years!

## Want to help give a child a voice? GCCAC Volunteer Opportunities

Multiple volunteer opportunities are available at the GCCAC,  
from a one-time experience to ongoing support.

Volunteers help with:

- Ensuring children are safe and supported while they are at the CAC for forensic interviews or counseling sessions.
- Accompanying them to the hospital for necessary exams.
- Support the center staff with administrative tasks.
- Serve on fundraising committees to ensure the center has the necessary funds to continue this important work.
- Providing other support services (lawn work, repairs, etc.).
- By serving on the board.

Contact us at [gccacinfo@gccac.net](mailto:gccacinfo@gccac.net) or (830)303-4760, if you are interested.

Share this information with someone you know who would be an amazing volunteer!



# Upcoming Events

## GCCAC Seguin Designer Purse

### B I N G O

**Thursday, November 14, 2024**

Doors open & Dinner served at 6:00pm

Games start at 7:00pm

Seguin Coliseum - 950 S. Austin St.

Seguin TX

Want early entry, guaranteed tickets, and reserved seats? There are sponsorship and donor opportunities available!

Contact [gccacinfo@gccac.net](mailto:gccacinfo@gccac.net) or (830)303-4760 by October 24, 2024

## BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR OUR 2025 EVENTS



April 7, 2025 - Golf Tournament

April 19, 2025 - Bowling Tournament

May 15, 2025 - Schertz Designer Purse Bingo

July 12, 2025 - Casino Night

September 20, 2025 - Gala

November 13, 2025 - Seguin Designer Purse Bingo



Follow us on  
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If you would like to receive news and updates from the GCCAC electronically rather than by mail, or if your contact info has changed, please send an email to [gccacinfo@gccac.net](mailto: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.

**cactx**  
children's advocacy  
centers™ of texas

**NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE®**  
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