

Restoring Hope for Victims of Abuse

Our Mission:

To protect, assist and empower victims of family violence and sexual assault while challenging and changing social systems that tolerate and perpetuate abuse.

The Safe Center is the only organization on Long Island providing free comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child sexual and physical abuse, and human trafficking.



Our Approach

- Through collaboration with internal and external partners The Safe Center removes barriers to care for the most vulnerable populations.
- Our holistic approach addresses the impact of abuse on the victim as well as the family.
- We partner with survivors and families to change the trajectory of their lives following the trauma of abuse.
- We provide comprehensive services to meet the needs of the family and individuals including addressing concrete needs like housing insecurity, food insecurity, etc.
- Our programs and services are multilingual, confidential and available to all persons regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, military status, marital status, disability, or age.



Interpersonal Violence in Numbers

13,000

domestic violence arrests were made by Nassau County Police in 2020.

1.5 Million

high school students in the U.S. are physically abused by dating partners every year.

\$2 Trillion

is the total cost of child abuse and neglect in the U.S. each year.

1 in 3

women, globally, experience some form of sexual violence during their lifetimes.

10 Million

women and men are physically abused by an intimate partner each year in the U.S., that's 20 people every minute

40%

Less than 40% of women globally who experience violence; seek help of any sort.

1 in 6

American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime.

3.8 Million

adults were victims of forced sexual exploitation and **1.0 million** children were victims of commercial sexual exploitation in 2016

*globally

1 in 10

Children in the U.S. are sexually abused before their 18th birthday.

Crisis Intervention

24-Hour Fully Staffed Hotline
Emergency Safe Shelter
Emergency Room Response



Counseling

Specialized Clinicians
Individual and Group Counseling
Adult and Children's Mental Health Services



Advocacy & Legal Services

Child and Adult Victim Advocates
Legal Consultation and Representation
Court Advocates
Dedicated Case Managers



Housing and Employment

Short-term Rental Assistance
Housing Placements
Employment and Vocational Counseling



Prevention & Education

Professional and Community Trainings
School Based Prevention and Awareness Trainings
Trauma Informed Training and Consultation



Collaborative Approach

Child Advocacy Center of Nassau County
Co-Location With Partners Including Nassau County
Special Victims Squad, CPS and Nassau County DA



The Safe Center's Continuum of Care:

Providing services for the whole family at every stage of the healing journey

Programs & Services

- 24-Hour Hotline 516.542.0404
- Crisis Intervention
- Emergency Safe Shelter
- Individual and Group Counseling
- Short-term Housing Assistance
- Employment and Vocational Counseling
- Free Legal Assistance
- Emergency Room Advocacy
- Child Advocacy Center of Nassau County
- Children's Mental Health Services
- Service Referrals
- Case Management
- Professional and Community Education Programs
- School Based Prevention and Awareness Trainings



The Safe Center Difference

From our dedicated staff:

“We know this process takes time and therefore have no time constraints”

“We are always evolving and looking for ways to better serve our clients”

“The Safe Center removes barriers to care”

“Clients of The Safe Center are met where they are.”

“We create legal options for the safety of our clients and their children.”

From our clients:

“I was looking for help and this place was exactly what I was looking for.”

“I’ve been given the exceptional extraordinary gift of expert compassionate counseling, and the fellowship of my peers.”

“The people at The Safe Center are dedicated to helping people like me”

“With The Safe Center’s help, guidance, and working with knowledgeable and experienced team of therapists, I was able to walk away and recover from my rapist.”

“I am thankful to have a safe place to share my thoughts/emotions and be with other people who can relate to my struggles.”

Child Advocacy Center of Nassau County

The Safe Center's Child Advocacy Center (CAC), serving Nassau County, is a partnership between Nassau County Police, Child Protective Services, District Attorney's Office, County Attorney's Office, Nassau University Medical Center, and The Safe Center LI. These partners form the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) at the CAC and collaborate to investigate more than 1,000 allegations of child abuse annually.

The CAC is designed and decorated to provide a safe, child-friendly environment to help alleged child victims feel safe to discuss their alleged abuse, and for child victims of sexual assault and severe physical abuse to receive support and services to help them heal.

Services provided include the following:

- **Advocacy Services:** immediately upon arrival, each family is assigned an Advocate knowledgeable in sex abuse to assist the family in navigating the criminal justice and family court systems. Advocates also accompany children to court and medical appointments to help the family navigate these potentially anxiety-producing situations.
- **Therapeutic Services:** The Safe Center LI's mental health professionals provide trauma-focused individual, family and group therapy sessions.
- **Groupwork Services:** Peer support groups are available for children and families dealing with the aftermath of a child's disclosure.
- **Medical Services:** A medical exam is offered for every child whose case is investigated at the Center.



All services provided are free of charge to the family

Medical Examination Room

Our Child Advocacy Center is proud to include a medical examination room on site. We have a partnership with NYU Langone Long Island in which a Board-Certified Child Abuse Pediatrician provides examinations at least once a week.

Medical exams can be necessary for a few reasons. They are performed based on the type of alleged abuse physical or sexual and are always non-invasive. If an assault has occurred within the last 72 hours physical evidence can be gathered in a hospital setting. Most disclosures of child sex abuse are delayed which usually excludes physical evidence gathering and enables the exam to take place at our facility.

Following a disclosure, children are interacting with a multitude of new professionals in what can feel like strange setting. Visiting with a pediatrician is a familiar experience which at times lends itself to the child feeling more comfortable and open.

The exam is often a grounding and healing experience for a child who has been impacted by trauma. They are able to speak with a doctor who can let them know they are going to be okay, that there is nothing “damaged” about them and that there is nothing about their body that is the reason this “bad thing” happened to them.

The doctor is also able to have conversations about bodily autonomy and reproductive health in a safe and child friendly environment.

A physical examination is also a way to uncover what a child has experience for those who might be non-verbal (due to age or developmental progress) or reluctant to share information in a forensic interview.

The Need For A Colposcope

Our Child Advocacy Center is currently in need of a Colposcope. A Colposcope is a common tool used at hospitals and CAC's to complete child sex abuse exams. The most recent estimate from medical technol

The Problem

Without the Colposcope the child abuse Pediatrician's other option would be using a camera to document but that can be retraumatizing to children who have had a camera or photography as part of their abuse history.

The Solution

This instrument is specialized to provide non-invasive magnification of the child's genital area. This comprehensive exam can be conducted without the need for any instrument to touch the child or be inserted. The magnifying ability of the Colposcope allows the doctor to determine findings and document the evaluation. Additionally, having the exam documented would greatly reduce the child needing to be reexamined.



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The Immediate Impact on a Child's Healing Journey

We believe this is best practice for medical exams assessing for child sexual abuse. With the use of the colposcope the children can watch the exam on a monitor which reduces anxiety and provides an avenue for education about their body from a pediatrician. In the event a case is moving toward prosecution with the DA's office, more documented evidence strengthens the case and reduces the need for a child to testify.

Our Pediatrician protects the images taken by the colposcope confidentially, they are not saved in their medical record and can be accessed only if needed to consult.

The Lasting Impact

In most instances a Colposcope can last 20 years. A new scope will potentially thousands of children. Child Advocacy Centers and the teams that fuel them save lives. A child is set on a path of not only having their story heard but also given the resources to heal. Our goal is for children to not only survive the aftermath of abuse but to thrive moving forward.

How Hope East Can Help

This project will support the purchase and set up of a new Colposcope for immediate use. The most recent estimates we received for a scope that meets our needs are between \$4,000-\$6,000. Any additional funding will contribute to improving the functionality and welcoming esthetic of the examination room.

