



## THE TREE HOUSE

Child Assessment Center of  
Montgomery County Maryland

*Seeking Truth—Healing Abused Children*

# Annual Report for FY 2006

# SEEKING TRUTH, HEALING ABUSED CHILDREN



November 2006

Dear Friend:

The Tree House Child Assessment Center of Montgomery County Maryland has made tremendous strides over the past two years in its effort to provide a safe and supportive environment in which children with allegations of abuse and neglect can begin to heal. More than twice as many children were served in FY 06 as in FY 04, and the range and quantity of services provided within The Tree House have grown nearly four-fold in that period.

The Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, secured the initial private funds that launched The Tree House in 2002 and provided several years of funding. As the Center has grown, Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services has assumed management of the critical services offered by The Tree House, with the support of the County Council and the participation of other County agencies, including Child Welfare Services, the Department of Police, and the State's Attorney's Office.

The Tree House has been recognized in several arenas for its outstanding achievements. With the help of the Primary Care Coalition, The Tree House's Advisory Committee held a very successful benefit luncheon in April of this year which netted over \$20,000 for the Center. The Department of Health and Human Services recognized the important input of the Primary Care Coalition in June of this year, when it bestowed upon The Tree House its Public-Private Partnership Award. In October, the Primary Care Coalition honored The Tree House with its "Good Works, Done Well" Award. The Tree House staff and management are most grateful to the Primary Care Coalition, the Advisory Committee, and the many private donors who have enabled it to create and expand its services for vulnerable children.

In the months and years ahead, The Tree House plans to continue to grow and expand its services, with the help of the Primary Care Coalition and private donors. The Tree House is moving toward obtaining full accreditation from the National Children's Alliance (the national accrediting body for child assessment centers) and is currently an Associate Member. Additional work to be done includes determining the optimal public-private balance and increasing educational outreach to professional and lay communities.

The charts and statistics in this report illustrate the excellent work being done at The Tree House, how important these services are to the County's most vulnerable children and their families, and how essential it is that they be maintained and expanded.

Carol W. Garvey, MD  
Advisory Committee President

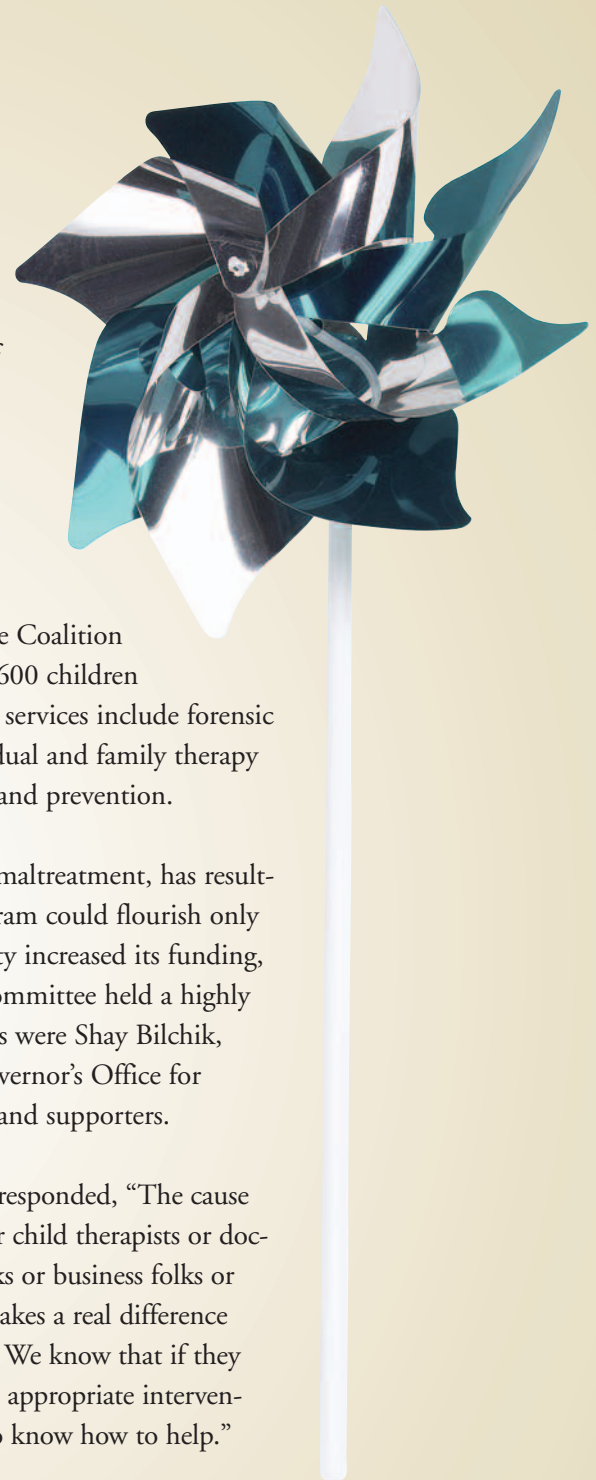
# THE TREE HOUSE STORY

The Tree House Child Assessment Center is dedicated to reducing trauma and promoting healing for child victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. Through an innovative collaborative process, key professionals come together on behalf of the best interests of the victim. This effective early intervention is essential to ensure that an abused child or adolescent develops into a healthy and productive adult, capable of forming trusting and loving relationships. Underpinning the work of The Tree House is the belief that the cycle of child abuse can be broken.

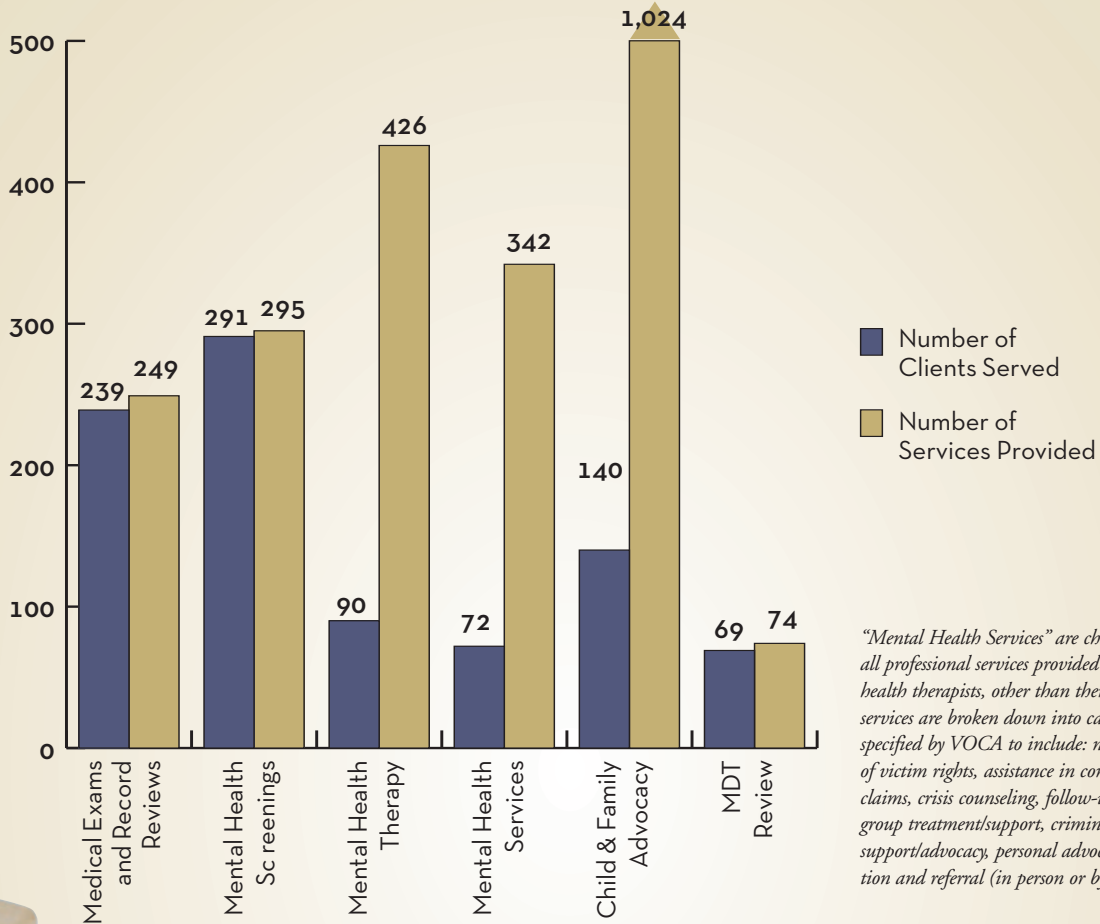
Begun in 2002 as a public-private partnership between the Primary Care Coalition and Montgomery County Government, The Tree House served almost 600 children and youth in FY 06, nearly 100 more than in the previous year. Its vital services include forensic medical examinations and interviews, mental health assessments, individual and family therapy programs, victim assistance, case tracking and management, education, and prevention.

Excellent work by The Tree House professionals with expertise in child maltreatment, has resulted in an ever-increasing demand for services. Recognizing that the program could flourish only if more resources matched the demand for services, Montgomery County increased its funding, Primary Care Coalition redoubled its grant efforts, and the Advisory Committee held a highly successful Spring into Action Luncheon at Strathmore. Keynote speakers were Shay Bilchik, president, Child Welfare League, and Arlene Lee, executive director, Governor's Office for Children. Awards of Recognition were presented to founding members and supporters.

When asked why this inaugural event proved so successful, one co-chair responded, "The cause of The Tree House resonates with all of us, whether we are prosecutors or child therapists or doctors or parents or grandparents, foster or adoptive parents or policy wonks or business folks or educators or electeds—everyone gets it. We all know intuitively that it makes a real difference how we care for children, especially those wounded, so deeply, so young. We know that if they are to grow and be open to a life filled with trust and love, there must be appropriate intervention. We are immensely pleased to support The Tree House partners who know how to help."



## Number of Clients Served and Number of Services Provided by Tree House Professionals, July 1, 2005–June 30, 2006

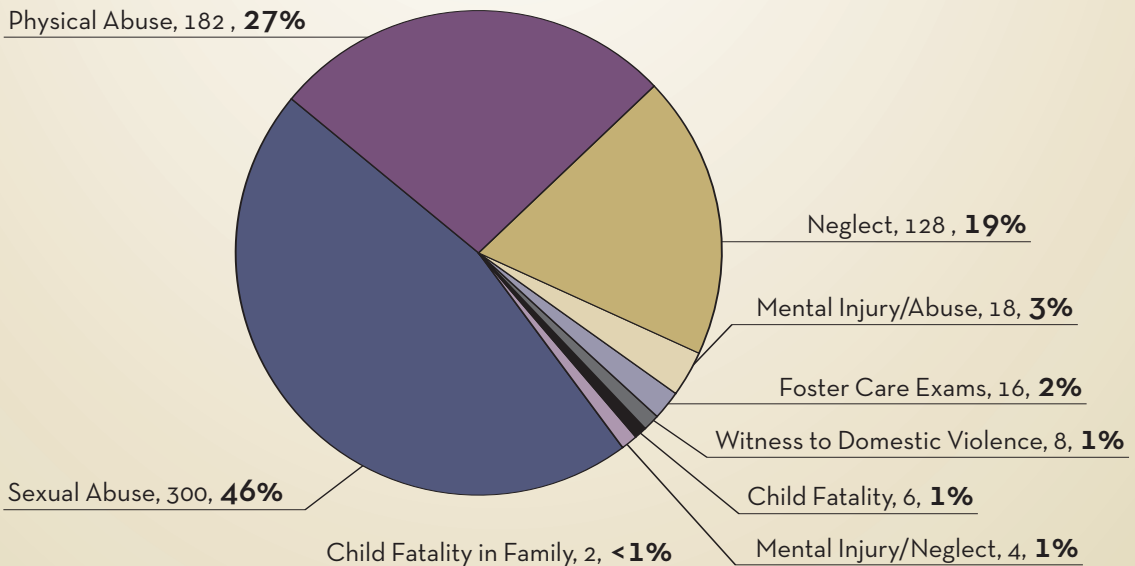


*"Mental Health Services" are characterized as all professional services provided by the mental health therapists, other than therapy. These services are broken down into categories as specified by VOCA to include: notification of victim rights, assistance in compensation claims, crisis counseling, follow-up contact, group treatment/support, criminal justice support/advocacy, personal advocacy, information and referral (in person or by phone).*

*Note: Child and Family Advocacy Services started March 2, 2006. Mental Health Therapy reflects two additional therapists who started February 20, 2006, and March 14, 2006. Starting January 1, 2006, we began entering non-offending adults receiving services from Tree House professionals as secondary clients.*

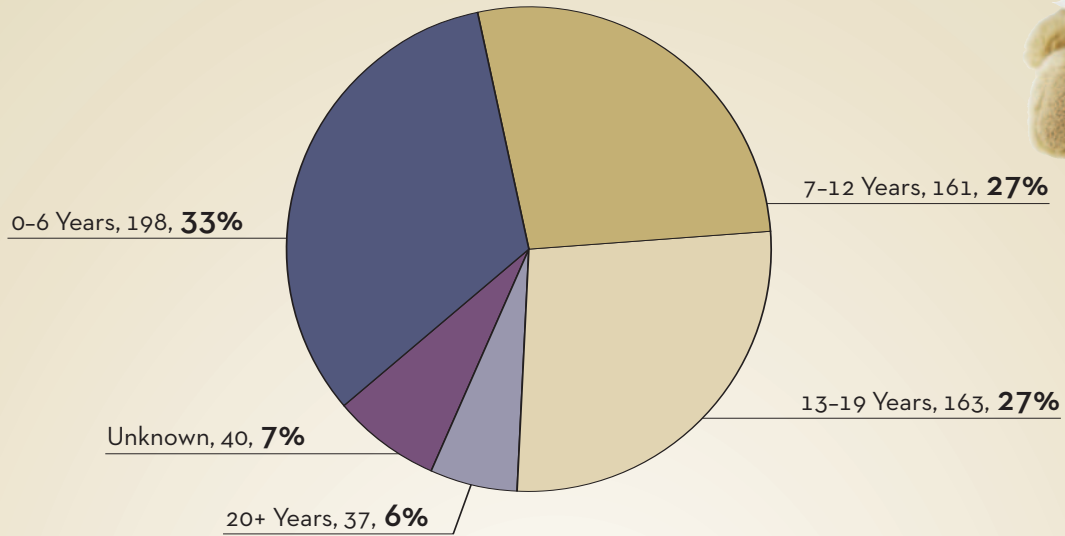
## Type of Victimization

Physical Abuse, 182, **27%**

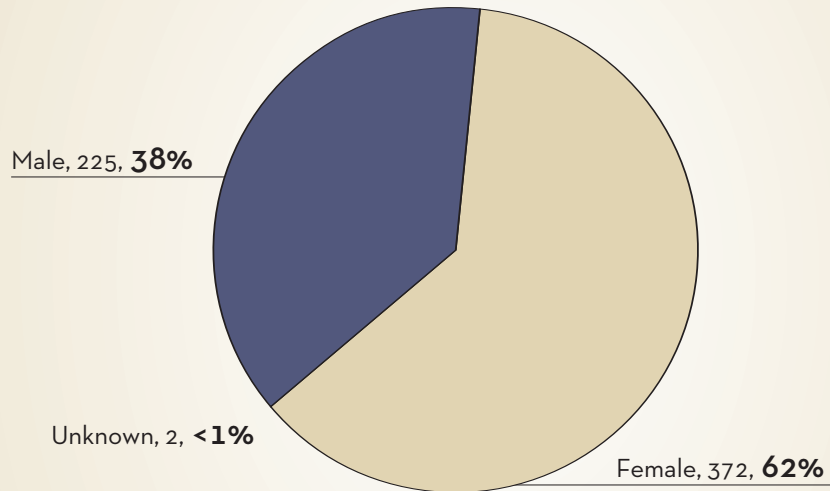




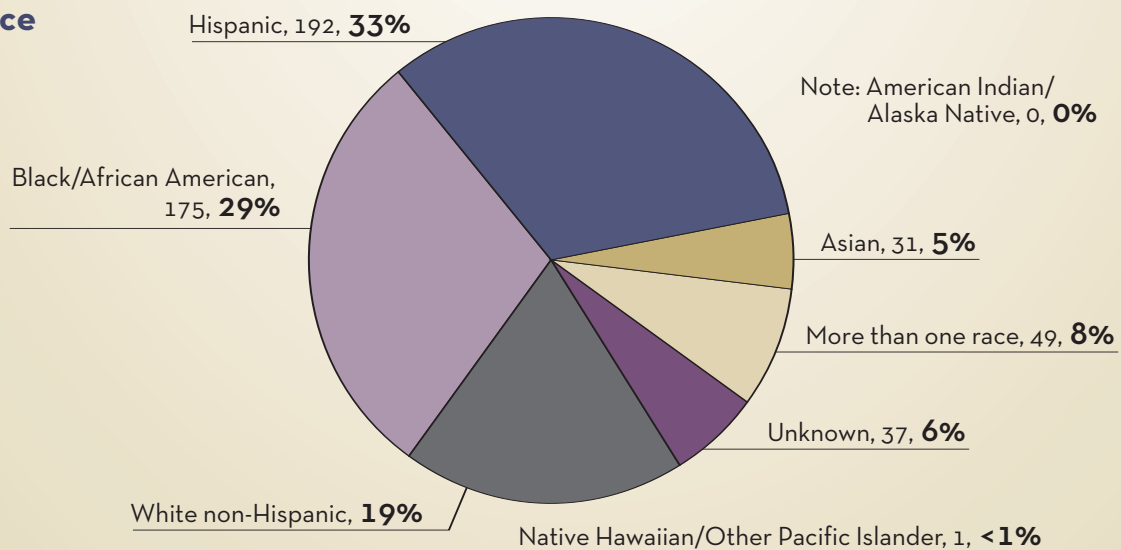
## Age



## Gender



## Race



Graphs and figures reflect data July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.

# The Tree House Unaudited Statement of Activities for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2006

## SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Montgomery County DHHS—direct support	\$ 204,683
Montgomery County DHHS—in kind	113,698
State/federal grants (VOCA, etc.)	82,867
Foundation grants	71,215
Contributions/private fundraising	43,903
Reimbursements	17,800
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 534,166</b>

## EXPENSES

Physician services	\$ 89,355
Mental health screening services (in kind)	92,548
Mental health treatment services	68,721
Victim advocacy services	22,159
Clinical administrative support	65,226
General administrative support	91,485
Rent, phones, and computers (all in-kind)	21,150
Equipment, supplies, and miscellaneous	93,628
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 544,272</b>
<b>DECREASE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ (10,106)</b>

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## TREE HOUSE STAFF

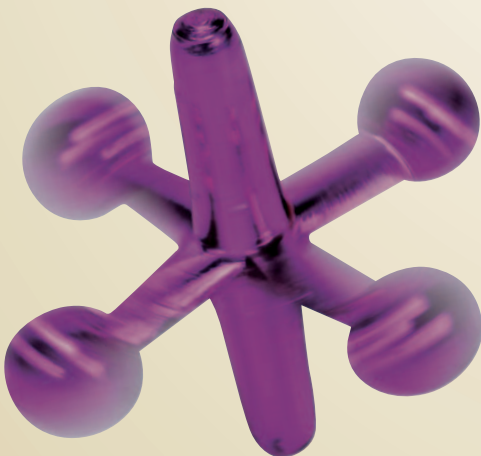
Brenda C. Petersen, Co-Director, Internal Affairs  
Dr. Stephen C. Boos, Medical Director  
Kevin Bale, IT/Data Manager  
Barbara Hill, Mental Health Therapist  
Elizabeth Pearce, Mental Health Therapist  
Tandis Vaziri-Zanjani, Child & Family Advocate

Diane Dodson, Co-Director, External Affairs  
Laurie Kesaris, Office Coordinator  
Marta Contreras, Mental Health Therapist  
Dr. Ellen Levin, Mental Health Specialist  
Louise Volk, Mental Health Therapist

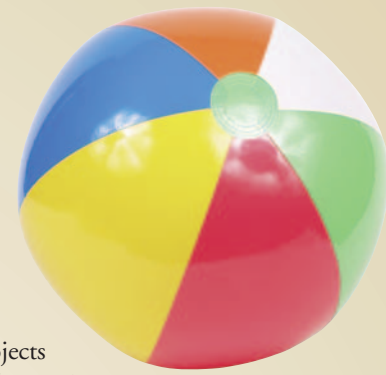
## TREE HOUSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Carol Garvey, President  
Julie Grohovsky, Treasurer  
Irene Dankwa Buadoo  
Joan M. Kenney  
Judy Madden

Arva Jackson, Vice President  
Lorraine A Rogstad, Secretary  
Dr. Flor de Maria Gutierrez  
Dr. Sherry J. King  
Diana Young



# Donors



## Foundations

Bank of America Foundation  
 Community Foundation  
 Gannett Foundation  
 GEICO Foundation  
 Mead Foundation  
 Nancy Peery Marriott Foundation, Inc.  
 SL Johnson Trust  
 The J. Willard and  
     Alice S. Marriott Foundation  
 William S. Abell Foundation, Inc.

## Public Grants

Maryland Children's Justice Act  
 Program—*with the Montgomery County  
 Collaboration Council for Children, Youth  
 and Families*

Maryland Victims of Crime Assistance  
 Program

## Private Grants

National Children's Alliance

## Businesses

Adventist Health Care  
 Balducci's  
 Bedard & Associates Consulting, LLC  
 Bralove/Hollman Special Events, Inc.  
 Center for the Support of Families  
 Citibank  
 Costco  
 Crossings, Center for the  
     Healing Traditions  
 Eagle Bank  
 Graphic Visions  
 Great Harvest Bread Company  
 H. C. Development Association

Holy Cross  
 Hospital  
 J. Macklin  
 Interiors  
 LA Day Spa  
 Landscape Projects  
 Luxenberg, Johnson &  
     Dickens, PC  
 Nova Research Co.  
 Pepco  
 Red Door Spas  
 Shady Grove Adventist Hospital  
 Target  
 Trader Joe's  
 Trawick & Associates  
 Vivi  
 Whole Foods

## Individuals

Marilyn Austern  
 Mary Bailey  
 Beth Barnett  
 Laura Chase Barnett  
 Susan Baron  
 Francine Berger  
 Wendy Block  
 Dr. Stephen Boos and Kit  
     Sang Boos  
 Dr. M. Eduardo Bravo  
 Brenda Bregman  
 Mary Frances Brennan  
 Susan Brewer  
 Theresa Brown  
 Yvonne Bryant  
 Usa Bunnag  
 William and Robyn Collins  
 Helen Colson  
 Bob and Nancy Commisso  
 Dr. Denise DeConcini  
 Marc and Nicole Delacroix  
 H. Denis  
 E. Dennis  
 Meg Hanlon de Toledo  
 Vernon Drew  
 Liza Durant  
 Dr. Nerita Estampador-Ulep  
 Gail H. Ewing  
 Carol Fanconi  
 Emily Fenichel  
 J. and S. Frazier  
 Sharon and Stephen Friedman  
 Steve and Barbara Galen

Carol W. Garvey, MD  
 Irene Gavin  
 Maureen Gevlin  
 Marjory Goldman  
 Dr. Linda Goldstein  
 Drs. Ronald and Barbara Gots  
 Marla Grossman  
 Aimee Rogstad Guidera  
 F. and M. Guitierrez  
 Lisa Hope Gunty  
 Harriet Guttenberg  
 Gail Harmon  
 Charles and Barbara Haughey  
 Susan Heltemes  
 Craig Hoover and Julie  
     Grohovsky  
 Arva Jackson  
 Toby Kahn  
 Sandra Kamisar  
 D. Kazzaz  
 Judith Keppelman  
 Myra Kovey  
 Ken and Audrey Kramer  
 Tristram Kruger  
 Amy Krupsky  
 R. Lacer  
 Simon Lazarus  
 Alan and Agnes Leshner  
 A. Loewinger  
 Eileen Lorber  
 Marie Lurquin  
 Colleen Luzier  
 Dr. and Mrs. Jonathan Lyons  
 Judy Madden

Carol Malawer  
 Jerry Matthews  
 Jane Matz  
 Roslyn Mazer  
 Greg and Tracey McGillivary  
 L. Merken  
 Susan Messitte  
 Judith Miller  
 Dr. Stephen C. Mockrin and  
     Brenda C. Petersen  
 Robert Morris  
 J. Frederick Mushinski  
 Carol Muscara  
 V. Nunez  
 J. Nurmi  
 Mrs. Reggie Oldak  
 Drs. Paul and Inger Peebles  
 Ron and Gerry Peterson  
 Phillip Piantone  
 Beverly Potter  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack Puzak  
 P. Raber  
 Beth Redlich  
 Captain Kathi Rhodes  
 Patricia Riley  
 Joyce Robbins  
 Dr. Stephen Rockower  
 Barry and Lorraine A. Rogstad  
 C.E. Roh and M.E. Gelvin  
 Andy and Emily Rosenthal  
 Harvey Rubenstein  
 Carla Satinsky  
 Leonore Schneiderman  
 Alan and Carole Schulman

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 Helen Sebsow  
 Mr. and Mrs. K. Edward  
     Shanbacker  
 Dr. and Mrs. Martin Shargel  
 Shepard and  
     Kay Sheinkman  
 Jerry and Cathy Shier  
 Harriet Shugerman  
 Donna Sisitsky  
 Mel and Linda Slan  
 S. M. Shaw Smith  
 Stan Smith  
 Linda Stein  
 M. Stern  
 Mark and Jill Talisman  
 L. M. Toledo  
 Peter Vance Treibley  
 D. and N. Ulep  
 Katherine Waldmann  
 David and Nancy Wanicur  
 Elizabeth Wanicur  
 Stanley Weiss  
 Judith Wentworth  
 T. and Lucy Weymouth  
 Paula Widerlite  
 Howard Widra  
 Dr. Robert Winer  
 Jean E. Withee  
 Joseph and Cynthia Wright  
 Diana Young  
 Paul and Peggy Young  
 John and Angela  
     Zimmerman



# THE TREE HOUSE

## Child Assessment Center of Montgomery County Maryland

*Seeking Truth—Healing Abused Children*

The Tree House vision is to provide the highest standard of care through best practices for victims of child maltreatment to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect and to assure that children live in a healthy, safe environment where they can develop to their full potential.

Galvanized by this vision, relevant medical, mental health, child welfare, forensic, law enforcement, legal and family advocate professionals have joined together in Montgomery County. They pledge to:

**Minimize** trauma experienced by child and adolescent victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect in order to promote the healing process;

**Improve** investigation and prosecution of allegations of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect against children and adolescents;

**Provide** state-of-the-art medical and mental health services to child and adolescent victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect;

**Promote** interagency collaboration and coordination on cases involving allegations of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect of children and adolescents;

**Prevent** further harm to child and adolescent victims and, to the best of their abilities, prevent future abuse of other children or adolescents;

**Provide** quality training for all professionals who investigate, prosecute, and treat child and adolescents with allegations of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect;

**Educate** community professionals who work with children and adolescents on the detection of and response to suspected physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect; and

**Provide** public education and prevention programs aimed at ending physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect of children and adolescents.

