



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

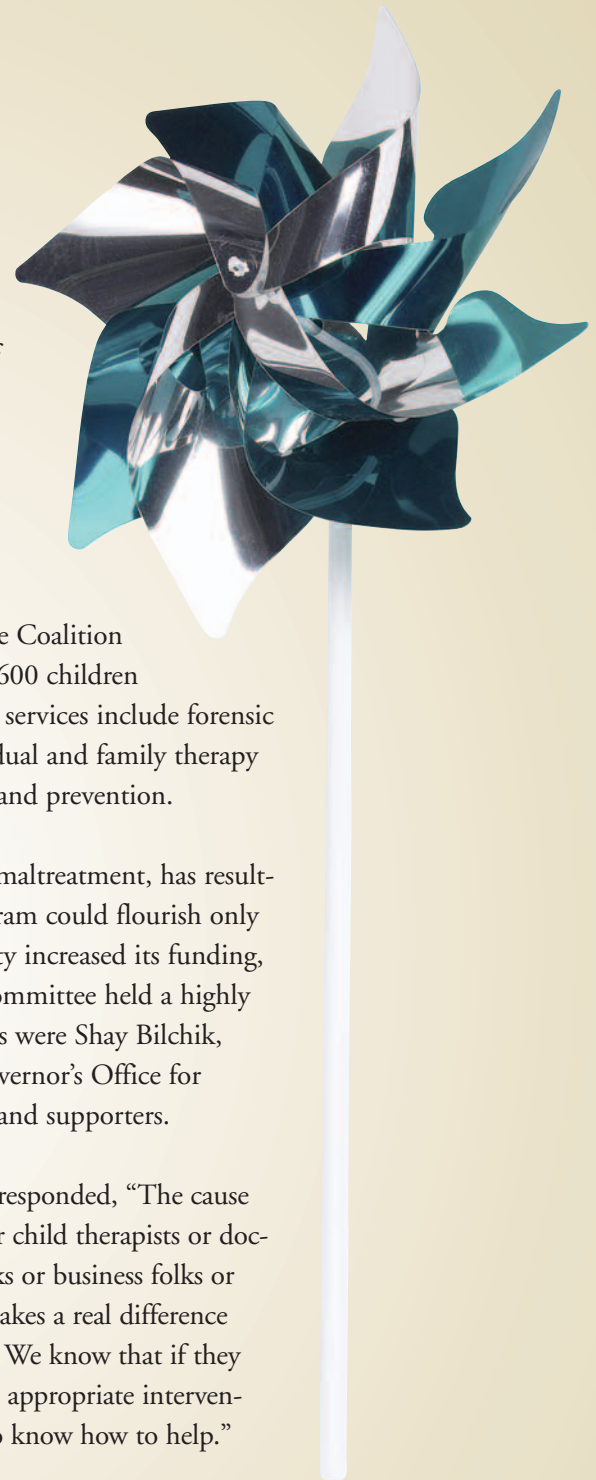
THE TREE HOUSE STORY

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.

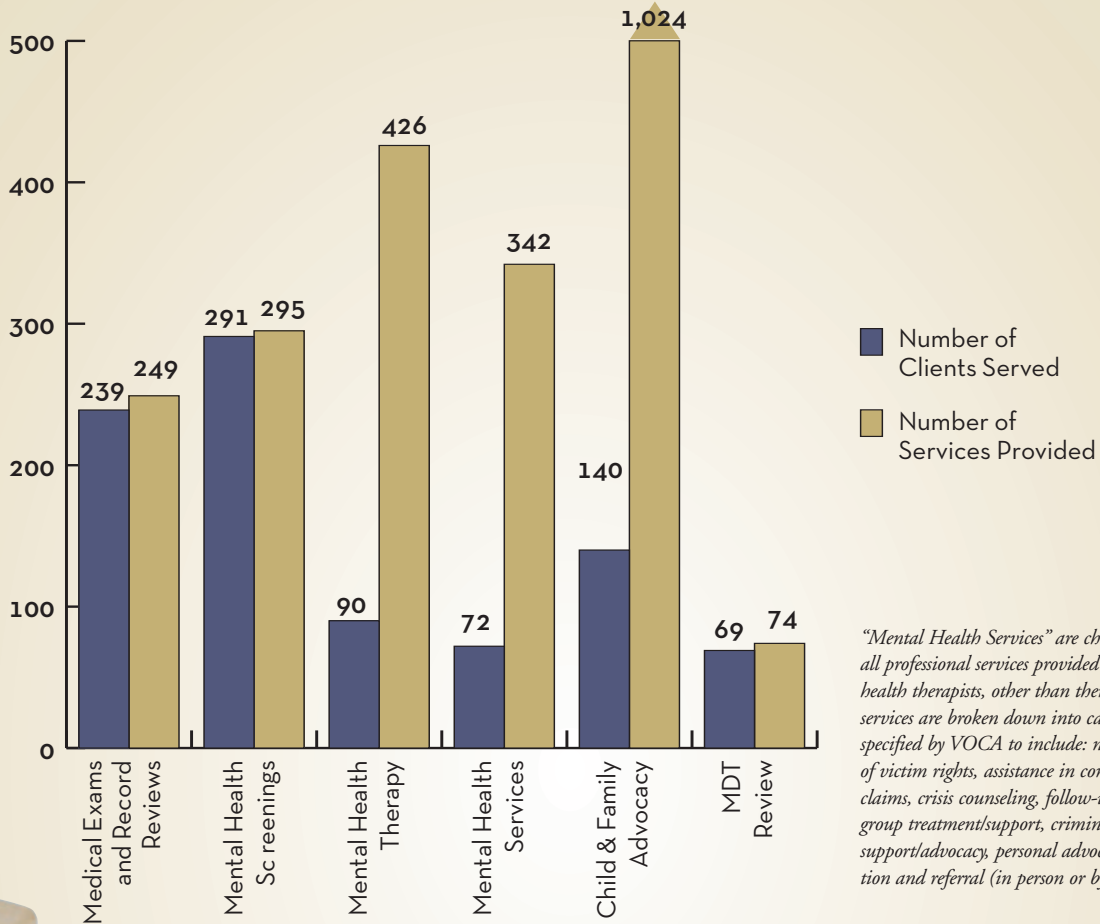
Begun in 2002 as a public-private partnership between the Primary Care Coalition and Montgomery County Government, The Tree House served almost 600 children and youth in FY 06, nearly 100 more than in the previous year. Its vital services include forensic medical examinations and interviews, mental health 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

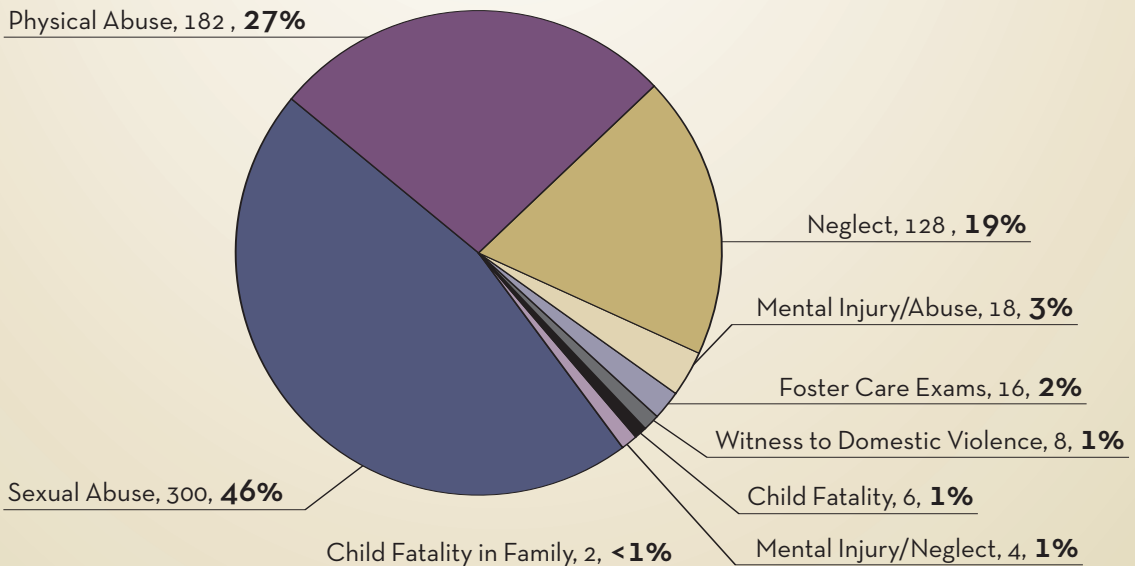


"Mental Health Services" are characterized as all professional services provided by the mental health therapists, other than therapy. These services are broken down into categories as specified by VOCA to include: notification of victim rights, assistance in compensation claims, crisis counseling, follow-up 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.

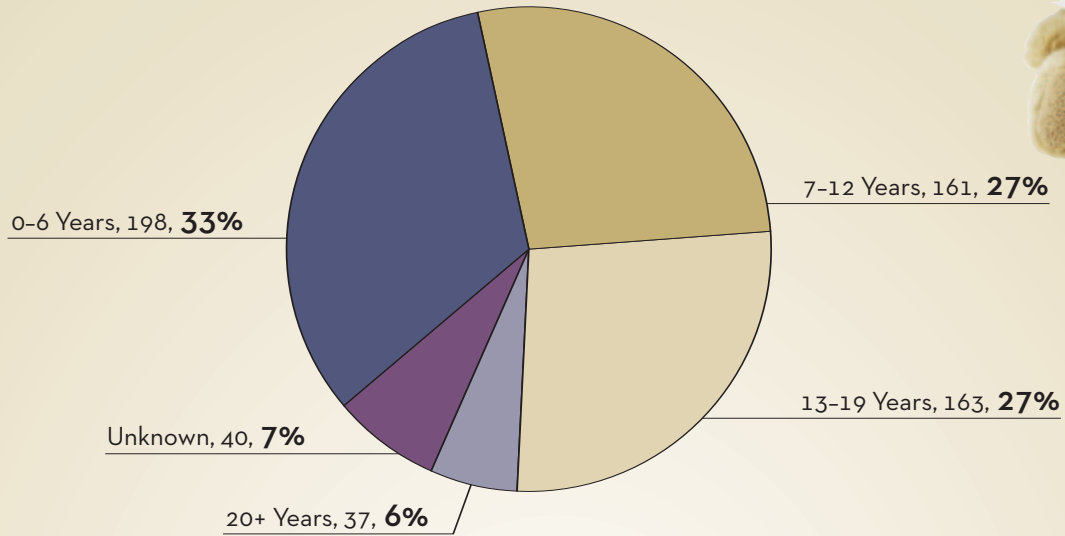
Type of Victimization

Physical Abuse, 182, **27%**

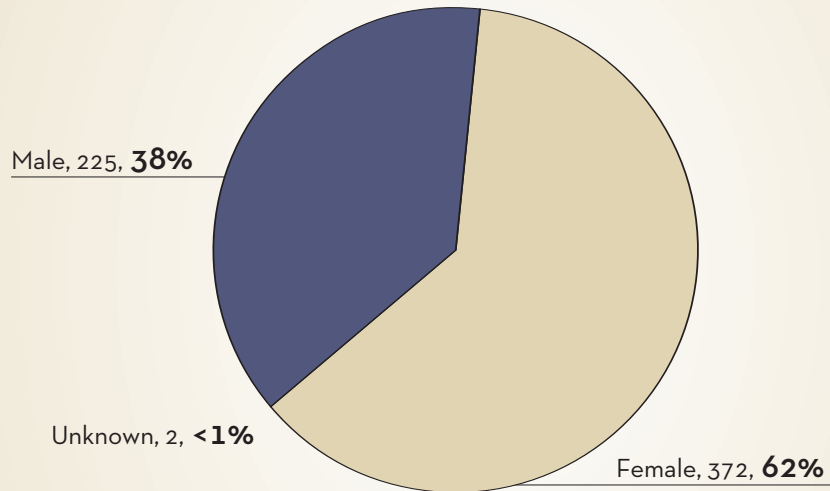




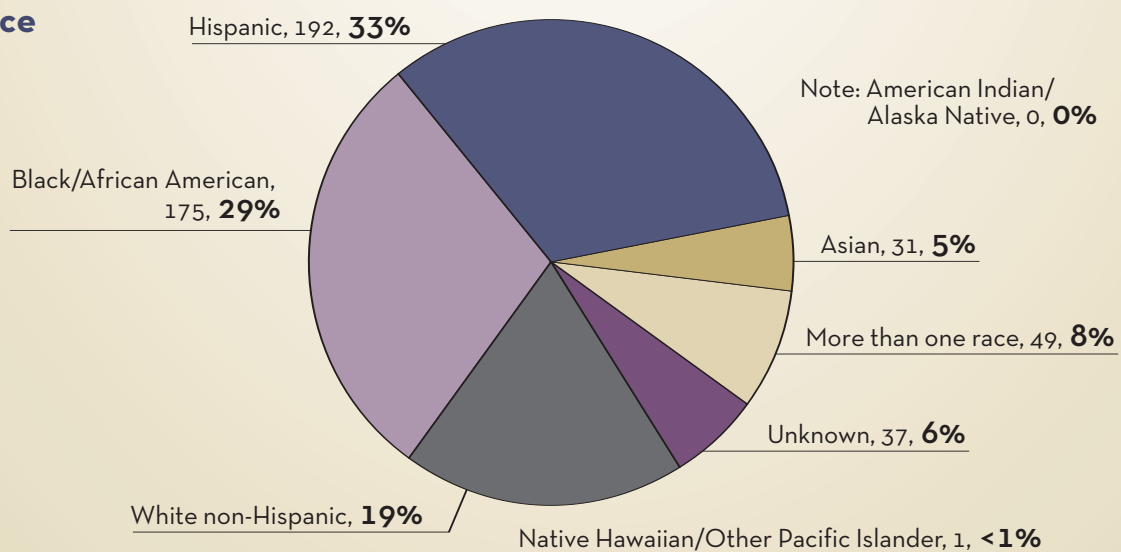
Age



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
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$ 534,166

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
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 544,272
DECREASE IN NET ASSETS	\$ (10,106)

TREE HOUSE STAFF

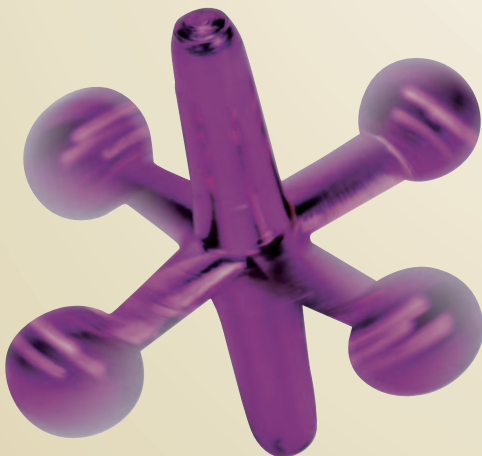
Brenda C. Petersen, Co-Director, Internal Affairs
Dr. Stephen C. Boos, Medical Director
Kevin Bale, IT/Data Manager
Barbara Hill, Mental Health Therapist
Elizabeth Pearce, Mental Health Therapist
Tandis Vaziri-Zanjani, Child & Family Advocate

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 McGillivray
 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

Steve Seater
 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.

