

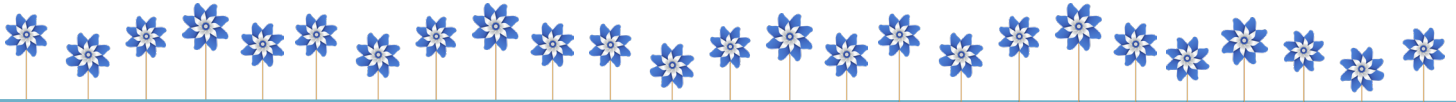


IT TAKES A VILLAGE

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

In 2022, there were 25,138 confirmed cases of abuse and/or neglect in Michigan. 8,614 of those children were removed from their homes and placed in foster care, shelters or residential treatment facilities.

During April, we are dedicating our efforts to raise awareness about Child Abuse Prevention. Our goal is to educate as many people as possible, so that we can collaborate effectively in addressing this critical issue. By spreading knowledge and understanding, we hope to create a united front in the fight against child abuse.



WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT?

Child abuse is a physical, psychological or sexual maltreatment or neglect of a child. This can happen at the hands of a parent, a close relative or caregiver and has a significant detrimental effect on the child. Although there are numerous ways a child can be abused or neglected, here are the most common types:

- **Physical Abuse:** this is one of the most well-known types of abuse and can range from cuts and bruises to broken bones and hospitalizations.
- **Sexual Abuse:** as much as one might think, sexual abuse isn't always about physical contact. Anything regarding a child in a sexual manner whether it's verbally, physically or emotionally can be considered abuse.
- **Emotional Abuse:** this type of abuse, like humiliating and criticizing, comes in a pattern of behaviors that harm a child's emotional well-being and development.
- **Neglect and Abandonment:** when the caregiver doesn't provide the basic care and protection or even leaves the child alone for long periods of time or entirely.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT?

- **Physical Abuse:** sudden changes in behavior, dip in performance at school, unexplained burns, bruises, broken bones or black eyes, fading bruises or other marks noticeable after an absence from school, seems frightened of the caregiver and protests or cries when it's time to go home, or shrinks at the approach of adults.
- **Emotional Abuse:** extreme behavioral changes, either inappropriately adult or infantile, delayed in physical or emotional development, has attempted or has thoughts about suicide, has a lack of attachment to caregiver.
- **Sexual Abuse:** change in body language, difficulty sitting or walking, reports of nightmares or bed wetting, demonstrates bizarre, sophisticated or unusual sexual knowledge or behaviors, starts showing parts of their bodies.
- **Neglect and Abandonment:** frequently gone from school, begs or steals food or money, lacks medical or dental care, immunizations or glasses, consistently dirty or has severe body odor, lacks sufficient clothing for the weather or clean clothes, states there is no one home to provide care.

If you ever come across a child in any of these situations, you can make a report. A child's physical and emotional well-being, and maybe even their life, could be at stake. You don't need proof to report abuse and if you feel at risk, you can remain anonymous.



WHO DO I CALL?

Emergency: 911

Non-emergencies: Local Child Protective Services or Police Department

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services: 855-444-3911

Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline: 800-422-4458

National Human Trafficking Hotline: 888-373-7888



WE WORK TO CHANGE LIVES

At Eagle Village, our utmost expertise lies in supporting and empowering youth and families. We are dedicated to providing transformative solutions that have the power to change lives. Our unwavering belief in the inherent potential of every individual drives us to work tirelessly toward helping families thrive and achieve success together.

In 2023, a total of 4,168 children were positively impacted by our comprehensive range of programs and services.

Residential Services (ages 8 - 17)

- » Giving youth who have been abused and neglected, a safe place to thrive
- » Recovering and earning school credit at our charter school

Foster Care and Adoption (ages birth - 18)

- » Recruiting, licensing, and training foster families
- » Finding and completing adoption matches
- » Helping adopted youth adjust to their forever families

Trauma Assessments (ages 3 - 17)

- » A day long assessment to provide answers to mental health and behavioral issues
- » Making a plan for the future to help stabilize behaviors

Children's Advocacy Center (ages 3 - 17)

- » Working with multi-disciplinary teams to conduct forensic interviews and advocate for children who have a reported case of abuse
- » Ensure that children's voices are heard and carefully responded to in a safe, non-threatening environment

Prevention and Intervention Programs (ages 9 - 17)

- » Summer camps for youth who need help managing emotions and behaviors
- » Year-round youth respite weekends
- » Individualized family intervention sessions
- » Community Counseling

Group and Mission Retreats (all ages)

- » A multipurpose center for team building and mental resilience training
- » Hosting schools, churches, college groups, and other organizations



Learn more at eaglevillage.org



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

Eagle Village is an organization that has welcomed the role of child advocacy through multiple programs since our beginning in 1968. We are known for our residential program, foster care recruiting, licensing and training, adoptions, prevention and intervention programs including trauma assessments, camps and community counseling. An opportunity was presented to add forensic interviews and advocacy for children who have a reported case of significant physical or sexual abuse. The new Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) offers a safe, nontreating environment for youth to discuss their experiences. Eagle Village provides this service for Osceola and Mecosta counties.



Three experienced staff members were hired to establish this service for our Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) to expand our continuum of services. Child welfare and safety is our highest priority and we are pleased to work with the multidisciplinary team to conduct forensic interviews and advocate for the children. The goal is to ensure that children's voices are heard and carefully responded to. We will provide our clients with access to additional services provided at Eagle Village such as counseling, and other therapies.



Learn more at eaglevillage.org/cac