



Michael's House

A Child Advocacy Center

Michael's House offers comprehensive services and a range of support to children and non-offending caregivers that have been affected by abuse. This may include immediate response and prompt collaborations with an extended network of law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocacy, counseling, and medical services. Michael's House is an accredited member of the National Children's Alliance. Michael's House is an accredited member of the National Children's Alliance (NCA).



 Spring 2025 

MANAGER'S MINUTE

Thank you for joining our newsletter community. April is a big month for us with our Pinwheel for Prevention campaign, raising awareness throughout the month. As many of you know, April is Child Abuse prevention month and along with planting pinwheel gardens in the community, Michael's House has many events planned to bring prevention education to the children and adults in Greene County. Please reach out to Michael's House and ask to speak with Archer Thomas to find out more about our community events.

In addition, we are excited to welcome Melissa Holbrook to the team as our new manager. With a strong background in child welfare and working within a children's advocacy center, she brings a wealth of knowledge, leadership, and passion to our mission. We look forward to the positive impact she will make and are thrilled to have her on board. Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Melissa!

Amy Ferguson
Director



YESTERDAY TO TODAY

Since 2008, Michael's House is guided by a mission driven purpose of protecting children, supporting their non-offending family members, holding offenders accountable and

educating the community to properly respond to prevent child abuse. We unite the community through education and prevention in April, National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Awareness of the problem is just the first step – prevention starts with education and ends with every child being safe and protected.

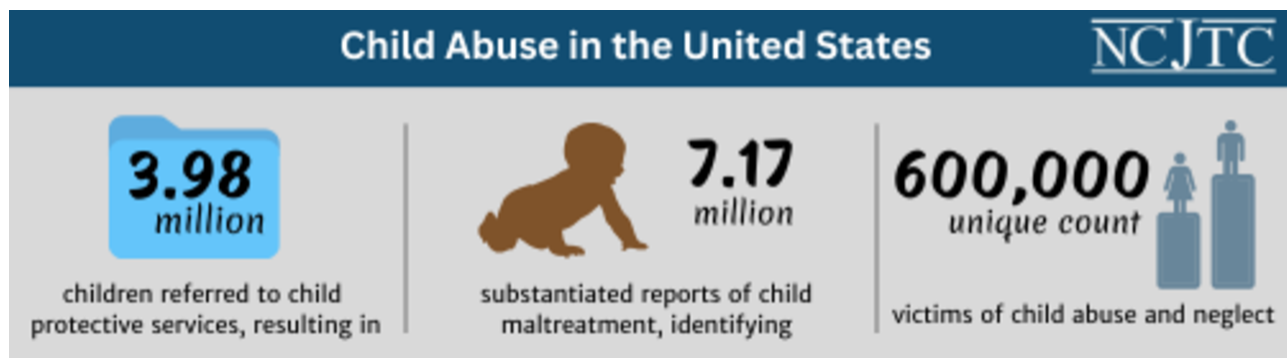
Our vision is of a world where all children grow up happy, healthy, and prepared to succeed in supportive families and communities. "Pinwheel Gardens" are symbols of hope and the carefree existence that all children should experience. Look for them throughout our community and take a moment to reflect on their meaning. Pinwheels are a reminder that we all play a role in children's lives.

A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

National and Local Statistics

In 2024, the Children's Advocacy Centers around the country served some 372,613 children experiencing allegations of abuse, providing victim advocacy and support to these children and their families. ([National Children's Alliance](#))

In 2024, Michael's House has served nearly 300 children of Greene County.



REPORTING TIPS

Reporting child abuse and neglect is everyone's responsibility. Children are counting on adults to

protect them. If a child expresses that they have been abused, stay calm and listen with compassion. Collect minimum facts, it is not your role to investigate.

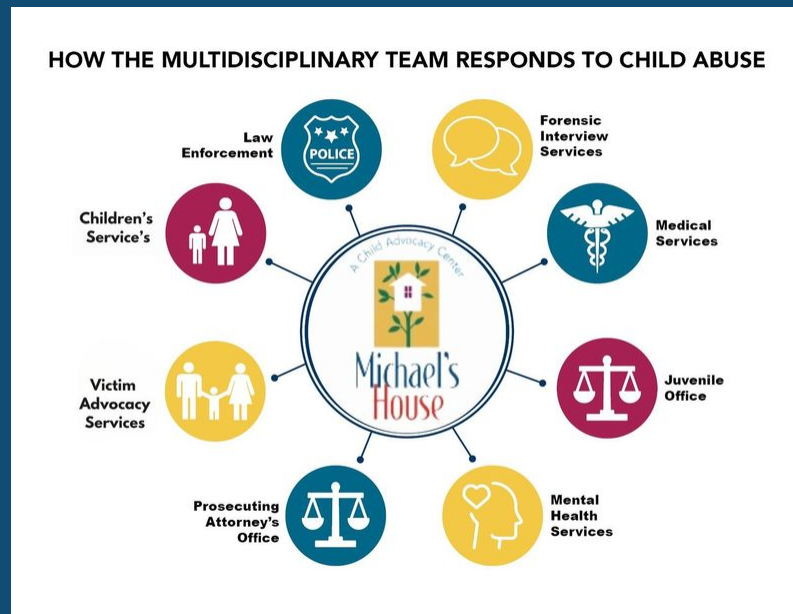
Where to report:

Greene County Children's Services 937-562-6600

If a child is in immediate danger, call 911

MULTI-DICIPLINARY TEAM SPOTLIGHT

MDT's
primary goal
is to reduce the number
of times a child will
need to talk with
different professionals.



The Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) is a collaborative effort between the Children Services, Law Enforcement, Prosecutor's Office, Victim Advocacy, Mental Health, Medical staff and the CAC staff to coordinate services for a child and their family while a child's allegation of abuse is under investigation. The MDT's primary goal is to reduce the number of times a child will need to talk with different professionals. The MDT is designed to respond to questions quickly and sensitively during the investigation.

This edition we spotlight [Greene County Children Services](#).

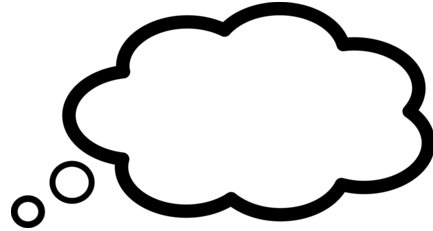
Greene County Children Services plays a crucial role in protecting the welfare of children by responding to reports of child abuse and ensuring their safety. When an investigation is initiated, Children Service investigators collaborate closely with the Family Service Coordinator and law enforcement, alongside members of a Multidisciplinary team, to address the situation comprehensively.

Based on insights gained from a forensic interview and multidisciplinary meeting, Children Services formulates a tailored plan aimed at preventing further harm or dangerous situations for the child. This plan may include coordinating with other agencies, providing resources and support to the family, and implementing preventative measures.

To ensure ongoing safety, Children Services conducts regular home safety checks and maintains a connection with the family, offering continued support and services as needed. This proactive approach helps to create a safe and nurturing environment for the child, promoting their well-being and development.

Through their dedicated efforts, Greene County Children Services strives to protect children and support

RESOURCE CORNER



Education & Training

Education and training are key to prevention. Research shows that children need higher quality prevention programs that include parent and adult education. In our efforts of educating adults we partner with Darkness to Light and use their Stewards of Children curriculum. Stewards of Children teaches adults practical actions they can take to reduce instances of child sexual abuse in their organizations, families, and communities. They address 5 Steps for Protecting Our Children.

1. Learn the Facts
2. Minimize Opportunity
3. Talk About It
4. Recognize The Signs
5. React Responsibly

If you would like to know more about training please contact Archer Thomas, Awareness and Outreach Specialist at 937-641-5671 or thomasa7@childrensdayton.org

read more

Therapist Thought...

The therapists at Michael's House provide therapeutic services to children and adolescents who have experienced traumatic events. Oftentimes, as a result of these events, children and adolescents have had their boundaries violated and may have lost a sense of safety. While there are several treatment modalities available, the most common is Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), which includes a component on safety and prevention. The therapists provide psychoeducation about safety and prevention to both parents as well as children and adolescents throughout the duration of therapy. This can include addressing safety concerns, practicing assertiveness skills, developing problem solving skills, and strengthening relationships with supportive adults. Books, handouts, and interactive activities are used to help children and adolescents strengthen their understanding of safety and provide opportunities to practice skills. Engaging children and adolescents, along with their parents, in education about safety and prevention ensures families have been equipped with knowledge and skills as they heal from trauma and continue to grow as individuals.

Michael's House Therapist

Team

Ron and Barbara Spaulding

“It takes a community to protect a child” is not just a cliché statement that Michael’s House uses but resonates in the hearts of the individuals who step up in so many ways to ensure the children who bravely walk through our doors are taken care of. Ron and Barbara Spaulding are among some of those very people who for the last 16 years have sent so many items that bring bright smiles to the faces of our children.



Ron and Barbara have been friends of Bill and Elaine Mercurio's for several years. Their shared love of Corvettes, quilting, and changing the lives of children helped to solidify the friendship. Elaine enjoys telling the story of how she and Barbara were taking bets on who owned more quilting fabric. Unbeknownst to Elaine, Barbara owned a quilt store that housed tons of fabric. And so began the commitment to Michael’s House and the children. The Spauldings would routinely send toys and quilts to the center to give to children whose lives were affected by various types of abuse. The children are taken around at the end of their forensic interview to collect items to take home with them. Those items include the handmade quilts that oftentimes came from Barbara. These handmade quilts bring comfort and warmth to the children. They are created with love and dedication to serve as a sense of security to the children who have experience trauma or difficult circumstances. Barbara has taken a lot of time and care to reach out to see what themes kids are more drawn to, so she is able to craft more than a cozy covering. She is creating items that symbolize the care and concern of individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children.

Although Ron and Barbara are not the only individuals who send special gifts and quilts for the children, they have been consistently donating numerous years. Michael’s House wants to extend our heartfelt gratitude and recognition for their time, talent, and resources. Their generosity helps to brighten the lives of children when they need it most and these thoughtful gifts provide comfort to many children and families as they begin the process of healing and recovery.

On behalf of Michael's House, Ron and Barbara, thank you for your dedication to making a difference in the lives of these children.

FANTASTIC 50



Michael's House is a partner to law enforcement and to the prosecutor's office. They help us do our job to protect children here in Greene County. If you'd like to join in that effort, consider becoming a member of our Fantastic Fifty. Contact our office for more information at 937-641-5670.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

DARKNESS TO LIGHT'S STEWARDS OF CHILDREN® 5 STEPS TO PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL ABUSE

The 5 Steps to Protecting Our Children™ form the foundation of Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children® program. By applying these steps, we can prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

- 1 LEARN THE FACTS**
1 in 10 children are sexually abused before their 18th birthday. Over 90% of them know their abuser.
- 2 MINIMIZE OPPORTUNITY**
Decrease the risk of abuse by eliminating or reducing isolated one-on-one situations.
- 3 TALK ABOUT IT**
Have age appropriate, open conversations about our bodies, sex, and boundaries.
- 4 RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS**
Don't expect obvious signs of abuse. Signs are often there, but you have to know what to look for.
- 5 REACT RESPONSIBLY**
Understand how to react to risky behavior, boundary violations, or suspicions, and when to make a report.

By taking Stewards of Children® you will learn through the 5 Steps how to make child protective choices, find the courage to take risks, and create a supportive community that together can protect children from sexual abuse.

Visit D2L.org to learn how you can protect children.



Use the 5 Safety Rules to help keep children safe!



- Know What's Up**
Talk to children and listen to them. Ask them questions about their activities and people they spend time with. Learn about the technology and devices they are using or can access.
- Spot Red Flags**
Teach children safety concepts such as personal space and boundaries, respecting themselves and others, secrets and tricks, and digital safety. Educate them about the dangers present in society, how to spot red flag behaviors to identify unsafe situations, and how to seek help to minimize their risk of being victimized.
- Make a Move**
If you suspect a child is being harmed, trust yourself and act. If a child tells you that abuse or bullying has happened, praise them for telling you and take action immediately. Report bullying to the school or organization where it occurred. Report child abuse to your state child welfare agency, and unsafe online behaviors to law enforcement or the Cybertipline at 800-843-5678. Visit www.childwelfare.gov/organizations for a list of state child welfare agency contact information.
- Talk It Up**
Talk to children and other adults about safety, unsafe situations, and the Safety Rules. Let them know they can talk to you about safety when the need arises because Child Safety Matters to you.
- No Blame | No Shame**
Let children know they are never to blame if anything happens to them because adults are responsible for keeping them safe. Let them know they should never be ashamed to tell you about Red Flags, abuse, bullying, or other unsafe situations. Let them know you will support them.

HOW TO HELP

YOU can make a difference for the kids and families at Michael's House.
We could not do what we do without our generous volunteers and donors.

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

CLICK HERE
michaelshousecac.org/how-to-help/ →



There are many ways in which you can get involved with Michael's House. We hope you will take the opportunity to learn more about how to help.

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is a child-friendly facility that provides a safe place for children to speak and be heard. Child Advocacy Centers exist to provide every service needed for victims of sexual abuse to find safety, justice, and healing. Michael's House is part of the National Children's Alliance (NCA). The NCA is the national association and accrediting body for a network of 961 (and counting!) Children's Advocacy Centers.



NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE®



Michael's House

1016 Rainbow Court
Fairborn, Ohio 45324

937-641-5670

For more information, please visit our website <https://michaelshousecac.org/>



Michael's House complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. For more information, see link on our home page at <https://www.childrensdayton.org>

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