



# IMPACT REPORT 2020

*Responding, protecting, and restoring children  
so they get the help, hope, and healing they need.*





# Kimberly's Center

for Child Protection

*The Marion County Children's Advocacy Center*

**N**o child deserves to suffer the trauma of abuse or neglect. At *Kimberly's Center for Child Protection*, we respond to, protect, and restore the abused and neglected children of Marion County so they get the healing, hope, and help they need.

Sadly, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be victims of sexual abuse by the age of 18, leaving them feeling scared and alone. This is unacceptable! Kimberly's Center is Marion County's compassionate response to the trauma of abuse. Our team of specially trained professionals walks with children through the process of healing from start to finish so they know they're not alone. In partnership with law enforcement and other community partners, Kimberly's Center ensures children can tell their story of abuse without being re-traumatized by the process.

2020 has been a challenging year for countless reasons, especially for children **impacted by abuse and neglect** in Marion County. Yet, 2020 has also been a year of incredible resilience and support from our community and supporters. My hope is that the following pages will reveal to you just how much of an impact your support has and continues to make in our county. Your generosity and support allows us to draw alongside the most vulnerable and the **most resilient people** in our community: Our children.

With Gratitude,

Dawn Westgate





*It's*  
**Okay**  
*to* **Tell**

## **KIDS TRAUMA THERAPY**

Last year, a female teen with a chronic history of sexual abuse was working with one of our therapists. While working through our “It’s Okay to Tell” workbook, she had a breakthrough connection when she read that abuse is never a victim’s fault. Healing from trauma is complex work. Many children who experience sexual abuse feel the abuse is somehow their fault. On top of the hurt, they carry a deep sense of shame that they should have done something to stop it. Recognizing you’re not responsible for the abuse is one of the most significant breakthroughs children make at Kimberly’s Center. Our therapists work with children day-after-day to ensure they have the coping skills needed to heal and overcome the shame of abuse.

# CHILD PROTECTION TEAM

Healing is a journey that takes time Last year, Kimberly's Center provided counseling services to several children who recently graduated from high school with Honors. They all plan on attending college locally. These children were involved in individual and group therapy and were victims of sexual abuse. One of these clients recently became a mother as a result of her abuse.

*Let that sink in  
for a moment.*

She is an AMAZING mother. While working a full-time job and finishing her senior year the counseling she received from Kimberly's helped her break the cycle of abuse. Think about that! These kids have the staggering capacity to make something beautiful and hopeful out of the trauma that was done to them. Through our counseling services, they acquire coping skills to regulate their emotions, address trust-related issues and understand the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships and boundaries. Time and again, we see children do more than just heal. They flourish.



Healing  
*Is a Journey*



# *Extraordinary* **Support**

## **TRAUMA INTERVENTION & ADVOCACY**

Our Therapy and Advocacy Program has made significant strides in serving our clients during the unusual circumstances of 2020. As we'll discuss later in this report, abused and neglected children are at great risk when confined to their homes away from mandatory reporters like coaches and teachers. Last year, we were able to maintain connection with our clients via Tele-Mental Health and virtual meetings with parents. In fact, one caregiver called to inform supervisors about the significant impact our team had made on their family last Spring when children weren't attending school due to COVID-19.

**Our child advocates were able to stay in close contact with the family, providing the needed resources so they could stay on the path to healing while stuck at home.**

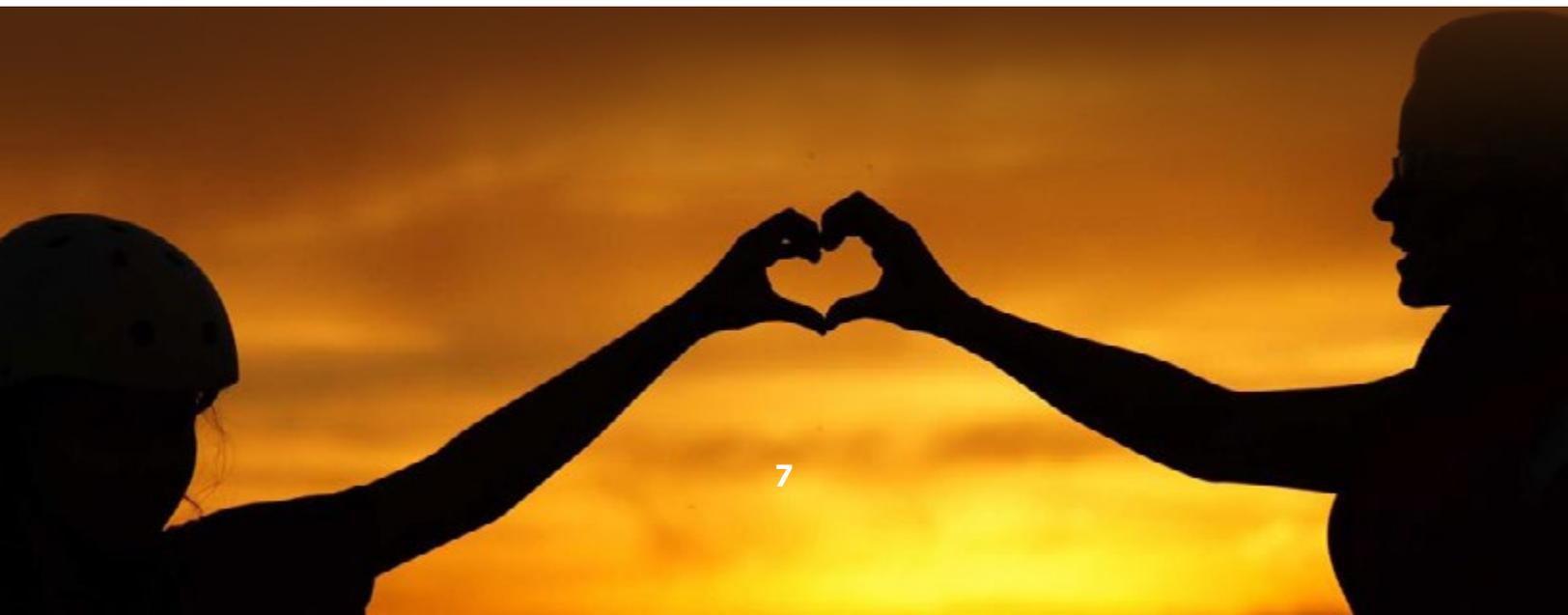
The therapy team was able to complete a Trauma Assessment with the child in less than two weeks from receiving the referral. That child's caregiver shared her gratitude for the extraordinary support and assistance they received from our team.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ADVOCACY

Unfortunately, our prevention program doesn't stop all types of abuse. But the thing about prevention is that you never really know the ripples you're creating. We saw this at work last year when our Community Outreach Advocate was called into work on a Saturday for an on-call case. Five children were brought to Kimberly's Center for services. One of the little boys happened to be a second grader from a classroom that received the Child

Safety Matters curriculum. When he saw the Community Outreach Advocate, he yelled her name, ran up to her and hugged her. He then started reciting the 5 safety rules he learned while he was in class. Although he ultimately ended up being in an unsafe situation, he undoubtedly retained the information provided to him from the prevention program and was able to teach his siblings about what he learned as well.

*It's hard to do this work,  
but stories like that are the fuel that keeps our team  
showing up to do this important work!*





## COVID-19 IMPACT

The COVID pandemic and the ensuing quarantines were a scary and uncertain time for many of us, particularly for our kids who were quarantined at home with their abusers. Too many kids found themselves in the situation of having absolutely no break from their abusive and volatile homes. Stories started to unfold across the country of teachers witnessing children being abused in the backgrounds of their Zoom calls, young children were being rushed to emergency rooms beaten and broken, and children who were being sexually abused were absolutely trapped with no one to tell. The team at Kimberly's Center quickly partnered with a number of local businesses and organizations to push out child safety information in an effort to create a new safety net for children who were not finding their shelter in classrooms with their teachers any longer. We were able to quickly adapt how we delivered our services in order to be able to continue investigative services in a safe and child-friendly way. The therapy team rolled out a new tele-mental health platform that enabled us to stay in contact with some of our most vulnerable clients.

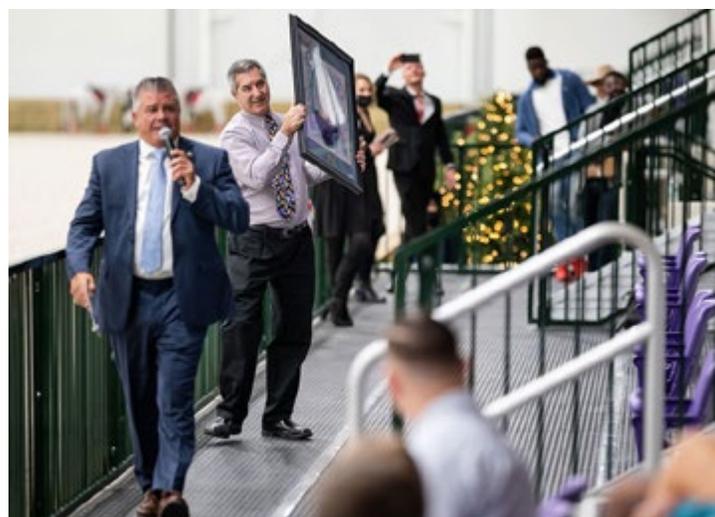
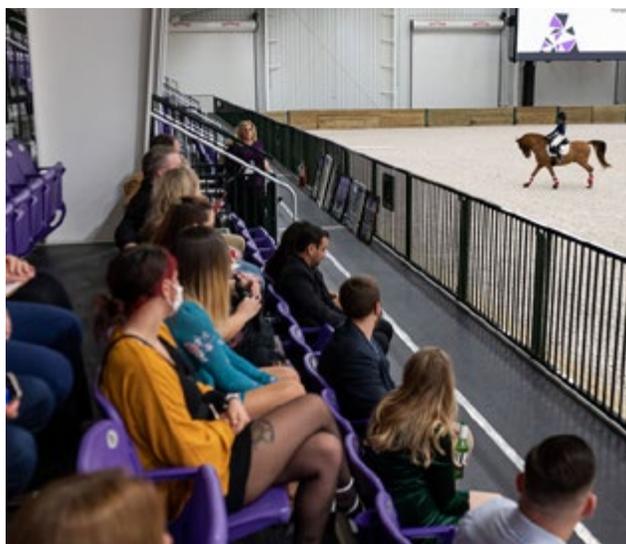
**The pandemic didn't just impact our services. It also impacted our budget. And that's where this community stepped up.**

With so many of our fundraisers canceled due to the pandemic, we found ourselves in need of financial donations. We sent out a solicitation to past supporters, and then something amazing happened. The Marion County Literacy Council, Interfaith Emergency Services and Kimberly's Center were informed that the Brick City Beer & Wine Festival Committee was able to contribute funds that had been designated for the canceled 2020 event. This was fantastic news! But then we received another call, this time from the Board Chair of the Marion County Literacy Council, R.J. Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins shared that their Board of Directors had decided to contribute their portion of the Brick City Beer & Wine Festival to Kimberly's Center as well! Mr. Jenkins shared their desire to be a part of insuring that children suffering abuse and neglect during this pandemic received access to our critical trauma informed services. We are so deeply grateful to the Brick City Beer and Wine Festival and The Marion County Literacy Council for their generosity and example of selflessness.

# ART & SOUL 2020

*Each year we host a fundraiser called Art & Soul in which we auction off artwork created by the children who come to Kimberly's.*

In December, the Roberts Family made Kimberly's Center the very first charity event to ever be held at the new World Equestrian Center. We're extremely grateful for their generosity and for the kindness their entire team extended to us. The World Equestrian Center is a stunning facility that will add value to our community in countless ways. Thanks to their generosity and the generosity of our donors, we were able to auction 6 art pieces and raise over \$170,000!



# METRICS + ANALYTICS

**2700**  
Therapy  
Sessions

**1300**  
Tele-mental  
Health  
Sessions

**900**  
Investigative  
Services

**350**  
Safety  
Planning  
Sessions

**85**  
Families Received  
Help for  
Christmas

**700**  
Child Safety Matters  
Curriculum  
Lessons to 2nd  
Graders

**87%**  
of every dollar given  
goes directly into  
life-changing services  
for children and  
families.

**154**  
Children Were  
in Transition  
Care

**1331**  
Total Children  
Served  
In 2020

# WHAT'S NEXT?



In 2021, we plan to expand the reach of our prevention education program. By the end of 2021, 100% of 1st and 2nd graders in the Marion County Public Schools will have completed our abuse prevention program.

While we speak often about the trauma of abuse, the second-hand trauma suffered by first-responders and child abuse professionals often goes unnoticed. And that's just plain wrong! So, in 2021, Kimberly's Center will expand its trauma therapy programs to include first responders and child abuse professionals.

Our team will look a little different heading into the New Year as well. Dr. J.D. Steed, who has served faithfully as our medical director, will be stepping down to focus on his family

and his new medical practice Walden Direct Primary Care. Dr. Steed is a gift who brings joy to everyone fortunate enough to cross his path. We'll miss his cheerful presence, but celebrate all the goodness he'll unleash in the world through his medical practice!





*You Make a*  
**Measurable**  
*Impact*

## **PARTNER WITH US**

None of the world-changing work included in this report is possible apart from our partners and donors. We're truly fortunate to live in a community that truly cares for abused and neglected children.

If you'd like to partner with us to expand our impact and help even more children find the healing, hope, and help they deserve we would love to see that happen! Please know that your generosity is making a meaningful and measurable impact in the lives of our children.

**If you'd like to partner with us, there are two primary ways to do so:**

### **TAKE A TOUR**

Get a front row seat to the inspiring work we do at Kimberly's. Come take a tour of our facility and find out why we're so inspired to keep showing up!

### **DONATE**

Because we depend on contributions from our local community, making a financial contribution is one of the fastest ways to help.



**Kimberly's  
Center**

for Child Protection

*The Marion County Children's Advocacy Center*

[info@kimberlycenter.org](mailto:info@kimberlycenter.org)

2800 NE 14th St, Ocala, FL 34470

Tel: 352-873-4739

[kimberlycenter.org](http://kimberlycenter.org)