



Kimberly's
Center

for Child Protection

The Marion County Children's Advocacy Center

2024
-
2025

IMPACT REPORT





MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We have a truly incredible team at Kimberly's Center. To say it is a calling to endure as a member of this team is such an understatement. Each and every day, this team fights for safety, justice and healing for children throughout our community who have been impacted by abuse and neglect. They fight even when it is hard and even when it feels hopeless.

DAWN WESTGATE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Each year, as we reflect on the work being done at Kimberly's Center for Child Protection, I am reminded of the incredible strength of the children and teens we serve—and of the unwavering support from people like you who make our mission possible.

For the past 23 years, I've had the privilege of being a part of this organization, and my passion for our work has only deepened with time. This past year was especially meaningful as we provided direct services to more than 1,300 children and reached over 30,000 individuals through our prevention programs. Each one of these numbers represents a life touched, a moment of healing, and a future made a little brighter because of your generosity.

We are also proud to share the completion of our \$1.6 million building expansion and renovation—a beautiful, trauma-informed space thoughtfully designed to meet the unique needs of children and families walking through our doors. It's more than a building—it's a safe place to begin the journey toward healing.

Additionally, our Board of Directors finalized a five-year strategic plan, laying the groundwork for exciting and essential growth. One of our biggest priorities ahead is expanding our capacity in the fight against the online exploitation of children—a rapidly growing threat that demands our full attention and action.

As you read through this year's impact report, I hope you see the profound difference your support has made. Every service we provide, every life we touch, and every future we help protect is possible because of you.

Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for believing in the healing power of compassion, expertise, and community.





OUR MISSION

Since 1999, Kimberly's Center has provided child victims of abuse and neglect a safe and comforting environment, where they can begin their journey of healing.

Kimberly's Center for Child Protection was formed after a task force convened in 1996, that was comprised of law enforcement, prosecution, and child protection leaders who knew there was a better way to care for children and teenagers in the aftermath of child abuse allegations. This task force identified the Children's Advocacy Center model as the best way to care for our communities' children and founded this organization. During its formation, Thad Boyd was approached by the task force and asked to consider supporting the mission prayerfully. Thad, and his entire family, championed the important work of protecting and advocating for child abuse victims, and out of that commitment to children came the name, Kimberly's Cottage, and today, Kimberly's Center for Child Protection. Thad, Chris, and Snow Boyd's sister, Kimberly, had lost her life in a car accident in 1994; the task force asked to honor her legacy by naming the newly formed nonprofit after her. The task force believed that naming the newly formed nonprofit after Kimberly not only honored her legacy but also paid tribute to their mother, Sally, a dedicated supporter of the mission.

Since then, Kimberly's Center has provided child victims of abuse and neglect a safe and comforting environment, where they can begin their journey of healing.

Through Kimberly's Center's trauma-informed model, these children receive a forensic interview and medical exam conducted by highly trained professionals who specialize in the care of children. This compassionate approach mitigates further emotional trauma caused by repeated interviews by multiple agencies.

After the necessary process of obtaining facts and information to be utilized in the prosecution of their abusers, Kimberly's Center remains in the child's life, serving as their source of healing.



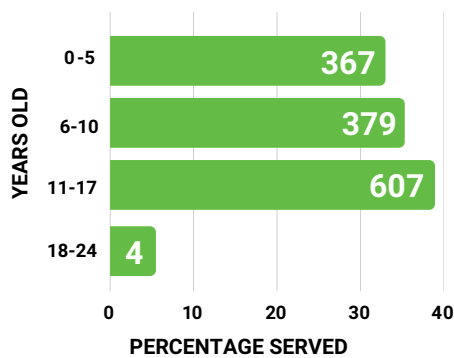
WHO WE SERVE

One in four children experience abuse and neglect. Kimberly's Center exists to respond to, protect, and restore these children so they can get the help, hope, and healing they need.

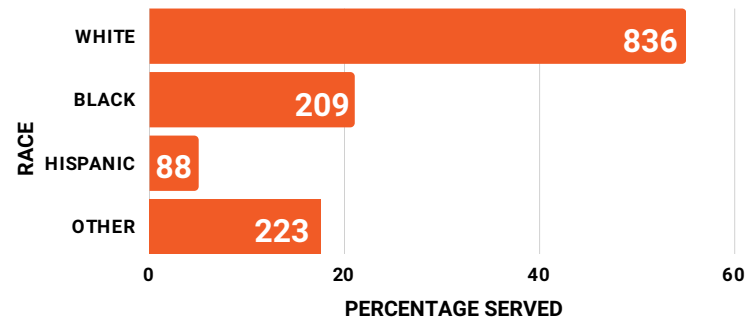
**TOTAL 1,356
CHILDREN SERVED**



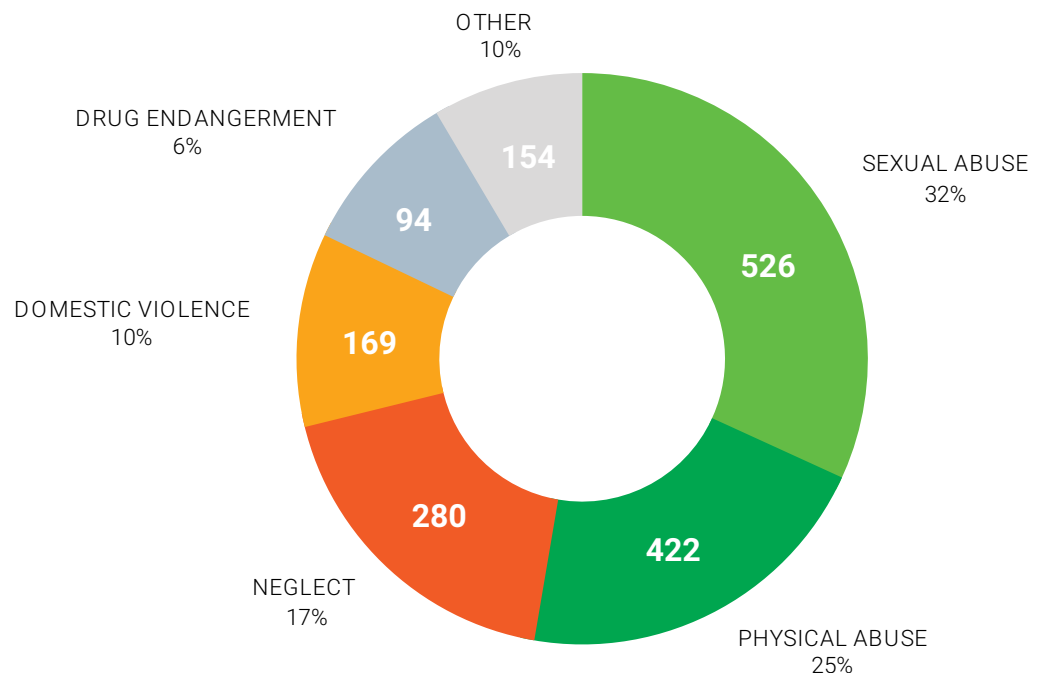
AGE



RACE



MALTREATMENT ABUSE CATEGORY



ANNUAL NUMBERS

32,621

Students taught about child abuse, digital safety, bullying and identifying a safe adult

1,356

Children served last year by Kimberly's Center

659

Interviews conducted with children to help share their personal stories in a trauma-informed and legally sound way

489

Interviews conducted with caregivers to help identify safety and protective capacities

508

Medical Assessments conducted to assist in child abuse investigations

283

Children helped to develop their personalized safety plan

76

Children cared for while they waited for their foster care bed

2,198

Therapy Sessions conducted to overcome the trauma of abuse

60

Families provided with toys and food for Christmas

410

Adults provided child safety training.



FUNDING SOURCES

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Kimberly's Center relies on the generosity of community partners and local and state grants to support its mission and programs.

Their contributions enable us to make a meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve.

- Fundraising Events
- Corporate and Individual Donations
- Department of Health
- Florida Network of Children's Advocacy
- Victims of Crime Act
- United Way of Marion County
- Board of County Commissioners
- Marion County Sheriff's Office
- Marion County Hospital District



PROTECTING CHILDREN IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A CRITICAL COLLABORATION

Every day, children in our community face unseen dangers online. In response to the alarming rise in online exploitation, Kimberly's Center for Child Protection is working hand-in-hand with the Marion County Sheriff's Office and Ocala Police Department as part of a local Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force.

Together, we respond to a growing number of CyberTips reported through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) over 1,150 in Marion County last year alone. Through proactive online sting operations, dozens of predators have been arrested before they could harm a child.

But arresting offenders is only part of the story. At Kimberly's Center, we provide forensic interviews, medical exams, and trauma-focused therapy to help children heal after exploitation and abuse. This work is only possible because of donors like you.

Your support ensures we can continue to stand alongside law enforcement, protect our children, and offer hope and healing when it's needed most. Together, we are their safety net—and their future.



SERVICES

a compassionate response to the trauma of child abuse

ADVOCACY

Our Child Advocates work to provide advocacy, crisis support and case management services to child victims of abuse and neglect and their non-offending families and caretakers. Our advocacy staff are well educated about local resources within our community and work to ensure that children are protected from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and have access to essential resources like education, healthcare, and a safe environment. The goal is to empower children, give them a voice in decisions affecting their lives, so they can thrive.



Trauma Intervention & Advocacy

Kimberly's Center provided 2,100 therapy sessions to our local kiddos in 2023. Our goal is to make these brave children feel safe to share their stories. Our specialized therapists work tirelessly to ensure children understand that they are not responsible for their abuse. They are committed to equipping children with the coping skills needed to heal and overcome the shame associated with abuse.



Have you ever wondered what happens to a child when they find out that they have to go to Foster Care? Here in Marion County, our amazing team of Child Advocates work directly with the Department of Children & Families (DCF) to take care of these kids, while they wait for their first foster bed. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, Child Advocates are available at Kimberly's Center to meet the emotional and physical needs of children, while they go through the overwhelming process of going into foster care.

CHILD PROTECTION TEAM

Once a child is referred to Kimberly's Center by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) or law enforcement, the Child Protection Team serves to provide investigative services for the child, as they begin the important process of sharing their story in a safe and protective environment.

Services include forensic interviews, specialized interviews, medical exams and consultations. Team members make safety recommendations and provide expert court testimony.



PREVENTION

Kimberly's Center, in partnership with Marion County Public Schools, teaches the Monique Burr Foundation's *Child Safety Matters* curriculum to children and teens in every public school in Marion County.

These are age-appropriate, evidence-based/evidence-informed, comprehensive prevention programs that educate and empower children and adults with universal strategies and Safety Rules. Topics covered include body safety, bullying, cyber bullying and digital dangers. As they advance to *Teen Safety Matters*, topics covered include suicide prevention and body safety.

CHILDREN'S TRAUMA THERAPY

In 2024, Kimberly's Center provided 2,200 therapy sessions to children on their healing journeys. Our goal is to create a safe and supportive space where brave children can share their stories. With compassion and expertise, our specialized therapists help children understand that the abuse was never their fault. They are dedicated to equipping each child with healthy coping skills, building resilience, and fostering hope for a future free from the shame of abuse.



SAND TRAY

Sand Tray Therapy is a powerful, evidence-informed treatment modality that allows abused children to safely express thoughts and emotions that may be too difficult to verbalize. Pictured here is the new Sand Tray Therapy Room at Kimberly's Center. Pro Closet & Cabinetry right here in Ocala donated and installed this custom shelving. Through the use of miniature figures and symbolic play in the sand, children are able to externalize their inner experiences, process trauma, and begin to make sense of their stories in a non-threatening and developmentally appropriate way. This approach fosters healing, empowerment, and resilience—often revealing insights that traditional talk therapy cannot reach.



ANNUAL EVENTS

When children in this community have faced unimaginable abuse and neglect, they are met with a safe, compassionate, and effective response. When you become a Corporate Partner, you are answering their call and ensuring every child receives protection, healing, and empowerment to live life without limits.



Give4Marion

www.give4marion.com

Marion County's 24-Hour Day of Giving
September 16-17, 2025

Funds raised during this special day are allocated to specific programs that we highlight each year.



Art & Soul

Private Art Auction & Evening Reception
November 20, 2025 | 6:30 pm

Attended annually by our community's most prominent philanthropists.



5K Race Against Child Abuse

www.kcrace.com

12th Annual 5K Run/ Walk
April 2026

Run/Walk held at Calesa township with more than 1,000 participants of all ages in 2025.



Brick City Beer and Wine Festival

www.brickcitybeerandwinefest.com

Citizen's Circle
April 4, 2026

Annual event hosted by the Ocala-Silver Springs Rotary Club and the Ocala-Sunset Rotary. Kimberly's Center is honored to be one of the beneficiaries.

KIMBERLY'S CENTER TEAM

Dawn Westgate, MNM	Executive Director
Victoria Clifton	Team Coordinator
Jennifer Van Ness-Davis	LMHC: Co-Clinical Director
Courtney Richardson	Intake Coordinator
Stacey Martin, APRN	APRN
Ingrid Batista, LMHC	Co-Clinical Director
Brittany Cecil	Program Director
Samantha Harris	Therapist
Melissa Ruiz	Therapist
Cory Caraway	Senior Case Coordinator
Kristin Wences	Case Coordinator
Kelly Tingelr, PA	PA
Meghan Darling	Case Coordinator
Danielle Sutton	Case Coordinator
Leah Brannon	Bookkeeper
Jacqueline Rodriguez	Case Coordinator
Kadi Potter	Lead Child Advocate
Autumn Cornejo	Child Advocate
Sayli Wandique	Community Outreach Advocate
Rae Ann Warner, APRN	Medical Provider
Elean Meredith, APRN	Medical Provider
Chrissy Fowler	Community Outreach Advocate
Susan Sims	Community Outreach Advocate
Lindsay Rodriguez	Receptionist



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ken Ausley	Ausley Construction
Sheriff Billy Woods	Marion County Sheriff's Office
Lt. Ryan Robbins	Vice Chair, Marion County Sheriff's
Robert Batsel	PAST Chair Gooding & Batsel P.A.
Melissa Bianculli	Board Member
Reese Bourgeois	Flow Consulting
Thad Boyd	Boyd Real Estate Group
Todd Duffy	Ausley Construction
Tamara Fleischhaker	Chair CEP Ocala
Chief Michael Balken	Ocala Police Department
Katie Hunnicutt	Marion County Clerk of Court
Dr. Gregggy Laroche	Nemours Children's Hospital
Imhabibi Laroche	Cardinal Glass Industries
Chris Boyd	Emeritus
Katie Fabian	Board Member
Elizabeth Fairbanks	Board Member
Elizabeth Steiner	Board Member
Josh Johnson	Seacoast Bank





GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in having a direct impact in the lives of local children, please consider becoming a supporter.

- Provide a One-Time Donation
- Set Up a Monthly Automated Contribution
- Make a Multi-Year Pledge
- Become a Corporate Partner
- Leave a Legacy Gift

Too many children suffer abuse and neglect. Your generosity makes a measurable and meaningful impact so children find the help, hope, and healing they need.



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(352) 873-4739



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