

Child Protection Center, Inc.



Hanna's Hope

The mission of the Child Protection Center (CPC) is the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse. Their initiative is a new program, Hanna's Hope, designed to expand the CPC Therapy Program to include serving adults in Sarasota County who were victims of childhood sexual abuse.

Child abuse is sometimes referred to as the best kept secret. Sixty percent of child sexual abuse victims have never disclosed that they were sexually abused, and many who disclose have not received treatment for their trauma. The prevalence of child abuse is shocking: 77 children a day are abused in Florida, and last year over 3,200 reports of abuse or neglect were reported to the Child Protection Team in Sarasota County. As victims internalize the trauma and experience triggers, the long-term effects of childhood sexual abuse correlate with higher levels of depression, guilt, shame, self-blame, eating disorders, somatic concerns, anxiety, dissociative patterns, repression, denial, sexual and relationship problems. CPC has received increasing numbers of requests from adults seeking treatment for childhood abuse. Hanna's Hope will address this need, offering stabilization and healing through free, evidence-based mental health support for these adult survivors by providing individual, family and group counseling.

Effective trauma treatment will restore the health, development, relationships, and the safety of survivors by mitigating and resolving trauma symptoms. CPC's effective specialized therapeutic intervention will give survivors the opportunity to experience the transformational healing which will afford them the ability to interact and function as healthy adults and productive citizens in the community.

Of the \$110,500 Impact 100 SRQ grant, \$108,000 will fund the first-year salaries for two therapists, a fully licensed clinician and a master level licensed-eligible therapist to serve adults who were victims of child abuse. The \$2,500 balance will go toward the costs of promoting the program through social media and print material. CPC anticipates high and immediate requests for services based on abuse statistics and level of survivor requests. Additional initial expenses of the Hanna's Hope Program will be supported from contributions already received from alternative fundraising. To sustain the program, CPC will obtain and maintain diversified funding including government sources, relevant foundations and organizations, special events, individual contributions, and endowments, as they have throughout their 42-year history.

Through re-establishing an adult's well-being and developmental functioning with therapy treatment at CPC, families are less likely to need other costly services in later years due to untreated abuse-related issues. The transformation of a victim to a survivor to one that thrives results in adults who are empowered and healthy citizens within our community.