



Children's Advocacy Centers  
of Virginia (CACVA)  
P.O. Box 4651  
Roanoke, VA 24015  
276-644-3371  
[www.cacva.org](http://www.cacva.org)



**FOOTHILLS**  
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Foothills Child Advocacy  
Center  
1106 E. High St.  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
434-971-7233  
[www.foothillscac.org](http://www.foothillscac.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contacts:** Wanda Ostrander, Executive Director, CACVA, [wostrander@cacva.org](mailto:wostrander@cacva.org)  
Cathee Johnson Phillips, Executive Director, Foothills Child Advocacy Center, [cjphillips@foothillscac.org](mailto:cjphillips@foothillscac.org)

### **HELPING CHILD VICTIMS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA** *April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month*

March 28, 2019 (ROANOKE, VA) – The Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia (CACVA) has released the new educational video "Helping Child Victims in the Commonwealth of Virginia," available on the homepage of Foothill Child Advocacy Center's website, [www.foothillscac.org](http://www.foothillscac.org).

**Julian Marsh from Charlottesville Child Protective Services** joins other professionals from Virginia child advocacy centers and child abuse multidisciplinary teams to talk about the ways in which this model benefits child victims and their families

There are 18 child advocacy centers and five satellite centers in Virginia. In 2018, the centers served more than 5,700 children and their families from communities across the state.

The child advocacy center model is considered best practice for allegations of criminal child maltreatment and has been heralded by the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime for improving services to child victims. Based on data collected by the National Children's Alliance, in 2018, 95 percent of caregivers agree that child advocacy centers provide them with resources to support their children, and 98 percent of team members believe clients benefit from the collaborative approach of the multi-disciplinary team.

This video was produced by Amy L. Roscher, Production Manager at WVPT – Public Media in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Camera/Editor was by Shari Pennington at WVPT.

---

#### **About Foothills Child Advocacy Center**

Foothills Child Advocacy Center provides a coordinated system of effective response and intervention to children who have been victimized. Our goals are to minimize trauma, promote healing, and ensure child safety. Foothills fulfills these goals by (1) coordinating a team of 14 local government and nonprofit agencies to increase communication and mutual accountability, reduce duplication of services, and help ensure that children are safe and that their needs are met; (2) conducting coordinated forensic interviews that reduce the number of times a child is interviewed and so reduces the child's trauma, while at the same time gathers accurate information that will help to keep the child safe; (3) working to ensure that children

receive appropriate medical care; and (4) providing non-offending caregivers ongoing support to help them provide safe, healing environments for their children and reduce the risk of the child's revictimization. Through education and outreach, Foothills increases community understanding of the ways to prevent and stop abuse.

### **About CACVA**

CACVA is a membership organization dedicated to helping local communities respond to child maltreatment in ways that are effective and efficient, and most important of all, ensuring that the child victim's needs are met. The mission of Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia (CACVA) is to promote and support the development, growth and continuation of Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) and multidisciplinary teams across the state in their service to child victims of abuse and neglect.

### **About National Child Abuse Prevention Month**

National Child Abuse Prevention Month encourages communities to increase awareness of the impact of child abuse on the individual and society and provide education and support to families to prevent child abuse and neglect. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau offers resources for increasing this awareness and the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

End.