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**History of Foothills Child Advocacy Center**

The Charlottesville/Albemarle Commission on Children and Families (CCF) created a workgroup in 2002 that was charged with identifying ways to reduce the impact of abuse/neglect on children in the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County.

Their recommendation was to establish a free standing child advocacy center using the model started in 1985, by former Congressman Robert E. “Bud” Cramer (AL) that organized law enforcement, criminal justice, child protective service, medical and mental health workers into one coordinated team that would serve child victims of crime in a respectful way.

In 2004, the first step toward this goal was accomplished with the formation of the Charlottesville/Albemarle Multidisciplinary Team (MDT).

In June of 2005, a business plan was developed by UVA Darden School.

In February, 2006, the project officially started with the hiring of a Program Coordinator and the formation of a Board of Directors. Foothills’ staff was housed in the Albemarle County Office building on 5th Street with CCF.

On April 12, 2006, Foothills CAC conducted their first forensic interview of a child using the multidisciplinary team approach utilizing the interview and observation rooms in the Police Department’s Victim/Witness Office.

In June 2006, the agency was incorporated and became an associate member of the National Children's Alliance.

In June of 2007, Foothills received its 501(C) (3) nonprofit status and moved to a leased, dedicated space in downtown Charlottesville at 308 10th Street. Foothills remained in this space through May 2009.

From June 2009 through October 2012, Foothills was co-located with MDT partner agency, Children, Youth, and Family Services (name changed to ReadyKids in 2014).

In 2010, Foothills began offering *Stewards of Children*, training for preventions of child sexual abuse.

On October 15, 2011, Foothills became a fully accredited member of the National Children’s Alliance, following an intensive review of standards of best practice.

In September 2012, Foothills welcomed a full-time Case Manager to the staff. (The title of this position changed to Family Support Specialist in 2015.)

In November 2012, Foothills moved into a new, larger space at 1106 East High Street to accommodate additional services added to the program. The facility was renovated to accommodate medical evaluations.

In Fiscal Year 2013, Foothills began partnering with Child Protective Services (CPS) to offer *Stand Up for Kids!*, training for Virginia mandated reporters.

On May 1, 2013, Foothills’ new Executive Director began duties on a part-time basis.

In March 2015, Foothills became an official member of the Nelson County Multidisciplinary Team.

In May 2015, the Board of Directors officially established an Advisory Council, whose inaugural members included Dr. James Nataro and William Wardle.

In FY 2015, the Board of Directors set a record for raising private contributions, doubling the average amount raised annually.

On September 1, 2015, the Executive Director became a full-time employee.

On October 23, 2015, thanks to a grant from the Southern Regional Children’s Advocacy Center, Foothills’ first state-of-the-art forensic interview recording equipment was installed, replacing equipment that had been in use since 2006.

In November of 2015, Women United, Together in Philanthropy, awarded Foothills a $25,000 grant for training local professionals who work with child victims in the areas of human trafficking, medical services, and trauma-focused, evidence-based therapy.

Currently, Foothills is partnering with the University of Virginia (UVA) Department of Pediatrics to bring a Child Abuse Pediatrician to the community, which will allow Foothills to offer medical evaluations on site at Foothills.

In April of 2016, Foothills celebrated its 10th anniversary of service to child victims in Charlottesville, Albemarle County, and surrounding counties. It hosted Family Fun Day, its first ever community-wide event, on Saturday, April 30, and more than 500 persons attended the event. More than 200 children completed the Safety Tips Scavenger Hunt.

Also in April 2016, Foothills became an official member of the Madison County Multidisciplinary Team.

In November 2016, UVA finished arrangements to conduct the no-acute child abuse medical exams at its child-friendly Children’s Hospital instead of the Emergency Department.