

# Get the facts.

Where the trauma of child abuse stops and the healing begins.



## About

- Bivona Child Advocacy Center, a not-for-profit organization, is a safe and welcoming place where children who have been sexually or physically abused can **begin their journey of healing**.
- Bivona provides a compassionate, efficient, cost-effective infrastructure for child abuse intervention. Children and families journey through a streamlined process, which reduces the chances that the children are re-traumatized and preserves the best evidence for investigators.
- Bivona staff facilitates an **under-one-roof collaboration** of social and legal agencies to protect, treat and counsel child abuse victims and their families, and to investigate and prosecute the abusers. Our list of current partners includes:
  - Monroe County Child Protective Services
  - Law Enforcement – *all 12 jurisdictions*
  - Monroe County District Attorney's Office
  - Monroe County Law Department
  - Referral & Evaluation of Abused Children (REACH) Program of Golisano Children's Hospital
  - Rape Crisis Service
  - Linden Oaks Sexual Abuse Treatment Services
  - Catholic Family Center
  - Rochester City School District
- With more than 730 Child Advocacy Centers in the U.S., Bivona is the **only agency in Greater Rochester** to provide such comprehensive services.
- Bivona provides leadership in the coordination of the Monroe County Fatality Review Team whose mission is to reduce preventable child fatalities. The team includes law enforcement, Monroe County Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Monroe County Child Protective Services, Monroe County District Attorney's Office, Monroe County Law Department, Monroe County Medical Examiner, REACH Program of Golisano Children's Hospital and NYS Office of Children and Family Services.

## Statistics

- The incidence of child abuse—both sexual and physical—is overwhelming and tragic. In the United States, **a child is sexually abused every six minutes**. 240 children. Every day.
- Nearly five children die each day as a result of abuse or neglect.
- Bivona Child Advocacy Center has evaluated **more than 6,500 children** since opening August 1, 2004.
  - In 2010 alone, Bivona evaluated more than 1,500 children, providing 3,800+ services.
  - In 2010, 63% of the children evaluated were female, 43% of all children were under the age of seven and 45% of all children were Caucasian.
- 90% of sexual abuse crimes are committed by someone a child knows, loves and trusts: including parents, relatives, neighbors, family friends, coaches and religious leaders.
- Most sexual abuse crimes still go unreported. Experts believe as few as 1 in 10 children will ever disclose.

## Growth

- In just six years, Bivona has tripled the number of children served each year. Bivona has also tripled its partnerships, staff and the budget to support them. Additionally, three significant facility modifications have been made to manage this growth.
- **Bivona has quickly become a community resource for child abuse.** In an effort to help educate professionals who work with children, Bivona now hosts an annual Bivona Summit on Child Abuse each April, in conjunction with Child Abuse Prevention Month.