Golden Isles Children’s Advocacy Center

“Breaking the Cycle of Child Abuse”

Lorie R. Coley, Lexi Aldridge, Janne Tullius, Obie Foreman, & Daniel Holland
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kimberly Kinsey Mannahan

What is the Children’s Advocacy Center?

- The Advocacy center is a safe place for the evaluation and treatment of child who have suffered sexual and/or severe physical abuse.
- The center utilizes a multidisciplinary approach including a team of experts in mental health, medicine, child protection, victim advocacy, prosecution, and law enforcement.

National Child Abuse Statistics

- One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually assaulted by age 18.
- Children under 18 years of age account for 67% of all sexual assault victimizations reported to law enforcement agencies.

Our Service-Learning Experience

- We spent time at the advocacy center helping with various activities including answering intake phone calls and assisting with paperwork. We learned a lot about the inner-workings of a nonprofit organization. We also had the opportunity to observe forensic interviews.
- Additionally, we worked to raise awareness of child abuse in and around the Golden Isles by offering a public presentation in the Stembler Theater at the College of Coastal Georgia for students, faculty, staff, and members of the community.

History

- The center founded as a result of the vision and hard work of Judge Stephen Kelly.
- It is a branch of Safe Harbor Children’s Center.

Services

- The center provides forensic interviews, forensic medical examinations, education, counseling, and advocacy services.
- They take a multidisciplinary approach to be sure children do not “fall through the cracks.”
- The center satisfies long-term therapeutic needs of the victim and their families.
- The advocates create a warm and nurturing atmosphere in which the children feel safe to talk about their experiences.