

FY2024

July 2023 to June 2024



## Annual Impact Report

# Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center

*- Because EVERY child abuse victim deserves safety, justice, and healing -*



Dawson Place  
Child Advocacy Center

1509 California Street  
Everett, WA 98201



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An accredited Child Advocacy Center of Washington serving Snohomish County  
1509 California Street • Everett, WA 98201-3540 • Phone 425-789-3000 • dawsonplace.org  
Child Advocacy Center of Snohomish County at Dawson Place is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization Tax ID # 27-0627714



# Annual Impact Report

## Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center – July 2023 to June 2024

Last year, Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center (Dawson Place) elevated our quality of service by adding a new position that will lead to more children and youth recovering from their abuse. The complex coordination of services for over 1,000 clients by six separate agencies creates instances where a family might miss an appointment, a follow-up call gets buried under a wave of new clients, and the family drops out of the recovery process. Dawson Place hired our first Case Tracker to add another layer of oversight that identifies when clients stop receiving services and initiates action to keep them from falling through the cracks. Our Case Tracker follows a child’s case from check-in to recovery, and each step in between, to assure that they continue to benefit from our services until their recovery is complete.

### Operational Achievements

Dawson Place depends on the generous support of our community, and the dedication of our service providers, to meet our achievements. This report features our impact on the lives of families and health of communities in Snohomish County for our fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

### Children and Families Served

Dawson Place provided a full suite of services to 1,047 families whose lives had been engulfed by child abuse. In a time of crisis, these families received effective, compassionate services from over 70 dedicated professionals. This made a significant impact on the lives of the families, and communities where they live. This was also a 2.1% decline from the 1,068 families served the previous year. 1,047 clients equate to 4 new kids a day finding help at Dawson Place, Monday - Friday. We will continue striving to build off this achievement so more kids recover from abuse.

### Client Demographics

Dawson Place treated 1,047 child abuse victims perpetrated by 983 alleged offenders.

Gender	Clients	%	Age	Clients	%
Male	337	32.2%	0-6 years	335	32.0%
Female	700	66.9%	7-12 years	254	24.3%
Transgender	10	1.0%	13-18 years	458	43.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1047</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1047</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Race	Clients	%	Abuse Type	Clients	%
White/Caucasian	567	54.2%	Sexual	698	59.8%
Black/African Amer.	41	3.9%	Physical	288	24.7%
Hispanic/Latino	154	14.7%	Neglect	92	7.9%
Amer/Alaskan Native	33	3.2%	Witness to Violence	34	2.9%
Asian/Pac. Islander	20	1.9%	Drug Endangerment	49	4.2%
Other	232	22.2%	Other	7	0.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1047</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>Total*</b>	<b>1168</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*Some clients bore multiple abuse types



## Direct Service by Partner Agencies

Dawson Place is a unique combination of the six agencies in Snohomish County that respond to issues of child abuse. Our Child Advocacy Center is the collaboration of 3 government agencies and 3 nonprofit organizations providing safety, justice, and healing to child abuse victims and families. 73 professionals work at Dawson Place (see Appendix A for positions and descriptions).

### Providence Intervention Center for Assault and Abuse (PICAA)

PICAA is located at Dawson Place and provides victim advocacy and healthcare services including well-child checks, forensic exams, Sexually Transmitted Infection tests, and rape kits. PICAA has 16 employees at our Center. Last year, they advocated for 422 children, youth, and families and performed 641 medical exams.

### Compass Health: Child Advocacy Program (CAP)

The Compass Health CAP team provides free therapy to the kids and families who come to Dawson Place. CAP has 22 people staffed at our Center, including 12 professional therapists and 5 therapy interns. Last year they treated 761 clients, carried approximately 350 ongoing clients, performed 243 initial mental health assessments, and provided 4,590 hours of free therapy.

### Snohomish County Sheriff's Office: Special Investigation Unit (SIU)

The Special Investigation Unit at Dawson Place includes 8 detectives led by the unit's Sergeant, supported by an office administrator. They investigated 168 new cases of child abuse last year.

### Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office: Special Assault Unit (SAU)

Last year, the Special Assault Unit at Dawson Place accepted 419 new cases for prosecution, had 86 convictions, 84 plea deals, 4 acquittals, 14 cases dismissed, and have 117 pending cases. SAU has 15 professionals at Dawson Place, nine are Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys.

### Child Protective Services (CPS)

CPS has 4 branches in Snohomish County and keeps one office for a case worker at Dawson Place. They currently house one social worker at our Center and collectively, they referred 105 children to Dawson Place for safety, justice, and healing.

### Child Forensic Interviews (Dawson Place Staff)

Last year Dawson Place provided 308 Child Forensic Interviews to children aged 4-18, and 3 to mentally disabled adults. The Interviews were for the 18 police jurisdictions of Snohomish County as well as 12 law enforcement agencies in the region and 2 federal agencies (FBI and the US Army) who requested courtesy interviews. Of the 308 Interviews, 77% were victims of sexual abuse, 17% were victims of physical abuse, and 6% were witnesses to a violent crime.

## Community Outreach Program

The Community Outreach Program (Outreach): 1) spreads awareness about our services, 2) grows the network that refers victims to Dawson Place, and 3) empowers child abuse victims and

families to get the help they need to stop abuse and live safe, healthy lives. Our goal is to close the 22% gap between the number of children served at Dawson Place and the statistical demand for our services (see Appendix B for Service Gap Analysis Methodology).

## Outreach to Low-Income Families

Outreach made 5 trips to 4 local food banks to engage with low-income families and inform them of the free services at Dawson Place. On the trips they interacted with over 1,000 of our fellow community members.

## Outreach to Schools

Outreach attended 10 school fairs where they handed out school supplies with important information about Dawson Place services. They connected with over 2,000 school-aged kids and families who learned that there is help when your family is affected by abuse. We also participated in the Washington State Conference of School Counselors which was attended by 800 professionals who often are the first to hear a child's disclosure of abuse.

## Basic Needs Project

Outreach assembles basic needs care packs to distribute with information on how to access free services at Dawson Place. These are especially important when they visit food banks. They stock hygienic packs with toiletries and such, back-to-school backpacks with supplies, and infant care packs with formula, diapers, and wipes. Last year they assembled and gave out over 2,500 basic needs care packs to kids and families in need of a little help.

## Operation Elf



For the past 8 years Dawson Place has carved out a few days in mid-December to invite families to come “shop” for gifts. The gifts are provided by individuals and businesses in our community who raise money and host toy drives specifically for this program. Last year 21 volunteers signed up to help make the 2023 Operation Elf a holiday miracle for many happy kids and families. Over 1,600 gifts were selected by parents and guardians, wrapped on site by volunteers, and given to more than 500 kids from 145 families in our community.

## Parenting Education Program

Our Parenting Education Program prevents child maltreatment, and empowers parents/guardians with the knowledge, tools, support, and confidence to raise healthy, thriving children. It has developed into a free, dependable community service that is available throughout the year. The Basic classes are 10 weeks long, 2 hours per week, with the option to take the 6-week Advanced class upon completion. Last year 27 parents/guardians from 26 households with 58 children completed 7 basic 10-week classes, with 92% completing the advanced class.

## Attendance and Attrition

We use attendance and attrition rates to gauge the quality of class delivery and teacher-parent engagement. Last year, four 10-week basic classes and three 6-week advanced classes had an outstanding attendance rate of 96.2%, and an attrition rate of only 6.3%. This shows that the



parents and guardians who registered for the classes were invested and devoted to improving their parenting skills. The Parenting Education Program makes good parents better.

## Parent/Guardian Demographics

There were 27 parents/guardians who participated in a basic class in the 2024 fiscal year, 25 of them completed the class. Of these, 16 families participated in the attendance incentive program that provides low-income families with a grocery card upon completion of each class. A card is also awarded for an 80% attendance at the completion of the course. The gift card values vary based on family size. The following table highlights notable beneficiary demographics.

Category	#Parents	%
<b>Ethnicity: *BIPOC</b>	6	22%
<b>Low Income/Grocery Card Recipient</b>	16	59%
<b>Single Parent</b>	12	44%
<b>Diagnosed with **ADHD or Autism</b>	12	44%
<b>*BIPOC: black, indigenous, and other people of color</b>		
<b>**ADHD: Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder</b>		

## Cribs for Kids Program

Since 2015, Dawson Place has provided free portable cribs for families who cannot afford a safe place for their baby to sleep. Last year we distributed 57 cribs to families in communities all over Snohomish County. We expect demand to increase because we only gave out 20 cribs in the first half of the year, compared to 37 in the second half. We will be stocked and ready if that 85% increase in demand continues so that every family who comes to us for a crib receives one.

## Transforming Hurt to Hope Luncheon

The **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Transforming Hurt to Hope Luncheon** took another step closer to drawing pre-pandemic level crowds. Over 600 government officials, healthcare professionals, business leaders, law enforcement, and community members gathered to stand against child abuse. This is 200 more than in 2022, but still short of the 750+ guests that attended in 2019. The event expenses were entirely covered by our wonderful sponsors so that every dollar donated to Dawson Place went directly to operations and programs. Last year the funding generated by the luncheon covered nearly 10% of our total annual budget, which alleviated a \$165,000 increase in operational expenses incurred to elevate service capacity and increased staff compensation.

## Capital Improvement – Elevator

Dawson Place was created for the entire population of Snohomish County and is required to make our services accessible to everyone. Our facility is 2 stories tall, so to adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act, we refurbished our elevator. With the cooperation of our partner agencies, and Washington State appropriated funding championed by Representatives Emily Wicks and Mike Sells, our dilapidated elevator was refurbished to look and function like new. We now use our elevator without trepidation, so, mission accomplished.

## Facility Dogs



For over 10 years, Dawson Place has had professional facility dogs at our Child Advocacy Center to comfort children during interviews and while on the witness stand in court. Georgia, a fun-loving Black Lab, was the only canine on staff to start the year, but she had a new friend join the team by year's end. We brought a new Child Interview Specialist aboard to increase our capacity to provide child forensic interviews for law enforcement, and she was accompanied by a soft and loving Labrador-Golden Retriever mix, Redwood. Now we have 2 dogs roaming our halls, bringing joy and comfort to kids, families, and their fellow staff working at our Center.

Here's Redwood (front-left) and Georgia (back-right), kicking back in our interview suites between shifts.

## Challenges

The challenge of connecting EVERY child abuse victim in Snohomish County to our free services is not new, but it is ever changing. Last year our Child Advocacy Center was staffed by 73 professionals, which translates into a record high capacity to serve. In May 2024, we served 121 new kids, which shows capacity of 1,452 over 12 months. However, the number served decreased by 2.1% from 1,068 to 1,047 clients. The net increase of professionals on site from 69 to 73 staff made this decline confounding. To identify the culprit, we audited client and service data over the last 2 years, which revealed the probable cause.

The biggest discrepancy in client-service data was a decrease in families who came to Dawson Place through Providence Intervention Center for Assault & Abuse (PICAA). PICAA was fully staffed with strong leadership and experienced advocates, nurses, and therapists. However, the hospitals and emergency departments that refer clients to PICAA are experiencing high turnover and a shortage of Registered Nurses (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN). In Washington, the shortage is not from a lack of RNs, but from the fact that they are leaving their jobs to practice in other states or to pursue different careers.

A 2021 poll of the members of three unions representing healthcare workers in Washington (SEIU Healthcare 1199, UFCW 21, and WSNA) found that 84% of healthcare workers felt burned out by their jobs and 49% were likely to leave the healthcare profession in the next few years. According to the Washington State Nurses Association's *Review of Nurse Staffing Data & Surveys*, 31% of RNs with Washington licenses were either not working in nursing or practicing out-of-state.

This shortage perpetuates turnover, and Washington's nursing turnover rate sits at 17.6%, a full three percent higher than the 2016 national average<sup>1</sup>. According to a Health Workforce Analysis published by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in November 2022, federal authorities project a 26% shortage of RNs in Washington by 2035.

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<sup>1</sup> Nursing Solutions, Inc., "[2024 NSI National Health Care Retention & RN Staffing Report.](#)"



The shortage of RNs and the high turnover rate means less nurses in emergency departments, and new nurses not aware that assault victims should be referred to Dawson Place for treatment by PICAA's nurses. This staffing and turnover issue caused a 10.4% decrease in children referred to PICAA, from 501 to 449 clients. Adding those 52 kids to our client services would put us at 1,099 for July 2023 to June 2024, in line with our annual average.

Now that this issue has been identified, PICAA is planning a local healthcare outreach and education campaign so that victims seeking treatment at local hospitals and emergency departments are sent to Dawson Place, where they have access to every service we provide.

## **New Prevention Project**

Last year Dawson Place performed 237 Child Forensic Interviews for children aged 4-18 who were alleged victims of sexual assault. While we are duty-bound to hear the details of the abuse experiences of children, we can do more. In striving to be more proactive, one of our Child Interview Specialists teamed up with 14 detectives from 7 law enforcement agencies to start a new community-focused child sexual abuse prevention education campaign. The education sessions are titled "Protecting Your Children: Advice from Child Molesters," and are based on over 35 years of research with sexual predators by Cory Jewell Jensen.

Dawson Place hosted Cory Jewell Jensen to conduct a train-the-trainer workshop for over 50 professionals in our network, including: detectives, prosecutors, therapists, and advocates. The presentation inspired a grass-roots movement among the attendees to take what they learned to the public. This campaign is young but is building a robust following as more community members and law enforcement professionals learn from it.

This project is unfunded and currently 100% volunteer driven. Dawson Place believes this project has great potential to make a safer community and to protect children and youth from ever needing our services because of sexual abuse.

## **Conclusion**

The year that ended in June 2024 was quite extraordinary. Our Child Advocacy Center was fully staffed, our service capacity was at an all-time high, and yet our service numbers decreased. We added a Case Tracker to the team so that more children and youth continue services through recovery, but there were less kids to move through the process. The concerted effort to pour over multiple years of service data to figure out why our service numbers were down shows the determination at Dawson Place to serve every child abuse victim in our service area and beyond. The effect of the high turnover and shortage of nurses on how many victims find help at Dawson Place reveals how dependent we are on our network for referrals. It also highlights how important an ongoing outreach and education program is to achieve our mission to protect and heal every child abuse victim in need of our services.

Last year Dawson Place grew, served, and learned more about what it will take to give EVERY child abuse victim in need of our services Safety, Justice, and Healing.



## Appendix A: Professional Staff at Dawson Place (2024)

Staff Total: **73**

Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center		
Position	#	Description
Executive Director	1	Manages personnel, facility, and operations
Administrative Operations Manager	1	Manages front office (client records, payables, service coordination, etc.)
Administrative Assistant	1	Client intake, records, and services coordination
Receptionist/Admin Assistant	1	Client intake, records, and services coordination
Case Tracker	1	Follows child cases from check-in to recovery
Child Interview Specialist	2	Performs Child Forensic Interviews
Outreach & Education Lead	1	Community engagement and parenting classes
Engagement & Communications Lead	1	Community engagement, branding, social media
Director of Development	1	Raises funds for operations and programs
Compass Health: Child Advocacy Program (CAP)		
Position	#	Description
Manager/Therapist	1	Leads CAP personnel and therapy services
Supervisor/Therapist	1	Oversees personnel
Office Manager	1	Manages office personnel, client intake, records
CAP Scheduling	1	Schedules client therapy sessions
Clinical Program Assistant	2	Scheduling, client intake, and records assistant
CAP Therapist	11	Performs mental health therapy
CAP Therapist Intern	5	Performs mental health therapy
Providence Intervention Center for Assault and Abuse (PICAA)		
Position	#	Description
Manager	1	Manages personnel and PICAA operations
Department Secretary	1	Patient records and operation administration
Legal Advocate	1	Connects victims with civil legal services and resources
Advocate Specialist	2	Connects victims with services/resources
Support Group Facilitator	1	Coordinates/facilitates interactive group sessions
Advocate/Volunteer Coordinator	1	Connects victims with services/resources, manages volunteers
Nurse Practitioner	2	Performs forensic exams, well-child checks, STD tests, etc.
Medical Assistant	1	Client intake, records, client medical prep
Medical Assistant/Evidence Advisor	1	Client intake, records, client medical prep, rape kits
Program Nurse	3	Coordinates services, client intake, records
Therapist	2	Mental health therapy, support group counseling

**Appendix A: Professional Staff at Dawson Place (2024)**

<b>Department of Children, Youth, and Families: Child Protective Services (DCYF:CPS)</b>		
<b>Position</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Description</b>
CPS Social Service Specialist	1	Investigates concerns of child safety, creates family safety plans, removes children from unsafe homes
<b>Snohomish County Sherrif's Office: Special Investigation Unit (SIU)</b>		
<b>Position</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Description</b>
SIU Supervisor	1	Assesses and assigns cases, manages personnel
Secretary	1	Office administration, case records, scheduling
Detective	8	Case investigation
<b>Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office: Special Assault Unit (SAU)</b>		
<b>Position</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Description</b>
Lead Deputy Prosecuting Attorney (DPA)	1	Assess/accepts cases, manages personnel, + DPA duties
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney (DPA)	8	Builds prosecution cases, pleas, trials
Victim Advocate	2	Guides clients through legal process
Legal Assistant	1	Scheduling, records, client service coordination
Legal Secretary	2	Administration, scheduling, records, client service coordination
Paralegal	1	Legal research, drafting documents, records



## Appendix B: Service Gap Analysis Methodology

The following outlines the methodology used to perform a gap analysis between the number of clients served at Dawson Place and the statistical demand for our services. Dawson Place uses a 5-year average to estimate how many victims will be served annually. The actual client statistics are the 5-year average from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2024.

**Assumption 1:** The ratio of Sexual Assault (SA) victims served at Dawson Place (72%) compared to all other child abuse victims served (28%) is the same as the statistical demand for our services. The ratio was extrapolated to the entire population of youth (0-18) in Snohomish County (US Census data; July 1, 2022).

**Assumption 2:** 1 in 10 children (10%) will be victims of sexual assault before they turn 18 years old (National Children's Alliance). Therefore, 28% added to the total number of SA victims will account for ALL the victims who will need services at Dawson Place. For example, if there are 100 SA victims, then  $100 \times 28\%$  equals 28 more victims (non-SA) for a total of 128 victims.

### **Actual Services Provided at Dawson Place (Over 5 Years: July 2020–June 2024)**

- Total SA victims served: 3,852 (71.5%)
- All other victims served: 1,535 (28.5%)
- Total victims served: 5,387 clients

### **Statistical Demand**

- Persons under 18 years (21.8%): 184,158 (US Census: July 1, 2023)
- Statistical number of SA victims over the next 18 years (10%): 18,416
- Statistical number of other victims served ( $18,416 \times 28.5\%$ ): 5,249
- Total demand for victim services over the next 18 years ( $18,416 + 5,249$ ): 23,665
- Annual Demand: 1,315 clients/year

### **Service Gap Analysis**

- 18-year demand for victim services: 23,665
- Annual demand for victim services: 1,315 clients/year
- Actual victims served (5-year average): 1,077 clients/year
- Difference between victims served and statistical demand: 238 clients/year
- Gap Total: **22%**

\*Service gap analysis uses real data to assess whether Dawson Place is serving EVERY child abuse victim in Snohomish County. The information guides our strategic planning for outreach (increase service accessibility) and operational capacity (increase service availability).



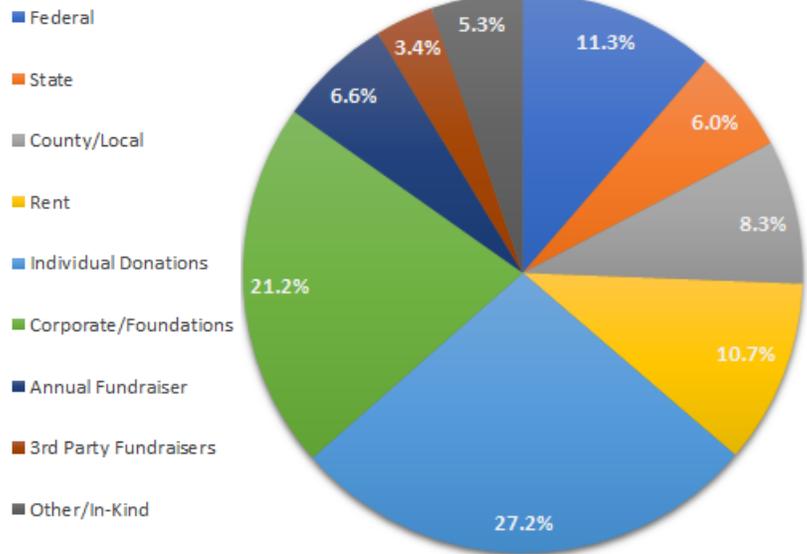
## Appendix C: FY2024 Financials

(July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

### Revenue Sources

Total Revenue: \$2,063,810

	Revenue Source	%
	Federal	11.3%
	State	6.0%
	County/Local	8.3%
	Rent	10.7%
	Individual Donations	27.2%
	Corporate/Foundations	21.2%
	Annual Fundraiser	6.6%
	3rd Party Fundraisers	3.4%
	Other/In-Kind	5.3%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



### Expenses

Total Expenses: \$1,597,677

	Expenses	%
	Operations/Services	67.5%
	Community Programs	10.9%
	Development	15.8%
	Administration	5.8%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

