

FY 2022

July 2021 – June 2022



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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Dawson Place staff got knocked down, gathered themselves, and rose up during fiscal year 2022. Figuratively, this describes the mental and emotional fortitude of the devoted professionals who compassionately serve child abuse victims and families at our Child Advocacy Center. In a more literal sense, it outlines the continued struggles caused by variants of the COVID pandemic from June 2021 to January 2022. It also highlights the selfless determination that was required to provide our free essential services through infections, isolations, and long-term impacts of the virus. And finally, things returned to a new normal, and Dawson Place thrived. The passion and talents of our staff maintained the provision of services through sick leaves and isolations over the first half of the year were unbridled, and we flourished.

Operational Achievements

Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center (Dawson Place) is proud to share the notable achievements attained from July 2021 to June 2022. This report illustrates the many ways that we enhanced and expanded our programs and services so that EVERY child abuse victim in Snohomish County can find safety, justice, and healing.

Clients Served

Dawson Place successfully delivered essential intervention and healing services to 1,100 child abuse victims and their non-offending family members (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022), in line with our 5-year average of 1,091 child abuse victims served annually. However, the consistency in service user numbers over the last three years were attained amidst the COVID pandemic: 1,077 in 2020, 1,095 in 2021, and now 1,100 in the year ending June 2022. Students were out of school for a year, COVID variants impacted staff for years-on-end, and still, we met our pre-pandemic client service numbers. From this perspective, the 2022 fiscal year was a huge achievement and a grand success.

The client service numbers reflect the individual children (ages 0-18) who received at least one service at our Child Advocacy Center. It does not reflect the fact that most of the children and families who come to Dawson Place receive several services over weeks, months, and sometimes years. They return to Dawson Place for prosecution services, follow-up medical exams, and ongoing therapy. Since we opened in 2006 over 16,000 child abuse victims and their families have received the professional care and treatment that has put them on a pathway to healing. On average, we serve over 20 new child abuse victims every week.

Client Demographics

Child abuse victims served at Dawson Place; these cases involved 1,016 alleged offenders.

| Gender | Clients | % | Age | Clients | % |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Male | 310 | 28.2% | 0-6 years | 393 | 35.7% |
| Female | 790 | 71.8% | 7-12 years | 318 | 28.9% |
| Transgender | 0 | 0.0% | 13-18 years | 389 | 35.4% |
| Total | 1100 | 100.0% | Total | 1100 | 100.0% |

| Race | Clients | % | Abuse Type | Clients | % |
|---------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------|
| White/Caucasian | 524 | 47.6% | Sexual | 813 | 65.8% |
| Black/African Amer. | 47 | 4.3% | Physical | 275 | 22.2% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 157 | 14.3% | Neglect | 75 | 6.1% |
| Amer/Alaskan Native | 13 | 1.2% | Witness to Violence | 34 | 2.8% |
| Asian/Pac. Islander | 46 | 4.2% | Drug Endangerment | 18 | 1.5% |
| Other | 313 | 28.5% | Other | 21 | 1.7% |
| Total | 1100 | 100.0% | Total* | 1236 | 100.0% |

*Some clients bore multiple abuse types

Direct Service by Partner Agencies

Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center is a unique combination of the six agencies in Snohomish County that respond to issues of child abuse. Dawson Place collaborates with these co-located organizations to provide safety, justice, and healing to child abuse victims and families.

Providence Intervention Center for Assault & Abuse (PICAA)



PICAA is located inside Dawson Place and provides victim advocacy and medical healthcare services such as well-child checks and forensic examinations. The victim advocates play a crucial role in helping families

navigate the interagency process, to access financial and other recourses, and even to fill out forms for everything from restraining orders to job applications. Most importantly, they help the family schedule any service at Dawson Place that will help them through their situation. Last year PICAA provided services for 454 clients, 301 child sexual assault victims and 175 victims of other crimes (some clients were victims of both sexual assault and other crimes). This included legal advocacy for 115 clients, victim advocacy to 404 clients, and 179 forensic medical examinations.

Compass Health Child Advocacy Program



The Compass Health Child Advocacy Program (CAP) provides mental health therapy to the kids and families who come to Dawson Place. Their services are provided at no cost to clients and are delivered until they are no longer needed by the child and family, or until they reach the age of 23 years. Last year CAP therapists completed 167 initial mental health assessments, provided 4,571

hours of therapy, and carried 300 ongoing clients. Our therapists have adapted to providing remote counseling sessions as well as in-person sessions. The CAP team provided nearly 202 more hours of therapy than last fiscal year, a 4.8% increase.

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



The Special Investigations Unit located at Dawson Place includes a team of seven Detectives led by the unit's Sergeant. They respond to allegations of child abuse and sexual assault and are vital to the protection of the children and families who come to Dawson Place, and to the community at large. In the 2022 fiscal year, in addition to their ongoing caseload, this team of detectives and support staff investigated 206 new cases of child abuse in Snohomish County, a 10.2% increase.

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



The Special Assault Unit located at Dawson Place accepted 364 cases for prosecution, had 123 convictions, 64 plea deals, and 0 acquittals. The backlog of court cases due to the pandemic created an especially demanding year for these highly skilled public servants.

Child Protective Services (CPS)



Child Protective Services is part of the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, & Families (DCYF). They investigate allegations of abuse, often before a case has been filed by law enforcement. There is one CPS special services agent located at Dawson Place, and the regional manager serves on our Board of Directors. CPS is the front-line against child maltreatment. They refer families to our Child Advocacy Center and help them develop safety plans so that the State does not have to dismantle the family for the child's safety.

Child Forensic Interviews (Dawson Place Staff)



Dawson Place employs two Child Interview Specialists who provide Child Forensic Interviews for all the law enforcement jurisdictions in Snohomish County as well as State and Federal agencies when their cases are related to Snohomish County. This service is integral to the investigation and prosecution of crimes against children. The interviews follow strict state-enforced protocols so that the uncovered information will hold up

in court. Last year one of our Child Interview Specialist positions was open for over four months, and yet there were still 301 interviews performed at Dawson Place. During the previous year we were fully staffed and performed 314 Child Forensic Interviews.

Community Outreach Program

The Community Outreach Program (Program) increases access to the free services at our Child Advocacy Center. Outreach is conducted via person-to-person engagement, group trainings and presentations, and digital/social media engagement. The Program: 1) spreads awareness about our free 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 20.5% gap between the number of children served at Dawson Place and the statistical demand for our services.



Service Gap Analysis

Service gap analysis uses actual data to assess whether Dawson Place is serving EVERY child abuse victim in Snohomish County. The information guides our strategic planning for outreach (increase access) and operational capacity (increase services). Dawson Place uses a 5-year average to estimate how many victims will be served annually. The actual client service statistics are the 5-year average from July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2022. The 20.5% service gap compares our actual services delivered at Dawson Place from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022 and national child abuse statistics to the population of children aged 0-18 years in Snohomish County (US Census Bureau, July 2021).

Person-to-Person Outreach Activities

The Outreach Team juggles a broad range of public outreach activities that include trainings and presentations to professionals (schools, coalitions, military personnel, child protective services, et.al.), hosting information tables at public gatherings, and organizing events at Dawson Place and other locations. Last year the Outreach Team attended or hosted nearly 80 public events and interacted with over 12,000 members of our community.

Trainings and Presentations

Most of the families who come to Dawson Place are referred by a professional, often a police officer, nurse or doctor, student advocate, counselor or teacher, and Child Protective Services. Presentations and mandatory reporter training give these professionals the information and contacts they need to refer families who need our help to Dawson Place. Last year the Outreach Team presented or hosted tours to 33 members from four schools and 22 professionals from organizations that encounter child abuse. Our Community Engagement Specialist, who speaks fluent Spanish, also presented to 250 members of the Snohomish County Latino Coalition.

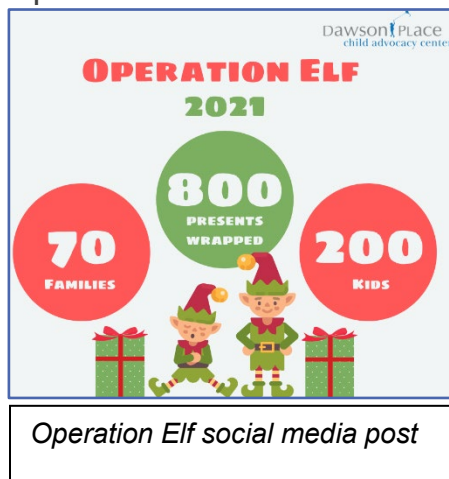
Information Tables

Dawson Place gets invited to host an information table at many different types of public gatherings. This provides great opportunities to engage directly with the public and spread information about our free services and programs. The Outreach Team went to farmers markets, food banks, back-to-school and community resource fairs, festivals, malls, and other public gatherings. They connected with 12 municipalities in Snohomish County, including Arlington to the north (20 miles), Lynnwood to the south (15 miles), and as far east as Sultan (23 miles). In total, the Outreach Team drove 2,063 miles in the 2022 fiscal year.

Hygiene Care Packs

Last year the Community Outreach Program purchased hygienic items and assembled them into Hygiene Care Packs that they would distribute to families alongside information about the free services at Dawson Place. The Outreach Team experienced how this provision of basic needs really opened people up for further engagement, especially at food banks. This led to setting up information tables at a weekly rotation of food banks in Snohomish County. The packs contain items such as socks, deodorant, toothbrush and paste, shampoo, feminine products, and other useful items. Last year the Outreach Team distributed 1,107 Hygiene Care Packs.

Operation Elf



The holidays are a time of family, joy, and celebration for most in our community. For many families, however, it is a time of great anticipation by children and deep anxiety for parents who are not able to afford presents for their kids. For six years Dawson Place has carved out a day in mid-December to invite families to come “shop” for gifts. The gifts are provided by several individuals and businesses in our community who host toy drives specifically for this operation. In 2021, Operation Elf was expanded to two full days and moved across the street to the Elks’ celebration hall to accommodate the influx of gifts and families. Over 800 gifts were selected by parents and guardians, wrapped on site, and given to more than 200 kids from 70 families. The gifts included 17 new and refurbished bikes, 7 scooters, and helmets.

Digital/Social Media Outreach Activities

The 2022 fiscal year was the first full year that Dawson Place managed an active digital and social outreach effort. Weekly posts were made to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Between July 2021 and June 2022 there were 233 posts to Facebook, 218 posts to Twitter, 216 posts to Instagram, and over 200 posts to LinkedIn. This resulted in a 28% increase in followers over all platforms, from 1,452 to 1,858. All our social media channels are connected to each other and lead to the home website. Our website is the hub where more information, emergency contacts, events calendar, training signups, and other public resources can be accessed.

Parenting Education Program


The Parenting Education Program was launched in the fall of 2020. The goal of the Program is to 1) educate parents so that their children are safe from abuse and neglect, 2) build families’ capacity to support, nurture, and guide their children, and 3) promote responsive parenting to improve children’s emotional, physical, and social well-being. The expected outcome is to prevent child abuse and neglect and promote healthy families.

The Program uses the Incredible Years® for its parenting education curricula. The Incredible Years is an evidence-based program in social learning theory that stems from over 30 years of scientific research. It encourages positive behavior through building the parent-child connection. Parents learn how to understand and respond to a child’s cues so they can be more attentive to their needs. The resulting improvements in child behavior can reinforce positive parental attitudes, lead to more successful parenting, and reduce or eliminate child abuse and neglect.

Dawson Place provided four classes last year, each met once a week for 16 weeks. There were two in the fall of 2021 and two more in the spring of 2022. These free classes impacted 41 parents/caregivers from 35 families with 78 children for a total of 119 beneficiaries.

Cribs for Kids Program

Dawson Place has been a member of the national Cribs for Kids organization since 2015. We purchase and distribute cribs for free to families who cannot afford a safe place for their baby to sleep and grow. Before the COVID-19 pandemic Dawson Place distributed over 100 cribs annually. In the



last fiscal year, we gave out 39 cribs to families in Snohomish County. To boost our free crib distribution to pre-pandemic numbers, we intend to promote this important service to local agencies that serve families who would benefit from this program such as Child Strive, Sea Mar Medical Clinic, and the Snohomish County Health District.

Annual Fundraiser

Dawson Place is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that finances its operations with a portfolio of revenue sources: government grants/contracts, foundation grants, rent from co-located agencies, individual donations, and the annual fundraiser (individual gifts & sponsorships). Most of our funding is restricted for specific uses, which is vital to our operations but limits our ability to respond to emergencies and opportunities. Revenue raised at the annual event is unrestricted, and provides flexibility to invest in program expansion, capital improvements, and operational capacity.

The 9th *Annual Transforming Hurt to Hope Fundraiser* was a pre-recorded virtual program again last year. The virtual delivery of the program was well received, though by significantly less viewers. The event raised \$141,233 in gross revenue; 44% less gross revenue compared to the 2019 pre-pandemic event that was attended by 750 community members. However, the virtual delivery cost less and the average gift was higher. These factors brought the difference in net revenue between the 2019 live event and the 2021 event down to 18% less raised virtually during the pandemic.

Land Acquisition: Parking Lot

Last year a portion of the parking lot adjacent to our Child Advocacy Center became available for purchase. The Board of Directors approved the purchase of the land which includes 16 parking spaces for our service users, visitors, and staff. More importantly, the footprint of the lot is large enough to contain future expansion of Dawson Place, should more space be needed.

Challenges

The challenges overcome by Dawson Place during the 2022 fiscal year are mostly COVID-based and occurred from July 2021 to January 2022. Society was beginning to open back up to a new normal which meant in-person activities increased. It also meant that more of our staff were exposed or infected by the COVID virus. This caused a litany of staff absences that required colleagues to carry on understaffed or fill in for positions that were vacant. For example, our Executive Director sometimes covered the front desk so that our Child Advocacy Center would remain open to our clients. To remedy this, multiple part-time employees were hired to greet our clients, perform intake duties, and coordinate interagency services. Normally these tasks were run by one full time person and one part-time person. Last year on any given week there were as many as 7 people in that role.

A Year of Firsts

During the pandemic Dawson Place grew its staff from 5.65 full time employees (FTE) to 8.25 FTE; from a staff of 7 members to 12 members. We launched our Parenting Education Program, expanded our Community Outreach Program, and bolstered our human resources for the front desk. In February 2022, for the first time since the start of the pandemic, all our employees were available to fulfil and expand their duties at our Child Advocacy Center. After years of struggle, we were free to apply our

new staff and skills in innovative and exciting ways. These firsts were the result of an infusion of highly capable staff, energy, ideas, skills, and dedication.

New Partnership with Safeway Stores

April is the national month for Child Abuse Prevention. Dawson Place partnered with regional Safeway stores to spread awareness about our free services and to amplify the community's responsibility for the safety of all children. In the first two weekends of April, the Outreach Team set up their information tables at 7 of the busiest Safeway stores in Snohomish County, visiting two per day over the weekends. They were graciously welcomed by store managers and staff, and personally engaged with community members. Look for us at your local Safeway store in April 2023.

Superkids Resource Fair



To celebrate national Child Abuse Prevention Month, Dawson Place hosted its first ever community resource fair. The theme for April was “Your voice is your superpower”, and the April 23rd event was called the *Superkids Resource Fair*. The goal of the event was to attract families to join the resource fair for fun, and to learn about the many incredible people and services available to the public. We had music, bubbles, games, prizes, a fire truck, a bouncy house, and the Snohomish County Sheriff's office even brought a search and rescue helicopter. This was a big hit with the kids!

This wonderful event took place right outside our Child Advocacy Center and was enthusiastically joined by 20+ organizations sharing information about the resources they provide for our community. Over 500 community members joined in the fun celebration. The *Superkids Resource Fair* spread information to the public and strengthened the network of professionals and organizations whose mission is to serve the community.

Funds for an Outreach Vehicle

In June 2022, Dawson Place was awarded a generous grant by the Employee Community Fund of Boeing, Puget Sound. These funds will be used to purchase a new vehicle for the Community Outreach Program's staff to take equipment and supplies, such as tables, tents, signage, snacks, and giveaways, to public events across Snohomish County. Once the vehicle is purchased, FASTSIGNS Everett will wrap the entire car with Dawson Place's logos and slogans which will increase our brand-awareness as we travel throughout the county. Vehicle inventory has slowed the purchase process, but we intend to acquire a vehicle by the end of the summer, 2022.

Conclusion

The 2022 fiscal year was a dichotomy of unflinching perseverance and unmeted production. The first seven months proved a difficult challenge that our dedicated staff rose to and overcame. A serendipitous byproduct was now Dawson Place has a host of staff who can competently perform client intake and coordinate the provision of interagency services at our Child Advocacy Center. The last five months were a whirlwind of energetic and exciting activity that culminated in the purchase of land and funding for a new Dawson Place vehicle. Despite much adversity and amidst much excitement, 1,100 children and families received the highest quality of service for safety, justice, and healing. We enter the new fiscal year poised for another successful year turning kids hurt into hope.