



Keeping

Our
Children
Safe and
Sound





Innocence Lost

Childhood should be a time of play and discovery – but for the millions of children around the world who are victims of abuse or neglect, the innocence is soon lost. Unfortunately, no community is immune from the reality.

Consider – in one year alone in Midland County, more than 150 children were confirmed to be victims of child abuse or neglect. And those children represent only the cases that are reported and confirmed. Other children suffer in silence.

Our mission is clear:
To prevent child abuse and neglect and improve the quality of life for children.



A Voice for Change

The Safe & Sound Child Advocacy Center provides a refuge and a voice for abused and neglected children. Established by concerned community members in 1979 as the Midland County Child Protection Council, our board includes a wide range of community volunteers, including representatives from law enforcement, the prosecuting attorney's office, area human service organizations, and other government agencies.

Forensic Interviewing: Reducing the Trauma of Child Abuse

Victims of child abuse suffer enough physical and emotional trauma due to the abuse. Reporting that abuse shouldn't cause them to suffer even more. But having to tell their story multiple times – to police officers, to child protective services and to prosecuting attorneys – can force them to relive the pain again and again – in essence, revictimizing them.

Safe & Sound's Forensic Interview Program minimizes or eliminates that added trauma, by coordinating the questions and concerns of all involved parties into one non-threatening, fact-finding interview. The interview takes place in a safe, child-friendly environment, conducted by an objective, trained forensic interviewer. A multi-disciplinary team, made up of representatives from agencies and organizations that are responsible for ensuring the welfare of the child or handling any potential criminal proceedings, are able to witness the interview through one-way glass. Following the interview, the team members meet to review their findings and coordinate their response to protect the victim from further abuse.

Additional Services

Safe & Sound offers additional services to protect and assist Midland County youth from birth through age 18:

- Adopt a Child's Smile Program (ACSP) – provides basic dental care to low-income, uninsured Midland County Children.
- Babylonian Encounter – A professionally staged play performed for Midland County elementary school children addressing "safe touch" and other issues of personal safety.

- Child Passenger Safety Program (CPSP) – A community initiative to purchase, distribute and provide instruction on correct use of car seats to Midland County families.
- Community Grants Program – Grants available to support programs that work to positively impact the incidence of child abuse in Midland County.
- Partnership with Youth – A collaborative community partnership to assess and evaluate the needs of Midland County adolescents.
- Communication Lunch Bunch Speaker Series – A series of educational programs to benefit family service workers on topics that impact the health and safety of families.

A Community That Cares

The Safe & Sound Child Advocacy Center is a community project funded by the generosity of Midland foundations and individuals. If you would like to be a part of protecting the innocence of our children, please consider contributing.

Amount of Contribution \$_____

(Deductible to the fullest extent of the tax law.)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please make checks payable to:

Safe & Sound Child Advocacy Center

2716 Jefferson Avenue, Building 2

Midland, MI 48640

Thank you for helping in the fight against child abuse and neglect in Midland County.



Referrals

The Safe & Sound Child Advocacy Center accepts referrals from the Midland County Law Enforcement Center and the Department of Human Services. For more information about any of our programs or to learn how you can help, contact the Safe & Sound Child Advocacy Center at 989-835-9922.





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