

**MISSION:**

To provide a Panhandle-wide coordinated multidisciplinary approach to the problems of child victimization.

**VISION:**

To ensure justice and healing for child abuse victims and their families in the Panhandle of Nebraska.

**GOALS:**

- \* To reduce the trauma suffered by the child during an investigation.
- \* To increase successful prosecution of the child abusers.
- \* To assume a proactive approach to child abuse prevention through education, training and networking.

**OBJECTIVE:**

- \* To establish a safe, child-friendly environment for interviews and medical exams of the child victim.
- \* To conduct a collaborative interview to obtain needed information and minimize trauma to the child.
- \* To maintain open communication and case coordination among community professional and agencies involved in the investigation of child abuse.

The CAPstone Center thanks all of the volunteers who have provided funding, in-kind contributions and volunteer services to the Center.

If you would like to learn more about the CAPstone Center or to volunteer, please call the Center Director at (308) 632-7274, Lorrie Wold

**SUSTAINING CONTRIBUTORS**

- Scottsbluff-Gering United Way
- City of Scottsbluff
- Scotts Bluff County
- City of Gering
- State of Nebraska
- NCAC
- Regional West Medical Foundation
- Friends of Regional West Foundation
- Many other organizations and individuals

**PROJECT FUNDING**

- Scottsbluff Kiwanis Club
- Soroptimists Club
- Wal-Mart
- Print Express

Donations are always welcome. CAPstone has 501(c)3 tax exempt status and donations are tax deductible.

**CAPSTONE**



*"A Multidisciplinary Approach to Investigating, Interviewing and Helping Children who have been Physically and Sexually Abused"*

**CHILD ADVOCACY PROGRAM  
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United Way of Western Nebraska



National Children's Alliance

## History of CAPstone

Community agencies that serve abused and neglected children have faced steadily increasing caseloads in recent year. In response to this trend, child advocacy center began to emerge.

CAC's began with a new approach to the investigation and treatment of child abuse cases-a 'one stop' center that is child-friendly and family-oriented and provides coordination of advocacy services and community resources. The centers enhance existing services by bringing together all of the professionals who may be working on a particular case-the Multidisciplinary Team. The concept is designed to avoid duplication of services and ensures the child-victim's needs come first.

Each center reflects the community in which it is located and has its own unique personality. Yet all centers offer an effective, consistent response to child maltreatment.

In 1998, Panhandle residents involved with child abuse and neglect began meeting to discuss the concept of a Child Advocacy Center. Through the efforts of many, the center opened its doors to the first child in 2001.

The Center features state-of-the-art video equipment to ensure quality recording of interviews.

## Service Area

CAPstone provides services to all eleven counties in the Panhandle. The region has a population of 90,500 and encompasses over 14,000 square miles. The center is used extensively by law enforcement and child protective services throughout the area.

## Scope of Services

- \* Provision of trained forensic interviewers for video and audio taping of interviews.
- \* Coordination with Regional West Medical Center for comprehensive medical examinations by trained medical personnel including appropriate tests and exam notes.
- \* Partnering with Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services for support and advocacy for child victims and their non-offending family members from case initiation through adjudication..
- \* Maintenance of case tracing data.
- \* Coordination of Case Reviews.
- \* Provision of safe and friendly environment for kids to tell their story-ONE TIME.
- \* Provision of education and support to child victims preparing for court in cooperation with CASA and the County Attorney's office.
- \* A full time child advocate to assist non-offending family members with services provided in the Panhandle.

## Priority Programs

**Training:** Training opportunities for MDT members and the community are sponsored by the center, often in conjunction with other community agencies.

**Legislation:** CAPstone is collaborating with other CACs in the State to work closely with the Legislature in developing legislation that is supportive of child victims and their families.

**Referral Services:** CAPstone collaborates with Region I Mental Health Services to identify therapists who are trained and willing to counsel child victims and their families. This consortium of therapists are committed to improving the opportunities for recovery from trauma and abuse.

**Reporting:** According to Nebraska Statute 28.711, "Any person who had reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected any type of abuse or neglect must by law contact their local law enforcement or HHS. Failure to do so is a Class 3 Misdemeanor."

To Report Child Abuse

1-800-652-1999