



A 24/7 SEXUAL ASSAULT AND
CHILD ABUSE RESOURCE CENTER

2022-23

ANNUAL REPORT

www.firstlightsc.org

Main Office

216 E. Calhoun St.
Anderson, SC 29621

Gwynnie Bee House

102 Lura Ln.
Walhalla, SC 29691

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MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

When I was a little girl, one of my favorite books was *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. My mother patiently read it to me every night until I knew it by heart. When the caterpillar turned into a beautiful butterfly, I was overjoyed every time. Just remembering the way my mom would flap the pages of the book like a butterfly's wings, animating the illustration and showing off the colors, makes me smile even now.



I get that same feeling when I think of this agency's 2022-23 year. Not unlike Carle's caterpillar, our agency went through a time of enormous transformation. In March of 2023, after 22 years as Foothills Alliance, we became First Light: A 24/7 Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Resource Center. Now our name reflects what we've always been, a beacon of hope for survivors of sexual assault and child abuse in the Upstate.

While eating watermelons, cupcakes, cheese, and pears would certainly have been the easier route to transformation, our work was no less a labor of love. In 2022-23, the staff at First Light served more people than any year in our agency's history, providing services to 1,637 primary and secondary survivors.

We conducted 423 forensic interviews and 74 forensic pediatric medical exams, helping law enforcement and DSS investigate cases of child abuse, neglect, sexual assault, and even homicide. Our staff and volunteers took 155 calls on our helpline, accompanied 67 individuals to the emergency room, and provided 4,933 minutes – the equivalent of over three days – of crisis intervention for individuals who were affected by interpersonal violence.

MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

The best part, though, is that unlike the caterpillar, we did not labor alone. As we poured our time, expertise, and love into this community, so the community poured into us. We were honored to partner with the Anderson Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Anderson program who helped raise awareness and funds for our mission. Additionally, we had an overwhelming amount of support from our community at large, receiving generous gifts from individuals, local foundations, churches, and small businesses.

We hope you have delighted in our transformation as much as we have. Certainly, we could not have achieved it without your steadfast support. Even though we have transformed, we are like the caterpillar, still hungry. Hungry for the justice we can help bring to our children. Hungry for the healing we can give to our survivors. Hungry to achieve our vision of a trauma-informed community that empowers survivors of sexual assault and child abuse.

Until we achieve that vision, we'll keep eating.

With Gratitude,



CHELSEY HUCKER
Executive Director

OUR MISSION

First Light supports survivors of sexual assault and child abuse and their families through collaboration, education, advocacy, and treatment services in Anderson and Oconee Counties.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

Shelagh Dorn, Ph.D.
Chair

Chris Liles
Vice Chair

Sonya Royston
Treasurer

Board Members

Lucille Beaton, LMSW, LISW-CP

Peggy Chamblee

Ashley Collins

Brandie Greer

Luther Hill

Chase Kinsey

Tony Lawen

Kinsley Rollins

Jana Schofield

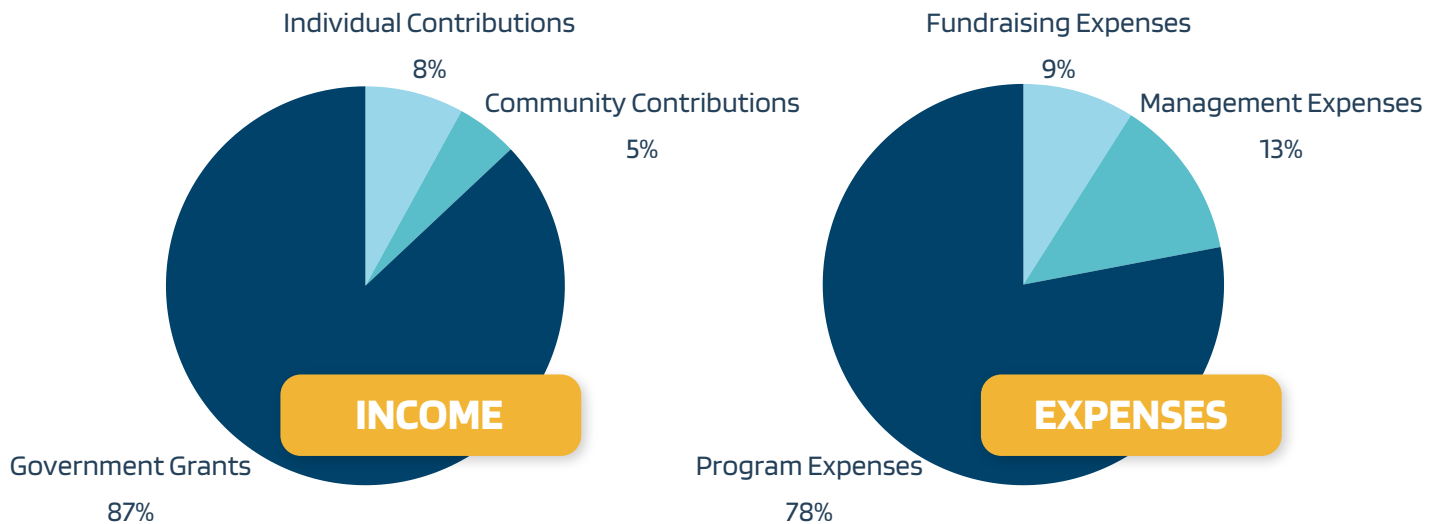
Chris Weber



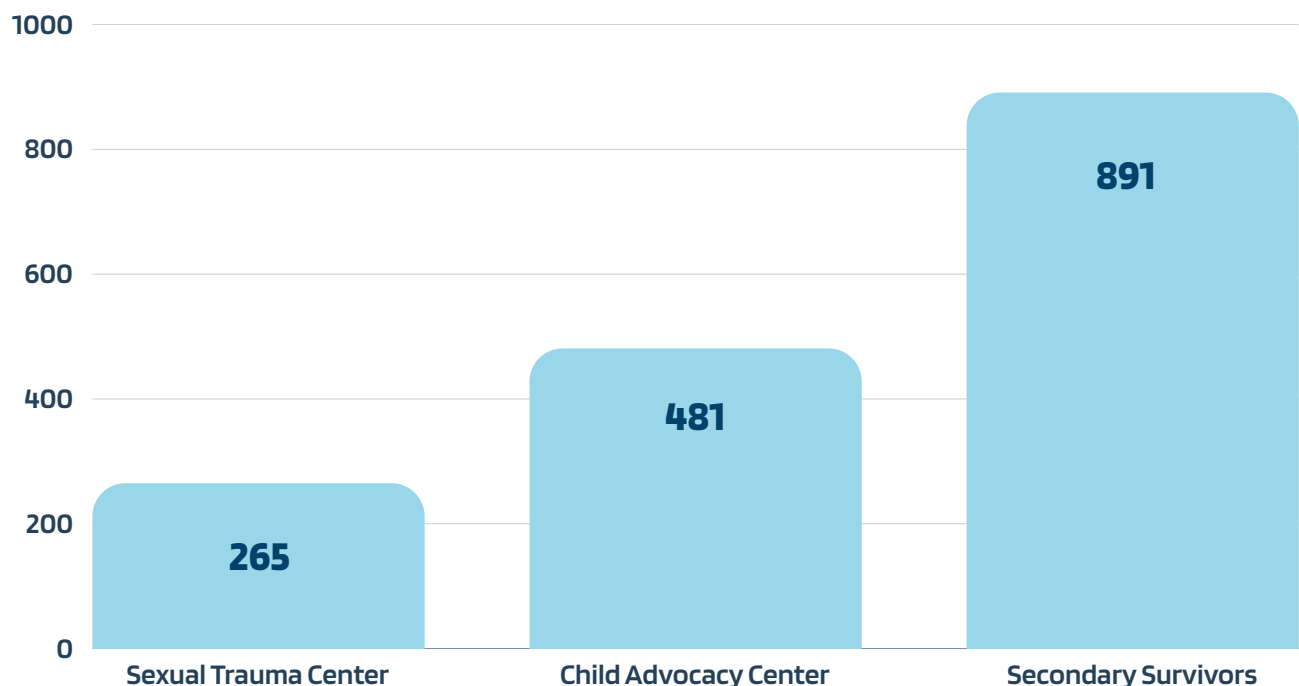
AN OVERVIEW

With your support, First Light received \$1 million in funding this year!

Here's where it came from and how it was used:



Your gifts helped provide primary and secondary services for 1,637 individual men, women, and children this year! Here's how that breaks down:



*Our full financial report is available at firstlightsc.org/990

COMMUNITY IMPACT

First Light uses a comprehensive approach to tackle the issues of sexual assault and child abuse. This is how we impacted our community in 2022-23.



Volunteers and staff answered 155 phone calls to our Helpline from local people needing assistance.



We conducted 77 Erin's Law presentations, educating 5,878 children about abuse awareness and prevention.

Through our partnership with PRISMA Child Abuse Pediatrics, we helped facilitate 74 pediatric medical exams.



Our specially trained Forensic Interviewers conducted 423 interviews for children.



Our staff Chaplain provided 66 spiritual care sessions to individuals in the aftermath of their assault.



67 individuals had a staff member or volunteer with them in the ER during a sexual assault examination.

94 volunteers gave 4,032 minutes of their time directly helping our clients.



Thanks to our generous donors, ALL of our services were provided free of charge. We simply couldn't do it without you! THANK YOU!



OUR STAFF

Executive Administration

Chelsey Hucker, Esq., Executive Director
April Carty, Director of Philanthropy & Communications
Amanda Cooper, Director of Operations
Hope Hiott, Sexual Trauma Center Director
Kristie Nimmons, CAC Director
Sarah Waldrop, Support Specialist

Community Outreach

Ashley Dickson, Education Programs Coordinator

Direct Client Services

Jackie Garcia, Victim Advocate
Kreig Marzolf, Child Services Specialist
Summer Morehead, Forensic Interviewer
Crystal Nissen, Family Advocate
Theresa Platt, Chaplain
Rachael Skipper, Child Services Specialist
Virginia Smith, Child Services Specialist
Dave Stewart, Intake Coordinator

Facility Dog

Roma IV, Canine Companions

CONNECT



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