



All kids deserve  
to be safe.

Working Together to Prevent  
Child Abuse & Neglect in  
Kalamazoo County since 1976

## Who We Are

**Welcome!** We are the Kalamazoo County Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Council – “Kalamazoo CAN” for short. *Our job is to prevent abuse before it happens.* Founded in 1976, we’re a non-profit organization committed to the safety and welfare of local children. Each year, we work with hundreds of volunteers and many partner organizations to fulfill our mission.

## Why It Matters

Every day, on average, 13 new cases of child abuse and neglect are reported in Kalamazoo County. One-fourth of those cases demand immediate intervention. That translates into 1,140 *confirmed* and serious cases each year, throughout our area.<sup>1</sup> Many more cases are never reported. Who’s affected? Boys and girls, teens and toddlers – even babies. All races and ethnic groups, from the inner city to affluent suburbs.

We know that children who are abused or neglected continue to suffer, even long after the abuse has stopped. Consider these facts:<sup>2</sup>

- Nearly 80% of abuse victims develop serious psychiatric disorders by age 21, such as depression, chronic anxiety, eating disorders and PTSD.
- Victims of child abuse are almost four times more likely to become drug addicts or alcoholics.
- More than 36% of all women and 14% of all men in prison were abused as children.
- Some abused children become abusers themselves later in life, continuing a cycle of pain.<sup>3</sup>

For all these reasons, *preventing abuse now* is key to solving this very real and growing problem. You can help by becoming a Kalamazoo CAN member today. To learn how, please visit [www.KalamazooCAN.com](http://www.KalamazooCAN.com).



## What We Do

**Kalamazoo CAN is a community organization** with more than 30 years of experience. Our focus is on preventing child abuse and neglect, not investigation or prosecution. Ultimately, it’s better for everyone when children are protected from harm rather than treated for it later. *Here are some of our many programs and services to the local community today:*

- ✓ We educate **parents** so they can spot the danger signs of abuse, and what to do about it.
- ✓ We teach **children** how to be safe and when to ask for help if needed.
- ✓ We educate  **moms, dads and all type of families** about parenting skills and responsibilities.
- ✓ We provide specialized training for **teachers, police, nurses, social workers** and **others** so they can identify child abuse and report it quickly.
- ✓ We distribute thousands of guides and resource books to **families** throughout Kalamazoo County.
- ✓ We work with **other local organizations** to improve services for at-risk children in our area.

**We’re guided by a Board of Directors** that includes representatives from the juvenile court, prosecutor’s office, law enforcement agencies and educational institutions. Our diverse Board also gets input from the Michigan Department of Human Services, local human service agencies and concerned citizens.

Kalamazoo CAN  
420 E. Alcott  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Phone: (269) 552-4430  
Visit us online at:  
[www.KalamazooCAN.com](http://www.KalamazooCAN.com)

Sources: <sup>1</sup>2009 Kids Count Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation. <sup>2</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and The Federal Administration for Children and Families, Prevent Child Abuse America: Current Trends in Child Abuse Reporting & Fatalities; National Center on Child Abuse Prevention Research: Prevent Child Abuse America; Current Trends in Child Abuse Reporting and Fatalities; US Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children & Families. Child Maltreatment 2003: Summary of Key Findings; <sup>3</sup>National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse & Neglect Information. Long-term Consequences of Child Abuse & Neglect 2005.

## You Can Help!

**Children depend on adults** for their basic needs, safety and well-being. That means all of us have a role to play, both within the family unit and outside of it. Even if you don't have children or grandchildren, you can make a positive difference for kids in our community. All it takes is a caring heart.



**One of the best ways to begin** is by educating yourself about child abuse and neglect. Here are some common questions people have:

*What circumstances put children at risk?*

*How can ordinary people help reduce child abuse?*

*What are the common warning signs?*

*What is the difference between abuse and neglect?*

*What should I do if I see a child being harmed?*

*Can I help a child without getting legally involved?*

*How should I protect my own children from harm?*

**Kalamazoo CAN offers** a wide variety of helpful guides, books and videos to help answer these questions. You can access many of these resources online at [www.KalamazooCAN.com](http://www.KalamazooCAN.com) or by calling our office at (269) 552-4430. All inquiries are confidential. We also conduct workshops and public training programs for those who are interested.

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## How to Join Us!

**We depend on local volunteers** to achieve our mission. No matter how much or how little time you have available, we can always use your talents, skills and energy to protect more kids in our community. Here are some roles you might consider:

- Volunteer to staff a booth at one of our workshops or outreach events held throughout the year.
- Assist us in the office with your organizational, marketing, telephone or computer skills.
- Help us sell blue ribbons, lifesavers and other items during one of our community fundraisers.
- Invite a Kalamazoo CAN representative to speak at your local church, school, business or organization.
- Help us distribute our Family Help Book and Community Resource Guide in your area.
- Join our Board or one of our many committees.
- Support our mission with a tax-deductible donation.
- Become a member and urge others to join, too.

**Memberships are available** for students, individuals, families, churches, non-profit organizations, clubs, government groups and businesses of any size. You can even purchase a gift membership on behalf of someone you love or admire.



**All members receive** a free resource booklet, membership card, bumper sticker and newsletter subscription. Best of all, you'll be helping to prevent child abuse and neglect in our local community. To learn more, or to become a member now, visit our website at [www.KalamazooCAN.com](http://www.KalamazooCAN.com) or call our office at (269) 552-4430. Every new member is a gift to local kids!

## Our Mission

**The mission of Kalamazoo CAN** is to safeguard our children from abuse and neglect through advocacy, education and outreach at all levels of society in greater Kalamazoo County, Michigan.

We envision an involved and informed community where all children live free from abuse and neglect. All members of the community are invited to join us in this important and ongoing effort.

## Contacts & Map

**We are conveniently located** in the Nazareth Complex at 3299 Gull Road, just a short drive from downtown Kalamazoo. We are not a government agency. Rather, we share this complex with many related human service organizations. Free parking is always available. Ask for directions at the front desk. Welcome!

**Phone:** (269) 552-4430

**Fax:** (269) 552-4855

**Website:** [www.KalamazooCAN.com](http://www.KalamazooCAN.com)

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