

Hands of Hope Celebration

Coos County 🇺🇸 Hillsborough County-Manchester 🇺🇸 Merrimack County 🇺🇸 Monadnock Region (Cheshire County) 🇺🇸 Hillsborough County-Nashua 🇺🇸

Dear Community Supporter and Friend,

How do “ordinary” people become heroes? Without being from Krypton, without a Batmobile, without superhuman strength, a team of Avengers, or fancy gadgets?

Without... wearing capes?

Generally, with some lesser-known superpowers: **resilience, compassion, honesty, resourcefulness, creativity, and a commitment to justice – especially for those unable to seek it for themselves.**

Before the development of the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) model in New Hampshire, a child disclosing abuse would be subjected to numerous fact-finding interviews, conducted by multiple agencies. This redundant, disjointed, and overwhelming experience added to children's emotional distress and traumatization, creating inconsistencies in investigations. This resulted in cases that met challenges in the judicial system – leading to offenders not being held accountable for their crimes, leaving communities at serious risk – and leaving children feeling as though their voices were not heard.

With **CACs in every county in New Hampshire**, whenever there is a concern about a child's safety, our **multidisciplinary teams** can fully investigate these crimes and connect children to specialized medical care, trauma-focused behavioral health counseling and other social supports. In the end, more offenders are prosecuted, our children survive and recover, and our community is safer for all children.

On Friday, May 3, 2024, the CACs of New Hampshire and their chapter organization, the Granite State Children's Alliance, will come together to celebrate 12 men and women who have gone above and beyond in their roles on those multidisciplinary teams this past year to support child abuse victims and work to keep them safe.

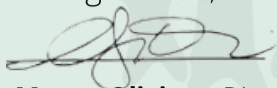
These men and women are **Everyday Heroes**, who embody leadership, ingenuity, and kindness, and are steadfast in their commitment – who show up for kids. *Every. Day.*

On the walls of CACs throughout the state, you will see handprints in a wide variety of sizes and colors – marks left by each of the **2,000 children who pass through our doors each year** as a way to say, *I was here. I made it.*

Our Everyday Heroes step up for these kids. So for at least one night, **we think they deserve a cape.**

We would be incredibly grateful for your support in recognizing the extraordinary efforts of these dedicated heroes by **sponsoring our 11th Annual Statewide Hands of Hope Celebration** and banquet at Mill Falls in Meredith, NH.

With gratitude,



Megan Oliviero, Director of Outreach and Education