



**Become a hero of hope.**

**END THE SILENCE. END THE ABUSE.**

Astonishingly, 1 in 10 children in our community will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday and, in many cases, it is silence and secrecy that allow the abuse to begin and continue. It is time for us to speak up for the children in our community who can't speak for themselves.

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**OUR PAST**

Serving only 1/3 of the eligible children in Erie County

Coordination of partner organizations challenging

Long wait times for appointments and services

Limited parking and a lack of handicap access

**OUR FUTURE**

Ability to assist over 3,000 abused children annually

Co-location of all partner organizations, improving coordination of care

Reduced wait time, extended hours and 24/7 on-call staffing

Located on major public transportation route, increased parking and handicap accessible



Help expand our Child Advocacy Center at BestSelf | [CACBUFFALO.ORG](http://CACBUFFALO.ORG)

## ABOUT THE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER AT BESTSELF

The CAC is an innovative, comprehensive center offering safety, support, and healing for children and families affected by abuse in Erie County. When children are not taken to the CAC, they are questioned in emergency rooms, police stations, schools, doctor's offices, and re-traumatized each time they have to repeat their experiences.

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### MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM

Consisting of over two dozen local and national law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and medical professionals, child protective services, and mental health specialists, the multi-disciplinary team is the heart and soul of the Child Advocacy Center at BestSelf and will provide the most comprehensive and advanced care to our community's children and their families.

Some of our partners include:

- Erie County District Attorney's Office
- Erie County Child Protective Services
- John R. Oishei Children's Hospital
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Crisis Services
- BestSelf Behavioral Health
- Law Enforcement
- Seneca Nation of Indians
- And many more

### OUR VISION

The new, expanded Child Advocacy Center at BestSelf, located at 899 Main Street in Buffalo, will allow for:

- The co-location of all partner organizations (including child protective services, prosecutors, law enforcement, medical care, victim advocates, counseling, etc.)
- Reduced wait times, extended hours, and 24/7 on-call staffing
- Redesign of the waiting and treatment areas to create comfortable environments for children of all ages
- Increased forensic interview and medical examination rooms
- Co-located with BestSelf Administrative office to support sustainability of expanded CAC
- Increased advocacy and community education regarding abuse
- Full handicap accessibility
- Located on a major public transportation route, with significantly increased on-site parking
- State-of-the-art training facility for professional development of the CAC team, BestSelf staff and other community organizations



### OUR CHALLENGE

Erie County has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rates for reported child abuse in New York State – more than 3,000 cases annually. And with the current state of the Child Advocacy Center, our specially-trained professionals can assist only 1/3 of those children. As troubling as these numbers are, BestSelf and the CAC cannot deliver our vision without the collective support of the community.

It will take approximately \$10.5 million to create our new, expanded, state-of-the-art Child Advocacy Center at BestSelf. If you'd like to become part of this monumental project, we invite you to invest today in this essential community resource at [givetocac.org](http://givetocac.org).

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