

## OUR NAMESAKE: DR. MARY ABBOTT

Dr. Mary Abbott (1931-2004) was a dedicated pediatrician who nurtured and treated thousands of children in the Norman community.

Dr. Abbott was the first pediatrician in Norman to administer sexual abuse exams to child victims. She participated in the very first Cleveland County Multidisciplinary Team as the team's medical representative and helped shape that team into the child-friendly, victim-centered unit it is today.

In 2002, the Cleveland County Children's Advocacy Center Board of Directors agreed to honor her legacy as its namesake, Mary Abbott Children's House.



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### HOW TO REPORT ABUSE

In the state of Oklahoma call the 24-hour  
DHS Child Abuse Hotline:

**1-800-522-3511**

If a child is in immediate danger call 9-1-1

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United Way  
of Norman



**ADVOCATE. PREVENT.  
EDUCATE.**

## ABOUT US

Mary Abbott Children's House is a safe place for children to share their experiences regarding sexual abuse, physical abuse, and neglect, as well as being a witness to a crime or in a drug endangered situation.



Our holistic approach supports the whole child - from the investigative process and necessary medical care, to assistance in finding counseling and family resources, and on toward hope and healing from trauma.

Established in 1996, Mary Abbott Children's House is a Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) accredited by the National Children's Alliance and serves Cleveland, McClain, and Garvin counties.

**OUR MISSION:**  
preventing abuse,  
advocating  
for children, and  
fostering  
hope and healing.

Although a stand alone non-profit organization, Abbott House works closely with law enforcement, the district attorney's office, child protective services, mental health care professionals, and medical professionals to provide critical resources and support as the case moves through the justice system.

## SYSTEM OF RESPONSE

Before Child Advocacy Centers like Mary Abbott Children's House were established, child victims were subjected to a stressful, scary, and difficult journey through the criminal and civil justice systems, oftentimes having to share their traumatic experiences of abuse and neglect to several different adult strangers. In many cases, this system of response added to the trauma the victim experienced.

Mary Abbott Children's House provides a trauma-informed, child-friendly environment where multidisciplinary team (MDT) members work together to reduce re-victimization of the child, remove barriers to investigation and treatment, and set the child victims and their non-offending caregivers on the path to healing through a united approach to these complex and severe cases.



## FORENSIC INTERVIEWS

At the request of law enforcement or Child Protective Services, a neutral, court-defensible interview is conducted in a child-friendly environment.

## MEDICAL ASSESSMENTS

Medical assessments are provided to every child and range in scope depending on the nature of the abuse allegation. The nurse conducts wellness exams, mental health screenings, and developmental screenings to provide children and families an overall health assessment.

## FAMILY ADVOCACY

Advocates work with children and non-offending caregivers before, during, and after their time at Abbott House. Advocates answer questions about the forensic interview, medical assessment, and anything else related to the investigation process. Additionally, advocates provide referrals for after-care services and will follow up with the families throughout the investigative process.

## EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Safety in Action is a statewide training program designed to raise awareness and unify community response to child abuse and neglect in Oklahoma. This research-informed educational curriculum offers services to school administrators, teachers, professionals, volunteers, parents, and caregivers.



### Without CACs



### With CACs

