



4275 Old Grand Avenue
Gurnee, IL 60031
(847) 244-1187

4232 Dempster Street
Skokie, IL 60076
(847) 972-1790

Fact Sheet

Mission statement: The mission of Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center (ZCenter) is to provide a place where survivors of sexual assault and abuse can heal, and to mobilize the community toward action to end sexual violence.

Values: ZCenter is community-conscious, relationship-centered, and results-oriented.

Philosophy: ZCenter provides quality, comprehensive, client-centered services to survivors of sexual assault and abuse. These services are provided in partnership with the survivor in the spirit of equality, free from judgment or oppression. We believe that all people we serve are entitled to respect, safety, support, accessible services, confidentiality, empowerment, and advocacy. ZCenter counseling and advocacy services are free and available to all survivors regardless of race, gender, language, ability, sexual orientation, or religion. ZCenter seeks to be an active presence in the community to speak up in support of and in partnership with all survivors of sexual violence. ZCenter provides services to the community at large and to other professionals and service providers to enhance the understanding of the impact of sexual violence on everyone.

Definition of Terms: Sexual violence is unwanted or coercive sexual behavior that ranges from sexual bullying to rape. (Rape, sexual assault and sexual abuse are often terms that are used interchangeably). Sexual violence is an overarching description that includes: rape, incest, child sexual abuse, intimate partner sexual violence, sexual exploitation, human sex trafficking, unwanted sexual contact, sexual harassment, exposure, and voyeurism, or any other sexual contact that occurs without full and enthusiastic consent.

In the United States, 1 in 3 women experience some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime. One in 6 men experience sexual violence in their lifetime.¹

Funding Sources: ZCenter is supported by a variety of income streams; the largest portion from individuals (30.3%). Foundations/corporations, government, special events, United Way and other sources round out funding for counseling, advocacy and prevention programs.

Who we serve: In FY 2017, ZCenter served 743 clients in counseling (549 adults and 194 children), answered 555 crisis calls on our 24/7 support line, and assisted 239 survivors in local hospital emergency rooms. Legal advocates supported 53 survivors through local judicial proceedings and law enforcement investigations. Through prevention education, ZCenter staff presented programs to 13,046 students in Lake County schools.

The Team: Between two locations, ZCenter employs 30 professional staff members. In addition, 108 volunteers in the field and a variety of Bachelor and Master level interns help administer the organization's mission. A Board of Directors comprised of four officers and 17 members bring vision and leadership to ZCenter.

ZCenter Services

Counseling: ZCenter offers free, confidential services to survivors of sexual violence of all ages and their non-offending loved ones with supportive listening, advocacy, and information and referral services. Individual, group

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sessions and crisis support are available in English and Spanish.

24-Hour Support Line: ZCenter provides emotional support, information, and community resources to survivors, significant others, and community professionals through a 24-hour Support Line: 847-872-7799.

Medical Advocacy: Trained advocates provide support to the survivor and their family throughout the medical process. Medical advocates can be present during a survivor's medical examination 24/7 at any emergency room or police department in Lake County to provide information and support and assist survivors in understanding their options.

Legal Advocacy: ZCenter provides support to the survivor throughout the criminal justice process. Legal advocates explain the basic criminal justice process and can accompany and assist the survivor in reporting to law enforcement, attending court proceedings, and filing for crime victim's compensation. Legal advocates are available to follow the court proceedings of clients and connect the survivor with additional resources and support systems through the criminal justice process/proceedings.

Professional Training and Community Awareness: ZCenter offers trainings to first responders, medical staff, faith-based leaders, other social service organizations, key stakeholders in the criminal justice system and others who work with survivors of sexual abuse, as well as clubs and groups to educate about the reality of sexual violence and how to become part of the solution.

Prevention Education Programs: Age-appropriate educational and empowering school-based programs are available for students pre-K through college. These programs give young people confidence in making choices about what happens to their bodies at the earliest age, and how to seek help from safe and trusted adults. Trainings and presentations are available for administrators, teachers, social workers, counselors, psychologists and parents to create an understanding of child sexual abuse, handling disclosures and best practices of implementing prevention efforts. ZCenter Prevention Network (ZPN) is a networking membership that includes access to prevention resources, meetings, and community forums.

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¹National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010-2012 State Report, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention, Centers for Disease Control, 2017

About Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center

ZCenter was built on the courage of survivors, staff, volunteers, and donors, and has been serving the community as a non-profit center against sexual assault and abuse since 1983. Now operating from two locations, Gurnee and Skokie, ZCenter provides places where survivors of sexual violence can heal, and mobilizes the community toward action to end sexual violence. Services are available free of charge to all survivors regardless of race, gender, language, ability to pay, sexual orientation, or religion. For more information, please visit ZCenter.org.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Jennifer Evans, jevans@zcenter.org, 847-244-1187, ext. 123

Jennifer Yonan, Executive Director, jyonan@zcenter.org, 847-244-1187, ext. 128