



Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center’s mission 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.

Working with survivors of sexual assault and abuse who have experienced trauma requires a level of care that supports their healing journey, wherever they may be in the process. We believe that healing is possible and attainable. Survivors deserve to be believed, validated and empowered. By doing so, we remove the stigma around sexual violence through listening, and giving their voices a platform. We celebrate their successes, and stand in solidarity through the challenges that are most grim. Survivors have access to counseling services without the burden of payment. They deserve to have a safe environment in which healing can take place with dignity. ZCenter offers this. We are honored to witness the courage of survivors.

The second part of our mission involves sexual assault prevention education and raising awareness toward change. We believe that creating communities of mutual respect begins by teaching children that they have the right to make choices about what happens to their bodies, beginning at the earliest age. We teach that if an incidence of assault were to happen, children should seek help from trustworthy adults. A research-based curriculum built on the concepts of healthy relationship boundaries and consent is used to deliver messages that are age appropriate. We honor the truth that everyone has an inalienable right to control their own bodies.

Our two-fold mission is fulfilled through sexual assault counseling, providing a 24-hour crisis support line, medical advocacy, legal advocacy, prevention education and community outreach. For more information, visit zcenter.org

###

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, jyanon@zcenter.org, 847-244-1187, ext. 128