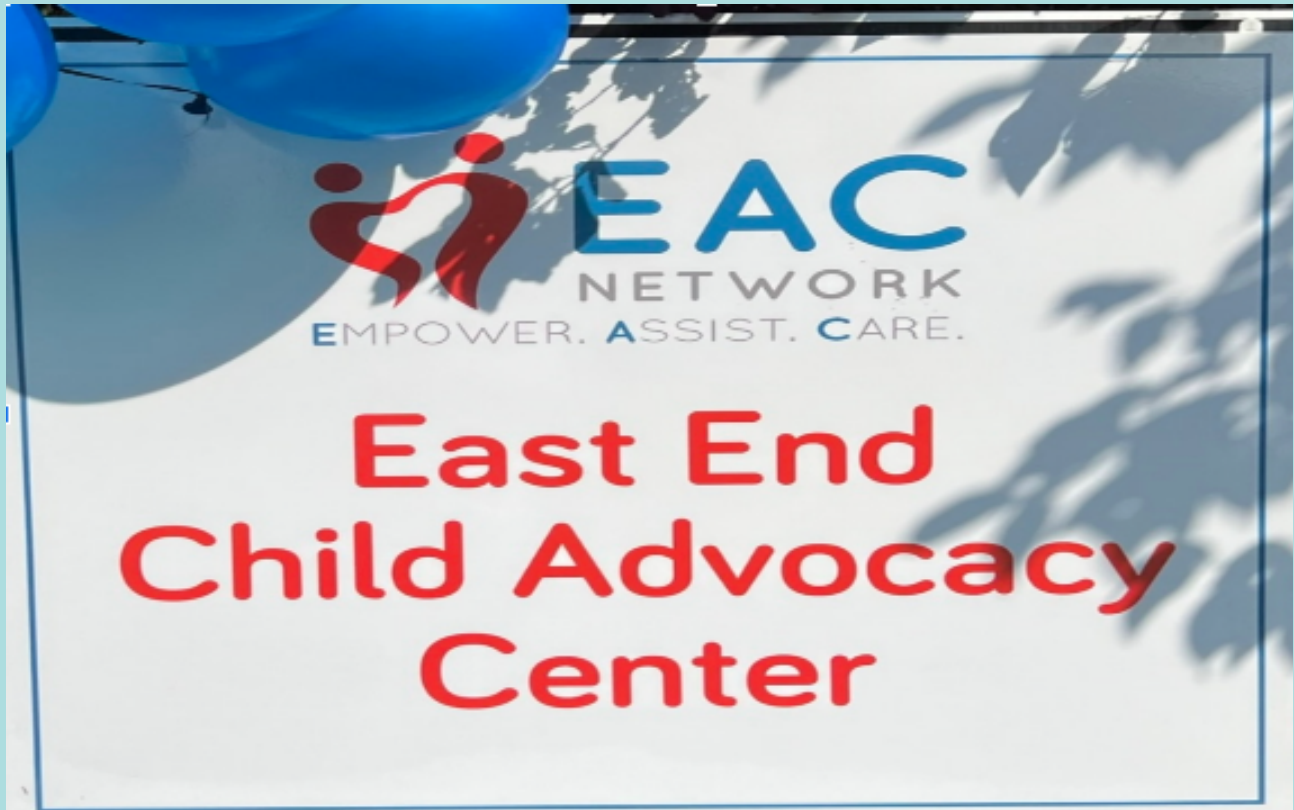


Media Kit

EAST END CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER



EAST END CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER



A Child Advocacy Center is a child and adolescent-friendly space where youth and their caregivers come to receive services and support through child abuse investigations.

EAC's East End Child Advocacy Center
940 Roanoke Ave, Riverhead NY
was opened in August of 2019
to respond to the diverse needs of that community.

“EAC is actively involved in safeguarding the youth”, said Neela Mukherjee Lockel, president and CEO of EAC Network. Neela further stated that “EAC’s CAC work in partnership with the Suffolk County Multidisciplinary team consists of representatives from Suffolk County Department of Social Services, Suffolk County District Attorney, Suffolk County Attorney, Suffolk County Division of Community Mental Hygiene, CAC Medical Director, CAC Family Advocates and CAC Director.”

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1 out of 10 children will experience sexual abuse or assault at the hands of an adult. "EAC's main child advocacy center in Central Islip is serving around 500 children a year, while the new center in Riverhead is serving about 60 to 80 a year," said Neela Muckerjee Lockel, President and CEO of EAC Network.



Since 2019 and to date, a total of 2762 children, victim of sexual abuse, have been helped by EAC's Child Advocacy Center in Central Islid and Riverhead

EAC CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

2019	2020	2021	2022
959	636	746	421

The Child Advocacy Center provides a child-focused setting for forensic interviews and exams for child victims of abuse, and helps assist in investigations and prosecutions of those cases.



The organization also provides the victim's families with services and assists them throughout the investigation and legal processes



- An Open House on August 2nd was organized to:
- Celebrate the third anniversary of the center in Riverhead
 - Engage with East End Law Enforcement partners to:
 1. Further protect child victims of sexual abuse
 2. Help with the prosecution of the offenders
 - Raise awareness on the issue of child safety



**Suffolk County Officials and
Law Enforcement Officers
massively joined the event and
renewed their engagement with EAC.**



Suffolk County's different police departments were also present including:

- SCPD
- Riverhead
- Quogue
- NYS Police
- East Hampton PD
- Suffolk District Attorney



"Protecting children is our primary goal," said Neela Mukherjee Lockel, President and CEO of EAC Network, speaking at the press conference for the organization's East End child advocacy center' open house in Riverhead



Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone and Police Commissioner Rodney Harrison highlighted the partnership between the county and EAC Network to help prosecute cases of abuse.



Riverhead Supervisor Yvette Aguiar said the town would pursue a partnership between its police department and the child advocacy center. She said she would invite the organization to a work session to discuss the partnership.



Suffolk County Legislator Al Krupski and County Commissioner of Social Services Frances Pierre urged their fellow officials to continue to support the EAC Network's facility with funding from the county and state governments.



Financial assistance is pivotal to the work that the CAC does to assist children victims of sexual abuse. In 2021, \$190,000 in grants were received to operate this facility and to protect children and families on the East End of Suffolk County.

The continued needed assistance was guaranteed by Assemblywoman Jodi Giglio who declared: "There is money in the budget for mental health and social workers. Don't hesitate to reach out to me."



During the press conference, Yvette Aguiar presented Neela Mukherjee Lockel and EAC Network board Chairperson John Durso with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Town Board.



Durso said the work that staff does with children makes them “heroes.” He said his mother lived in foster care as a child and was burned by her foster family. “I haven’t thought about that in years. She grew up in downtown Brooklyn, they didn’t have this for her,” he said, referring to the child advocacy center. “But it stayed with her and I remember her talking to us about it.

**Thank You
Suffolk County
Law Enforcement Officials
On Behalf Of All
Abused Children
And Their Families**

