With the goal of reducing the trauma children experience during a child abuse investigation, CAN began in 1986 as a partnership with seven agencies serving children in crisis. CAN, a 501(c)(3) organization, was incorporated in 1988 and became Tulsa County’s Children’s Advocacy Center in 1991. In 1992, CAN moved into the specially-designed, child-friendly facility – known then as The JUSTICE Center, located at 2829 S Sheridan Road. Throughout the 1990's, CAN's roster of services grew to include forensic interviewing, mental health consultations and referrals and full-time medical evaluations. During this time, co-location at the Center also expanded to include staff from four of our partner agencies, bringing the multidisciplinary disciplines to its full complement under one roof.

In 2010, with the help of the City of Tulsa and CDBG funding, CAN purchased the Center, and the surrounding land and buildings for future facility and service expansion. Today, CAN is a member of Tulsa’s Multidisciplinary Child Abuse Team, which is comprised of nine partner agencies. CAN is the only Tulsa County nonprofit to provide intervention services, partnering directly with law enforcement, child welfare, legal and medical professionals in Tulsa County's child abuse response system. Each year, CAN provides services for about 2,500 allegedly abused children.

Partnering with the City of Tulsa and other donors to purchase the property where CAN is housed made it possible for CAN and our partner agencies to continue to provide child abuse intervention services in one child-friendly facility that is centrally located in Tulsa. Over the past seven years, CAN has been very fortunate to partner with others in the community to improve the campus in many ways. Each year, through the Tulsa Area United Way’s Day of Caring, CAN has partnered with several corporations to complete projects inside the buildings and all around the campus grounds. Most notably, at the 2012 Day of Caring, Williams and several other community partners helped tear down structures inside the gymnasium, making way for CAN to renovate the gymnasium to use as office space. In February 2013, CAN’s administrative staff relocated offices there, which in turn freed up much needed space at the Center for additional staffing for Tulsa County DHS and the Tulsa Police Department. Day of Caring projects the following two years have included improvements to the gymnasium’s “office setting” and provided adequate meeting space for CAN’s board of directors. See QuikTrips’s amazing transformation of the facility during the 2014 Day of Caring at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qm142NPPbsg

The additional space in the Center also made it possible for CAN to add a second medical examination room and hire an additional child specialist. This increased capacity allows CAN to provide the services necessary to identify and stop abuse while also making every effort to help children feel safe, listened to, and important while they are at the Children’s Advocacy Center.

Thank you, City of Tulsa, for partnering with us to help protect Tulsa’s children!