



BrigidCollins

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

Nurturing children, ending abuse

Brigid Collins Family Support Center
Media Kit

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Overview

The mission of Brigid Collins Family Support Center is to end child abuse and support families. Brigid Collins work to nurture children and build families through teaching, learning, and knowledge under a Child Advocacy Center model. The organization was founded in 1990 after the passing of Sister Brigid Collins. Sister Collins spent her life working towards social justice and was an active community member and administrator at St. Joseph Medical Center. In 2018, the organization made over 21,000 contacts and served 2,100 families. Brigid Collins is managed by Executive Director Byron Manering and a Board of Directors.

Brigid Collins provides intake, forensic examinations, and a multidisciplinary team of experts for children and families dealing with child abuse. The organization works in partnership with Darkness to Light to provide Stewards of Children training to adults seeking to help victims of child sexual abuse heal from their trauma.

Websites: brigidcollins.org
facebook.com/brigidcollinscenter/

Current Activities

Coming soon, Brigid Collins will announce the grand-opening of Parenting Academy following the soft launch. The grand opening will be held on August 10.

Brigid Collins works with Darkness to Light to provide Stewards of Children training to parents in an effort to educate and prevent child sexual abuse. They are a certified Child Advocacy Center where families can bring their children to document any cases of sexual abuse and seek treatment.

Brigid Collins also offers parent coaching for children with learning challenges, where parents can interact with their children and receive live coaching from licensed professionals at the Center.

Key Terms

Children's Advocacy Center (CAC): an integrated model supporting children, parents, and families. Involves law enforcement, CPS, counselors/therapists, victim advocates, prosecutors, and medical professionals.

Non-offending caregivers: those using or helping children access CAC services but did not commit abuse themselves.

MDT: Multidisciplinary Team

Facts

Statistics on Child Abuse:

- In 2016, Washington had 93,629 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 35,327 reports were referred for investigation. (Child Welfare League of America 2018)
- Child Maltreatment includes a range of different behaviors including physical and sexual abuse, as well as emotional and physical neglect. (Salum 2016)
- Survey data suggests 25% of children and youth ages 0-17 years old are affected by maltreatment. (Peterson 2018)
- Children who are traumatized under the age of 6 are at risk for developmental delays, lower cognitive functioning, mental health problems, and trauma symptoms such as increased crying, difficulty regulating, posttraumatic play, restrictive play or exploration in the environment, sleep disturbance, high levels of fussiness, temper tantrums, clinginess and separation anxiety, and regression of previously acquired developmental milestones or skills (Vanderzee 2016).
- Childhood trauma is correlated with/predicts psychosis [at what rate? how common?] (Schafer et. al, year).
- The rate of child abuse and neglect is consistently higher in Whatcom County than in Washington state as a whole. (Whatcom 2017)

Child Advocacy Centers:

- If authorities believe a child has been/is being abused they can take them to a Child Advocacy Center, which is a very child-friendly environment.
- According to the National Children's Alliance, a CAC must include 10 things:
 - Multidisciplinary team
 - Cultural competency and diversity
 - Child forensic interview
 - Victim support and advocacy
 - Medical evaluation
 - Mental health services
 - Case review

- Case tracking
- Organizational capacity
- Child-focused setting (Wherry 2015)
- “The multidisciplinary team serves as the foundation of a CAC that includes CAC staff and six additional disciplines: (a) law enforcement, (b) child protective services, (c) prosecution, (d) medical, (e) mental health, and (f) victim advocacy” (Wherry 2015)
- CAC’s help reduces children's trauma by allowing them to tell their story only once, to a trained interviewer.
- Teams including medical professionals, mental health practitioners, law enforcement, prosecution, child protective services can be brought together to make sure children get the care/service they need. (National Children's Alliance 2014)

Biographies

Executive Director: Byron Manering – bmanering@brigidcollins.org

Byron earned his Master’s in Social Work from the University of Washington and has worked at Brigid Collins for over 25 years. He was recently appointed to Whatcom County’s Sexual and Domestic Violence Commission.

Program Director (Bellingham): Jenn Lockwood – jlockwood@brigidcollins.org

Jenn is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor Associate (LMHCA) and has worked with Brigid Collins for nearly 12 years.

Program Director (Bellingham): Megan Brown Douglas – mdouglas@brigidcollins.org

Megan is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) and works in Bellingham as a Program Director.

Boilerplate

Brigid Collins Family Support Center was founded in 1990 in Bellingham, Washington in memory of Sister Brigid Collins — a champion for social justice. The nonprofit is dedicated to providing education and family support services to help nurture children and prevent abuse. The organization has offices in Bellingham, Washington and Mount Vernon, Washington. Their website is brigidcollins.org.

Sources:

Child Welfare League of America. 2018. “Washington’s Children 2018.” Accessed Apr. 16,

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- Wherry, Jeffrey N., Cassandra C. Huey, and Elizabeth A. Medford. 2015. "A National Survey of Child Advocacy Center Directors Regarding Knowledge of Assessment, Treatment Referral, and Training Needs in Physical and Sexual Abuse." *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse* 24 (3): 280-99. Accessed April 20th, 2019. <http://web.a.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.library.wvu.edu/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=11&sid=d0caacc4-0270-43cd-81e6-d60061306107%40sessionmgr40>

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Brigid Collins Family Support Center?

Brigid Collins' mission is to end child abuse and support families. The organization works to nurture children and build families through teaching, learning, and knowledge.

2. Where are you located?

We have offices in Bellingham and in Mount Vernon; servicing Whatcom and Skagit counties.

- [1231 N. Garden St, Bellingham, WA 98226](#)
- [917 S. 3rd St. in Mount Vernon, WA 98273](#)

3. How should I contact you?

Give us a call, or stop by our office. Trained staff are available during business hours to answer your call.

- Bellingham office: (360) 734-4616
- Mount Vernon office: (360) 428-6622

4. Who does Brigid Collins help?

The organization supports families, children, and caregivers, including non-offending adults. The Children's Advocacy Center offers forensic interviews for abused children, parenting classes, daycare services, and other family assistance programs for food, clothing, and housing.

5. What programs does Brigid Collins offer?

We offer, Parenting Education, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, Familia Latina, Growing Together/PCAP (Parent-Child Assistance Programs), Family Resource Center, Kinship Caregiver Support Program, and additional Evidence-Based Parenting Programs. Read more about our programs [here](#).

6. Who do your services benefit?

Children and parents benefit from the programs we offer in support of families. Child victims of sexual abuse get an opportunity to heal from their trauma, and parents learn how to identify and protect against sexual abuse. Additionally, we offer coaching to parents with children who experience behavioral and learning challenges to help them support their child's growth.

7. Can I access services as a non-offending parent or caregiver?

Yes! A variety of stewardship and education classes are available to non-offending parents, grandparents or caregivers.

8. Do you offer mental health services?

We employ several licensed mental health practitioners to offer counseling and therapy to children. Children's Advocacy Centers like Brigid Collins may also provide referrals to mental health services in the community.

9. What's your leadership structure?

Brigid Collins is managed by Executive Director Byron Mannering and Leadership teams in each of our offices. The Board of Directors consists of President Liz Sowers, as well as 16 other Board members.

10. How can I stay in touch?

We offer first, second and third-year parenting newsletters for parents. Sign-up is available online and in our office. You can also follow us [on Facebook](#).

Logo and Tagline

Tagline: Nurturing children, ending abuse.

[Download high-resolution logo](#)

Color codes:

- Orange: #ee7c2d
- Blue: #4f99ee

Font: "Delicious"



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Media Clips

Bellingham Herald

"Adults play a vital role in fostering resilience, healthy child development"

<https://www.bellinghamherald.com/living/family/article110450562.html>

GO Skagit

"Brigid Collins celebrates first year in new building"

https://www.goskagit.com/news/local_news/brigid-collins-center-celebrates-first-year-in-new-building/article_42ce2b0c-57c3-5775-88f2-cfd5bb6ebf76.html

Whatcom Talk

"Spreading the Wealth: First Federal Community Foundation Grants \$300,000 to Whatcom County Non-Profits"

<https://www.whatcomtalk.com/2018/08/21/spreading-the-wealth-first-federal-community-foundation-grants-300000-to-whatcom-county-non-profits/>

Story Pitches

Team Member profile – Gail Tierney

Gail Tierney is the Children's Advocacy Center Coordinator for Brigid Collins Family Support Center in Whatcom County. Tierney's work is crucial in connecting child victims of sexual abuse with local law enforcement, medical professionals, and case managers in order to make the families of these children feel supported and safe bringing their children in. The CAC serves as a safe space for these child victims to tell their story to the people who can help, and Tierney serves as an intake specialist to connect them to therapists and other providers.

Brigid Collins Executive Director appointed to Whatcom County Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Our very own Byron Manering was appointed by Bellingham, WA Mayor Kelli Linville on May 6, 2019. This would be a wonderful opportunity to share what Brigid Collins does, and why the mayor chose a Brigid Collins executive. A story could cover Manering's story, with quotes from other commission members, Mayor Linville, or Manering.

Photos

