

# MY VOICE MATTERS

A SAFE PLACE TO TELL MY TRUTH



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LAURENTIU GABRIEL DUMITRU



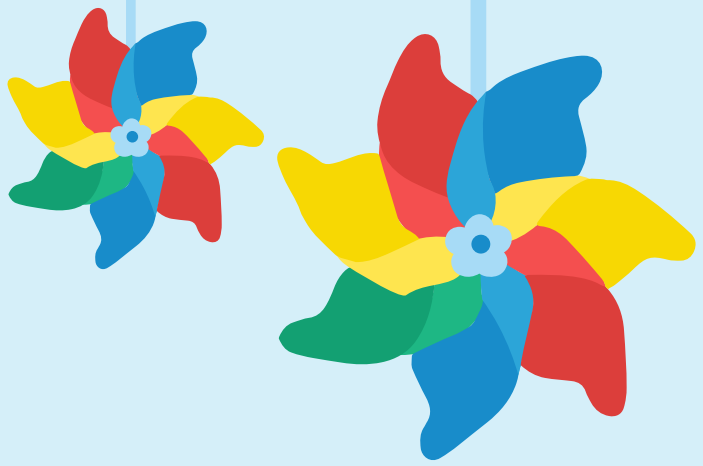
Lenawee County Child Advocacy Center  
*A Program of Catholic Charities of Jackson,  
Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties*

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Adrian, MI 49221

(517) 662-3442

[www.catholiccharitiesjlhc.org/child-advocacy-centers](http://www.catholiccharitiesjlhc.org/child-advocacy-centers)



To all of the children who trusted us with your stories, thank you for believing in us. For all the children we have yet to see, we look forward to earning your trust.

– From your friends at the Lenawee County Child Advocacy Center



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Parker, Colorado  
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This is an Adapted Edition (Adapted Fourth Edition), for Lenawee County Child Advocacy Center, a program of Catholic Charities of Jackson, Lenawee and Hillsdale. It is based on *My Voice Matters: A Safe Place to Tell My Truth* (2021), created in partnership with the Northern Michigan Alliance for Children (NMAC).

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THIS BOOK IS NOT FOR RESALE. Books are available for customization to all accredited child advocacy centers and other entities approved in writing by the Northern Michigan Alliance for Children (NMAC).

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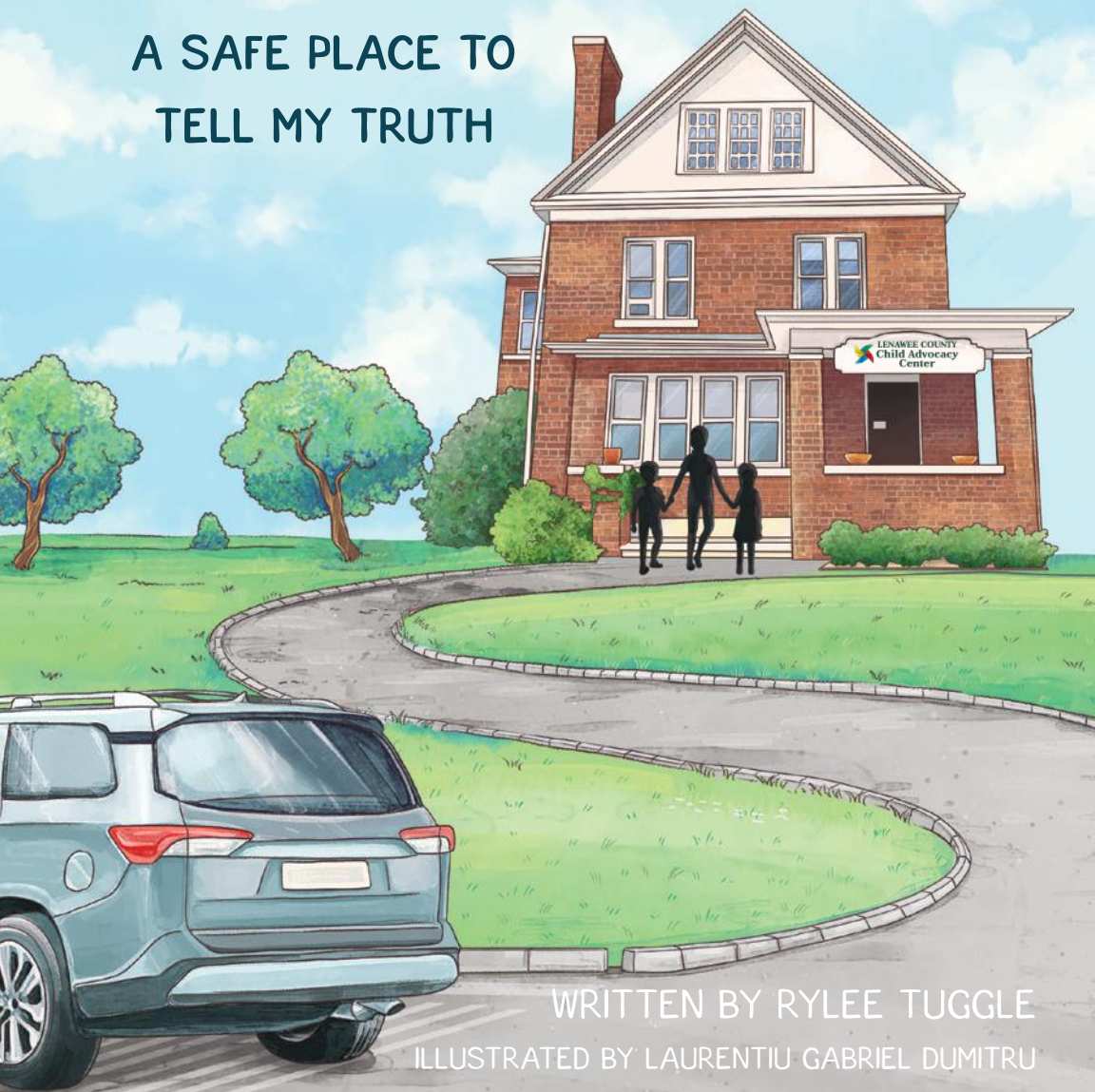
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*This is a support tool. This is not a guarantee of the members assigned to your advocacy team. Your team may be comprised of different individuals than those listed in the book. Any names, genders, and resemblances of characters may differ from the people you work with during your multidisciplinary team process.*

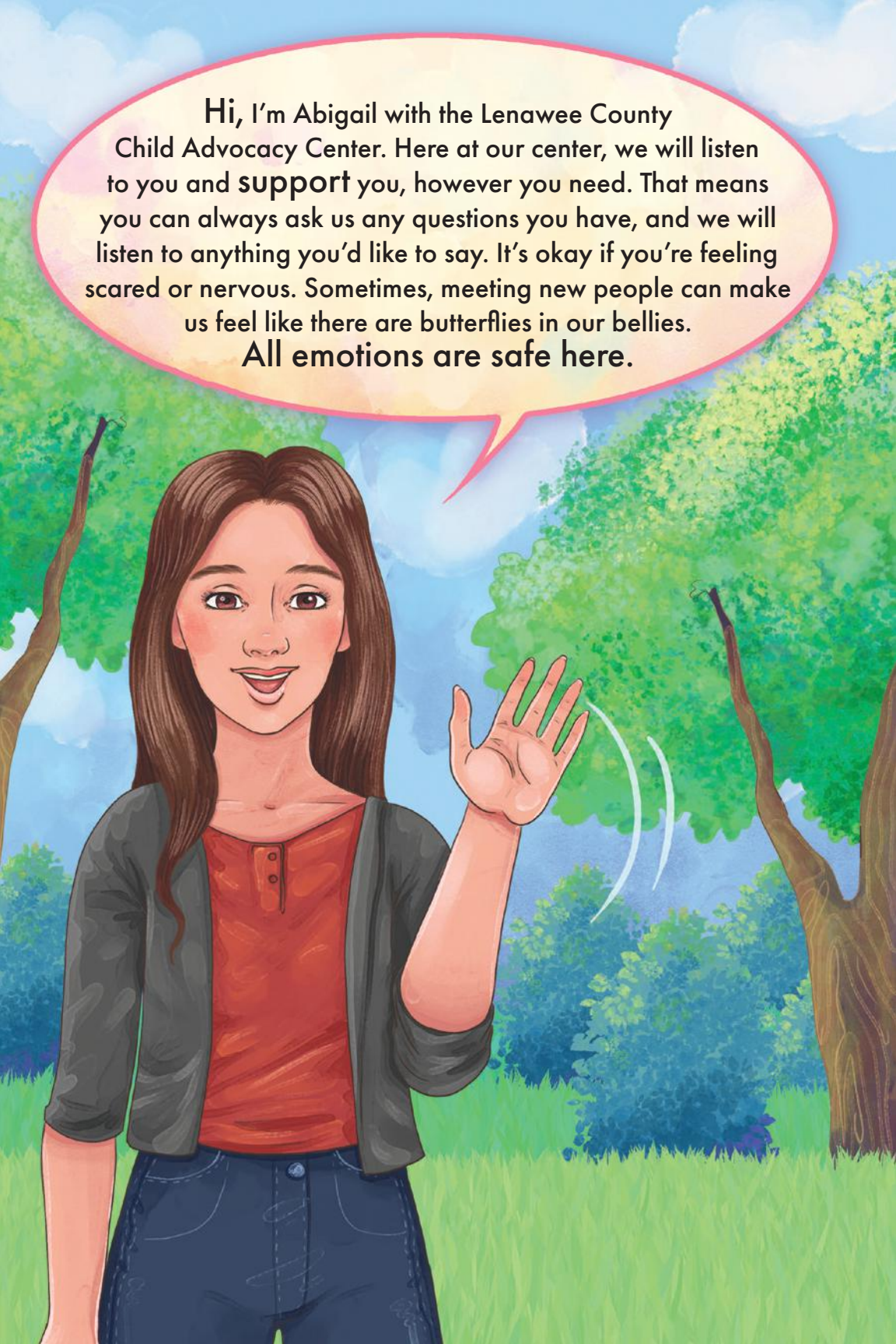
# MY VOICE MATTERS

A SAFE PLACE TO  
TELL MY TRUTH



WRITTEN BY RYLEE TUGGLE  
ILLUSTRATED BY LAURENTIU GABRIEL DUMITRU





Hi, I'm Abigail with the Lenawee County Child Advocacy Center. Here at our center, we will listen to you and **support** you, however you need. That means you can always ask us any questions you have, and we will listen to anything you'd like to say. It's okay if you're feeling scared or nervous. Sometimes, meeting new people can make us feel like there are butterflies in our bellies.

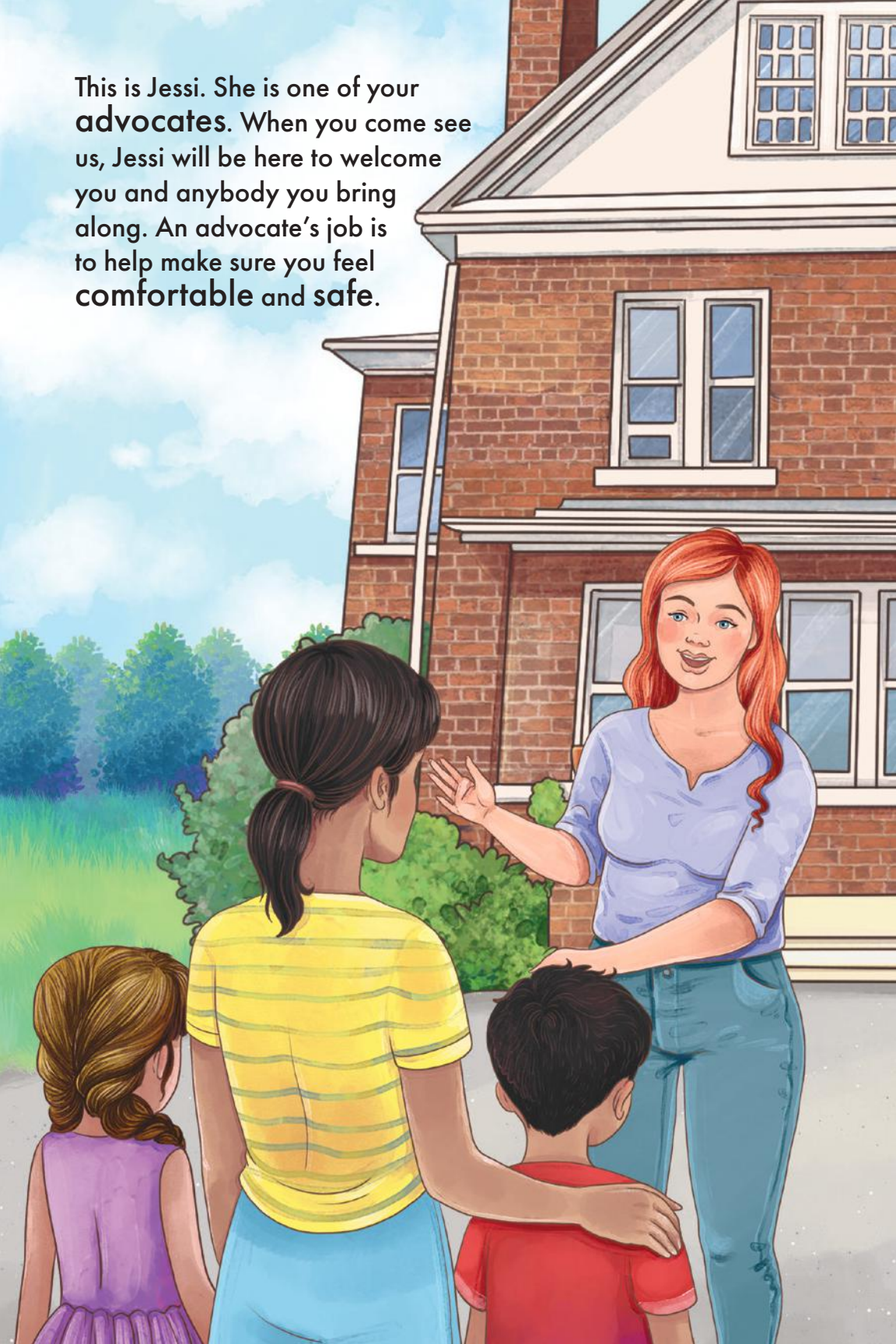
**All emotions are safe here.**

I am going to tell you about some members of the team and what you will do when you visit the center. Your team is made up of **professionals** who work to keep you **safe**. Each of your team members has a special job, and they are ready to learn all about **you**.





This is Jessi. She is one of your **advocates**. When you come see us, Jessi will be here to welcome you and anybody you bring along. An advocate's job is to help make sure you feel **comfortable and safe**.





Jessi will stay with you most of the time you visit with us. But when she is not with you, she will make sure you **always** have someone from your advocacy team by your side. When it's time for you to meet the next member of your team, your caregiver will stay behind with your advocate. Your advocate makes sure she helps **support** your caregiver too!





Next, you'll see our talking room. There, you will meet Scott, the forensic interviewer. A **forensic interviewer** is someone who talks to kids. They ask questions and listen carefully to the answers. They listen carefully because **your voice matters**.



Scott will have lots of questions for you, but he also knows you may not want to talk yet. When you are ready to talk, Scott will be ready to listen and learn more about you. You probably have rules you follow at your house or school. Scott will also have some rules to go over with you.



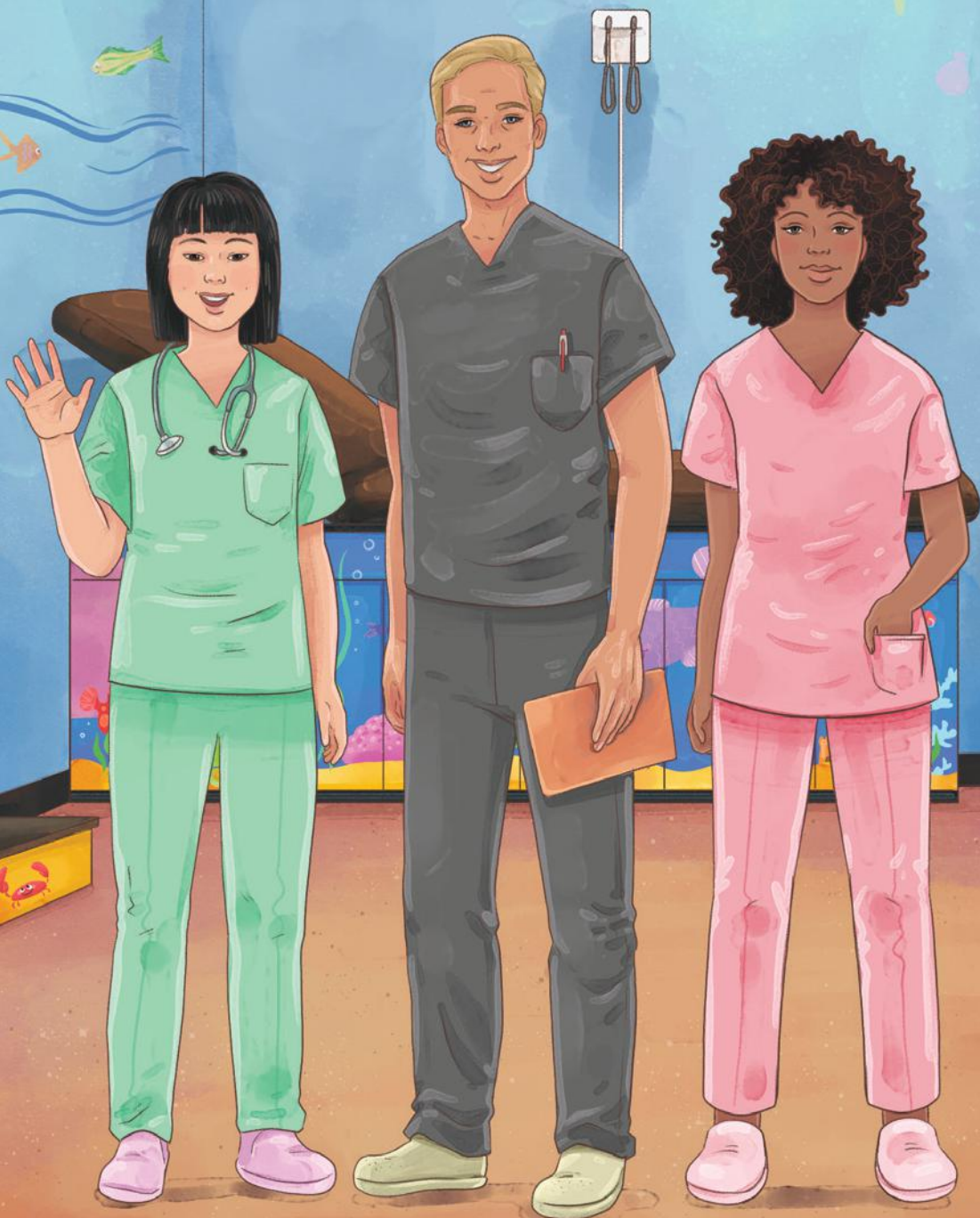
When you are done talking with Scott, your caregiver and a team member will be waiting patiently for you. Your caregiver can help you find some toys or get started on some activities. Then your caregiver will need to meet with your advocacy team.



Your advocacy team meets to make sure we take **very** good care of **YOU**. The team may meet with other people too, like a police officer. If you want to meet them, or have any questions, **you can always ask!**



Your advocacy team may recommend that you see some of our medical friends, like a **doctor** or **nurse**. Their jobs are to make sure **you** and **your body** are safe.





When you visit the **medical team**, you can ask them any questions about their jobs, your appointment, or your body.



After your visit to our center, you may feel like you need someone to help you understand your **feelings** and work through them. We have special **listeners** who will do just that! They are called **counselors** or **therapists**.

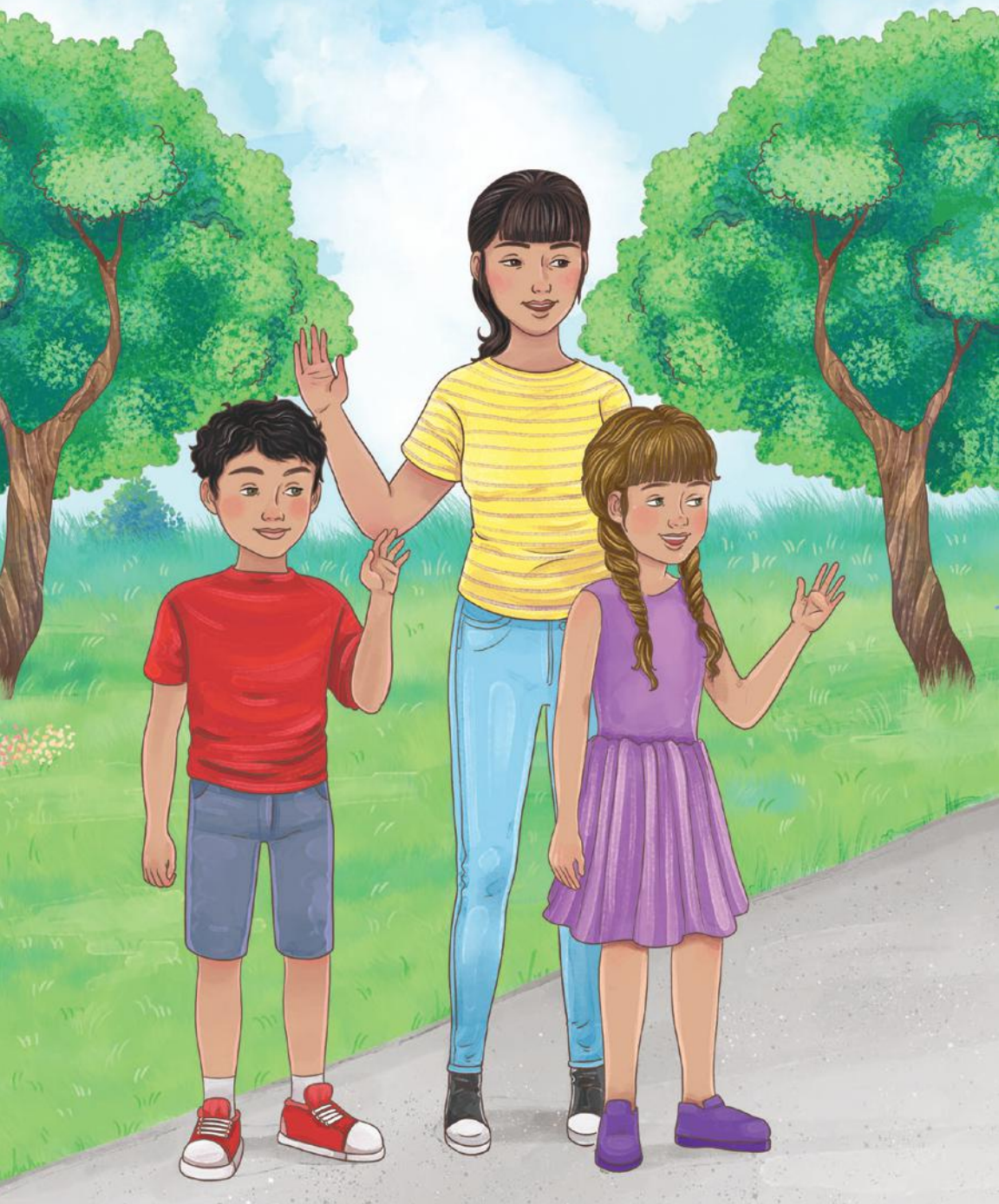








Remember, **all of us** on your advocacy team are here for **you**.  
We are ready to answer any questions you have for us.  
We can't wait to meet you and say **hello!**









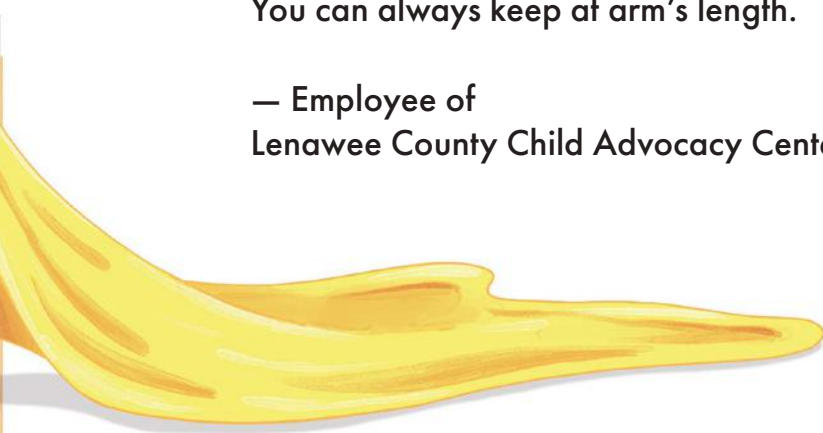


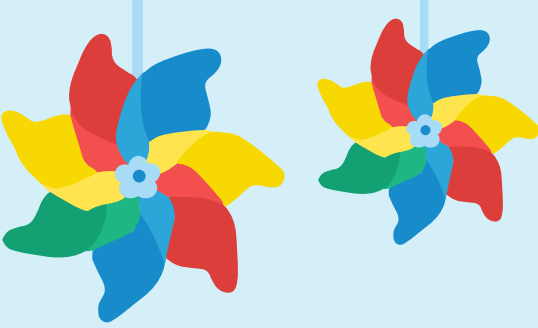
The bears and the quilts upon this shelf  
Are your support when you feel by yourself.  
So, next time when you feel alone,  
Remember the bravery today you've shown.

So, hold your bear or quilt with pride,  
Until the gloomy feelings subside.  
Bring them with you as an extra source  
Of support, love, and hugs, of course.

With these items, you'll find care,  
So, grab yourself a quilt or bear.  
A gentle reminder of your strength  
You can always keep at arm's length.

— Employee of  
Lenawee County Child Advocacy Center





## YOUR ADVOCACY TEAM

We are your advocacy team. We are here for you!  
Here's how you can reach us:

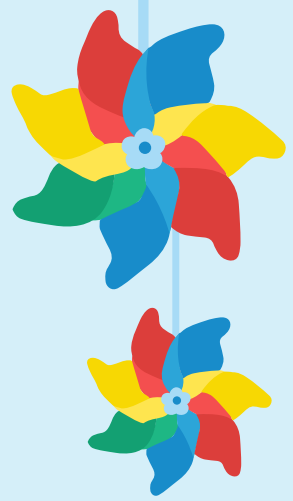


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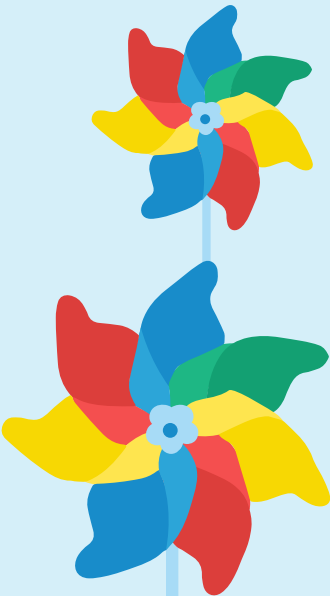
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This book was created in partnership with the Northern Michigan Alliance for Children (NMAC), an organization that provides healing, hope, and justice to abused children in rural Michigan. It was their dream that the book could be replicated to help children across the world. If you have an organization in mind that might benefit from having their own customized copy of this book, please visit [www.mikids.org/book](http://www.mikids.org/book) or [www.booksbyrylee.com/my-voice-matters](http://www.booksbyrylee.com/my-voice-matters).







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