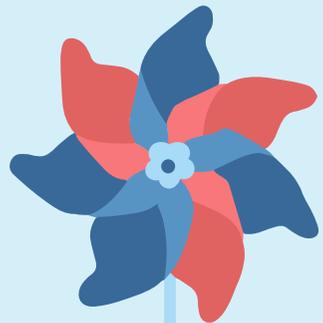
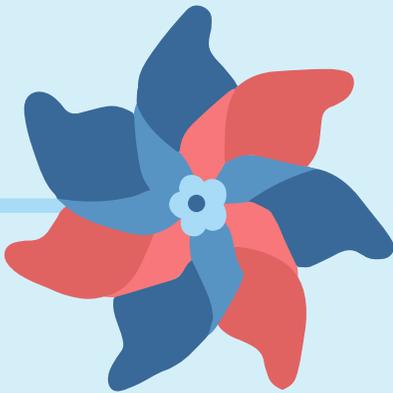
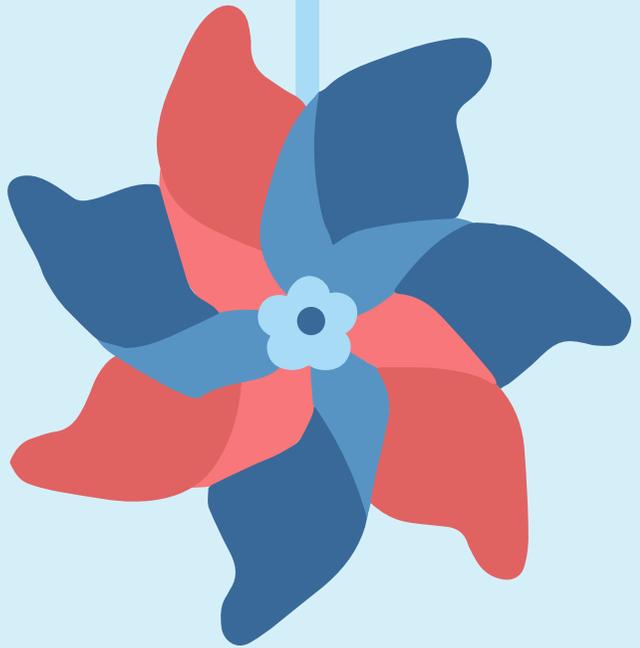
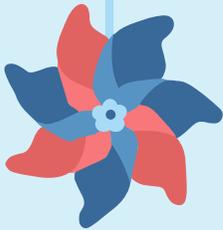
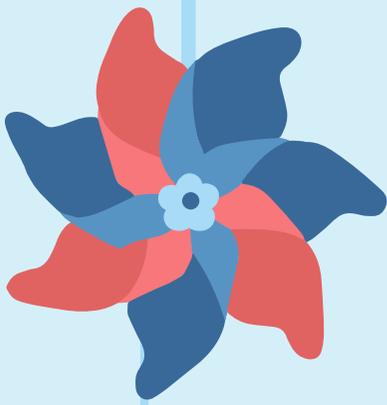


MY VOICE MATTERS

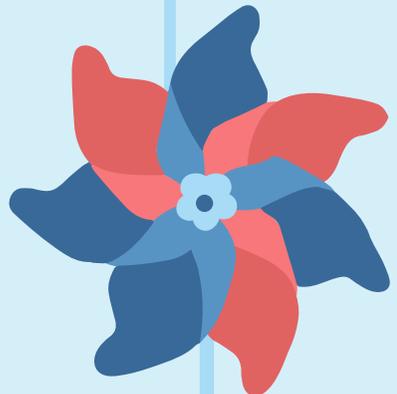
A SAFE PLACE TO TELL MY TRUTH



RYLEE TUGGLE
LAURENTIU GABRIEL DUMITRU



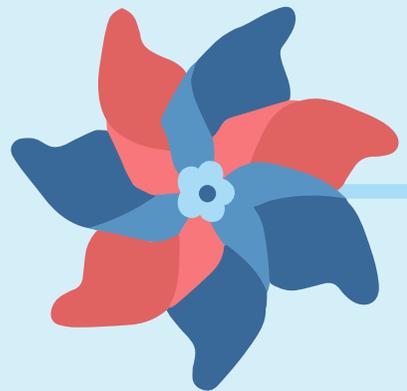
The Voice for Clinton County's Children
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St. Johns, MI 48879
(989) 640-5681
VoiceForClintonCountyChildren.org





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

– From your friends at The Voice for Clinton County’s Children



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Parker, Colorado
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Written by Rylee Tuggle
Illustrated by Laurentiu Gabriel Dumitru
Book Design by Intricate Designs

If you visit our building, you can see the wall murals from this book in person, painted by Tracie Davis Art and Murals.

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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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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 with The Voice for Clinton County's Children. Here at our child advocacy center, we will **support** you however you need. You can ask us any questions you have and we will be sure to **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.



I am going to tell you about the team and what you will do when you visit our 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 your **advocate**, who will be here to welcome you and anybody you bring along. An advocate's job is to support another person. An advocate also makes sure you are **comfortable** and **safe**. Your advocate will stay with you most of the time you visit with us. When she is not with you, someone from your advocacy team will be available.



If you'd like, your advocate can bring a special team member with her. Her name is Sophie, and she is the team's furry canine advocate. If you'd like to have Sophie join you, all you have to do is ask! Sophie is a great advocate!

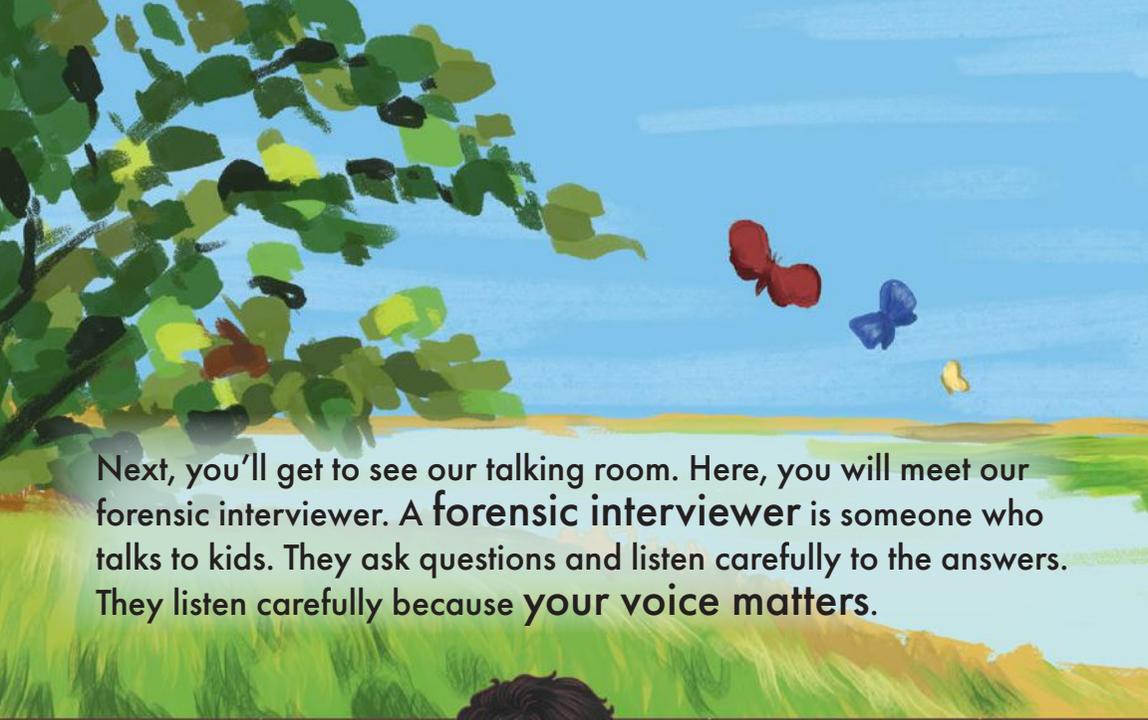


Sophie has a special job. She likes to snuggle up to kids to welcome them. If someone feels butterflies in their belly, she helps them feel better. She will also lie next to you so you can rub her head. So, don't be surprised if you feel Sophie's wet nose!



When it's time for you to meet the next member of your team, Sophie will stay behind with your advocate and your grown-up. Your advocate makes sure she helps **support** your grown-up too!





Next, you'll get to see our talking room. Here, you will meet our 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**.



Our forensic interviewer has lots of questions for you. When you are ready to talk, she will be ready to listen and learn more about you. You probably have rules you follow at your house or school. Our forensic interviewer will also have some rules to go over with you.



When you are done talking with the forensic interviewer, your grown-up and advocate will be waiting patiently for you. Your grown-up can help you find some toys or get started on an activity. Then your grown-up will need to go meet with the team. But your advocate and Sophie will stay behind with you.



Your advocacy team meets to make sure we take very good care of **YOU**. The team includes other people, 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 go and 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 you like about their jobs, your appointment, or your body.



After your visit to our agency, 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**.

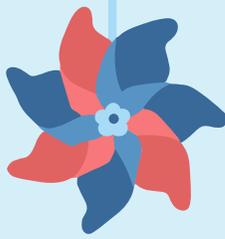
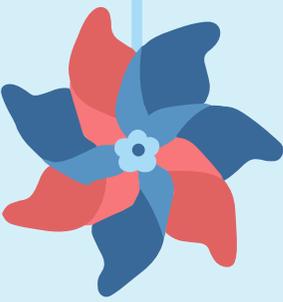




We are ready to answer any questions you have for us. Remember, all of us on your advocacy team are here for you.





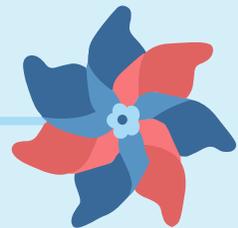


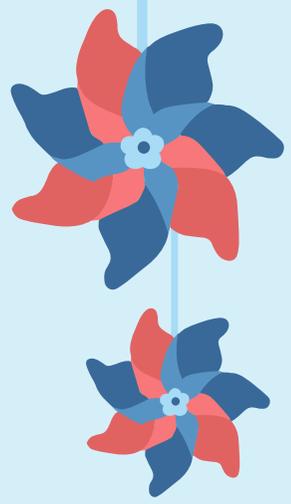
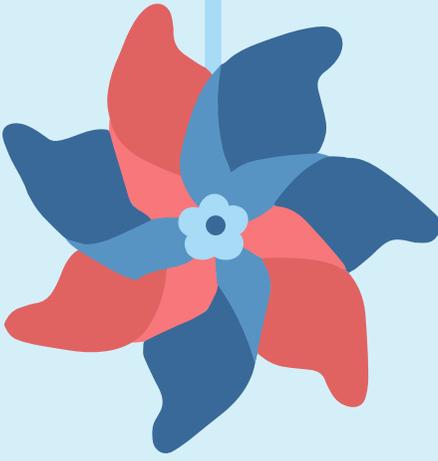
YOUR ADVOCACY TEAM

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

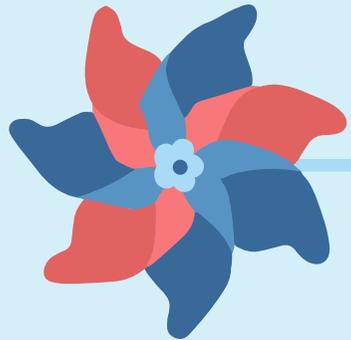
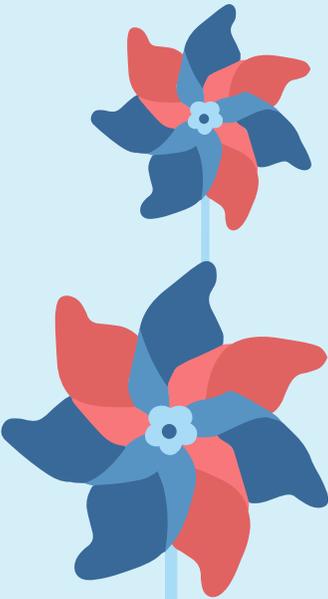


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This book was created in partnership with the Northern Michigan Alliance for Children (NMAC), an organization that provides healing, hope, and justice to abused children in rural Michigan. It was their dream that the book could be replicated to help 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 or www.booksbyrylee.com/my-voice-matters.





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