

Frannie Parkinson
Summer 2010
LSDI

This summer I interned for six weeks, along with three other summer interns, at Safe Shores-The D.C. Children's Advocacy Center in Washington, DC. Safe Shores works directly with and provides services to children and their families who have been victims of sexual or physical abuse or have witnessed a violent crime. Safe Shores provides child abuse victims with a safe and comfortable environment prior to and after going through the forensic interview process. Safe Shores provides the children with on-site meals and therapy sessions as well as foster care clothing bags and funds for groceries.

Additionally, Safe Shores has the means to provide caretakers and child victims with assistance in finding services and organizations that can provide them with support in other areas of their lives during this difficult time (such as housing, food and clothing resources, therapy and counseling services, and medical centers). As an intern at Safe Shores, my primary responsibility was interacting with the children in the playroom.

This required engaging with them in an interactive and calm manner that would allow for them to feel comfortable later on during their forensic interview. Other responsibilities included creating foster care clothing bags, organizing clothing and book donations, recording clothing and food inventory, and completing daily office tasks. In addition, I was able to sit in on the recording of some of the forensic interviews alongside the detectives, social workers, and attorneys working on the case which gave me the opportunity to learn about how the entire case process works and the dynamic role that each department plays.