



***Ralston House :***

***Serving the 1st and 17th  
Judicial Districts of Colorado***

## **Strategic Plan 2026-2028**



**STOP THE ABUSE**

**START THE HEALING**

Approved by Ralston House Board of Directors, January 20, 2026

## **Mission: Ralston House's mission is to stop the abuse and start the healing.**

### **History**

Founded in 1990, Ralston House provides a child-friendly, safe, neutral environment where law enforcement, social workers, mental health and medical professionals speak with children and their families in surroundings that lessen the anxiety of a child who has been assaulted. Children who have been abused sexually, physically or emotionally, can tell their story; undergo a comprehensive pediatric medical exam; and receive victim support services as they begin to heal from their experiences without being re-traumatized.

### **Cases**

The majority of children served are suspected victims of sexual abuse; however, investigators also bring cases of physical abuse, child witnesses of domestic violence, human trafficking and other violent crimes. Ralston House provides evidence-based services: forensic interviews, medical exams, crisis intervention, victim and family advocacy, follow-up, referrals for trauma-focused therapy and other resources, as well as prevention education. Ralston House is the only non-hospital facility in the 1st and 17th Judicial Districts (JDS) conducting pediatric sexual assault medical exams.

### **Services**

Police departments, human services and the district attorney's offices in the 1st and 17th Judicial Districts call on Ralston House to conduct forensic investigations of children when there is an allegation of sexual or physical abuse or to interview child/teen witnesses of violent crimes. They rely on the expertise of Ralston House's specially-trained staff to effectively interview the children, provide crisis counseling, victim advocacy and work with Ralston House staff as a part of the investigative team. A Child Abuse Pediatrician provides comprehensive medical exams at Ralston House, including treating injuries, testing for infections and ensuring that immunizations are up to date. Interviews and medical services are provided in an environment where children feel safe and comfortable with the surroundings and the professionals.

## PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICES



<u>Objective</u>	<u>Time Frame</u>
1) Increase the number of children interviewed as witnesses to domestic violence	1) Ongoing; review quarterly
2) Institute Care Process Model	2) Start January 2026– ongoing
3) Evaluate Lead position job descriptions and make appropriate changes	3) Implement new job descriptions July 2026. Evaluate effectiveness– ongoing
4) Evaluate VSFA program and make changes as needed– specifically, follow-up, case management, DAVA/LEVA coordination, and suicide threat response	4) Identify changes needed– July 2026 Implement changes– January 2027 Evaluate effectiveness– ongoing
5) Identify CE-CERT ideas that can be implemented at Ralston house; implement ideas and evaluate effectiveness	5) Identify ideas by July 2026 Implementation and evaluation: Ongoing

## FUND THE MISSION

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Time Frame</u>
1) Meet yearly budget and stretch goals budget	1) Ongoing; review monthly
2) Increase corporate sponsorships: number of sponsorships and amount of dollars donated	2) Ongoing; review monthly
3) Increase individual and corporate donations: number of givers and amount of dollars donated	3) Ongoing; review monthly
4) Increase amount of dollars donated by community events	4) Ongoing; review monthly
5) Research, obtain, and implement a “Customer Relationship Management System”	5) Ongoing; review quarterly
6) Engage potential “Legacy Gift” donors. Identify potential donors and receive some “Legacy Gifts”	6) Ongoing; review quarterly

# LEAD THE MISSION

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Time Frame</u>
1) Implement new “Board Member Job Description”	1) Board vote to accept final version—February 2026
2) Continue to enhance Board member involvement	2) Ongoing
3) Institute a Board member self-evaluation process based on “Board Member Job Description”	3) Institute by November 2026

## Pinwheel Garden Campaign

Each year, Ralston House asks the community to plant blue pinwheels in recognition of Child Abuse Awareness Month in April. These blue pinwheels represent hope and healing and show child victims and their families that they are not alone, that their community supports them and stands with them against child abuse. Ralston House plants pinwheels year-round to raise money and show support throughout the year. Each pinwheel planted helps a child victim.



## PROVIDE QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Time Frame</u>
1) Complete renovation of new Ralston House Arvada	1) July 2026
2) Move into new building without disruption to clinical services	2) August 2026
3) Address in policies and procedures, operational changes based on operating out of the new building	3) Ongoing
4) Complete successful capitol campaign for renovation, move in, and ongoing expenses of transition into new building	4) Ongoing; review monthly



### Significance of Marbles at Ralston House:

Every child who is interviewed at Ralston House chooses a colorful marble to put into a larger jar of marbles before walking out the door. The large jar serves as a visual reminder of the number of children who spoke up to help make their world a safer place.

**“That’s a big jar of courage.”**  
—child interviewed at Ralston House