



PROTECTING VICTIMS TOGETHER: THE DIGITAL FORENSICS LAB ADVANTAGE

Julie Evans, CEO
Alliance For Children

Tarik Muslimovic, Sergeant
Arlington Police Department





CAC-FOUNDING VISION 1992

- Always planned to have multiple locations
- 1992 Population: 1.201 Million
- 902 Square Miles
- Tarrant County's Unique Makeup
 - 2 Powerhouse Cities



A Tale of Two Cities



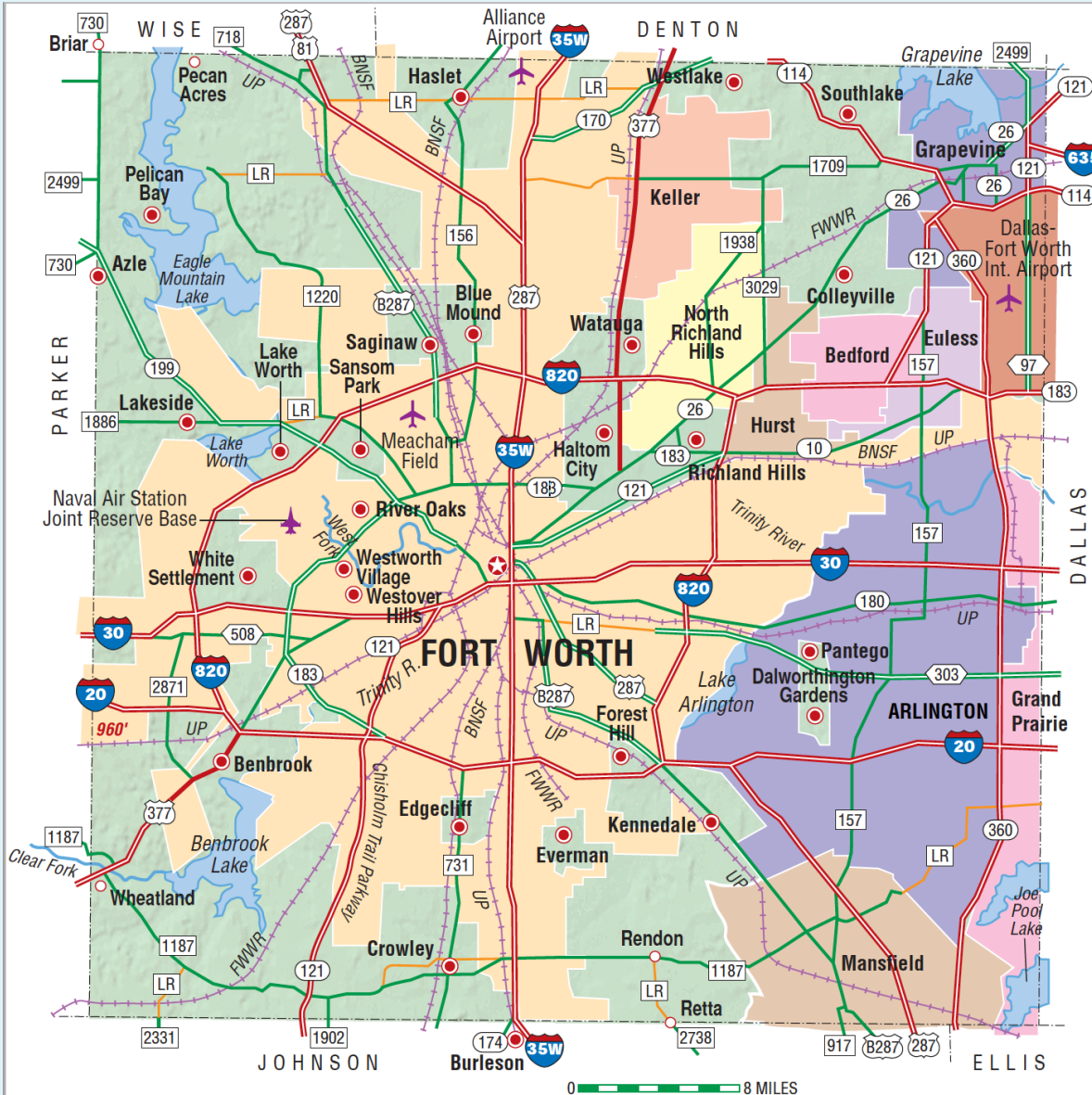
Arlington #51



Fort Worth #10



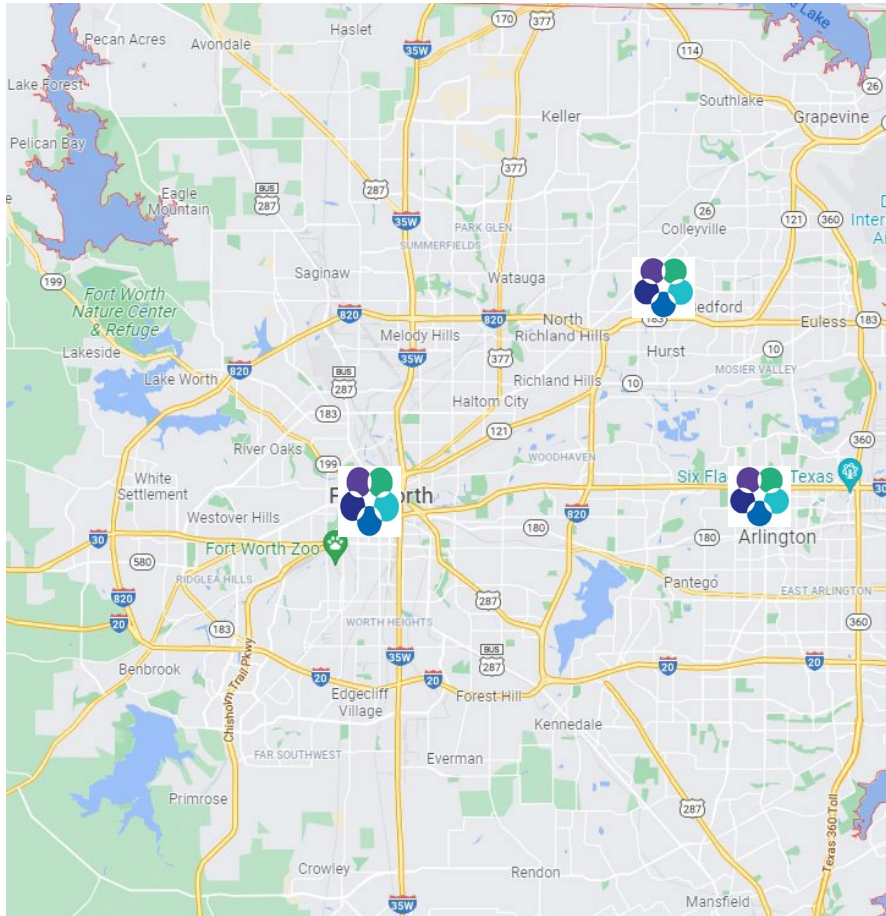
**ALLIANCE
FOR CHILDREN**
A Children's Advocacy Center



...and that's *not* all

42 police jurisdictions in Tarrant
County alone

YOU ARE HERE



Arlington-1992

(City owned, CAC managed)



Fort Worth-1995

(CAC owned & managed)



Northeast-1999

(County owned, CAC managed)





- Tarrant County Population is now 2.23 million
- 3rd largest county in Texas after Dallas and Harris (Houston)
- 15th largest county in the nation
- Last FY, our centers served 3,296 children
 - 2,291 first-time clients and 1,005 continuing clients



CITY OF ARLINGTON OVERVIEW

Population: 400,000+ residents

Home to major venues: AT&T Stadium & Globe Life Field

Host of concerts, NFL games, MLB games, and large-scale events

INDYCAR racing events

FIFA World Cup coming to Arlington

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN EXPANSION

Alliance For Children expansion of Arlington center

- 24,000 sq. ft expansion and renovation of existing 10,000 sq. ft center
- Added additional space for CAC staff and services, as well as MDT partners

Law Enforcement areas researched and designed in partnership

- Dedicated suspect entry, two interview rooms and monitoring room
- Workstations:
 - CACU-Two sergeants and 11 detectives
 - HEAT-Sergeant, 5 Detectives

Digital Forensics Lab

- Forward-thinking solution to include digital forensics capabilities
- Built to support growing demands of child exploitation and trafficking cases

DIGITAL FORENSICS LAB OVERVIEW

Full-time digital
forensics detective
assigned to HEAT
and CACU cases

Handles cell phones,
computers, and all
digital forensic
examinations

Lab designed for
efficiency,
accuracy, and fast
turnaround time

TECHNOLOGY & CAPABILITIES



Equipped with industry-leading tools and forensic software



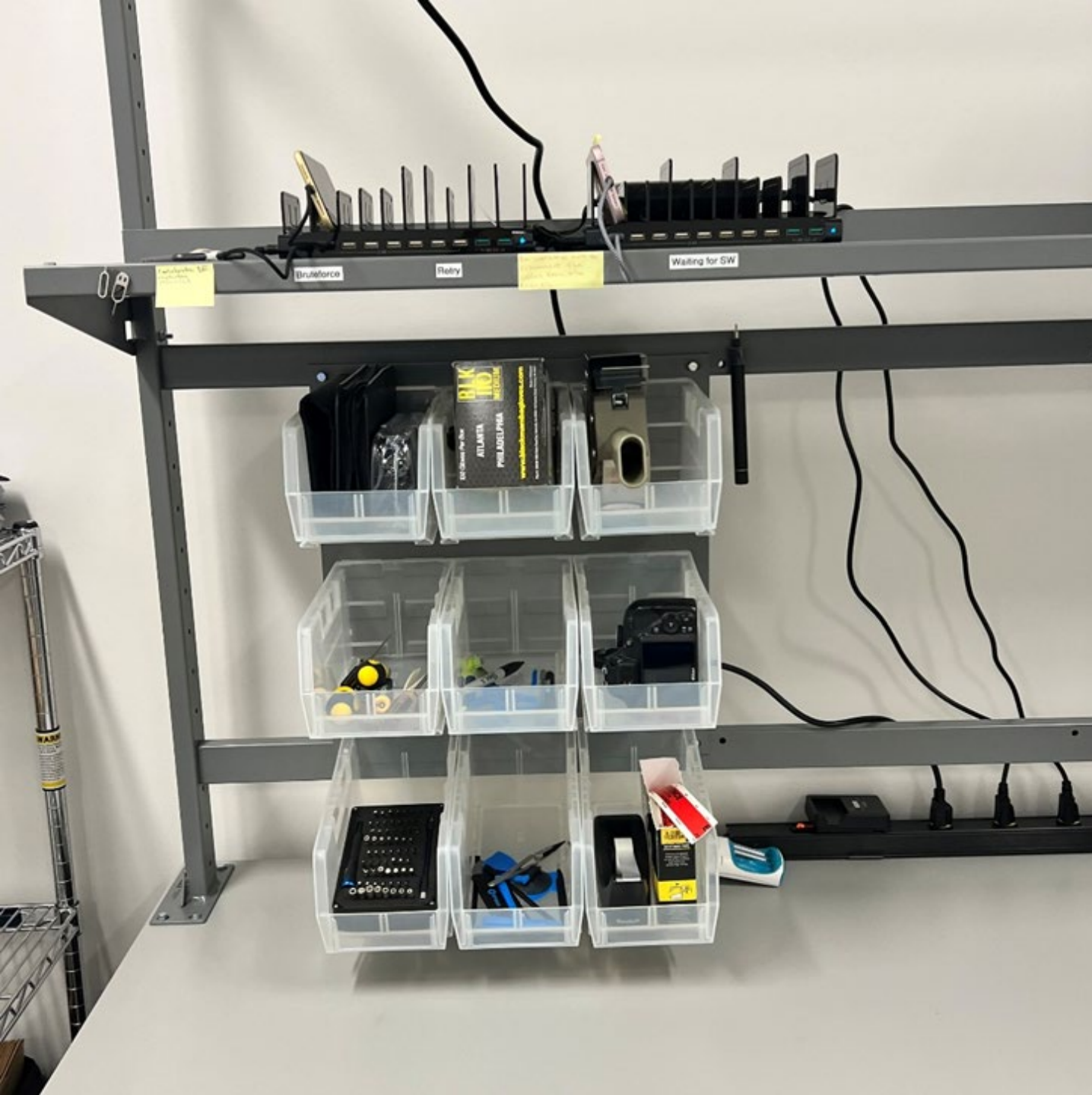
Spacious layout allowing optimal workflow



Supports rapid extractions and advanced forensic analysis



Tear Down Table and Evidence Storage



Cell Phone Processing

Power supply is critical.



FARADAY BOX

WORKSTATION



Robust
Desktop CPU

Cellebrite

KEY
EQUIPMENT
NEEDS -
HARDWARE

Digital Forensics Computer

Faraday Box

Laptop

Physical Storage room/lab
that meets industry standards

KEY EQUIPMENT NEEDS - SOFTWARE

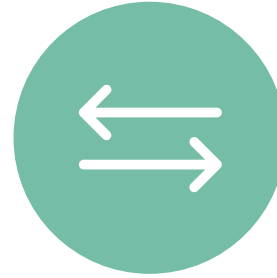
Cellebrite

Magnet
Forensics –
GrayKey

Storage –
Cloud based
or physical



Digital forensic detectives can deploy to the field



On-site extractions build rapport with victims



Allows phones to be returned to victims quickly



Enhances trust and reduces disruption during investigations

FIELD DEPLOYMENT ADVANTAGES

PROCESS AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT



Structured lab process created for workflow consistency



Policy implemented to maintain high operational standards



Ensures accountability and quality across all examinations

IMPACT OF THE PARTNERSHIP

- Stronger collaboration between Alliance For Children and APD
- Emphasized an MDT way of thinking to digital forensics
 - Not just for criminal case
 - By gaining access to this evidence on more cases and in a more timely manner, assists with child protection decisions
- Increased efficiency for HEAT and CACU investigations
- Faster turnaround improves case progression and victim support

Human Trafficking Proactive Operation

- When victims of human trafficking are encountered or detained during undercover operations, detectives initiate an interview.
- During the interview, victims are asked to provide consent for a search of their electronic device, with the clear understanding that the device will be immediately extracted and promptly returned.
- This approach helps establish positive rapport with the victim while enabling the Digital Forensics Examiner to extract and analyze the device, providing the case detective with critical evidence for follow-up investigations.



ICAC Case

- Officers took a report involving a 15-year-old juvenile who engaged in inappropriate online communications with an adult male and later met him in person.
- After the HEAT Unit was contacted, it was determined the communications occurred on Instagram using disappearing messages with a 48-hour retention period.
- A rapid forensic extraction of the juvenile's device identified both the victim's and suspect's Instagram accounts, allowing preservation requests to be submitted within the critical 48-hour window.



DIGITAL EVIDENCE IN AN INTERVIEW

- Presenting evidence (text messages, call logs, photos or video stills) is an important tool that may be utilized a forensic interview, especially in online solicitation, trafficking and sexual abuse cases when the child has significant barriers to disclosure
- Forensic Interviewers should be trained on the best practices when it comes to evidence presentation in an FI and how to be trauma informed
- When there is a possibility that digital evidence exists, it is important that the investigative team has this evidence available before the interview as an optional tool to reduce the likelihood that the child will need a subsequent FI
- Important to remember that if a child is not ready to disclose, even when presented with evidence of the abuse they may still deny

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

- Strong opportunity to seek financial support from community
- Success in writing grants and raising individual gifts for equipment, software and training
- Project has been appealing to those that want to support law enforcement while also supporting victims through an emerging trend





Julie Evans

- jevans@allianceforchildren.org
- (682) 382-1400

Sergeant Tarik Muslimovic

- Tarik.Muslimovic@arlingtontx.gov
- (682) 382-1601