

cribnotes

HOME VISITING PROGRAM

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ONE VISIT AT A TIME

The Nursery isn't just overnight residential care for children; it's an educated approach to building stronger families. The chances of abuse and neglect increase when a parent is unaware or unable to meet the emotional and developmental needs of their child. Through our home visiting program, the Nursery provides long-term support to these parents to help them better understand their child's development, as well as set and achieve goals that increase resilience and strengthen their family.

Once a week for 12-18 months, one of our licensed, Master's level social workers meets with the parent in their home or community. By visiting our clients in their homes rather than making them come to us, we remove barriers and make accessing these services possible. It also allows us to take a preferred two-generational approach where we can focus on both the parent and their child, as well as the relationship between the two.



Together, the social worker and the parent create an action plan to stabilize the family. This usually begins with identifying resources for meeting basic needs, such as food, shelter, clothing, transportation, household items, and infant supplies. As the rapport builds between the staff and the parent, they begin to work on strengthening the relationship between the parent and their child. This includes increasing the parent's understanding of their child's emotional needs and the types of behaviors to expect as their child develops. Together, they celebrate current parenting strengths while identifying areas for growth and addressing barriers to success.

The home visiting program allows for a safe space where parents may reveal and address their unmet emotional needs or mental health concerns. Through a longer-term relationship with our home visiting staff, our clients work to improve their ability to cope with stress by identifying current strategies and exploring additional regulation skills and options for support.

The home visiting program supports parents so they may, in turn, support their child. The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2014 report shares that "a loving, nurturing parent can make a world of difference in any child's life—and can soften the negative impact of living in poverty. One cannot overestimate the significance of positive parent-child relationships as an anchor in the midst of uncertainty."

**MANY FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY
LIVE IN THE MIDST OF UNCERTAINTY.
OUR HOME VISITING PROGRAM OFFERS
CARE AND SUPPORT TO ISOLATED
PARENTS, HELPING THEM ALLEVIATE
SOME OF THAT UNCERTAINTY
IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN
THEIR FAMILIES AND KEEP
THEIR CHILDREN SAFE.**





LETTER FROM MARY PAT

WE CAN DO BETTER

At The Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery we know that child abuse and neglect is 100% preventable, because research tells us which risk factors make children most vulnerable so we can best address the issues before they arise.

These factors include:

- A parent with a history of being abused or neglected as a child
- A parent who is experiencing untreated physical or mental illness, such as depression or PTSD
- A family that's experiencing crisis or stress, including domestic violence, single parenting, or young children in the family, especially children under age 5
- Financial stress or unemployment
- Social or family isolation
- Poor understanding of child development and parenting skills
- Alcoholism or other forms of substance abuse

These aren't abstract concepts. When we can help a parent recognize and deal with their own experience of abuse and neglect; support a parent through the experience of domestic violence; assist a parent in accessing financial or material resources to meet family needs; enable a parent to increase their parenting skills; or assist a child in managing behaviors caused by exposure to crisis and trauma, we're making a real difference in preventing child abuse and neglect.

This is the formula for our work at the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. We identify risks that families are exposed to and work with them to incorporate protective factors that will reduce or eliminate these risks.

Child abuse and neglect has been receiving a lot more attention in the news, the state capital, and in County board rooms across our state. This is a good thing, but unfortunately that attention is too often generated by something terrible happening to a child.

We can do better. We know that early intervention will reduce the number of children experiencing abuse and neglect. It will also make our children safer, our families whole and our community a better place to live.

Here at the Nursery, we address risks that make children susceptible to abuse and neglect before that "something terrible" happens. We work with parents to better meet the needs of their children. By investing in prevention, we help families become stronger and healthier.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mary Pat Lee".

Mary Pat Lee
Executive Director

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: DELTA DENTAL PROTECTING SMILES



Delta Dental of Minnesota

In a recent review of the book *Teeth: The Story of Beauty, Inequality, and the Struggle for Oral Health in America*, by Mary Otto, the reviewer singles out “the story of Deamonte Driver, a 12-year-old boy who died of an infection caused by one decaying tooth, and the system that failed him.” We meet children like Deamonte every day, children who suffer from disparities in the medical system. In Hennepin County, low-income households are less likely than middle-income homes to carry dental insurance. These children are missing opportunities to go to the dentist to prevent cavities or other oral health conditions. This past year, over 100 children placed in the residential program had untreated tooth decay. For many years, the Nursery has addressed the medical and dental needs of underserved children through the Pediatric Assessment and Medical Management program (PAMM). And for over a decade, the Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation has been at the Nursery’s side. “Through generous Foundation grants, sponsorship of events to benefit the Nursery, and the donation of dental supplies to help families learn about and maintain oral care, Delta Dental has supported the Nursery’s work to promote healthy outcomes for families in crisis,” said Mary Pat Lee, the Nursery’s Executive Director. Joe Lally, Executive Director of the Foundation, shared that he hopes a recent gift of \$30,000 will “further the Nursery’s vital work to support children in need and create strong, healthy families.”



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We would like to recognize volunteers celebrating anniversaries with the Nursery. These volunteers lend their time, talent, voice, and support to the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. It is because of our wonderful volunteers that we are able to deliver vital programs and services to local families in crisis. We are blown away by our volunteers' commitment.

THANK YOU!



THIS PAST YEAR OUR VOLUNTEERS WERE...

QUICK TO ACT

100% of the April Cook for Kids meal shifts were filled by April 5 – kudos to the 90 volunteer teams ensuring our kids received delicious, healthy meals!

IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL

Talk about commitment – our Child Care volunteers work with the Nursery for a minimum of six months, but 30 percent of them have been doing it for 5 years or more!

COOK FOR KIDS TENURED

Element Financial has been Cooking for Kids since 2000! They jumped on board one year after the inception of the program and haven't looked back. That's 17 years of caring for kids!





MOST HOURS

Evan Cyrlin
18 YEARS – 5,375 HOURS

CHILD CARE ANNIVERSARIES



20 YEARS

Amy Teare
860 HOURS

15 YEARS

Barb Bentley
1,116 HOURS

10 YEARS

Carol Dunn
500 HOURS

Bernice Maehren
654 HOURS

Mary Curry
474 HOURS

5 YEAR ANNIVERSARIES

Marsha L. Carlson

Cheryl Ravich

Marie L. Prevetti

Stacey M. Herlofsky

Amber McCalla

Hannah Schweich

Abigail O. Botten

Jolene Botten

Jodi K. Cornelius

Cathy Urdahl

Lauren Mueller

Nigel A. Kopp Endorf

COOK FOR KIDS ANNIVERSARIES

15 YEARS

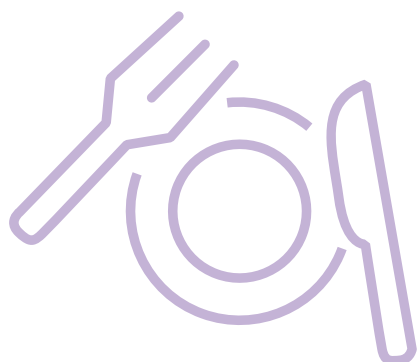
St. Mary of the Lake
Edina Morningside Church
Church of St. Joan of Arc
Edina Key Club

10 YEARS

Trinity Lutheran Church
Long Lake
Holmes Corporation
Dawn Uremovich
The Haagen-Dazs
Shoppe Company, Inc.

5 YEARS

Denise and Allen Dittrich
Monica and Darren Eckberg



EVENT NEWS

We've had some good times this year and are looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!



FORMULA FOR HOPE

May marked our annual Formula for Hope luncheon, where over 600 people gathered to show their support of the Nursery by raising over \$250,000 to strengthen families and keep children safe. Between musical performances by Dennis Curley and Lundstrom Performing Arts, guests heard Caroline Wanga, VP of Diversity + Inclusion with Target, speak passionately about the importance of the Nursery's work. Thanks to those who were able to join us and we look forward to seeing you next year!

WANDER NORTH

In April, over 100 people joined us at Wander North Distillery to learn more about the Nursery and how to get involved. Wander North generously donated \$1 for every drink purchased.

JOIN US FOR SOME SUMMER FUN!

NORTHGATE BREWERY - AUGUST 23:


Northeast Minneapolis is the destination for this Happy Hour. A portion of the proceeds go directly to the Crisis Nursery.

SAVE THE DATE!

HARVESTING HOPE - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6:

An evening of fine wine, appetizers & live and silent auctions at the Hyatt Regency, Bloomington. Visit our website for more information.



Follow us on Facebook to learn about upcoming events. 

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