

cribnotes

35 YEARS OF COURAGE

YOUR COMMITMENT to the Nursery has transformed the lives of thousands of children and families over the past 35 years.

Because of you, Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery has proudly served children and families for over three decades, and continues to be a critical safety net for families in need.

35 YEARS AGO, Naomi* had the courage to ask for help. She and her three children had run out of food; her children were hungry and their demands kept building. Realizing she needed help, the Crisis Nursery was there to answer her call.

25 YEARS AGO, Sharron* needed to find a place to live for herself and her daughter. She was going through a divorce and experiencing a great deal of stress. Reassured, she found comfort in her child staying at the Nursery. "They showed me where my baby would eat, sleep, and play. When I came to pick her up, they had taken day-by-day notes of all her activities and her moods – it made me feel like I was there."

10 YEARS AGO, Mahogany* was exhausted and overwhelmed from her busy schedule of parenting her three children, working, and studying for her nursing school board exams. She was seeking guidance on parenting challenges and was relieved to receive tools to use with her children. "They gave me parenting tools; that helped me understand so much."

TODAY, families are still turning to the Crisis Nursery every day for help during their trying times. Because of your support, thousands of families have been welcomed without judgement, striving to make a better life for their family.

SINCE OUR DOORS OPENED



PROVIDED **171,311 DAYS OF CARE TO CHILDREN**



MANAGED **118,702 CRISIS CALLS**



GIVEN **73,649 REFERRALS**



SHELTERED **64,257 CHILDREN**



PROVIDED CRISIS COUNSELING TO **39,271 FAMILIES**

THANK YOU for helping families find the strength to ask for help. Because of you, the Nursery will remain a strong partner in the future for families in their time of need.

PROUD PAST, BRIGHT FUTURE

Over the past 35 years, the Nursery has existed to prevent child abuse and neglect. This remains the core of our mission and, with time, we have been able to expand both our services and our approach, creating a greater impact on the families we serve, and further strengthening our community.

In 1983, we opened as the first residential crisis nursery in Minnesota, with the goal to establish a 24 hour crisis line and shelter six children per day. Today, almost 4,000 crisis calls are answered each year, and we shelter up to 20 children per day.

I'm proud of how the Nursery has grown over the years, not simply in size, but also in our science-based approach to care. We have been intentional in evolving our services as new research is developed, allowing us to provide families with the most comprehensive care possible.

This is why we use a strengths-based approach, emphasizing a parent's ability to persevere in adverse circumstances and gain a sense of control within their environment.

It's why we introduced the Nursery Way, our trauma-informed care approach, focusing on building trust with children and families, helping them feel safe, express their needs and feelings, and learn ways to cope with stress.

It's the reason we provide home visiting services, where parents who are facing recurring barriers to self-sufficiency and stability meet with a master's level clinician on an ongoing basis to create an action plan

to stabilize their family, including referrals and advocacy to address basic needs like food, shelter, clothing, and medical care.



It's why we use a two generational approach, where we focus on strengthening the parent-child relationship, because when a parent has an increased understanding of their child's needs, they are better able to support them.

Our innovative approach to care continues to evolve because of partnerships such as those with the Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota and the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. Through these partnerships, we have been working to implement mindfulness practices and coping mechanisms in highly stressed children. In addition, these partnerships allow us to continue the important work of understanding how a child's early life experiences affect their development.

As we look forward toward the years to come, I am excited for the ways in which we will continue to push innovation, and with your help, continue to make the Nursery a primary resource for families in crisis, leading the way in the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Pat Lee".

Mary Pat Lee
Executive Director

CREATING COMMUNITY

When Anne Carrier moved to Minnesota, she wanted to become part of the community, but she just wasn't sure where those roots would form. After joining the Junior League of Minneapolis, she became part of a task force to create a respite care resource for parents and children in the Twin Cities. Spending Saturday mornings at a vacant space in Minneapolis, painting rooms and sanding window sills, Anne was forming the birthplace of the Crisis Nursery.

A high school student at the time, Anne's daughter, Libby Carrier Doran, was curious to learn more about her mom's volunteer work. Libby admired her mom's entrepreneurial spirit and found the idea of identifying and solving a community issue very intriguing.

Libby has always seen her mom as a role model, someone who gives of herself to make the community stronger. Following in her mom's footsteps, she has spent much of her life volunteering. Giving back and helping to create possibilities for others has always been a value held high in their household.

Five years ago they jumped at the opportunity to volunteer together, co-chairing the Multiplying Effect campaign for the Nursery. "I got to volunteer with my mom. It was amazing – it was fun to work with her!" Libby recalls. She remembers this is where she dove in and became more deeply involved with the Nursery. She saw an opportunity to create systems change and reach more families in our community.

Libby is now a board member herself, ensuring that the Nursery remains a progressive place for families in need. "When you have the privilege of helping other organizations and other people, you begin to see the world through a different lens. You understand the privilege many of us have with stable housing, plenty of resources, and family support. I think about the fact that, even with all the resources and privilege that I had, parenting is the hardest thing I've ever done."

LIBBY & ANNE



The Nursery is a place where families are nourished, a place where they find stability. Anne and Libby believe that the need for the Nursery has increased over the years. "People are more aware of the needs of the community, the fact that there are children out there, parents out there, who are really struggling. I think that people really do care about these children and these moms, and helping to get kids off to a better start."

Passionate involvement in the Nursery helped Anne become a Minnesotan. It has also given her family a sense of community. Even her grandchildren have become involved, cooking meals for the kids and continuing the family tradition. Libby notes that when "you're involved in the Nursery, you come out a better, stronger person."

Anne says her family's engagement gives her great joy. "You get a lot from being a part of this community."



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

A big congratulations to our volunteers celebrating anniversaries! We are grateful for these individuals, and all of our dedicated volunteers, who give so much of themselves to make the Nursery such a special place.



CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES



CHILD CARE



20 YEARS

Patty Fritze

15 YEARS

Sandy Ashley

10 YEARS

Lisa Eskelson

Sally Redding



COOK FOR KIDS

15 YEARS

General Mills

Women's Gourmet Club – Amy Vose

10 YEARS

Target – Brian Rooney and friends

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

5 YEARS

Julie Hansen

Kelly Hawley

THANK YOU!

DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF THE MAGIC?

Check out www.crisisnursery.org/volunteer to find a great fit for you. It can be a one-time opportunity with friends or colleagues, or a long term role as a Child Care Volunteer.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF GIVING BACK

Twenty years ago, Patty was drawn to volunteer with Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. "I felt that the Nursery was important to our community and I wanted to be a part of it."

Patty spent one evening a month as a Child Care Volunteer at our former site in Golden Valley, and reflects that the years have gone by quickly. She attributes that to having a great time with children while she's here at the Nursery. "It was always a great way to leave the work day behind, to stop thinking about reports and deadlines. Now in retirement, it's just fun!"

These days, Patty spends one morning a week at the Nursery, enjoying summer days playing ball, dancing to music, and running through sprinklers. She loves an excuse to simply be silly and have a good time. Not surprisingly, the kids love it too.

"I have had so many great experiences. You really connect with the children and feel a bond."

As a parent of two, Patty had her first child at the age of 19 and feels compassion for single parents. She believes that it's important for parents to be able to take a break. She feels lucky to have her two sisters living nearby, and understands that it can be scary to not have a safety net of support.

In addition to supporting local families, Patty enjoys the feeling of community she has found with fellow volunteers throughout the years. Sharing a common goal to assist staff and meet the needs of each child, volunteers are key to the Nursery's success.



PATTY FRITZE ✨

"Patty has shared so much of her precious time with us, and we are so grateful for her and all volunteers that come in ready to help in whatever capacity is needed. It's volunteers like Patty that truly make a difference in this world!"

–Danielle Brady, Volunteer Services Manager

EVENTS

THANK YOU! FORMULA FOR HOPE

Presented by



Wealth
Management

Thanks to everyone who joined us this May for our annual Formula for Hope luncheon. Over 600 supporters gathered together to celebrate 35 years of creating stronger families, right here in our community.

Gold Sponsors: **Medtronic**



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We look forward to seeing you next year!

SAVE THE DATE!

HARVESTING HOPE IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Join us for a night of momentous fun! This annual wine tasting event, sponsored by Haskell's, is an evening of great wine and good friends, all to support the critical work of the Nursery. Delectable foods, top wines and spirits, and spectacular company await.

Learn more: CrisisNursery.org/events.



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