

Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ: Where do the families served by the Crisis Nursery live?

The Crisis Nursery serves all of Hennepin County, which is approximately one-quarter of the state's population. Our clients come from all over the county.

FAQ: How do families learn about the Crisis Nursery?

The Crisis Nursery is fortunate to have earned a strong reputation in the community during our 35 years of work. Families hear about our services through word of mouth, community centers and churches, United Way's 211 line, other social service agencies, and local shelters. In addition, our family advocates do a tremendous amount of outreach to possible clients and to other providers.

FAQ: How do families get to the Crisis Nursery?

The Crisis Nursery makes every effort to reduce barriers to a parent using the services offered. In the event of a placement, we arrange for the parent and children to get to the Crisis Nursery safely. Since most Crisis Nursery families do not have their own transportation, this may involve the Crisis Nursery providing transportation via taxi or bus service.

FAQ: What if the family has a child over age 6?

The Crisis Nursery can care for children newborn through age six. The reasons for this are two-fold. First, by far the most vulnerable group of children to abuse and neglect are children three and under. The second most vulnerable are children age four through six. If a parent has a child older than six, the family advocates will work with that parent to find an alternative solution if needed. Oftentimes once children are of school age a parent may have more options for finding care.

FAQ: Have you ever had a parent not come back to pick up their child?

Rarely. Remember parents call us in the first instance because they do deeply care about their children. That said, we always get information as to an emergency contact that might be able to pick up children in the event something prevents the parent from doing so.

FAQ: What do you do when you suspect abuse?

We are all mandated reporters at the Crisis Nursery. In those instances, we follow strict guidelines for making those reports. After making a report it is then out of our hands and the investigation is taken over by the appropriate authorities. Sometimes it is a net positive because it provides an opportunity to discuss with parents the situation and help them access services they need.

FAQ: Do we send the children home with clothes?

We do not typically send home clothes with the children, with some exceptions. It is rare when such a situation arises, but for example we would not let a child go home in winter without proper winter attire. We only accept clothing that is new when donated. That said, you may have noticed some gently used clothing items in the intake room. After it is used here at the Crisis Nursery we pass gently used clothing on to parents.

FAQ: What is the source of the Crisis Nursery's funding?

The Crisis Nursery has a budget of approximately \$3.5million. Last year, over 65% comes from individuals/grants/corporations, 25% from government, mainly Hennepin County, 9% from foundations, including United Way, and about 1% from community groups—churches, synagogues, scout troops, schools, etc.

FAQ: Are there other such services around?

Unfortunately, right now Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery is the only available overnight respite care in the metro area. In Greater Minnesota there are other crisis nurseries that operate on an in-home model similar to foster care, which while different from the Crisis Nursery's model, is safe and appropriate. A former volunteer of ours opened one similar to us in SW Minnesota.

FAQ: What if the parent needs more than 3 days?

As a practice, there needs to be 48 hours in between stays. In the mean time we will connect parents to resources to help them through. There are other crisis nurseries out there, but they are foster based, so the kids are sent to homes. We are the only residential one in the area, where parents can see where the kids are staying, eating, sleeping and who is caring for them.

FAQ: Do the kids attend school while at the Crisis Nursery?

If the parent can arrange transportation, they do attend school. Many times the crisis is critical enough to warrant the child missing school.

FAQ: Do you accept donations?

Yes! We only accept NEW donations and there is always a WISH LIST on our website that is updated monthly.

FAQ: What is considered a "crisis"?

The parent gets to define their own crisis. We are a non-judgmental organization, which is why we are first come first serve. A crisis can range from trying to get out of a domestic or dangerous situation to just needing a break – and everything in between.