

cribnotes

A Bed for Baby Damien

In 2019, one-year-old Damien and his mom, Nevaeh, didn't have a home of their own. Every day, Nevaeh was focused on finding a safe place for them to sleep. They spent many nights on a friend's living room floor or in a local shelter when space was available. A low point was the winter night when Nevaeh rode the city bus all night long just to keep her baby warm — because she didn't have anywhere else to go.

Nevaeh grew up homeless and did not want her son to experience the same stressful upbringing she had suffered through. She knew how it felt to be a small child with no place to call home, no bed, and surrounded by toxicity and stress.

After that long sleepless night on the bus, Nevaeh found the courage to call the Crisis Nursery. She remembered hearing a kind, friendly voice on the other end who listened as she explained how desperately she wanted Damien to experience what it felt like to just be a kid, without the anxiety of never knowing what would happen next.

The Nursery staff member who answered her call knew what to do. She helped Nevaeh apply for public housing, where she was put on a waiting list for properties near her work. A few months later, an apartment became available for her and Damien.

The very first piece of furniture they put in the new apartment was a bed for Damien.

With your compassion, Nevaeh's courage, and the community connection the Nursery provides, Nevaeh was able to move Damien from a living room floor to a bed of his very own; from a life of instability and fear to one of predictability and comfort.

When Nevaeh thinks about how far they have come, and the future that awaits her son, she feels hopeful. She knows there will be bumps in the road, but she also knows that the Nursery — and you — will be there to partner with her on her parenting journey.



*You gave Damien a bed of
his own.*





Nursery Update: Going Strong

In order to keep children, families, and staff safe due to COVID-19, we made the difficult decision in late-March to reduce our services. By early-April, we successfully resumed multiple services, supporting parents and families through our 24-hour crisis line, virtual home visits, and mental health counseling sessions via telemedicine. Extensive measures were put into place in April and May to ensure that all children who would be staying overnight at the Nursery were as safe as possible during the coronavirus. Since reopening we've responded to hundreds of crisis calls and provided almost 500 nights of care for children. *I'm thrilled that all the Nursery's services are up and running again, ready to support children and families in crisis as we enter another difficult season.*

Here are some of the changes we made:

- Lowered our care ratio from 1:4 to 1:3
- Allocated a full-time staff member on each shift who is fully focused on sanitizing children's spaces.
- Revised scheduling ensures groups remain socially distanced as much as possible.
- Mandated symptom screening for anyone that enters the building.
- Restricted the number of unique individuals going in and out of the Nursery daily.
- We continue to follow MDH and CDC guidelines for all protocols, including cleaning and sanitizing.



Mary Pat Lee
Executive Director

Supporter Survey

Recently, we conducted a survey of donors and volunteers, which provided valuable feedback. Here you'll see some of the values that you told us are most important to you, and how the Nursery supports families in those areas. I was very moved by the things that so many of you shared in your responses. It's clear how much you believe in this community. Thank you to those who responded!

Here's what you told us:

What best describes your motivation for supporting the Nursery?

78% said *"I believe that every child should have their basic needs met (food, housing, access to doctors, etc.) and experience unconditional love. I cannot imagine the pain of not knowing where you will sleep or where your next meal will come from."*

Why do you think it's important to help children and families who are in crisis?

46% said their number one reason is because *"I am a parent/grandparent and I cannot imagine doing it without help from family, a steady income, a place to call home, etc."*

39% said their number one reason is because *"I believe that everyone has a duty to make our community strong by helping children in need."*

What Nursery services do you think are the most important?

Participants frequently commented that all four services are extremely important. Here's how you ranked them in order of importance.

- #1 Immediate crisis counseling and referral services for parents who need help solving a crisis
- #2 Giving children (newborn to age six) a place to sleep while parents address a crisis in their lives
- #3 Long-term counseling from a social worker to help parents
- #4 In-home mental health therapy for parents

FALL FOCUS: Safe Place to Sleep

This fall, we're focused on making sure that every child has a safe place to sleep. The story about Damien on the front cover highlights how important this is, and how you helped make it a reality for this mother and son.

Our community is heavily impacted by the pandemic, increased community violence, and the challenges of distance learning while trying to work. The Nursery offers children stability during a very unstable time. **Your support is critical.**



Making a Difference!

You are making a real difference. How do we know? Each year we compile statistics to help inform the work we do. As you'll see below, the feedback is overwhelmingly positive. We could not do it without you! Here are some highlights from our 2020 program statistics, along with some comments from our clients.

92%

of parents/guardians report having the knowledge and skills to access resources to meet their family's basic needs.

Here's what some of them shared:

"When I spoke to the advocate, I told her I wanted to look into another place to move to and she provided me with pages of suggestions."

"The most helpful thing was getting [my child] enrolled with daycare."

"You gave my child a place to stay one night. Me and my family are homeless. We are moving to a home next month."

93%

of parents/guardians are single parenting.

Here's what some of them shared:

"I am extremely grateful for the help and support of the Crisis Nursery. As a single parent with three children. With barely any support it can be stressful and overwhelming, especially when you try to better your own life and get back into school."

"You guys were so helpful to me. I lost my job two weeks ago. I didn't have anybody to take care of my baby while I was struggling. But you guys came through and helped me and my family. Thank you!"

"[I received] support without having to expose my children to unhealthy environments."

96%

of parents/guardians report the Crisis Nursery helped them to alleviate their current crisis.

Here's what they told us:

"Thank you for being here to support families when life can be difficult to cope with."

"You were available when I had no other options."

97%

of parents/guardians report they have strategies in place to keep themselves and their families safe.

Here's what some of them shared:

"The staff was very informative with all sorts of family resources, shelters, domestic violence line, the shelter team. They sat with me and they made calls on my behalf and for my family and found a place within three hours. I will now be able to get an order of protection."

"My girls were in great hands and safe while I handle situations that better our family as a whole."

"I lost my mom and my son's father a few months apart. Being able to place my child helped me focus on grieving."

"You provided my son a safe environment where he felt safe."





MULTIPLY YOUR GIFT

Give to the Max this November 1-19, and your gift will be doubled! How? It's simple: just make a gift between November 1-19 and Otto Bremer Trust will double your donation, matching all gifts, dollar for dollar, up to \$20,000.



MAKING A GIFT IS EASY!

Visit www.crisisnursery.org/GTMD between November 1-19.

TRIPLE YOUR DONATION!

Many employers offer matching gifts to help their employees make a difference in their communities.

Visit www.crisisnursery.org/donate to see if your company will also match your gift.



**CHEERS TO
A DIFFERENT
BUT GREAT
YEAR!**

It looked a bit different this year, but hundreds of people attended our annual Harvesting Hope event to support the important work of the Nursery. During this year's online event, world-renowned Master Sommelier Andrea Robinson led us through a live wine tasting featuring three of her favorite wines that paired beautifully with custom charcuterie trays from Graze Local. Hosted by KARE-11 news anchor Jana Shortal, who shared her personal experience with the Nursery and her commitment to kids and families, while reminding us how the Nursery will be a critical resource for children and families over the next six months.

Special thanks to Gold Sponsors
RBC Wealth Management and Bellisio Foods



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HOLIDAY CARDS ARE HERE!



SEND WARM WISHES TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHILE BRIGHTENING THE LIFE OF A CHILD.

When you purchase your holiday cards from Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, you are helping the most vulnerable children in our community while also sharing the joy of children's art with others.

Every card purchased helps end child abuse and neglect and create strong, healthy families.



**To order, complete and mail the order form on the next page,
visit crisisnursery.org/holidaycards or call 612-767-8468**

All orders must be received no later than Thursday, December 3, 2020.



OPTION 1 KID ART CARD

5 x 7, includes white enclosure envelope.

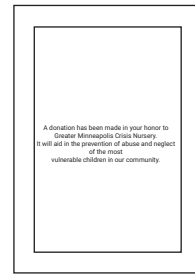
The perfect choice for those who want their card ready to send.

Inside Message:

Warm wishes for a holiday season filled with peace and joy.

Artwork made by little feet at the Crisis Nursery.

A donation has been made in your honor to Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. It will aid in the prevention of abuse and neglect of the most vulnerable children in our community.



OPTION 2 VELLUM INSERT

4 x 6

The perfect choice for those who prefer to send their own card or letter, but want to share with the recipient that a donation has been made in their honor.

Message:

A donation has been made in your honor to Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. It will aid in the prevention of abuse and neglect of the most vulnerable children in our community.

PRICES

Number of pieces (cards or vellum)	Price per piece	Tax-deductible donation per piece
1-99	\$5.00	\$2.00
100+	\$4.00	\$1.00

To order,
complete and mail the order form in the enclosed envelope,
visit crisisnursery.org/holidaycards or call 612-767-8468.

All orders must be received no later than Thursday, December 3, 2020.
Cards will be mailed each Tuesday through December 8.

2020 HOLIDAY CARD ORDER FORM

Name _____

Company _____

Address 1 _____

Address 2 _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

CARD STYLE

of Cards

Amount

Kid Art Card

Vellum Insert

Additional Donation

Total: _____

PAYMENT

- ☐ Check enclosed, made payable to Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery
- ☐ Charge (please circle) Visa MC American Express Discover

Account Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Security Code _____

Cardholder's Name (print) _____

Signature _____

Billing Address (if different from above) _____



BE A HOLIDAY HELPER

Make a child's season brighter!

The Holiday Helper program makes gift giving possible for families who access the Nursery during the winter season of giving. Donate gift cards to give children presents this holiday season.

Learn more at
www.crisisnursery.org/HolidayHelper



You gave him a bed of his very own! You should see how big Damien's smile is today...



Look inside to see what other amazing things you made possible

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