

SAFEHAVEN FOR KIDS



Nine-year-old Sara and her 15-month-old sister, Brittany, were placed at Kids in Crisis after the school noticed bruises on Sara's arms and notified state authorities. When counselors began to care for the girls, they noticed dust and clumps of dirt in the baby's hair. Sara said she hadn't had a bath in two months; Brittany was dangerously underweight. With careful planning and love from Kids in Crisis staff, Brittany started to gain weight and meet developmental goals. With concentrated homework help and effective study strategies, Sara successfully finished fourth grade. Teachers said she was focusing more; Sara was happier going to school, thanks to greater self-esteem and confidence. The girls left Kids in Crisis to live with an aunt who was able to care for them.

When staying home is impossible or unsafe, Kids in Crisis offers children SafeHaven, a one-of-a kind, comprehensive program that meets the physical and emotional needs of children of all ages, newborn to age 17.

SafeHaven today includes two residential homes – the Teen House for children ages 12-17 and the Crisis Nursery for babies, infants and young children. Together, these two shelters, with room for 20 children each night, provide a loving, family-like atmosphere that addresses a child's individual issues and works to heal the whole child.

Children receive individual and group support in a structured and supportive home environment. Social workers, health professionals and trained counselors collaborate to provide targeted psychological and physical care. Additional opportunities are made available through art and pet therapists, an extensive recreational program, involvement in area cultural events and participation in structured extracurricular activities. A dedicated, in-house team of educational experts provides assessment and management of students' school lives and helps with advocacy for each child. ■

- This year, 97 children have flourished at the Crisis Nursery and Teen House at Kids in Crisis.

