



ISLAND OF SAFETY

Crisis Nursery



NEWSLETTER

april 2016

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Constructive Changes

By Stephanie Record, Ed.M, LCSW

Executive Director

srecord@crisisnursery.net



Dear Friends,

Every morning when I arrive at work and see the children at the Nursery, I am grateful that Crisis Nursery exists to keep them safe and well cared for until they are able to be reunited with their parents. Although the reasons why families need to use the Nursery may be frightening or heartbreaking, a typical day at the Nursery is filled with laughter and smiles. It is uplifting and inspiring to see families finding hope and strength as soon as they walk through the Nursery's doors.

According to the 2015 Illinois Kids Count Report, the number of substantiated cases of abuse and neglect in Champaign County declined by 8% between 2006 and 2014. This is significant progress for the Nursery's mission of preventing child abuse and neglect, **but our work is not done and Crisis Nursery is needed now more than ever.** Statewide, substantiated cases increased 27% over the same period of time. Despite the recent decline, the rate of child abuse and neglect in Champaign County is still 53% higher than the statewide average.

Crisis Nursery served a record number of 886 children last fiscal year, but there were nearly 600 instances when families called the Nursery for help and we had to turn them away because we were already at capacity. We eagerly anticipate the completion of our expansion this year and being able to say "YES!" to more families when they have nowhere else to turn.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, but prevention is a year-round effort and it is much larger than any one agency. We are proud to be a part of larger prevention efforts, both locally and nationwide, and thank everyone - donors, volunteers, advocates - who make our efforts possible. While our Crisis Nursery is currently one of six in Illinois, we are excited that soon we will be one of seven! Meghan Rewers, a former employee of our Crisis Nursery, is currently working to open a Crisis Nursery in Effingham County. We believe that all families should have equal access to support when in crisis and we are happy to know that families in our state will soon have more options.

I invite you to visit the Nursery this month and help spread awareness of our mission in our community. With your support, we are keeping kids safe 24 hours a day, 365 days a year!

Warm regards,

Stephanie

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

You can help prevent child abuse and neglect in our community by supporting Crisis Nursery this month. Here are some easy ways to help out:

1. LEARN

Call 217-337-2731 to schedule a tour of Crisis Nursery and learn more about how we help children and families in Champaign County.

2. DONATE

Mail a donation in the enclosed envelope or pick up some items from our needs & wish list to help the Nursery stay open 24 hours a day, every day.

2. VOLUNTEER

From childcare to special events, the gift of your time will make a huge difference for our "Island of Safety." Visit www.crisisnursery.net to apply.

4. SPREAD THE WORD!

Connect with us on Facebook ([crisisnursery.fanpage](https://www.facebook.com/crisisnursery.fanpage)), Instagram & Twitter ([crisisnurseryurbana](https://twitter.com/crisisnurseryurbana)), and share your support with friends and family!

BOARD CORNER

Christy Devocelle, CFO and Senior Vice President at the University of Illinois Foundation, joined the Crisis Nursery Board of Directors in April 2013. Raised in Bloomington, IL, Christy received her undergraduate degree from Illinois State and an MBA from the University of Illinois. Christy lives in Champaign with her husband Mike, and their two children, Emma and Will. Christy shares why she chooses to support Crisis Nursery:

The Nursery holds a special place in my heart and is critical to our community's health and development. The support the Nursery provides is absolutely vital to protecting children, strengthening families, and preventing child abuse and neglect in our community. I completely understand how difficult it is to be a parent and how important it is to have a network of family or friends to support you when life gets crazy or stressful. For those families who do not have this ready support, the Nursery can provide that outlet and stability for them. Knowing families have a place to turn is especially important as the state economy and employment environment is taxed with the budget impasse and lost jobs/wages.

After attending the Annual Dinner & Auction for several years, my friend and colleague, Ann Beddini, talked to me about potentially joining the Nursery's Board of Directors. Initially, I joined the Nursery's Finance Committee as a community team member while attending school part-time at night. After graduation, I joined the Board and am just finishing up my third year. I am currently on the Finance and Development committees. Both are integral to raising money to support the Nursery's efforts and for supporting the wise stewardship of the Nursery's assets and funds. Crisis Nursery is an incredible community asset with a fantastic staff who provide essential care, love, and attention to families who need it, helping reduce the potential for child abuse and neglect. I couldn't be prouder to be a part of helping support the Nursery's mission and success.

April 10-16, 2016 is National Volunteer Week. Thank you to ALL of our volunteers - from board to childcare, and everyone in between - you make our "Island of Safety" for children and families possible.



GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY



Expansion Update

Construction of our expansion is in its final stages. We moved into the addition at the end of March while renovations take place in the old part of the Nursery. We anticipate that everything will be completed by early August. As of today, we've raised 95% (\$1.33 million) of our \$1.4 million goal for the building itself. We are grateful to have the full support of our community behind us as we expand to serve more children and families in our community.

Unfortunately as you may have seen on the news and social media recently, the \$1.33 million raised so far includes approximately \$285,000 of a state grant from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity that has been frozen indefinitely due to the lack of a state budget. Without these funds, we potentially won't be able to hire the staff needed

to increase our capacity right away, meaning that turnaways may remain high in 2016.

We were told recently there is a small possibility that the Nursery could still receive the remaining portion of the grant after construction is finished. This can only occur if the funds are re-appropriated and if DCEO will extend the deadline of our grant contract which expires April 2016.

Despite current frustration over the situation, we remain hopeful that this will be resolved. Until that time, we are doing everything we can to raise awareness about the situation, including making phone calls to our elected officials, as well as putting all our efforts into meeting with potential supporters in our community to help bridge the gap.

You can help! Make phone calls to our elected officials. **Donate today.** Spread the word about Crisis Nursery in our community! Learn more: bit.ly/1Lozn2N



Safe Children, Strong Families

Crisis Nursery is the only emergency-based child care facility open 24 hours, 365 days a year for the entire community to access with no fees or income eligibility. Besides safe shelter for children, ages birth through six, we also provide family support and parenting education to strengthen parent skills and confidence. Our Safe Children program is available for families who are experiencing a crisis/emergency and no other resources are available to help. Through our Strong Families Program, support, resources, and services are available for families dealing with challenges such as parental stress, perinatal depression, homelessness, and teen parenting, to name a few. Together, these programs create our "Island of Safety." Here we take a closer look at both programs...

A Home Away From Home

By Katie Adams, MSW
Strong Families Program Director

One of the greatest strengths of Crisis Nursery's model of services is its flexibility. We let families determine what a "crisis" is, which allows us to meet them where they are and really address their needs. As a result, children come to stay with us for a variety of reasons. At any time, we may have children in our care because their caregiver is fleeing a violent partner, recovering from a medical procedure, or simply feeling overwhelmed and in need of a break. By offering a safe haven for a child in need, our Safe Children program can provide an immediate solution to a pressing problem for a family. This is a benefit, as the larger challenges many of our families face are less easily solved. I'm reminded of this regularly when families use the Nursery due to homelessness.

A surprising number of families who seek Crisis Nursery services are homeless or on the verge of homelessness. In FY15, this accounted for nearly 300



of our admissions into the Safe Children program. We help these families in a variety of ways, all while trying to assist the family in accessing the resources needed to gain stable housing. For instance, one family came to Crisis Nursery after hearing about us from a co-worker. Running from a violent boyfriend, this mom had packed up her two young girls in the middle of the night and moved to Champaign County. She was able to find work quickly, but had no savings, which made getting an apartment impossible. Knowing no one in town, they spent their first few nights in their car, until the temperature dropped. Then the family began sneaking into the mother's workplace to sleep there. She heard about Crisis Nursery in passing from a co-worker; soon after, the girls were spending every night at our facility, where they were guaranteed a comfortable bed, clean clothes, and a restful night's sleep.

While we were able to solve this mom's short-term problem by providing a safe haven for her children, helping the family gain long-lasting stability took longer. Mom was saving for an apartment, but her low-wage job made progress slow. The family was eligible to move into the local domestic violence shelter together, but mom, having had a negative experience at a homeless shelter in the past, did not feel comfortable with the idea. We provided resources and referrals to ensure the family's other needs were met, including clothing and food, and helped mom locate some low-rent housing options. Eventually, and with the assistance of some other local programs, the family moved into a sparse – but safe – apartment. All in all, the girls spent over a month of consecutive nights in our care.

Crisis Nursery is not set up to be a long-term children's shelter, but we are designed to be flexible. As a result, we were able to gain the trust of a mother who needed assistance, and we provided a loving environment for two young girls whose lives were otherwise in chaos. Thanks to Crisis Nursery, we were able to meet this family where they were, and help them get to where they wanted to be.

Heidi's Story

By Ann Ambrose
Family Specialist

Heidi was referred to Crisis Nursery's Beyond Blue program after the birth of her first child, a son named Matthew. Heidi's husband often works long hours at a local hospital. Being new to the area and far away from family, Heidi was carrying a lot of responsibility, especially with a newborn to care for.



A social worker at the hospital noticed that Heidi scored high on the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale, a screening tool used to help identify mothers suffering from postpartum depression. After being referred to the Nursery, I followed up and did a home visit with Heidi when her son was a few weeks old. Heidi began participating in our Beyond Blue program, sharing the experience with other new mothers and learning how to manage the joys and stresses of motherhood. Her time in the Beyond Blue program came to a close when Matthew turned one, but she stayed in touch by attending Parent-Child Interaction groups and open houses at the Nursery.

Soon, Heidi found out she was pregnant again, this time with a daughter. It is common for mothers who experienced postpartum or perinatal depression with one pregnancy to have it again with subsequent pregnancies, so Heidi reentered our Beyond Blue program. She had some pretty stressful life events happen during her pregnancy, including the passing of her father, but she is a totally different mother this time around. Heidi utilizes all aspects of the Beyond Blue program and her success shows. I am incredibly proud of how she handles working full-time while raising her children.

Heidi recently shared what the Nursery means to her:

"Crisis Nursery gives me peace of mind. After Matthew was born, I was convinced that it would be impossible to care for a newborn with no family around. I panicked. I thought we were stranded and I wanted to drive 500 miles back to Nebraska immediately. Since moving was not an option, I was frazzled beyond belief. I knew I had to find support... pronto...like yesterday.

Relief came right away when I connected with Crisis Nursery when Matthew was three weeks old. I had a home visit with a wonderful Family Specialist named Ann and began attending support groups. Slowly, the paralyzing thought our family was alone and helpless left my mind. Matthew is now old enough to enjoy himself and the awesome caregivers at Crisis Nursery. *I cannot express enough gratitude to Crisis Nursery for being our safety net, and for being just like a family away from home."*

Heidi is more confident in her role as mother now, has the strength to ask for help when she needs it, and I am thankful that Crisis Nursery and I get to be a part of her journey.



Crisis Nursery's Beyond Blue program provides services to mothers in Champaign County who are identified as "at risk" for perinatal depression and whose children are less than one year of age. Services are available at no cost through a grant from the Champaign County Mental Health (708) Board and community donations. Do you need help or support? Call 217-337-2730. Crisis Nursery provides emergency childcare and support to strengthen families in crisis 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

In Honor of . . .

July 1, 2015 through February 29, 2016 (Given in honor of birthdays, anniversaries, births, Mother's Day, Father's Day, etc.)

Ana Sofia Alvarez Wyman	• Abbi Frings	• Carla Caceres, Craig, Porter,	• Karsyn Smith
Carol Baxter	• Grace Elizabeth	• and Max Milling	• Roselin Sundaravelu
Emma and Sam Bennett	• Ryann Grove	• Deb Nelson	• Joan Tate
Ron and Susan Bryant	• Barbara I. Hall	• Aaron Nickel	• Mur Taylor
Clif and Sheila Burdette	• Ann Harris	• Dorothy, Kathy, and Phil	• Ehsan Totoni and Samantha
Clif Carey	• Lois Harvey	• O'Neill	• Carpenter
Brynli Marie Carroll	• Betsy Hendrick	• Maureen Parks	• Mamie and Frejya Vandegrift
Susan Carsello	• Kate and Emma Hillard	• Kim Patchett	• Justin Wenzell and Neena
Connie Caveny	• Carisa Jones	• Matthew Phillips	• Tripathy
Leni Clapper	• Judy Kirby	• Rush, Kennedy, and Delaney	• Eva Wilhelm-Sanchez
Katie Coleman	• Fred and Judy Kolb	• Record	• John Lloyd Young
Juliette and Bennett Conry	• Frank Kresca	• Arlo Boden Reese	• Jeremy Youse, M.D.
Diana	• F&F Duet – Florence Lin and	• Virginia Rey	• Crystal Zulauf
Adam Dill	• Firmiana Wang	• Pamela Hadley and Matthew	
Tim and Page Donaldson	• Lola Mayes	• Rispoli	
Thomas and Patrick Feeny	• Selma McAdams	• Theo Schoeplein-Leff	
Eden and Vivian Fiala	• Crystal Merritt and Jon	• Tom and Ruth Seals	

In Memory of . . .

July 1, 2015 through February 29, 2016

Joleen Duker Allen	• Frances Carey	• Michael Hough	• Maria Peters
Daniel Rain Ambrose	• Austin Cloyd	• Gene Johnston	• Nita Proctor
Brittany K. Babb	• Karen Davis	• Victoria Kramerer	• Baby Randle
Lexi Barbour	• Teddy Deterding	• Amy Kass	• Jack Record
June Bennett	• Priscilla Fitzgerald	• Rose Klismith	• Alyssa Robinson
Betty Betz	• Tucker David Fleming	• Georgia Larson	• Caroline Adora Scalzo
Wayne and Peggy Billhymer	• Barbara Friedberg	• Paul Lovell	• Doris Seth
David Blight	• Frank Goldberg	• Frances Magsamen	• Raymond Swigart
Keith Boen	• Grace and Irene	• Karmen J. Trick Martinie	• Don Tate
Mary Bouillion	• Marie Grimsley	• Paul Mayes	• Helen Whiteside
Helen Grace Burdette	• Jan Hartman	• Jackie McDuffy	
Jean Burton	• Michael Hartter	• Zach McNabney	
Scott Byrum	• Genevieve and Hunter Heer	• Robert Osterbur	

GIVING BACK

Giving is easy when someone else gives for you. Crisis Nursery partners with a number of businesses and organizations and can receive donations with your help:

1. SCHNUCKS ESCRIP

If you shop at Schnucks, sign up for their escrip program and designate Crisis Nursery as your charity of choice. Each time you use your member card, not only do you get your gas discount, but Crisis Nursery receives a donation as well.

2. AMAZONSMILE

You shop, Amazon gives. Simple as that. AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) is the same Amazon you know and love, but Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Choose the Nursery and start shopping today!

3. THRIVENT CHOICE

Thrivent Financial members can now direct their Thrivent Choice dollars to Crisis Nursery. Since 2010, members have used this program to direct \$300 million to churches and nonprofits nationwide.

Want to learn more about these programs or know of others? Email ryann@crisisnursery.net.

SPECIAL THANKS

Many thanks to
Patterson Office
Supplies,
Premier Print Group,
and Minuteman Press
for their donations
towards printing
services throughout
the year.

And the Kids Say...

Children are the heart of Crisis Nursery, so we wanted to hear from them. Here is what they had to say:

What is your favorite thing to do at Crisis Nursery?

"Dress up as Superman!"

"Play with my friend Candace."

"Play with the instruments."

What is your favorite food?

"Chicken strips."

"Goldfish because they're delicious!"

"Macaroni and cheese."

What do you want to be when you grow up?

"I want to be big and super strong."

"I want to be a doctor so I can fix people when they hurt their knees."



We are glad to be there for all of our future superheroes, MDs, and everyone in between!

NURSERY NEEDS

Crisis Nursery doesn't budget for daily operational needs like diapers, formula, wipes, snacks, etc. Typically these things are donated by the generosity of the community. Last year, we spent nearly \$1,000 on items like these. When you're running errands, consider picking up a donation for the Nursery. Here are our top 5 needs:

1. Gift cards to Wal-Mart, Target, Meijer, etc.
2. Snacks (goldfish, graham crackers, granola bars, Easy Mac, string cheese, raisins, applesauce, pudding, jello)
3. New Avent bottles and nipples - all sizes
4. Clorox wipes / Lysol spray
5. Baby wipes

CRISIS NURSERY MISSION

Crisis Nursery creates an "Island of Safety" dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect by providing 24-hour emergency care for children and support to strengthen families in crisis.

Upcoming Events

CRISIS NURSERY WINE TASTING PRESENTED BY ART MART

Hilton Garden Inn, Champaign

Thursday, April 7, 2016 from 5-8PM.

Taste wines from around the world, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, and bid on great silent auction items from wine vendors and a variety of local businesses. Tickets are \$25 in advance, or \$30 at the door. Purchase tickets by cash/check at Art Mart and Crisis Nursery or online at www.bidpal.net/cnwine2016.

DINE&DONATE - BUTCHER BOY BURGERS

422 S. Garrard, Rantoul

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Head to Butcher Boy Burgers for delicious burgers and homemade pie! 25% of all sales will be donated to Crisis Nursery. They are open from 7am-2pm and 4-8pm - so why not go for breakfast, lunch, and dinner! Cash or check only.

DRESS DOWN TO STAND UP FOR KIDS

Throughout the month of April

For a donation, people can go 'casual for a cause' and help prevent child abuse and neglect in Champaign County.

Encourage your school or business to participate!

MILES FOR SMILES

Illinois Marathon, April 28-30, 2016—Various race times
Join Crisis Nursery's Miles for Smiles Team at the Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon and help us raise money to support children and families in our community. Miles for Smiles Team t-shirts are on sale now for \$20 apiece!

23RD ANNUAL DINNER AND AUCTION PRESENTED BY BROEREN RUSSO BUILDERS

Friday, June 3, 2016

I Hotel & Conference Center, Champaign

Save the date for our biggest night of the year—our annual Dinner & Auction!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT

ANY OF THESE EVENTS,

CONTACT ASHLEY AT 217-337-2731 OR VISIT

OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.CRISISNURSERY.NET



ISLAND OF SAFETY

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Urbana, Illinois 61801-1405

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SAVE THE DATE

Crisis Nursery's
23rd Annual Dinner & Auction

Presented by



June 3, 2016
I Hotel & Conference Center

For more information contact Ashley Lovell • alovell@crisisnursery.net • 217-337-2731