



*A school staffer called Kids in Crisis early one morning. Billy, age 12, had exploded again at school, breaking a computer, throwing books and screaming at classmates. She asked Kids in Crisis to help.*

*Lisa, a high school sophomore, lived in a dysfunctional home. Her parents were divorcing, domestic violence is alleged and Lisa's mother was abusing alcohol. Lisa visited the TeenTalk counselor in her school for advice and counsel.*

*A New Canaan mom reached out late one Friday night. The local community center had just called, reporting her son showed up drunk to Teen Night. She sighed and asked for help with what she suspected was a substance abuse problem.*

People throughout the area – adults and children alike – turn to Kids in Crisis for assistance with problems of all kinds. Since its first call in 1978, the Crisis Hotline at Kids in Crisis (327-KIDS) has been answered by trained Crisis Counselors who help each caller in working through issues, creating a plan for moving forward and bridging those in need to long-term support services. A crisis doesn't keep business hours. At any time of the day or night, whenever a crisis occurs, Kids in Crisis experts are available to help. When it is appropriate (and respite is needed), these Counselors can also provide children with a safe haven by offering them a temporary stay at the Kids in Crisis campus in Cos Cob.

Many in our communities have recognized the need for Crisis Counselors in their local schools. Since 1999, Kids in Crisis TeenTalk Counselors in several cities and towns have provided confidential support to middle school and high school students dealing with the wide range of issues that arise in adolescence. These Counselors serve as an adjunct to the on-site counseling staff at Kids in Crisis, thereby providing parents and children with support, even during school holidays and vacations.

Tough times at home and in the world at large bring an even greater need for Kids in Crisis services. ■

This year, the Crisis Services Department fielded 713 emergency calls and facilitated 210 urgent meetings with families in crisis. TeenTalk Counselors, their counterparts in six area schools, provided counseling to 771 individual adolescents, as well as an additional 1,555 kids through group sessions in local communities.



CRISIS HOTLINE: 327-KIDS

SAFEHAVEN FOR KIDS

THE TLC HEALTH CENTER