

## SAFEHAVEN FOR KIDS

*Teenage mother Rita was holding her infant daughter when her mother lashed out and hit her across the face, striking the baby in the process. Unsure of what to do, Rita called Kids in Crisis for help.*



*Kevin, age 8, came to Kids in Crisis right before the holidays. His foster mother called the Department of Children and Families, asking for his removal because “he left the water on too long.”*

*A teacher referred Ashley, a first grader at one of the toughest schools in the city. She was coming to school filthy, exhausted and in smelly, tattered clothes. She often covered her face and head with paper towels because she didn't like how she looked.*

**W**hile individual stories and circumstances are different, each child's stay at Kids in Crisis ends similarly — with hope for the future. When conflict escalates or personal safety cannot be assured, struggling children may take advantage of SafeHaven for Kids, with a temporary stay at the Teen House or Crisis Nursery emergency shelters at Kids in Crisis. Each day, SafeHaven for Kids offers a loving, therapeutic environment for up to 20 children, age newborn to 17. Long considered a model for programs nationwide, SafeHaven for Kids provides comprehensive care that helps a child heal physically and emotionally, including ongoing individual and

group therapy, educational support, and complete medical and psychological care. And because healing takes place on many levels, children are also offered the chance to participate in recreational activities, artistic opportunities, cultural experiences and more. In short, SafeHaven for Kids provides what every child deserves and everything a child needs to begin again.

Not surprisingly, as economic and personal crises have mounted, the demand for temporary shelter and SafeHaven for Kids has increased. This year, 129 children stayed temporarily at the two shelters at Kids in Crisis – a 33% jump over last year. Because it is the only facility of its kind in the state licensed to care for the littlest children in need, there was a dramatic increase in children under age 5. ■

This year, 129 children have flourished at the Crisis Nursery and Teen House at Kids in Crisis.



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THE TLC HEALTH CENTER