

THE TLC HEALTH CENTER

Four young brothers and sisters, including six-year-old twins, were brought to Kids in Crisis by police following the suspicious death of their baby brother. Each child was obese; health issues included respiratory problems. The on-site Nurse Practitioner evaluated the nutritional issues of each child and worked with Crisis Nursery staff to plan a healthy eating program and a regimen of exercise.

David, a resident, told the Nurse Practitioner he had ongoing pain in his lower abdomen. He had told his mother in the past, but she dismissed it saying they were unable to afford medical care. The Nurse Practitioner diagnosed a hernia and referred David to an area specialist for possible surgery and ongoing care.

Through a unique partnership with Family Centers, Kids in Crisis has its own on-site TLC Health Clinic, providing preventive and diagnostic care to children in residence. The full-time Nurse Practitioner works as a medical sleuth, piecing together medical histories on every child with information gleaned from her in-depth examinations of each child in residence. This effort eliminates the need for frequent emergency care for the 20 children staying at the Kids in Crisis shelters. Additionally, it provides a dossier every child takes with them on their journey after leaving Kids in Crisis.

This year, each of the 129 residents in SafeHaven for Kids received a complete physical and psychological evaluation. Additionally, the TLC Health Center provided 24 preventive exams, 47 acute visits and referrals to 15 area specialists, including the generous medical professionals who donate their services to provide extensive dental care. Since its doors opened in 1997, the TLC Health Center has helped more than 1,900 children in need. ■



This year, the TLC Health Center has served 129 children and adolescents through preventive and acute care services and referrals to specialists. Since its creation in 1997, the TLC Health Center has helped more than 1,900 area children.



THE TLC HEALTH CENTER