

*Lauren called Kids in Crisis one day, searching for respite from her family. While her mother battled drug and alcohol abuse, 14-year-old Lauren was acting as the caretaker for her younger sister and in charge of all meals and household duties. Kids in Crisis Social Workers held family meetings to discuss ways Lauren could lessen her overwhelming responsibilities, and begin to focus on herself. Together, they explored options for Lauren's future and started working with her mother and an aunt to identify new living arrangements. Meanwhile, Kids in Crisis staff ensured that Lauren's mother was being treated for her substance abuse. When the proper supports were in place, and with their mother's agreement, Lauren and her sister went to stay with their aunt in time to celebrate Christmas.*

**T**here is always a voice on the end of the phone. At Kids in Crisis, trained Crisis Counselors are available all day, every day. They help children and families cope with concerns including parent/child issues, communication struggles, peer pressures, school problems, and more. Counselors provide immediate help to work through any situation and meet face-to-face for intervention and assistance. As a result, children and families in need have someone who will listen to them and talk things through, resolve conflict and, most importantly, develop a plan for change. For those who need ongoing support, Kids in Crisis offers short-term counseling, as well as a unique connection to community services throughout the area. At the same time, Counselors assist the family until the crisis is over and additional help is in place.

This year, the Crisis Services Team at Kids in Crisis has provided assistance to 718 children and their families who were struggling with numerous issues, most notably family conflict, neglect, and homelessness. ■

*“The night before I came here,  
my stepfather had me on the ground  
and he had his hands around my neck...  
I ended up tearing the ligaments in his thumbs  
to break free...  
My mom called Kids in Crisis  
and they immediately went to work.”*

—FORMER CLIENT