

SafeHaven for Kids

A unique level of care gives a voice to children and their experiences.

For children who need more than short-term counseling, Kids in Crisis offers its two temporary emergency shelters, the Crisis Nursery and Teen House. Here, children have a safe place to stay, the therapy they need, medical support for physical issues, personalized educational services, and the emotional assistance to help each move forward.

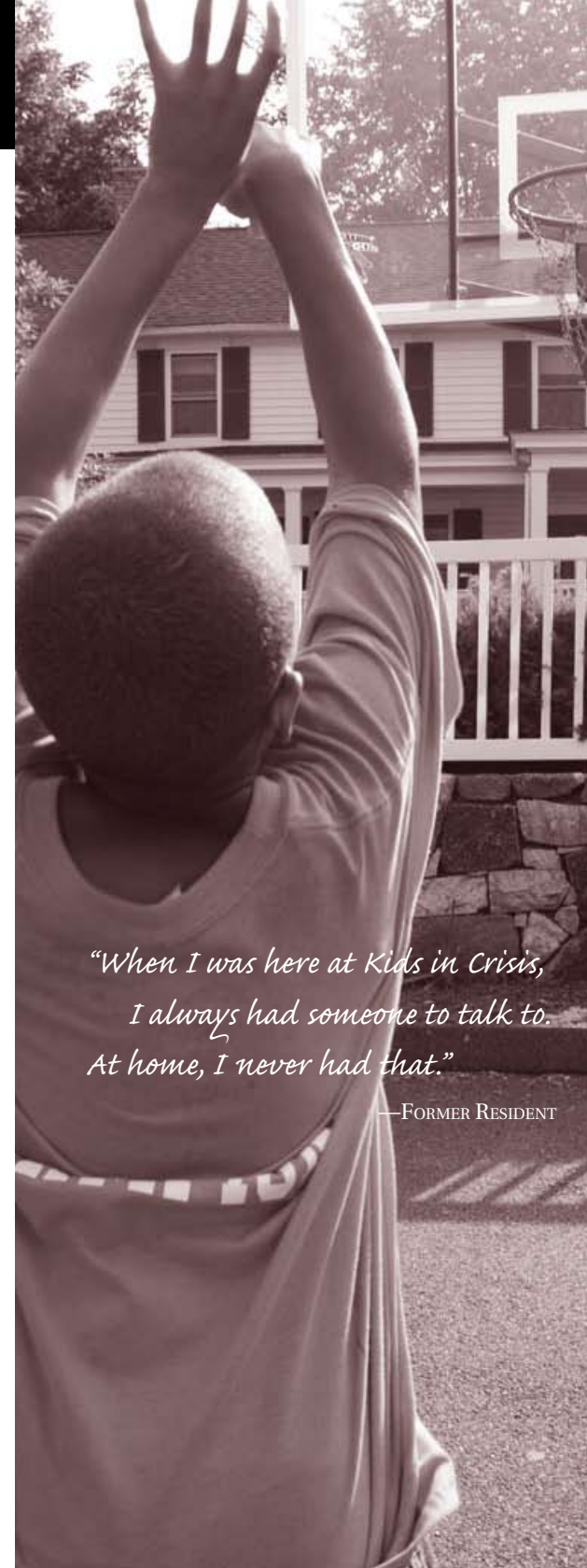
Together, the two shelters provide meaningful, round-the-clock treatment for 20 Fairfield County children who seek help on their own or through family members, neighbors, teachers, or state officials. Kids in Crisis is the *only* place of its kind in Connecticut; it is a national model for complete care offered to children impacted by abuse, neglect, homelessness, mental health issues, and intense family conflict.

When a child comes to Kids in Crisis, her voice is heard by Social Workers, Health Professionals, and trained Counselors who collaborate to provide care that addresses the whole person. Individual and group therapy is combined with a structured, family-like atmosphere to create a supportive home environment.

To address educational needs, Kids in Crisis provides personal learning services for each child staying at the Teen House or Crisis Nursery. Upon arrival, the needs of each child are carefully explored through a series of diagnostic tests. Coordination with the many schools throughout Fairfield County enables Kids in Crisis to assess skill levels and create an individual educational plan. Most children continue at their existing schools, transported daily and monitored by Kids in Crisis staff; for others, a special program with the Greenwich Board of Education provides the opportunity to attend local schools while in residence.

Rounding out the nurturing approach used by Kids in Crisis are numerous opportunities given to each child to pursue personal and recreational interests, including local sports programs and classes, as well as therapies including art, dance, and pet therapy.

For almost 30 years, the Kids in Crisis SafeHaven program has been home to thousands of children throughout Fairfield County. This year, 99 children have lived at Kids in Crisis, a total of 6,132 nights of stay. ■



*“When I was here at Kids in Crisis,
I always had someone to talk to.
At home, I never had that.”*

—FORMER RESIDENT

Justin came to Kids in Crisis after being expelled from school; his parents told him he was not welcome back at home. Nearing his 18th birthday, Justin lacked a high school diploma and job training. Despite these shortcomings, Justin was a very determined young man who dreamed of pursuing a technical career. Kids in Crisis helped Justin make plans for the future by providing him daily individual and group counseling, enrolling and transporting him to night school, providing tutoring when needed, and securing a paid internship with a local contractor. With the unconditional support and encouragement of Kids in Crisis staff, Justin mastered a skill set, gained valuable work experience, prepared for the GED exam, and saved for his future with the money he earned from his internship. On the eve of his 18th birthday, Justin left Kids in Crisis to live with his grandparents; one day later, Justin earned his GED.