

A Partnership:



Formerly
Child Care
Resource &
Referral

Children will live in families who offer safe, permanent relationships with nurturing parents and caretakers

Executive Summary

In April of 2015, Child Care Resource & Referral changed its name to Families First of Minnesota. Families have always been the focus, now it is reflected in the name. Though the name has changed, the work and the mission remain the same. Olmsted County continues to provide support and preventative services to families in partnership with Crisis Nursery. Crisis Nursery focuses on prevention efforts to avoid deeper-end services such as Child Protection.

Crisis Nursery homes assist in the prevention of child abuse and neglect by providing a safe and nurturing environment for children while offering a non-threatening resource for parents and caregivers.

Olmsted County Crisis Nursery is a family support program that may provide temporary, short-term care for children while families address a crisis situation. Care may be arranged for daytime hours or overnight care. Additional services include: crisis counseling and support, parent education, in-home family counseling, referral to community resources, and kinship services, all at no cost to families.

In April of 2015, Child Care Resource & Referral changed its name to Families First of Minnesota to better reflect the mission of the organization. Families have always come first - the new name reflects this. Our work and our mission remain the same.

Most families who use Crisis Nursery services are ordinary people who find themselves in extraordinary situations. In times of stress, most people turn to families, friends, or coworkers to help them through difficult times. For many single parents, isolated families, new residents, and others without resources, these times are challenging and options are limited.

After utilizing the program, families consistently have low occurrences of maltreatment. Of four

families with reports of maltreatment when working with Crisis Nursery in 2015, there was only one family with an additional report of child maltreatment within six months of last contact. Those served through Crisis Nursery have had positive outcomes in terms of child safety and stability.

Crisis Nursery Services 2015

Child Care

- 156 Families
- 257 Children
- 19,899 Hours

Overnight Care

- 7 Families
- 15 Children
- 960 Hours

In-Home Counseling

- 16 Families
- 22 Children
- 103 Hours

2015 Highlights

- Overall, families who used Crisis Nursery consistently had low occurrence of child maltreatment after utilizing the program. Olmsted County After-Hours Social Workers allow Crisis Nursery to serve families 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Crisis Nursery partners with local universities and colleges to provide internships to social work students.



- Crisis Nursery supports families who care for their relative children. Research and experience show that children thrive when they are placed with family and/or those familiar to the family.
- *Grandparents Parenting Again* and *Circle of Parents* were combined to create PARRK (Parents and Relatives Raising Kids), an inclusive educational group for all caregivers raising children.
- These services are provided to the County at a cost of less than \$2.25 per family, per day.

Demographics

2015 Disproportionality Information

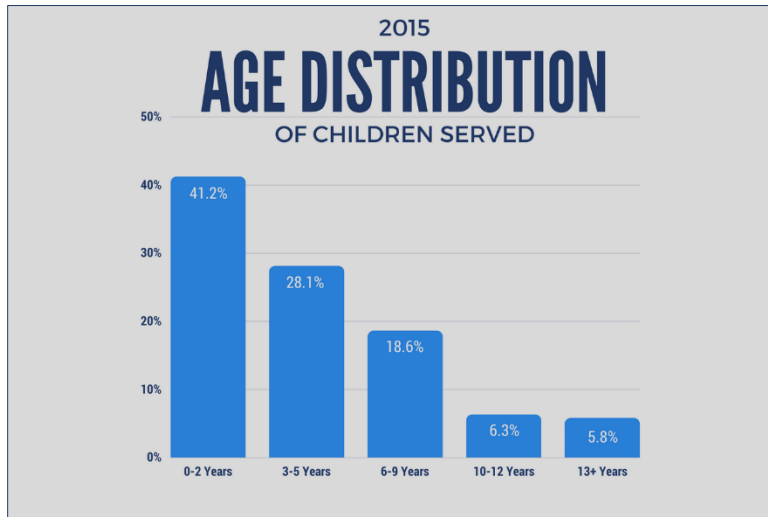
Crisis Nursery offers services to any Olmsted County resident experiencing a crisis. They provide a needed helping hand to families who are experiencing a temporary crisis, preventing a descent into deeper, more costly services.

2015 54.8% (119 children) of Crisis Nursery utilization was among Caucasians.

Racial and Ethnic Breakdown of Children Served		
	CRISIS NURSERY	OLMSTED COUNTY
Bi-Racial	4.6 %	2.5 %
Caucasian	54.8 %	82.4 %
Asian	5.1 %	5.6 %
Black	41.0 %	5.1 %
Hispanic	11.5 %	4.4 %

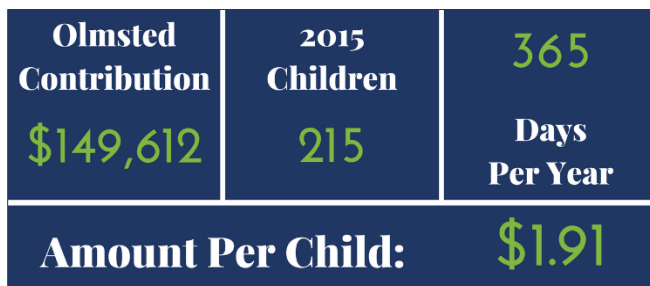
Disparity and disproportionality are words used to describe the fact that some groups of children are more likely to be found within the juvenile justice and child welfare systems than expected, given the composition of the general child population.

Families & Children Served



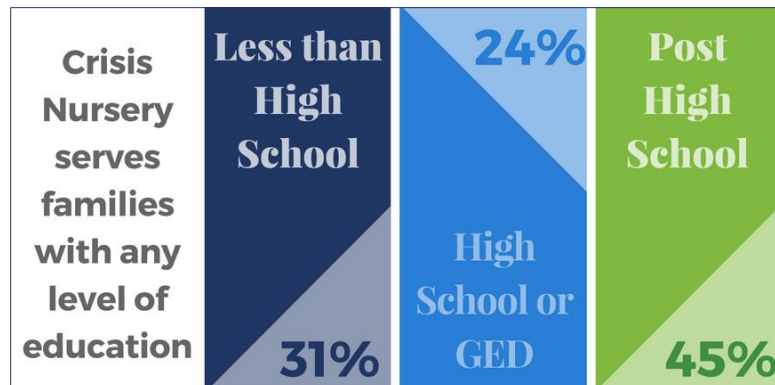
Crisis Nursery homes serve as an intentional stabilizing intervention in the critical years of child development. Familial crisis respects no income threshold, no class distinction. All socio-economic classes are vulnerable. Those who are most isolated and with the least resources may find themselves with nowhere to turn. In those times of stress, the Crisis Nursery is there to assist. Services provided to families in Crisis Nursery prevent escalation and reduce the likelihood of those families entering Community Services through a more costly service.

At \$2,258 a day (estimate based on 2015 information) per child, the investment in Crisis Nursery is strong value for Olmsted County.



Crisis Nursery annually demonstrates that it is a low-cost prevention program to stop children entering deeper-end, more costly services. These are a small piece of the larger picture of prevention:

- being available to all families regardless of socio-economic status
- serving as a safety net for families when episodes of extreme stress arise
- connecting families to other needed resources to further build their safety net and increase their strengths within the family

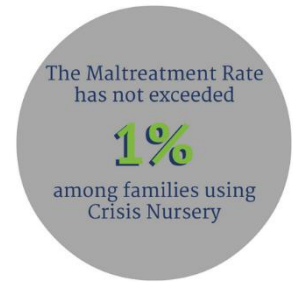


Balanced Scorecard Performance

Build the Community: Maltreatment Recurrence

Minnesota Standard: Of children who were victims of determined maltreatment during the first six months of the reporting period, 94.6% or greater were not victims of another determined maltreatment allegation within a 6-month period.

Families seen at Crisis Nursery may have maltreatment reports. Historically, families leaving Crisis Nursery have fewer maltreatment reports than the Federal standard of no more than 4.4%.



The following is a quote from the U.S Department of Health and Human Services Website, Child Welfare Information Gateway, [“Child Maltreatment: Prevention Strategies”](#).

“Child maltreatment is a serious problem that can have lasting harmful effects on victims. The goal for child maltreatment prevention is clear—to stop child abuse and neglect from happening in the first place. Child abuse is a complex problem rooted in unhealthy relationships and environments. Safe, stable and nurturing relationships and environments for all children and families can prevent child abuse. However, the solutions are as complex as the problem.”

Percent of youth with **NO MALTREATMENT** report following services

CRISIS NURSERY **99%**

CHILD PROTECTION **93%**

Build the Community: Kinship Placement, Establishment of Permanency

Kin/Relatives are involved in safety plans, providing day care, supervising visits, and full-time placement if and when needed. The agency highly values keeping children with kin/family if at all possible and a variety of Family Engagement Strategies are used to enhance work with family. Legislators, researchers and organizations have been moving towards this form of out-of-home care in an effort to preserve the child’s connections to their family culture and values and, to preserve the child’s relationships and emotional ties to their family. It also helps, to reduce placement trauma, to increase stability and continuity in care and to reinforce a sense of identity, self-esteem and belonging for the child.

Overall, current research supports kinship care as a placement option that overwhelmingly results in more positive outcomes for youth, from improved safety and stability, to increased sense of belonging and connection and greater social and emotional well-being.

Next Steps

Apricot: Crisis Nursery has purchased Apricot, a new database program to better serve clients, and will continue to receive support to finalize and implement.

PARRK: Parents and Relatives Raising Kids will continue to offer new and unique educational topics for those raising children.

Collaboration: Crisis Nursery will continue close collaboration with Olmsted County Social Services, the United Way of Olmsted County, and other community partners.

Recruitment: Crisis Nursery will continue to increase recruitment of providers, especially those that have participated in Minnesota's quality child care rating system, Parent Aware.

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