

*Support and care for
destitute and homeless children.*



The Program

The BRIDGES program is a three-phase program designed to teach 16- to 23-year-olds life skills.

Phase One

Residential Center

Focuses on building a foundation for the youth by helping them complete high school or GED certification and teaching independent living skills, such as nutrition, cooking and budgeting. Youth receive all services from on-site staff and case managers.

Phase Two

Semi-independent living

Advances to an independent setting, yet participants are still monitored 24/7 and continue to receive services from the on-site staff and case managers.

Phase Three

Independent living with a safety net

Youth live off-site and continue receiving case management and support services.

The Wichita Children's Home was founded in 1888, as the city's first orphanage. It's original mission was to "support and care for destitute and homeless children." Today, the Wichita Children's Home offers the only emergency, temporary residential shelter and transitional living program for children and youth in our community. The BRIDGES program was added in 1994.

Funding for this program is provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, the United Way and gracious community donors.

BRIDGES

Transitional Living Program

Call the Wichita Children's Home at 684-6581 if you would like to know more or experience the BRIDGES program in person.



BRIDGES

Transitional Living Program

Meeting the community's transitional housing need for homeless youth



youth

*T*here is an at-risk population of young people in the Wichita community. No longer children and not quite adults, they lack housing and the ability to independently provide for themselves. On the streets or in unsafe living conditions, they risk an existence of crime, substance abuse and exploitation. The BRIDGES program provides safe housing, while these youths develop the skills they need to become successful, independent members of the community.



Target Population

- Homeless and/or runaway young people ages 16 to 23
- Teen parents and their children
- Young people in need of housing because they live in an unsafe environment
- Youth with no alternative living arrangements and who lack the skills to successfully live on their own

Objective

The goal of the BRIDGES program is to assist youth in becoming good parents and self-sufficient adults.

Services

BRIDGES provides

- Transitional housing that offers stable and safe living accommodations
- Development skills and personal characteristics needed to live independently
- Education, information and counseling aimed at preventing, treating and reducing substance abuse among homeless youth
- Referrals and access to the appropriate medical and mental health services
- Assistance and education in obtaining employment
- Preparation for secondary education and/or vocational training
- Parenting education and access to parenting support services
- 24/7 access to our professional BRIDGES staff

Community