



FROM OUR HOME TO YOURS

On the Cover

Cherishing the Children

-2-

Child Abuse Prevention Month

-3 -

The OZ

New Program Director

-4-

Classic Cars for Kids

-5-

"Fore the Kids" Golf Tournament

-6-

Honors and Memorials

-8-

Temporary foster care through crisis

If you know a victim of abuse or crime who needs help, please contact the Home at 684-6581. We can provide referrals to the Attorney General's Victims of Crime Fund.



Cherishing the Children

One child at a time, we cherish the lives entrusted to us, no matter how briefly, hoping that we have made a difference in their world.

~ Sarah Robinson, CEO

Janie arrived with a Wichita Police officer late in the evening. She carried a small plastic sack of clothes, a stuffed giraffe, and her heart on her sleeve. Her one-year-old sister was in the hospital, possibly a victim of physical abuse by a friend of her mother's who had been caring for Janie's sister since the girls and their mother became homeless. Janie had been staying with her brother. Both young children were taken into Police Protective Custody. Arrangements were made for Janie to go to a foster home and she would be joined by her sister when she was released from the hospital. Her mother was connected to several agencies to help her pull her family back together.

In April, our nation will recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month. At the Wichita Children's Home, we see the effects of child abuse every day of the year. There is no other agency in Wichita that is ready, at a moment's notice, to provide a safe, temporary shelter for children in crisis.

Last year, 1,804 children, ranging in age from birth to 18 years of age, were caught in crisis, and arrived unannounced to be cared for in the emergency shelter or in foster homes.

These youngsters, with more than half under the age of 12, were admitted to the Wichita Children's Home by law enforcement

for abuse and neglect allegations, or running away from home. Some were brought in voluntarily by parents, or social workers and, sometimes, they came by themselves. Some are in tears, others painfully quiet, and a few are angry when they arrive.

Our trained staff spend as much time as it takes to talk with each one about why they are here and to find out what they need. They may have broken bones or health needs to attend to along with the emotional battering. Babies are comforted, bathed, fed, and dressed in clean clothes.

Each of these children stay in our residential services for up to 72 hours while SRS and law enforcement investigate the allegations.

Often coming from the chaos of family violence, guardians with drug issues, or filthy living conditions, the Home is there for them day or night, when they need us.

Thank you for cherishing the children. Your gifts, volunteer time, partnerships and feedback ensure that these children have the safe place they so desperately need. Your commitment is essential to nurturing them with the care they deserve.



President

Jon Tilton

President Elect

Shelly Hammond

VP Assessment

Scott Redler

VP Program

Debbie Kennedy

Barbara Ray

VP Development

Chuck Bouilly

VP Board Management

Rhonda Turner

Jan Roth West

Secretary

Buddy Shannon

Treasurer

Bill Valentas

Personnel

Jane Blasi

Past President

Cathy Schmitt

Pamela Clancy Ammar

Shannon Austin

Wayne Bell

Susayn Brandes

Brock Campbell

Kurt Cornejo

Allen Couture

Tiffany Farha

Beth Fields

Catherine LaChapelle

Melody McCray-Miller

Will Momsen

Kathy Neely

Lisa Nolla

Dot Osburn

Helen Piper

Scott Post

Hassan Ramzah

Kathy Rosell

Cindy Schwan

Tammy Shaw

Cari Spainhour

WCH Staff

Sarah Robinson

Chief Executive Officer

Charlie Applegate

Chief Financial Officer

Janet Pack

Director of Development

During Child Abuse Prevention Month, become part of the solution along with us

At just four months old, little Tommy had yet to know what it feels like to be wanted and loved. His mother refused to care for him. His grandmother could no longer see her grandson suffer, taking him to a local hospital where he could get help. The hospital called the Wichita Police Department to place Tommy in protective custody. Tommy went to one of our foster homes until his biological father could be contacted and a solution found for Tommy's well being.

We see the results of abuse, but also work to prevent child abuse by helping families from the Families Kan Project to the voluntary care program, to the dozens of presentations we do each year in the community.

Services provided by WCH include: police protective custody; emergency residential and foster care services; shelter and reunification services for runaway and homeless youths; transitional and independent living services for abused, runaway, homeless and street youths and youths exiting the juvenile justice and foster care systems; and family preservation services to families needing immediate diversion.

As the area's only Street Outreach Services provider, identifying street and homeless youths (including those involved in sexual exploitation and human trafficking), we are providing rescue and support services to hundreds more children outside of our Home. In 2011, 203 Safe Place rescues gave these youth a life preserver to get connected with the services they need. Our deepest thanks to the QuikTrip Corporation for participating in being a Safe Place for youth to go and ask for help.

When children "age out" of the foster care system without family to help them on their way, the BRIDGES program provides them with an apartment, life skills, and sometimes learning to be a good parent. They have mentors who help them break the cycle of abuse—to learn coping skills so that when they have a family of their own, they will not become abusers. Last year 138 young people went through BRIDGES.

Currently 48 youth are in the program. Among these, 23 are working on completing high school, 13 are attending VoTech or community college, 18 are parenting, and 25 are working.



How you can be part of the solution

We all can help to put a stop to Child Abuse. Please consider helping in these ways:

- Pay attention to the children in your neighborhood, at church or in your classroom at school.
- If you know of a parent(s) who is struggling, offer to give them a break and care for their child(ren) or consider being their mentor.
- Become involved with a program or agency that works with parents and children.
- Contact KCSL or WCH to request a Period of Purple Crying video to share with groups you're involved with to educate parents about Shaken Baby Syndrome.
- Refer a parent to United Way's 2-1-1 line for services, or the Kansas Children's Service League's Parent Help Line (800) 332-6378 or the Wichita Children's Home voluntary care program.

If you have a concern about a child possibly being abused or the safety of that child, report it to the local Wichita SRS office at 316-337-6601 or to the 24-hour Kansas Protection Report Center at 800-922-5330. For more information on child abuse, go to www.preventchildabuse.org.

I was scared, but everyone smiled at me and was nice, and made me feel I was in a safe place.

-- Jonathan

“Great! I am not homeless after tonight!”

Somehow it's fitting that the newest place for homeless youth in Wichita to find sanctuary has been dubbed The OZ, which is short for Opportunity Zone, named by the teens for who the space is designed. In many ways, it has been a tornado of activity and a trip down a yellow brick road paved with individuals and businesses who came together to make the OZ a reality.

The home's street outreach program has been serving homeless youth the past 16 years using a van that has traveled thousands of miles through the streets of Wichita to meet with the youth, provide supplies, and get them connected to services. More recently, the van has not been enough to meet the needs of the growing population of homeless youth.

Thanks to the elders of the Baptist Good Neighbor Center on north Emporia, the lower level of the building was offered as a space that could be used and Volunteer Kansas provided a \$32,000 grant towards remodeling.

Welcome Program Director Mel Miller Garrett

Mel Miller Garrett has joined our home as the new Program Director. She has been working with children and families for more than 17 years, including 15 as a therapist (LCSW).



“I have genuinely appreciated the opportunities to support growth and healing in children and families facing trauma, behavioral challenges and mental health issues,” said Mel.

“We needed a place where youth could take showers, wash their clothes, get a healthy snack, access the computer and most importantly meet with staff to help them get the services that they need,” said Risa Rehmer, Street Outreach coordinator. “We did not expect the outpouring of support that individuals and businesses have shown for this project from the beginning. It has been an incredible experience.”

The OZ, which is an extension of the street outreach program, has been coming together since November 2011 when about 100 volunteers showed up to clear out the lower level so the remodel could begin.

Jennifer White organized ICT SOS in 2010 after reading about the exploitation of homeless teens in human trafficking. She envisioned a makeover for the space that, when it was completed on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service in January 2012, far exceeded her expectations. ICT SOS volunteers have been an

The OZ, continued on page 5

“In recent years, I've found myself wondering if I could make the same positive impact on an agency, as I have at the child/family level. Looking at the challenges and opportunities my new position presents, I see how my 17 years in child welfare have prepared me to be the Program Director at WCH.”

Personally and professionally, Mel has worked with domestic and international not-for-profit organizations.

“I look forward to this journey and am thankful for the good people who are joining me in it,” Mel added.

Our sincere thanks to all who made the Opportunity Zone (OZ) possible:

A & H Electric, Inc.
ACT - Advance Catastrophe Technologies
Bauer and Son Construction
Bell Mirror and Glass, Inc.
Brian Lehto Flooring, Inc.
CAB Construction
Cletis Mechanical Repair & Service
Cornejo & Sons Construction
Country Acres Baptist Church
Dal-Tile
Diamond Home Design
Floyd Construction Corp.
GLMV Architecture
GracePoint Church
Handyworks Handymen
ICT S.O.S.
ISC Surfaces
Lytton's Appliance Showroom
Meadowland Fine Remodeling
Office of the United States Attorney, Kansas
OneSource Technology
ProSource Wholesale Floor Covering
QuikTrip
Radical Praise Church
St. Peter the Apostle Church
Star Lumber
Tree Top Nursery & Landscaping
Triumph Aerospace Systems
Victory Community of Faith Church
Volunteerkansas.org volunteers
Wichita Children's Home Street Outreach
Wichita Habitat for Humanity, Inc.
Wiseman and Associates
Zimelman Construction
And multitudes of individual donors and volunteers

Classic Cars for Kids Gala April 5 the place for a fun time with amazing cars



Photo by Chris Albertson

More than 800 Wichitans enjoyed the Classic Cars for Kids last year with dozens of beautifully restored vehicles, silent and live auctions, along with good food, and knowing they were helping the Wichita Children's Home care for the children in crisis that come through its doors.

Muscle cars, sports cars, stock models and hot rods, Century II Exhibition Hall will be filled with Wichita's best on April 5, when Classic Cars for Kids returns.

You don't have to be a fan of classic cars to enjoy the event, but you should like to party with hundreds of others who support the work of WCH.

Held at Century II Exhibition Hall, this will be the second year for the event which is one of the major fund raisers for the home.

"This was such a huge success last year that we are optimistic about being able to grow this year," said Janet Pack, director of development at WCH.

This year's event will also have a featured car which, due to press deadlines, was not yet selected. Trust it will be as impressive as the 1958 Corvette featured at last year's show.

Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served and there will be an open bar

Silent and live auction items are being collected from dozens of Wichita businesses and individuals. Travel and entertainment packages are being put together for bidding.

"There should be something for everyone at the auctions," said Pack. "We are inspired by the many people who are donating for this event again and those who heard about it and want to be involved this year."

You can request tickets, which are \$100 per person, with \$57 of each ticket tax deductible, through the WCH web site address below. Make your reservation early, or at least by March 30.

**Reserve your tickets
online at:
wch.org
Click on "Events"**

Our Thanks to Our Major Sponsors

Warren Theatres

Bank of America
Conco Construction, Inc.
Conley Insurance Group
Cox Communications
Davis-Moore Auto Group
Devlin Investments
Hanna Family
IMA of Kansas, Inc.
Joe Self Chevrolet
Landmark Resources, Inc.
Lexus of Albuquerque
Mel Hamblen Ford
Preferred Health Systems
Scholfield Honda



Photos by Chris Albertson



Dozens of classic cars will be on view to be admired by attendees at Classic Cars for Kids April 5.

29th Annual “Fore the Kids” Golf Tournament moves to May 21

In order to accommodate the rigorous schedule of our favorite PGA pro, Woody Austin, the 29th Annual “Fore the Kids” Golf Tournament date has moved to Monday, May 21.

We extend our thanks to Fugate Enterprises for renewing as the presenting sponsor this year.

This is the second of our major fund raisers for the year to be able to be here for children in crisis. Registration for any or all of the events can be made online at wch.org, then click on “events”.

Join us May 20 for cocktails and the auction. Woody will give a brief golf demonstration before the festivities begin. Tickets are \$75 per person. The golf clinic will be at 5 p.m., with the reception at 6 p.m. and the live auction following.

The “Fore the Kids” Golf Tournament tees off bright and early Monday morning for the breakfast round at 7:30 a.m. with the lunch round beginning at 1:15 p.m. Every

The OZ, continued from page 3 important part of the project’s swift completion.

The space was remodeled with a new kitchen, flooring, ceiling, and a new coat of paint, along with furnishings to make it a place that encourages lingering. Expertise and materials were provided by a number of Wichita remodeling and trade businesses.

The OZ is not intended to be a residential shelter, but to provide a safe place to eat, study, do laundry, connect and shower. There are snacks, computers, hygiene supplies and most importantly, people to help find the services they need.

“On one of the first days, eight



Dan Waller, Scott Post, Bob Hughey, Gary Austerman and PGA pro Woody Austin, couldn't help but smile with the beautiful day for golf for last year's tournament.

player has a hole in one opportunity to win a two year lease on a Lexus GS350. Registration is \$250, of which \$168 is tax deductible.

3rd Annual Junior Golf Classic

The session with the pros for children and teens returns May 20.

Youth (ages 8+) will have the opportunity to work on their golf game with Woody Austin, Rod Nuckolls and other local pros during our Junior Golf Clinic at Crestview

Country Club. The cost to attend is \$30 for the first youth and \$20 for each additional youth. Space is limited and early registration is encouraged.

Sunday, May 20 and Monday, May 21 Register online for the Reception & Auction, Tournament and Junior Golf Classic

youth dropped in,” said Rehmert. “two showered, two did laundry and three who sought a place to stay were placed in the overnight shelter.”

One youth exclaimed, “Great! I am not homeless after tonight!”

Currently, The OZ is open Monday and Wednesday from Noon to 6 p.m. and on Thursdays from 3 to 9 p.m.



The OZ (Opportunity Zone) gives homeless youth a safe place to snack, study, shower and connect with services as an extension of the WCH street outreach.

**Following are the Wichita Children's Home Memorials from
Oct. 1, 2011 to Jan. 31, 2012**

Mr. Albert L. Abercrombie Mrs. Mildred S. Abercrombie Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Ammerman	Remarkable Estate Sales A. Scott Ritchie Trust Mr. Sam Shepherd Spangenberg Phillips Tice Architecture Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Spurrier Dr. and Mrs. Jon W. Tilton US Engineering Company Ms. Rhonda Wills	Mr. Leonard Ghere Ms. Kathleen P. Bateson Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Busby Mr. Erwin Davis Ms. Judy Ann Fisher Mr. Paul J. Foley, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Carl R. Ghere Mr. and Mrs. Russell K. Jolliff Mr. and Mrs. Victor R. Miller	Mr. Charles LeeRoy McDowell Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne E. Hobson Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Leedy Star Lumber & Supply Co.
Dr. Bob L. Atkison Mr. and Mrs. L.H. Colton Mr. Forrest Ehmke and Mrs. Catherine Kistler-Ehmke Mr. and Mrs. Frances S. Friend Ms. Margaret A. Joseph Mr. James S. Sommer	Ms. Ruth Coleman Mrs. Katherine Hoffman Ms. Anita Fakes Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd H. Schmidt Mrs. Harriet Elaine Gamm Mr. Larry D. Brown Mr. and Mrs. Craig W. Chastain Cigar Chateau, LLC Ms. Donna K. Cox Mr. and Mrs. Roger H. Crispin Ms. Joan R. Daniel DeVore Family Fund Mr. and Mrs. W. Terry Dickey Mrs. R. Virginia Hawkins Mrs. Deanna K. Heller Mr. and Mrs. Vernell Jackson Lucas & Assoc. CPA's, PA Ms. Donna Magee Mr. and Mrs. Al Malone, III Dr. Albert P. Michelbach Mrs. Mary Lynn Oliver Mr. and Mrs. William L. Oliver, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Wendell M. Smith Mr. Paul D. Stephenson Mr. and Mrs. Marc Vincent Mr. and Mrs. Troy A. Young	Ms. Janice M. Gornick Guthridge/Nighswonger Corp. Mrs. Geneva Gray Andover Central Bank Boosters Mr. Eugene Jones Mr. and Mrs. E. Pittman Ms. Marge Kendall Mr. and Mrs. Willard B. Thompson Mr. John Damon Konek Mr. and Mrs. Roger L. Benefiel Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Dunne Dunne Investments, Inc. Ms. Deana P. Eichacker Mr. and Mrs. John P. Hawkins Ms. Laura J. Hawkins Mrs. Leslie K. Horigan Infinity Contact Mr. and Mrs. Bobbie Keltner Mr. Bill Bellew and Ms. Patricia C. Ketchum Ms. Dorothy Miller Mr. and Mrs. Brian Regehr Mr. and Mrs. Ronald L. Starkel Mr. and Mrs. Christopher R. Young	Mr. Aaron D. Melhorn Mr. and Mrs. Duane H. Ramsey Mr. Darken Patton Ms. Beverly J. Hudspeth Ms. Norma Peters Mr. and Mrs. Bernard A. Dahlberg Ms. Melba Louise Eberhard Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Gerber Juno Manufacturing LLC Mr. and Mrs. James W. Peters Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Vonderwall Mrs. Maxine Pullman Ms. Esther L. Doner Ms. Twila Flowers Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fordham Mr. and Mrs. Larry Neufeld Mr. and Mrs. Greg Pullman Mr. Terry Pullman Mr. Myron K. Rake and Mrs. Lorraine Lovette Mr. William L. Robinson Dr. and Mrs. A. W. Rose Dr. and Mrs. Charles F. Squire Mr. Spencer W. Yancey
Ms. Carol Bell Ash Grove Cement Company Geiger Ready Mix Foundation Fund Mrs. Barbara J. Lewis Mr. and Mrs. Buck Perry	Garver Memorial Fund Mrs. Patricia Rank	Ms. Mary K. Lipp Ms. Carol Lipp-Strauss F. Ross and Evelyn Little Ms. Sallie Jo Norton	Mr. William M. Puls Mrs. Linda L. Puls Mrs. Pat Ranson Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, LLC Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bouilly Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Brechbill Mr. and Mrs. David A. Brenn Dr. and Mrs. Bert Chronister
Mary M. Boyd Ms. Carolyn McMurtry			
Mr. Maurice "Maury" Breidenthal Accel Construction, LLC Clark and Sharon Bastian Mr. Monti Belot Ms. Kristin Bianchi Mr. David Burk Confederated Builders, Inc. Mr. and Mrs. Boyd A. Davies, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Rick L. Gaskill Mr. Randal Herrington Mr. Robert H. Howse Mr. Jameson Jones Mr. and Mrs. Earl M. Knighton, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lynn Nelson Architectural Engineers, Inc. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Pott Mr. and Mrs. James Price Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ramseyer			

Following are the Honors from Oct. 1, 2011 to Jan. 31, 2012.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitney B. Damron
 Mr. Gary K. Gates
 Go Wichita CVB
 Mr. and Mrs. HY Harris
 Mr. Eric Hartenstein
 Mr. and Mrs. Ron Hein
 Ms. Norma Heinschel
 Dr. Rosemary A. Kirby
 Mr. and Mrs. Merv Mace
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark A. McGinn
 Mr. Richard D. Orr
 Dr. and Mrs. Gary Pottorff
 Mr. and Mrs. John Ranson
 Ms. Marcy Ray
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sizemore
 Mr. and Mrs. W. Todd Tiahr
 Ms. Carolyn A. Tillotson
 Mr. and Mrs. Maimon Ward
 Mr. Raymond H. Woods
Mrs. Marjorie W. Rees
 Dr. and Mrs. John A. Brammer
 Mrs. Janet Buckley
 Mr. and Mrs. Dan Nyberg
Mr. Steve Rice
 Mr. Tracy L. Edingfield
 Mr. and Mrs. Greg Gerber
Mr. Darrel L. Rolph
 Ms. Janet Pack
Mrs. Barbara Striegel
 Mr. Charles N. White
Mrs. Ruth Sutton
 Ms. Beverly J. Hudspeth
Mr. Dean Swan
 Mr. and Mrs. Terry Frazier
Mrs. Fern Swan
 Mr. and Mrs. Terry Frazier
Jane F. Thompson
 Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Thompson
Mr. Ronald "The Bubbleman" Tibbetts
 Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Luce
Sandra J. Weidner
 Mr. and Mrs. Roger W. Reeves

Virgil and Peggy Baxter
 Mr. and Mrs. Garry Lobaugh
Mr. Brant Benninga
 Ms. Linda K. Benninga
Mrs. Frances Brinegar
 Ms. Carole A. Lindsay
Mrs. Martha Buford
 Ms. Pam Winter
Ms. Brittney R. Buschur
 Mrs. Shirley R. Naill
Ms. Hailey Rae Buschur
 Mrs. Shirley R. Naill
Mr. Harrison M. Buschur
 Mrs. Shirley R. Naill
Ms. Lisa Collinsworth
 Mr. Larry Christensen & Mr. Darrell Christensen
Ms. Dorcas Cooper
 Mr. and Mrs. Bruce E. Cooper
Physicians of Cypress Anesthesia Professionals LLC
 Mr. and Mrs. David M. Adamson
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Combs
 Mr. Phillip Ray and Ms. Cathy Marrs
 Mr. and Mrs. Brent Snyder
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Symes
Tom and Myra Devlin
 With A. Childs Heart Foundation
Mr. Bill Farris
 Mrs. Blanche A. Pearce
Mr. Stone Faulkner
 Mr. and Mrs. Martin A. Schlatter
Ms. Geraldine Flaharty
 Mr. and Mrs. Steven R. Blencoe
Darrell and Kathy Focke
 Ms. Ruth E. Heimerman
Ron and Gayle Franklin
 Dr. Charles Grauel

Jean K. Garvey
 Garvey Kansas Foundation
Mr. Mike Habbart
 Westar Foundation
Elard and Maralyn Haden
 Mr. and Mrs. Darrel G. Roland
Mrs. Claire Hanna
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Young
Ms. Barbara Hansen
 Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Reese
 Mr. and Mrs. James Schueler
Mr. Ken Hayes
 Mr. and Mrs. Don L. Travis
Ms. Kathy Hiebert
 Mr. and Mrs. Don L. Travis
Dale and Jane Horn
 Dr. Charles Grauel
Physicians at Kansas Inpatient Services
 Ms. Sounida Douangpraseuth
Judge Joe Kisner
 Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kisner
Garry and Lutie Lobaugh
 Ms. Kasey Lobaugh
Ms. Christine Schneikart-Luebbe
 Mr. and Mrs. David L. Yourdon
Owen and Carol McEwen
 Mr. and Mrs. Drew M. McEwen
Mike Naughton Family
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pape
Ms. Shalom Nickel
 Mr. Gerald D. Bahl

Ms. Michelle L. Brock
 Mr. and Mrs. Terry Frazier
Scott Post Retirement
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom Jarmer
 Mr. and Mrs. Blake Wells
Dudley and Lori Reese
 Ms. Barbara Hansen
Susan Schmid Family
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pape
James and Glenda Schueler
 Ms. Barbara Hansen
Ms. Wendy Spurrier
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Spurrier
Ms. Jennifer Szambecki
 Ms. Linda K. Benninga
Via Christi Medical Center
 Ms. Sounida Douangpraseuth
N. B. Wooten
 Baughman Company, P.A.
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen P. Fryman
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Stewart
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark K. Terhune
 Mr. Trevor J. Wooten
Dr. M. Dean Wright
 Cambridge Family Dentistry



The OZ "extreme makeover" was made possible by individuals and businesses coming together to renovate the lower level of the building.



810 North Holyoke
Wichita, Kansas 67208

Return Service Requested



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WICHITA, KS
PERMIT NO. 1746

OUR MISSION

To assure the safety and well-being of children and to create healthy families by providing: Assessment and intervention services; a temporary home for children at risk of abuse, neglect or homelessness; and education, prevention and advocacy initiatives.

Who has the baby's back? Voluntary care for children when a parent is in crisis

At the Wichita Children's Home, providing a temporary shelter in times of crisis is one of the ways we help prevent child abuse.

In the spirit of our founding in 1888, to care for five little girls whose mother passed away in child birth and whose father could not care for them because he had a farm to work, parent in crisis can turn to the WCH for temporary shelter for their children.

A family can find itself in a time of crisis for many different reasons. A single mother finds she must focus on taking care of a seriously ill child. A father loses his job and he and the children become homeless. An alcoholic parent recognizes that they can be a danger to their child and chooses to seek a treatment program.

Through United Way and our donors, parents can find a safe place for their child while they work out issues. Children under the age of 12 can be matched with a licensed foster home on a short term basis. The parent maintains contact with the child and tells WCH about how to care for the child.

This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days of the year. Last year, parents placed 27 children with us voluntarily.

WCH is here to offer these services so parents do not have to turn to someone outside of the family who may not have the patience, the well being, or the skills to care for their child. Please spread the word to any parent that may need this care to call us at 684-6581 anytime.



Pinwheels for
PREVENTION
Prevent Child Abuse
Kansas

**April is National
Child Abuse
Prevention
Month**