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.
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.

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.

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- 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.

“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 Rehmert, 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

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.

“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
Volunteer Kansas.org volunteers
Wichita Children’s Home Street Outreach
Wichita Habitat for Humanity, Inc.
Wiseman and Associates
Zimbelman Construction
And multitudes of individual donors and volunteers

Welcome Program Director Mel Miller Garrett
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”

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

Our Thanks to Our Major Sponsors

Warren Theatres

Bank of America
Conceo 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 Hambelton Ford
Preferred Health Systems
Scholfield Honda
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 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.

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 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.
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

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. Carol Bell
Ash Grove Cement Company
Geiger Ready Mix Foundation Fund
Mrs. Barbara J. Lewis
Mr. and Mrs. Buck Perry
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

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

Ms. Ruth Coleman
Mrs. Katherine Hoffman

Ms. Anita Fakes
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd H. Schmidt

Mr. and Mrs. 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

Ms. Janice M. Gornick
Guthridge/Nighswonger Corp.

M. 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

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

Mr. Charles LeeRoy McDowell
Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne E. Hobson
Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Leedy

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. Gaynor Gale Gray

Ms. Rhonda Wills
Ms. Ruth Coleman
Mrs. Katherine Hoffman

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

Garver Memorial Fund
Mrs. Patricia Rank

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
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Dr. and Mrs. Bert Chronister

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 Habbert
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
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Mike Naughton Family
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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.
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 childbirth 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.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month