

dream

C R I S I S N U R S E R Y

annual report 2004-2005



hope



Crisis Nursery Annual Report

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Foundation 2005-06

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Crisis Nursery is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.



Dear Friends,

In the Valley of the Sun where so many of us have so much, life is a constant challenge for many of the children and families in our communities. Arizona ranks a dismal 41st among the 50 states in the percentage of children who live in poverty and 48th in the number of children without health insurance.¹ The homes of children growing up in poverty are often filled with domestic violence and substance abuse. Consequently the healthy, happy outcomes we want for all of our children is often elusive.

Crisis Nursery's mission is helping families and children break the cycle of child abuse and neglect. We believe that each child should have the opportunities they need to succeed and that every parent who wants to change the odds for themselves and their children, should be provided the tools and resources they need to do so.

This report highlights Crisis Nursery's programs and the children and families served from July 2004 through June 2005. It was a busy year! Child Protective Services continued to remove more and more young children from their homes due to abuse and neglect.



Over 200 of these youngsters found their way to our Children's Shelter last year, and many stayed with us for months and months, as there are not enough foster homes in our community to meet their needs.

This summer, eleven youngsters graduated to local kindergartens from the FACES program. With our new collaboration with the City of Phoenix and the generosity of our donors, we were able to open an additional two Head Start Classrooms and will be providing therapeutic child care to 69 infants, toddlers and preschoolers in the coming year.

We are proud of the talented and committed group of employees that Crisis Nursery has brought together to serve some of our community's most vulnerable children and families. But we could not provide the depth or quality of services our children and families need without the support we have received from all of you.

Whether you helped us by rocking babies, assisting in a classroom, painting a bedroom, sponsoring or participating on field trips, sitting in meetings, raising money on our behalf, or donating your services, time or resources; we thank you on behalf of the 370 children and their families that our services touched last year.

This year we hope that you will continue your support as we continue to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect, one child and one family at a time.

Marsha Porter
Executive Director

Anne Christensen
President

Last year over 460 children came to Crisis Nursery for help and protection.

Children's Shelter

Dillon arrived at our Children's Shelter fearfully holding the hand of his CPS Worker. He was removed from his mother's home after a shooting. The police suspected the home was operating as a "crack house", and CPS had a long history with the family.

Dillon, who was almost 4, was non-verbal and could only express himself by crying or pointing. It took several days for him to adjust to the Shelter routine and screenings showed him seriously delayed in communication, motor and social skills.

As the weeks passed, Dillon became more comfortable and started to actively participate in our preschool program - but he still wasn't talking. Over the next months, foster families were identified as possible placements, but none were willing to take a child with Dillon's needs.

Dillon stayed at the Shelter for over 9 months, much longer than is normal. But what progress he made. He began babbling, then talking, then singing. By the time he left the Shelter, he was testing at normal ranges on all of the developmental screenings. Special services were arranged at his new foster family's school district so that his progress could be maintained.

When his "new" family came to take him home, Dillon had been transformed from a frightened little boy whose needs had been severely neglected, to a confident four year old.

His foster mother contacted us recently to let us know that he would be going to kindergarten this year. His birth mother had failed to follow through with the services that were required of her and Dillon was going to be adopted by his foster family.



Children like
Dillon come to our
Children's Shelter
in one of two ways:

- Through voluntary placement by their parents due to a temporary crisis or for respite, or
- In the custody of Child Protective Services (CPS) because of abuse or neglect or because they simply have no place to call home.



During FY 2004-05:

- The average age of children living at the Shelter was 3 years old
- Of the children who called the Shelter home this year:
 - 80 were placed voluntarily by their parents
 - 217 were placed by CPS
- The primary risk factors present for children admitted to the Shelter were:

Child neglect	53%
Parental substance abuse	41%
Parental medical emergency	22%
Homelessness	20%
- The average length of stay was 47 days, with stays ranging from one to 403 days
- For children waiting for foster families, the average stay was 85 days
- Upon leaving the Shelter,
 - 44% of our children returned to their parent(s),
 - 22% were placed with relatives and
 - 33% were placed in family foster or adoptive homes

Shelter services include:

- Daily routines that are predictable and offer plenty of opportunities for play, group activities and community outings
- Infant, toddler and preschool programs on-site every morning
- After-school tutoring for children attending public school
- Health assessments, immunizations and medical care
- Developmental, behavioral and academic screenings
- Speech and language assessments and evaluations as needed
- Individual and group counseling sessions
- Crisis intervention and referral services for parents, relatives and foster families
- Advocacy services for both children and parents

Ethnicity of Shelter children:

Caucasian	37%
Hispanic	35%
African American...	12%
Bi/Multiracial.....	10%
Native American	6%

The Shelter provided 297 children with a home for a record 12,081 days.

FACES

Families and Children Experiencing Success

Tina was referred to FACES by her probation officer. She was 16, unemployed, not in school and Jake's single mother. Tina's own childhood had been full of violence. Her mother used drugs and sold herself to support her addiction. When Tina was 12, her mother introduced her to prostitution.

Tina and Jake lived with Jake's father and his parents. Tina knew she needed to get back in school and get a job, so that Jake's life could be different. Four years ago, she enrolled Jake in the infant classroom at FACES. The orange Crisis Nursery bus picked up Jake every morning and Tina re-enrolled in high school.

Still, it was a difficult time for Tina - her living situation was far from stable and juggling work, school and parenting was a constant challenge. Unexpectedly, Tina found herself pregnant again. It was then, that she realized she couldn't do it alone.

Tina began to open up to her Family Support Specialist (FSS). She was becoming a member of a community for the first time and connecting to people who cared about her. When she missed appointments, her FSS went to her home. When Jake didn't come to school, his teacher called her. Tina was learning to be a responsible parent by being held accountable.

Today, Jake is thriving at school and his sister Lucy is in the toddler program. Tina has maintained the same job for two years, she and her children live in their own apartment and she just bought her first car. She plans to finish her GED when Jake graduates from FACES, next July.

Tina has become a loving mother who has a strong bond with her children and is well on her way to breaking the cycle of child abuse and neglect...



A daily therapeutic NAEYC¹ accredited child care program, FACES provides for at-risk children who are able to live at home with their parents, yet whose home environments pose a risk to their well-being.

¹ National Association for Education of Young Children



During FY 2004-05:

Average length of time in program:
 children who left during the year ... 18 months
 children still enrolled 19 months

Family risk factors at child's admission:
 88% lack of financial resources
 77% parental mental illness
 73% poor parenting skills
 71% single parent, isolated, no support
 67% homeless or unstable housing
 67% domestic violence

Children's Developmental Proficiency*

	FALL 2004	SPRING 2005
Social & emotional development	0%	58%
Language development	11%	84%
Literacy	5%	77%
Mathematics	1%	38%
Science	5%	50%
Physical health & development	16%	96%

*as measured by Work Sampling Assessment for Head Start

**FACES
 services include:**

- Therapeutic early childhood education
- Low teacher-child ratios and small class sizes
- Individualized curricula that promotes resiliency skills and development
- Health and developmental screenings and referrals
- Mental health, special education and speech and language services as needed
- Daily transportation
- Two meals and three snacks daily to meet their nutritional requirements
- Regular home visits to families
- Guidance in helping parents develop goals for their child and family
- Referrals to additional community services

**Ethnicity
 of FACES'
 children:**

Hispanic65%
 Caucasian17%
 African American...13%
 Bi/Multiracial.....4%
 Native American1%

The FACES program provided 9,065 days of care to 73 children.

Volunteers

Bunkie Ludwig has been a volunteer with Crisis Nursery for 25 years.

For nearly two decades, Bunkie not only spent lots of one-on-one time with our infants and toddlers, she also helped them catch up on their immunizations. Now retired, Bunkie volunteers in our toddler classroom every Thursday morning.

When asked what keeps her coming back, Bunkie explained “It’s the comfort, security, and a sense of peace provided by the Shelter that children so desperately need. Children feel safe and are in a place where they can play and interact with adults and children without fear.” She described the images of children being fed, loved, hugged and finally wanted and the beauty of “a child being able to have a night’s sleep without worry”.

When asked what Bunkie liked best about being part of Crisis Nursery, her reply was “I love the way the staff feel about the children, we all work together as a team. I feel a part of what you are doing to make the world a better place. I say we must be doing something right.”

When Bunkie was asked if she could give us one piece of advice, she simply said “keep doing what you are doing... keep providing a loving home environment for the children.”



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has.

-Margaret Mead



Special thanks to our community...

Volunteers:

- Our visionary founders, whose persuasion convinced the skeptical public that child abuse was a real threat in our community.
- Our Board of Directors and Foundation Directors, who govern the organization and monitor our financial well-being.
- Our Friends of Crisis Nursery, a group of women who have served as ambassadors and plan an extraordinary benefit each spring. Over the years, the Friends have raised over \$9,000,000 for our programs.
- Our community supporters, who hold events throughout the year, collect 'needs list' items, help maintain our facilities, sort and stock our shelves or adopt our children and families during the holidays.
- Our program volunteers, who rock, read, bathe, hug and in so many ways make our children feel special every day.

Donors

None of what we do would be possible without the financial and in-kind support of our community donors. Countless individuals, civic groups, congregations, corporations and foundations have made it possible over the years to:

- Build and furnish facilities that are child friendly, safe and welcoming.
- Expand services as the needs of the children and families we serve have grown.
- Attract and retain the high quality employees who are the heart of Crisis Nursery.
- Develop new programs and strategies that are responsive to the changing needs of the children and families we serve.

Collaborations

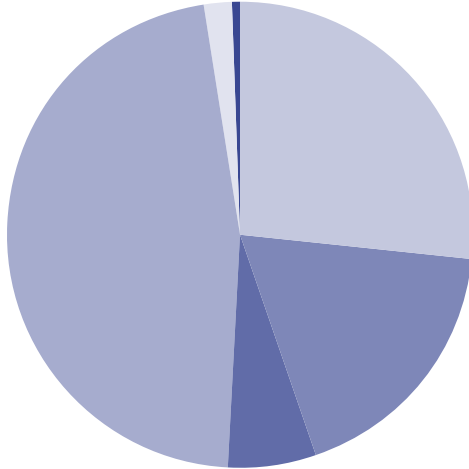
Recognizing that no one service or single agency can effectively meet the increasingly complex needs of the children and families we serve, we continue to partner with other community-based agencies to enhance our collective abilities. This year, we have collaborated with the following agencies:

- Southwest Human Development – Early Head Start, Head Start and Healthy Families
- City of Phoenix – Head Start Program
- Child Crisis Center-East Valley and West Valley Child Crisis Center – Portable Assessments for Kids (PAK)
- Greater Phoenix Child Abuse Prevention Council

Volunteers contributed 10,131 hours to Crisis Nursery this year.

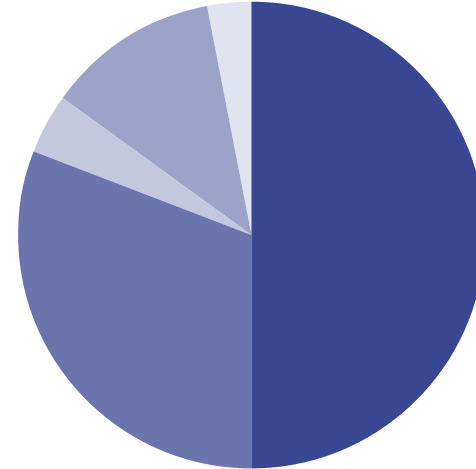


Crisis Nursery, Inc.
Revenues and Expenditures: FY 2004/05



♥ Contract Revenue	27%	\$1,851,285
♥ Contributions/Grants/Sp. Events	18%	\$1,212,342
♥ Friend's Benefit	6%	\$430,479
♥ Pledges	47%	\$3,180,455*
♥ In Kind Donations	2%	\$117,568
♥ Interest and Other	.3%	\$20,670
♥ Total Revenues.....		\$6,812,799

*Includes multi-year pledges and a bequest that will be received in 2005



♥ Shelter - Program Expenses	50%	\$2,205,066
♥ FACES - Program Expenses	31%	\$1,369,178
♥ Healthy Families	4%	\$188,063
♥ Administration	12%	\$553,025
♥ Fund Raising	3%	\$128,749
♥ Total Expenses		\$4,444,081

This year our children used:

45,823 diapers • 772 pounds of formula • 1,722 pairs of socks • 1,309 pairs of underwear • 1,621 jars of baby food • 576 toothbrushes • 480 pairs of shoes & sandals



How You Can Help

- Volunteer at our programs
- Make a tax deductible donation to Crisis Nursery
Over half of our operating revenue comes from individuals, corporations and local businesses.
- Earn a state tax credit of up to \$200 through your donation
- Write us in on your United Way Campaign
- Make an in-kind donation
Children's clothing, supplies and support services are all needed.
- Attend a special event
Please join us at our annual Friend's Benefit, our fall fund raising luncheon or other fund raisers that take place all over the valley throughout the year.
- Come on a regularly scheduled Take a Look Tour
Visit our facilities and become our ambassadors in the community.
- Leave a legacy
Remember Crisis Nursery in your will, estate planning or as a beneficiary in your 401K plan or IRA.
- Visit our web site for current community events, tour dates, needs lists and volunteer opportunities
crisisnurseryphx.com

***Over \$128,300 worth of goods and services
were donated in support of our programs by individuals and groups.***



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