



SOUTHERN MN CRISIS NURSERY 2019 SPRING NEWSLETTER

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Our organization began when a group of individuals in our community saw a significant problem and proposed an extraordinary solution: free, confidential shelter for children of families in crisis in a safe homelike setting.

Since opening in June of 2017, SMNCN has grown into a fully functional space providing families with emergency shelter for their children, parenting coaching, advocacy, connections with necessary services and emergency material goods.

By partnering with parents in need, SMNCN is able to help create brighter futures for children and our community as a whole.



Success at a glance:

- ▽ SMNCN has provided more than 800 care days to children in need
- ▽ Since opening, SMNCN has served more than 80 families
- ▽ Every family that has begun using SMNCN services while homeless has been successful in locating stable housing
- ▽ Over 1000 healthy meals have been given to the children staying at SMNCN



SMNCN founding board members, 2017

Strengthening one family to give them a brighter future!

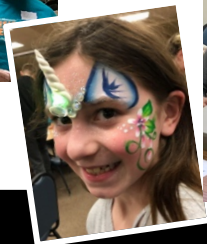
Our success is probably best illustrated through the story of one of our first clients. For the sake of privacy, we'll call her "Jane".

Jane first came to us with a broken arm after her husband had been jailed for domestic assault. She had made the decision to leave him and wanted a safe place for her children to go while she could make a plan for her life without him. SMNCN kept her children in a safe place while connecting her with the domestic violence advocates at CADA. SMNCN's family advocate helped Jane organize her thoughts during her time of crisis and made a list of the services available, and the issues with which she needed assistance.

When Jane's children first came to us, they were suffering from the acute effects of the trauma they had been experiencing. Both were developmentally delayed and had very little control of their emotions and impulses. Through positive role modeling and being given a safe space to express themselves, Jane's children made significant strides towards recovery. The children learned to express their needs and were able to develop nurturing relationships with SMNCN's childcare providers. Jane's children were referred to the Help Me Grow program, and through this intervention, were able to gain the skills they were lacking. In time, the children's confidence and emotional security grew, as well as their ability to control their emotions. Near the end of their time with us, Jane's older daughter expressed her desire to learn to ride a bike. Due to her family's circumstances, she had never even ridden a bike before. SMNCN's staff patiently taught both of the children how to ride bicycles and then provided Jane with bicycles and helmets for both children. This provided Jane and her family with a healthy and positive activity to share. Regarding her time with SMNCN Jane said: "Thank you for this service! You helped when no one else was able."



TACOS & FUN



VOLUNTEERS

Ivy House volunteers provide an invaluable service to the community. We could not have had this much success without their generous contributions of time, compassion, and talent. Here are some great statistics about our amazing volunteers.

We have 22 volunteers that provide childcare. Some work elsewhere full time, some are stay at home moms and everything in-between. All give the children at the Ivy House all of their love and compassion. That is priceless!

Volunteers have donated more than 3,000 hours of their time since SMNCN opened.

Those 3,000 hours of care add up to more than \$40,000 saved by SMNCN because of their willingness to donate their time and talent! That is equal to a large amount of SMNCN's childcare budget.

To learn more about volunteering visit: smncrisisnursery.org/volunteer-employment or email director@smncrisisnursery.org



SMNCN EVENTS:

- ▽ Tacos for Tots meal fundraiser was a success! We had tacos, face painting, games for kids, and great adult conversation. Thank you to everyone who attended! We plan to hold this event again next year!
- ▽ SMNCN will be hosting a garage and bake sale on May 10th from 9am-6pm and May 11th from 9am-2pm! The sale will be held at 1027 N Broadway. Come for the bargains and leave knowing you have made an impact on strengthening families!
- ▽ Mark your calendar for the 2019 Wine Tasting on October 10th!

