



News From The Children's Neighborhood



Children in Crisis, Inc.
Providing Homes... Establishing Hope.

Volume 1, Issue 1
Newsletter , March 2006

Children in Crisis Moves Forward

The Problem

There is a severe shortage of foster homes in our community and one-in-four children are placed in a home that is over-capacity. This causes siblings to be separated, children to be placed out of their county and moved from foster home to foster home, some up to ten times per year. Additionally, our community doesn't have an emergency shelter for abused and neglected foster children. Some of the children are in the foster system for years while others stay only long enough to find an appropriate family member.

The Solution

About three years ago, a group of very dedicated people started a grass-roots initiative to build a neighborhood of homes for the foster children of Okaloosa and Walton counties. These individuals were determined to do better for our children. They visited similar facilities in Florida, Alabama and Georgia.

The CIC action plan outlines a two phase construction approach. In the first phase, an emergency shelter, four group homes, a neighborhood center, a recreation center and pavilion will be built over a five year

period. In phase two, four more children group homes, transition homes and a large community center will be completed.

Generally, the child's first placement will be the emergency shelter, where the child's emotional physical and intellectual needs will be evaluated on a 24/7 basis. It is projected that hundreds of children will come to the shelter each year. The children group homes will house no more than six children at a time. Trained house parents will create a home-like environment and the children will attend local schools.

CIC still needs your help

The capital campaign kick-off was in January, 2005, with a \$3 million goal. Thanks to our many donors and supporters, tremendous progress has been made from selling naming opportunities of buildings and rooms. There are still opportunities available and the naming of the entire children's neighborhood is still available for a \$1 million donation.

Children's Neighborhood Groundbreaking Ceremony

Neighborhood Development Status

Mack Gay, President, Board of Directors

OWC has leased 20 acres of land located on Hurlburt Field Road for \$1.00/year. It is centrally located to the service area, schools, churches, support communities and transportation routes. Working with DCF, FFN and other service providers, designs have increased in both size and functionality. At the same time, construction costs in our area have increased significantly due to a shortage of labor and

materials. Final site concept has been approved, house designs are at the 75% completion level and initial bids have been received. Funds are in place to complete the Phase 1 infrastructure, the Emergency Shelter House and Group Home 1. Schedule has been impacted due to the increase of cost and the availability of support from the architectural and construction community. Current schedule calls for ground



breaking March 16, 2006, with construction of the first two houses to begin NLT mid June with completion mid March 2007.

The Board of Directors
Of
Children In Crisis, Inc.
Invites you to join us
At the
Groundbreaking ceremony
Of the
Children's Neighborhood
On Thursday, March 16
At eleven o'clock
Construction site Hurlburt
Road
Ft. Walton Beach, FL

R.S.V.P. by March 10, 2006
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The Children's Neighborhood

Children in Crisis, Inc.

CIC Important Fund Raising Events



The CIC 1,000 X \$1,000 Campaign begins March 17th and runs through March 26th. This is our major sustaining campaign to operate the Children's Neighborhood and help feed and cloth our kids.



The FCC, Faith Community Committee is speaking to our area churches asking for spiritual and financial support. We are counting on the faith community to be a significant partner in sustaining our Children's Neighborhood operations.

Note From The CIC Executive Director - Ken Hair

We are making tremendous progress and it's thanks to our wonderful team of donors and volunteers. I'm truly amazed at the dedication and support we have received from the community. Thanks to you, we will be successful and make a difference in a child's life.

CIC Memorandum of Agreement with UMCH Is On Track

CIC is getting closer to signing a MOA with the United Methodist Children Home for management and operations of our Children's Neighborhood. UMCH has over 115 years of experience operating group homes for children and has a sincere desire to help us be successful. Representatives from both organizations met recently to review a draft MOA. The MOA is now with the Board of Directors for review.

First CIC Office - First Executive Director - First Office Manager!

CIC has a new office thanks to one of our very loyal supporters. The office is located at 100 Sunset Lane, Shalimar, FL 32579. In October, 2005, Ken Hair joined the CIC Team as the first Executive Director and in February, Liz Leard started as Bookkeeper/Office Manager. Stop by and visit Ken and Liz when you're in the area.

...if not you, then who?