



Vanessa Behan
crisis nursery



2013 Annual Impact Report

safe kids, strong families, healthy community

Safe Kids

Provided 76,508 hours of safe care to 4,306 children

Our dedicated staff and volunteers stretched themselves to the max to provide love and safety to protect the young visitors in our care.

44% of these little ones were under the age of 29 months - those most vulnerable to the devastating effects of child abuse and neglect.



Strong Families

Strengthened more than 500 Families

These families were provided with 24-hour crisis counseling services, community and resource referrals through our HOPE program, as well as parent education with four eight-week parent education courses.

Handled 7,706 Crisis Calls

Our trained family support staff was available every day in 2013 to address the immediate needs of the hundreds of families who contacted the Crisis Nursery for support.



Healthy Community

Distributed 218,387+ Basic Essentials

Five days a week our business office distributed diapers, formula, wipes and other basic essentials to area families in need.

\$424,000 donated in Volunteer Hours

Nearly 1,300 volunteers cared for children, provided administrative support, served on boards and committees, and participated in fundraising events.

Population Served

22% of parents sought help for stress relief

Mission: The Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery improves the lives of children by providing immediate refuge and safety and ongoing family support in an environment of unconditional love.

69%

represent single parent households

7%

of families were homeless with nowhere to stay

Nearly 100%

of the families we served live at or below the poverty level.

24%

of parents utilized services for issues related to medical/mental health care

57%

of the families earned \$5,000 or less annually



84%

of the families earned \$25,000 or less annually

12%

were in transitional housing (living in a shelter or motel, or temporarily staying with friends)

Max's Story: Committed to Making Kids Successful

"Max" came to the Nursery frequently. His single mom was stressed with his behaviors. Max was often acting out, not listening to her, was destructive and occasionally violent towards her and the pets. While in our care Max's behaviors were sometimes very challenging. Our staff worked to handle his behaviors and occasionally limited the number of kids in our care to help him be successful when he visited VBCN.

Max had visited the Nursery on many occasions for several years when his mom decided she could no longer parent him. She contacted Child Protective Services (CPS) to begin the process of voluntary relinquishment. While CPS worked to find him a foster family, we worked with CPS to make sure they knew Max's behaviors, things that worked, and what we thought might be the best placement based on his needs.

The first foster home failed to be a good fit. We received a call from CPS on a Friday letting us know the foster family couldn't keep him any longer due to his high needs. They asked us to take him for the weekend. We were committed to making him successful as he had already faced enough rejection from his mom. Staff decorated a cubby for him so he knew we were

expecting him and looking forward to his visit. We brought in staff we knew could help him best and we limited the number of children we cared for that weekend. In the end, he headed off to a new foster home after a great weekend here. Unfortunately, this pattern was repeated three more times to young Max. Max visited the Crisis Nursery between each new set of foster parents.

Each time he came to stay at the Nursery, staff worked hard to create an environment Max knew to be a place where he was safe and always wanted, no matter what the circumstances. After the third foster home placement, Max found his forever home and hasn't returned to VBCN.

Every year we care for more than 4,000 children. While not all are like Max, we are finding more children in our care have needs that require special attention. Regardless of the circumstances we make it our priority to ensure these children know the Nursery will be a safe place where they are always welcome.



Message from our Executive Director



Amy Knapton, MSW

When the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery first opened its doors in 1987, we had 6-months of operating cash in the bank. Can you imagine how scary that must have been to make the decision to open with no certainty we would survive financially? That has been our reality for many years. Operating at a deficit three quarters of the year before the funding income would catch up with the expenses was normal.

Three years ago, our Board of Trustees set out to create a plan to ensure the long term sustainability of the Nursery. The goal was to have one year's operating expenses in a reserve account and begin to self-fund our endowment.

This goal is now a reality because of several estate gifts we've recently received. We do not budget for estate gifts, however, when we discover we are named in someone's will, that money is earmarked to offset any shortfalls in income and fund our operating reserve. Any remaining funds are put into our endowment to build interest.

We are still determining what our future will look like. Growth needs to happen, so we are working diligently to prepare for the costs associated with caring for even more children.

In the meantime, we strive to remain good stewards of the investment you are making in our children today. During our first year of service the cost per child was \$350. Twenty-six years later, in 2013, that cost was approximately \$330 per child! To have kept this same cost per child for 26 years shows just how much we value and protect every investment you make.

Thanks to you, our stakeholders, for your continued trust and investment in the work that is happening at the Nursery. It is hard to talk about a dollar amount when our impact is so much bigger. How do you put a price on providing children with a loving, nurturing experience? Or analyze the cost of a family that feels supported and knows where to turn for help?

Your partnership is allowing this impact to happen every minute of every single day. We simply cannot thank you enough!

2013 Financial Report

Contributions (Individual & Business)	\$968,677
Events & Programs, net of direct costs	\$505,535
Direct Public Appeals	\$238,139
Grants	\$142,495
In-Kind Contributions	\$75,977
Interest & Miscellaneous Income	\$13,692

TOTAL INCOME **\$1,944,515**

Program Services	\$1,102,980
Development	\$212,771
Management & General	\$166,699

TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES: **\$1,482,450**

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS: **\$462,065**

Agency Expenditures

Program Services 75%

Development 14%

Management & General 11%

2013 Board of Trustees

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