

CHRISTIAN CARE CENTER

Children's Shelter

Mission Statement:

Meeting needs and sharing Christ with children who have no other place to call home.

Purpose

The Children's Shelter is a children's shelter licensed through the Florida Department of Children and Families. The shelter provides a safe and stable environment in which children feel nurtured and loved while they are separated from their families.

Program Details

Children between the ages of six and 13 are placed in the shelter by the Florida Department of Children and Families after being removed from the custody of the current caretakers, frequently with just the clothes on their back. They are often bruised, battered, bewildered, and bitter about what has happened to them. Many come from horrendous situations and have ingrained behavior patterns that reflect what they have grown to understand as normal.

The staff sees to their immediate needs, arranges for medical and dental care, registers them at the local public school and helps them assimilate into the shelter's daily routine. The children attend the programs and functions of First Baptist Church for their age groups and participate in outside activities and community events. Every attempt is made to provide a normal, healthy family atmosphere during their stay. When they leave the shelter, many are reunited with their parents or are released to the care of a relative, while others go to a foster home or are adopted.



Facilities

The Children's Shelter has two bedrooms on each of the two halls that can sleep up to four children in each room. In the middle is a room that is used for video games and other playtime activities. Each child has a bunk bed, a dresser and a closet for their clothing and personal items. The facility currently serves up to 12 children at a time.

The front of the house contains the kitchen where our staff prepares meals, a dining room, laundry facility and family room where the children hang out and watch television or play games after their homework is completed.

Staff

The Children's Shelter consists of three positions:

- The Supervisor oversees all operations of the Children's Shelter, its programs, facilities, staff and residents.
- The case manager provides for the advocacy and development of children through the case management of each child's specific plan
- The child care staff work in eight hour shifts to care for the children's needs and foster relationships

The staff is supported by a dedicated team of volunteers who serve in many capacities, from office support to special activities with the kids and light maintenance.



History

The Children's Shelter was established in 1985 as an emergency shelter for abused, neglected and abandoned children. It was originally licensed for only five children, but currently serves up to 12 children at a time. The program has shifted over the years to accommodate children for longer periods of time with a staff trained to help those with elevated behavioral issues. The shelter can also house larger sibling groups, allowing them to stay together and feel more at ease in difficult times. In 2016, The Christian Care Center formed a partnership with Florida Baptist Children's Homes and combined resources to form the foremost Children's Shelter in Lake County.

Partnering Opportunities

Partnership opportunities include:

- Tutor after school
- Light housekeeping and maintenance
- Build relationships with Pizza/Game night
- Organize onsite or offsite outdoor activities
- Mentor children
- Office support
- Partner financially to sponsor a boy or girl, update furnishings in a child's room or provide respite care for a foster family



Jamie Scher

Children's Shelter Supervisor

Jamie is the director of our Children's Shelter. He and his wife are also former residents of our other ministries. Jamie answered the call of God to minister to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of children in 2012 when he began working at the shelter as a direct care worker. Since he has been ordained as a minister, served as a youth pastor, received his Bachelor's degree in biblical studies and now serves as our director. Jamie's desire for the shelter is to provide security, love, and a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ to the broken hearted placed in our care.