

## What can you do to help?

With all the negative influences vying for the attention of young people today, and the severity of government budget cuts occurring throughout the State, your generosity is more meaningful than ever. With your support we can continue to help these young people overcome their troubled pasts, rebuild their lives and become successful adults, loving parents and productive citizens.

I would like more information about the following:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential Programs   | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aftercare-Emancipation | <input type="checkbox"/> Planned Giving                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crittenton High School | <input type="checkbox"/> Joining a membership support group. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Programs      |  |

I would like to make a donation:

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other    |

Name

Address

Phone

Method of Payment

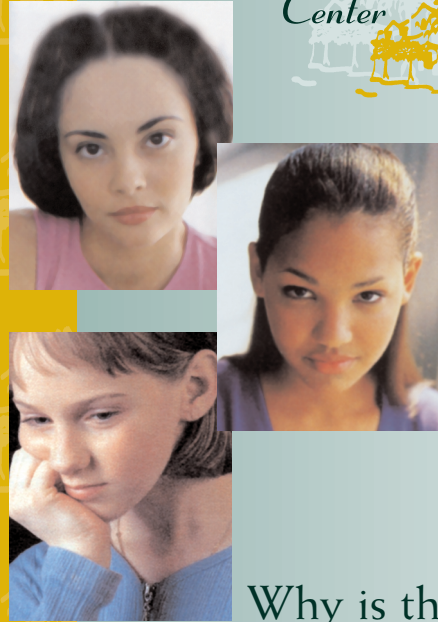
- |                                     |   |                               |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Check      | <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Me          | <input type="checkbox"/> Visa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard | <input type="checkbox"/> American Express |                               |

Credit Card #

Exp date

Signature

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Why is the  
*Florence Crittenton Center*  
so important  
to the children  
and youth of  
our community?



## Because . . .

- In 2002, there were more than 160,000 reports of child abuse in Los Angeles County, almost 450 reports a day.
- This year alone, one out of every ten births in Los Angeles County (more than 15,000) will be to a teen mother with only 300 available beds to serve this population.
- Fewer than one-third of teen mothers ever finish high school, which leaves them completely unprepared for the job market and more likely to raise their children in poverty.
- More than 1,000 teens emancipate from the foster care system in Los Angeles County every year, and more than 50 percent of these newly emancipated teens will find themselves homeless within six months.

The emotional and educational problems faced by these teens, teen mothers and young children are vast, and the level of assessment, treatment and remedial education they require is immense. Consequently, it is the overarching goal of the staff and programs at the Florence Crittenton Center to end the vicious cycle of poverty, abuse and neglect among our community's most fragile families by providing therapeutic and supportive care to these at-risk young people, and helping them to become loving parents and productive members of the community.

## Crittenton's Mission

For more than 100 years the Florence Crittenton Center has responded successfully to the changing needs of abused and neglected children by enabling them to overcome their troubled pasts and preparing them for life as successful adults, loving parents and productive citizens. The Center accomplishes this mission by providing innovative residential care, foster family and child development services, therapeutic treatments, prevention strategies, educational opportunities and independent living skills for young women and men, with a special emphasis on the needs of teenage mothers and their infants.



This year the Center will serve more than 350 young women and men, teen mothers and their infants, along with at least 500 of their extended family members.

# Programs & Services

## Residential Programs

The Residential Care Program at Florence Crittenton is the Center's oldest program, and furnishes therapeutic treatment and educational opportunities for 41 young women, half of whom are mothers of small children. The Center's residents range in age from 12 to 18, and their children are newborns through to three years of age.

Because all of the teens referred to the Center are wards of the juvenile court and come from highly dysfunctional families with severe emotional and mental health problems, histories of physical and sexual abuse, increased levels of substance abuse and obstructed academic achievement, counselors and teachers work together to create a supportive, nurturing environment for emotional and educational growth.

Each day is highly structured with classroom instruction, vocational training, therapy sessions and enrichment activities such as art, dance and cooking. Parent education also plays an important role in the lives of these teen mothers, who must learn to balance academic work and personal growth with parental responsibilities. An on-site child development center staffed by child care professionals works with these young mothers to instill in them the skills they need to become effective and loving parents. Program staff (many of whom have been with Crittenton for more than 20 years) combine well baby care and child development classes with intensive individual and group therapy to ensure that all aspects of appropriate parenting are covered adequately. Instruction is individualized based on the needs of both mother and child, and parenting support is provided 24 hours a day.

## Crittenton High School

Academic accomplishment is closely tied to social learning, and teens at the Center are expected to make up lost years of school as they acquire intellectual and vocational life skills. The Center's on-site high school, Crittenton High School, is operated in cooperation with the Los Angeles Unified School District and provides individually tailored educational programs for each student. During the past three years Crittenton High School's graduating classes have exceeded the Center's expectations by progressively graduating record numbers of students, many of whom have gone on to college. In fact, with less than one percent of the non-public high school students within the LAUSD, we have had five percent of the graduates.



## WorkAbility

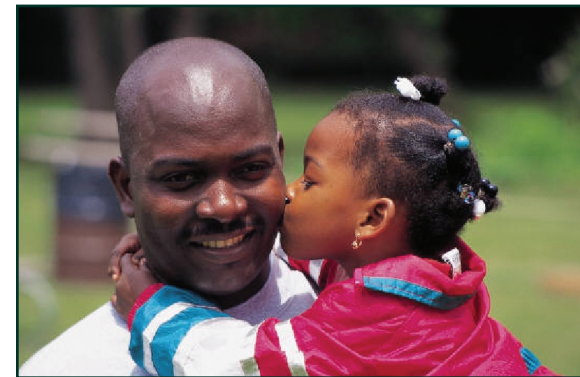
Shortly after admission to the Center, every new resident is enrolled in our WorkAbility program to introduce them to the essentials of adult working life. Residents are individually evaluated to determine their skill level, and an educational plan is developed that offers these teens the learning experiences they need to become independent adults. Learning covers topics such as: communication and anger management, personal hygiene and clothing care, how to access community resources, time management and fundamental goal-setting.

The program then focuses on vocational training and career planning, and incorporates one-on-one counseling, hands-on vocational exercises and a personality analysis to help each participant understand her strengths, innate talents and interests. This phase includes subsidized work experience, career exploration and job seeking and keeping skills.



## Aftercare-Emancipation

Crittenton's Aftercare-Emancipation Program plays an essential role in helping young people to successfully transition from the foster care system into lives as productive citizens. Each year the Center's Aftercare Program provides 25 young people with critically needed support in the form of: counseling; referrals and assistance with acquiring housing, child care and other community resources; and education in independent living skills, job skills, pregnancy prevention and parenting. Crittenton's Aftercare-Emancipation Program is an extremely effective program. A three-year outcome study



revealed Crittenton's Aftercare-Emancipation Program had at least a 95% success rate among the at-risk young people participating in the program.

## Crittenton Foster Family Agency

The Center also has its own Foster Family Agency (FFA) that is licensed by the State to recruit, certify and monitor foster families with appropriate resources to sustain and nurture a child who has been removed from their natural home because of abuse or neglect. The FFA screens and provides 30 hours of intensive training to certify and suitably prepare a family to help a traumatized child or teen recover from their past abusive experiences. Children placed with an FFA family are visited at least once a week by an FFA caseworker (as opposed to once a month in State licensed homes), to ensure that both the foster child and the caretaker family receive the resources they need to thrive and grow together as a family.

Moreover, these families are furnished with ongoing training and support through three-hour workshops (conducted five times a year) and/or the "Life Changers" Teen Mentoring Program that provides a safe environment for open dialogue enabling both parents and teens to find successful solutions for important home and school issues and challenges.

