Greetings,

At Crittenton Centers, we have three core beliefs that help guide us in fulfilling our mission of protecting and nurturing children and families for over 127 years. We have an amazing history of helping thousands of children and families meet their full potential.

We know parents want their children to reach their full potential. We also know parenting can be challenging, and everyone needs help at times. So, for that reason, we believe children come first. Children prepared for their future are an asset to the community.

We work with children and their families in our Child Development Center to build a strong foundation including literacy, numeracy, and social/emotional development. Furthermore, we offer 24-hour care for children, along with support to their families through Crisis Nursery. We want to protect and nurture children and families in order to help them reach their full potential.

We believe strong families build strong communities. We know strong families contribute to the overall well-being of the community. We want families to be healthy and prepared in a manner that sustains the family for the future which then allows them to contribute to the community in a way that sustains the community. Our work with parents is significant to building and developing their parenting and life skills as they strive to be successful. The Parent Educators in our Crisis Nursery and Family Services programs play a critical role in building strong families.

We believe community partnerships are vital to meet the needs of families. Every year I am humbled by the support of the community in our efforts to help others reach their full potential. These community partnerships allow us to stretch our resources in a manner that provides the support needed to fulfill our mission. I am grateful for those that partner with us to build the well-being of others, including the overall well-being of the community.

I know we can’t do what we do in building the overall well-being of those in our care without the support of others. I am thankful for the many donors, volunteers, and others that provide support with their treasure, time, and talents. I am appreciative for a Board that does an excellent job in their role of governance, and in engaging others to support the critical work taking place every day. I am proud of the staff that demonstrates commitment and compassion daily as they tirelessly help children reach their full potential.

I hope you enjoy reading about all of the great life changing stories unfolding at Crittenton Centers. I am looking forward to your continued partnership in helping others reach their full potential. For those of you that are not as familiar with Crittenton Centers, I would encourage you to visit www.crittentoncenters.org or call us at 674-0105 to set up a tour to learn more about how our three core beliefs help us fulfill our mission.

With a heart of gratitude,

Jeff Gress
6th Annual “Kids First” Award Presented to G & D Integrated

The Dr. Cindy Fischer Kids First Award of Excellence is an annual award designed to recognize an individual or organization that has significantly impacted Crittenton Centers. The recipient exemplifies Crittenton Centers’ values and commitment to protecting and nurturing children and families in the same way the awards’ namesake, Dr. Cindy Fischer, former President & CEO of Crittenton Centers, did.

The 2019 award recipient was G & D Integrated, represented by Joe and Janet O’Neill. G & D Integrated has consistently supported our mission with their time, talents, and treasures for nearly 10 years. In 2018, G & D Integrated adopted Crittenton Centers by hosting several employee-led fundraisers including cookbook sales, a weight loss competition, direct donations, and volunteering their time. G & D Integrated may have formally adopted Crittenton Centers in 2018, but they have been providing us with great leadership on our Board of Directors for years. Joe O’Neill currently serves on the Finance Committee and led the effort to enact policies to secure the integrity and growth of our endowment for years to come. Janet O’Neill started her service nearly 10 years ago by serving a full two terms on the Board of Directors. Janet served on the Fundraising and Marketing committee, chaired several events, personally trained our staff on proper infant massage techniques, and started the O’Neill Wine Tasting in 2014. The O’Neill Wine Tasting, sponsored by G & D Integrated, advocates the importance of Crittenton Centers’ belief that strong families build strong communities. When you combine the support from G & D Integrated hosting the O’Neill Wine Events (2014, 2016, 2018), sponsoring events, and adopting our agency, Crittenton Centers has been blessed with over $250,000 in contributions as a result of the advocacy done by G&D Integrated. We know the friendships developed, the supporters engaged, and the policies enacted regarding our endowment would not be as far along without the visionary leadership of Joe, Janet, and G & D Integrated. Thank you, Joe, Janet, and all of the employees at G & D Integrated!!

Song by Dr. Joe Couri

Crittenton Centers has a theme song! Thanks to the talented songwriting skills of Dr. Joe Couri, we now have a song that captures the essence of our mission to protect and nurture children and families. To hear the song for yourself, scroll to the bottom of the front page of our website: www.crittentoncenters.org.
Mother finds support from CRISIS NURSERY to recover!

*Names have been changed to ensure client confidentiality.

Laura suffered a significant injury limiting her ability to care for her 9-month-old son, Blake, for several weeks. Although she had support from family members, they worked outside the home and had exhausted their available leave time. Laura was doing her best to care for Blake within her physical limitations, but his care was becoming more difficult. He was no longer content to be in a playpen or swing. There was concern that Laura would aggravate her injury while caring for her son, which would make her recovery time much longer. Over the course of 2 months, Crisis Nursery was able to provide intermittent care for Blake when his family needed it. This allowed family members to maintain their employment and for Laura to properly rest to heal her injury. It was a day of mixed emotions in the Nursery when Laura was able to resume caring for Blake. Staff members enjoyed watching him become comfortable in their care, develop and grow. His personality was so fun to see! Laura is back at work and has consistent childcare for Blake. She expressed appreciation for the nurturing care provided to her son, and staff that consistently checked in to ensure she was connected to community resources. She knows the ending of this story could have been much different for her family without the support of our Crisis Nursery.

Crisis Nursery Program Highlight

Crisis Nursery received a grant from Rotary Club of Peoria to introduce Sing and Sign Story Time. Twice a month, staff from Communication Junction comes to the Nursery to share stories, songs, and activities involving sign language with our children and staff. We are working to incorporate the signs learned during these sessions into our daily routines at the Nursery. Using sign language with the children in the Nursery gives them a new communication tool when verbal communication is not yet developed or is challenging. Children can use signs to express their needs, reduce frustration, and develop a stronger relationship with their parents and other caregivers.

Sponsor Crisis Nursery Care

You can sponsor a full day of crisis care in our Crisis Nursery for $1,800. We would love the opportunity to recognize your birthday, anniversary, your organization, or someone special in your life that cared for children as a sponsor of a day of care in the Crisis Nursery! You can return the attached envelope, call or email Sandy Garza, Development & Marketing Director, at 309-674-0105x202 or sandyg@crittentoncenters.org to work out the details.

Crittenton Centers’ Crisis Nursery offers emergency childcare and basic need supplies such as formula, diapers, and wipes to families in crisis 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our goal is to prevent a parental crisis from becoming a child’s crisis. Families that utilize Crisis Nursery are offered support by a Parent Educator to help families move out of the crisis.
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Only “Gold Circle of Quality” Daycare/Preschool in the 61605 Zip Code!

Crittenton Centers’ Child Development Center (CDC) offers high-quality early education services and full-time daycare in a family-focused environment. To ensure the highest quality services are delivered, the CDC maintains accreditation from the Council on Accreditation and has been deemed by the Excellerate® Illinois Program to be a “GOLD Circle of Quality” Child Care Center. In order to be deemed “Gold” the CDC had to meet several qualifications including: learning environment, curriculum, instructional quality, child screening, child assessment, inclusion of children with special needs, family and community engagement, transitions, program administration, child ratios, continuous quality improvement, linguistically and culturally appropriate practices, director qualifications, staff qualifications, and staff development training. What does that mean for the children served in our Child Development Center? Parents know their children are being cared for and being educated by highly qualified staff in each classroom with the tools needed to help their children reach their full potential. Continued service enhancements offered in CDC include sign and sing lessons, ongoing developmental assessments and screenings, individualized lesson plans, a parent advisory board, a lending library, parent resources, a community garden, and a walking trail!

Would you like to help the Crisis Nursery, Child Development Center, or Family Services programs? Besides monetary donations, we accept in-kind donations during regular business hours Monday – Friday, 8 am – 4:30 pm. If you are unable to come into the office we have a Walmart.com and Amazon.com baby registries that will deliver the items to our doors.

Current Needs (new items only, please)
- Formula (Powder, 16.5 oz cans)
- Diapers (Size 4, 5, 6)
- Wipes
- New Clothing (boys & girls) sizes 12 months and up
- More listed on our registries

Preschool Graduation

Crittenton Centers’ Child Development Center (CDC) is proud to announce fifteen wonderful children graduated from Pre-K on Friday, May 31, 2019. Our Preschool For All Teacher, Miss Tao, and all of our Pre-K teachers, Ms. Toya, Ms. Jalesha, Ms. Camillia, and Ms. Jada, diligently prepared each child for kindergarten. Each graduate exhibits the appropriate school readiness skills, including literacy, math, and social/emotional skills needed to excel in kindergarten. Each child received a new backpack full of school supplies, a special candy award highlighting a unique strength of their character, and a story all about them. Over 70 proud family members and friends attended to celebrate the child’s achievement. We always encourage families to come back, visit us, and update us on their child’s kindergarten experience. Good luck to all these children and their families, and congratulations to the Class of 2019!
Family Services’ Milestones Home Visiting Program Celebrates Graduation!

Alissa was referred to the Milestones program by Crittenton Centers’ Becoming a Mom class she had attended in 2016. She was a stepmother of 3 older children and expecting her first baby. As a stay at home mom, Alissa wanted to learn everything she could about being a mother. Alissa and family welcomed a baby girl, Aurora, in November 2016. Alissa began the Milestones program prenatally with weekly home visits from her Parent Educator and will graduate at the end of three years in November.

Over the years, her Parent Educator brought handouts for her to keep. These handouts can range on topics from “What Development Looks Like” to “Discipline and Behavioral Issues” to “Attachment” and so much more. Parent Educators give parents a journal to store these resources. Parents can refer back to the journal as a resource and it is a great way to keep organized. Over the years, Alissa has used this journal and kept every single handout!

When asked what goals were accomplished along the way, Alissa said she was most proud of her ability to breastfeed. Her second accomplishment was making reading a part of their daily lives. Due to the over 100 books Aurora has received in her home over the last 2½ years of the Milestones program, she has accomplished this goal as well!

Alissa set personal goals to accomplish as well. The first one was finding work to help support her family. Alissa found a job that fit the family’s needs, working in the evenings so she could be home during the day with her children and their father could be home with the children in the evenings. With renewed confidence, Alissa is registered for college. She will start attending Bradley University in the Fall of 2019.

Alissa and Aurora will graduate the Milestones program in November 2019. Aurora will attend preschool when she turns 3. Congratulations Alissa and Aurora!

Family Advocacy Center Changing Lives One Family at a Time!

The Family Advocacy Center supports family reunification and the prevention of foster care placement by promoting safety, permanency and the well-being of children. This aligns with the Crittenton Centers’ mission of protecting and nurturing children and families. Learn about one family served below:

During a support group meeting, one of the attendees requested to work with the Family Advocacy Center. The mother’s son had been placed in care after a hotline call was made due to an altercation with her partner involving methamphetamines. She was battling severe depression as well as struggling to maintain her sobriety and felt an Advocate could assist her in negotiating what was to her, a confusing court system, as well as assist her in completing services necessary for her son to return home.

Over the next few months, the mother worked closely with the Family Advocacy Center and not only completed court-ordered services, but actively participated in a plan of action that resulted in her son being returned to her care at a date earlier than was anticipated. She is currently enrolling in college courses, has remained drug-free, and intends to share her story with other parents with children in care at the support group. We are very proud of her success and hope to help so many more families.

You can find the location for all of Family Services’ Programs (Family Advocacy Center, Milestones, and Stepping Stones) at 2016 N. Knoxville Ave. Peoria, IL 61603.
Volunteer Spotlight

Kristin McHugh-Johnston has been volunteering over 500 hours each year for Crittenton Centers through her support of Festival of Trees as the Design chair for the last 6 years. Starting the day after Thanksgiving, she is shopping sales for items in three states, storing, organizing, planning, creating visual experiences, sponsoring, coordinating schedules to decorate, hard wiring ornaments, fluffing, and presenting stunning Festival of Trees pieces! All of this to develop silent auction pieces that garner support for children and families. We are blessed by her passion, dedication, design, perseverance, and inspiring energy.

Linda Pieper was introduced to Crittenton Centers’ services when a family member used our services. She was moved by the mission and wanted to volunteer. Being the excel guru; she kindly volunteered to help the development team with data management. Upon her arrival each Wednesday she is prepared to take on data entry, data management, and donor database clean up, and all other tasks we could ever offer her. Her work ethic and happy disposition make us look forward to each visit.

Sandy Reed became a volunteer in 2015 after one conversation with a Board Member named, Tina Vandermyde, moved her to our mission. As Sandy approached retirement from Caterpillar, she wanted to have a different kind of retirement party – by giving time. She and her team spent the morning setting up the Stocking Stuffer Store at Grand Prairie in November 2015. Sandy is willing to do anything we need. She picks up litter weekly, helps with set up and clean-up of Festival of Trees, completes 5K races, and helps with administrative duties. Sandy has an amazing attention to detail, determination to find a solution, and brings a great sense of humor to our office each week.

Hands and Feet from the Apostolic Christian Church youth group in Princeville volunteer to take care of the grounds at Crittenton Centers. Thank you for being our hands and feet!

In-Kind Donation Spotlight

Ian McLauchlan at 14 years of age decided to make a difference for children in our community by hosting his own “Fill the Crib” campaign in partnership with Thrivent Financial, Bethel Lutheran School, Advent Lutheran Church, and University Pediatrics donating 1,512 diapers, 62 packs of wipes, 106 cans of formula, 240 servings of toddler food, and $50 value of other needed supplies.

American Sewing Guild – Each year provides the Crisis Nursery and Child Development Center with handmade cot sheets (40+), bibs (70+), and burp cloths (40+).

Another Successful “Fill The Crib”!

In partnership with we hosted a month-long community baby shower for the Crisis Nursery called, Fill the Crib.

The 2019 campaign was beyond successful thanks to our partner locations: Advanced Medical Transport, Bushbaby, Communication Junction, Great Clips (20+ locations), Hy-Vee, Just Kidz Dentistry, Peoria Civic Center, RLI, WEEK News 25 and our community! Last year, Crisis Nursery had 4,800 admissions. That number does not include the number of parents who come to us because they need diapers, formula, and supplies for their children. Crisis Nursery provides over 60,000 diapers, 2,000 cans of formula, 2,600 packs of wipes, and thousands of dollars’ worth of other baby items to families in crisis because of donations from all of YOU in our community.

We received 31,575 diapers, 476 cans of formula, 2,838 packs of wipes, and other supplies such as bottles, clothing, and so much more. Each item Crittenton Centers is able to provide to a parent in need allows us to begin a relationship that can lead to them feeling comfortable enough to ask for help beyond basic need items where our support can change the trajectory of a life.
The Rotary Club of Peoria – provides funds via the Hunger Grant of $1,000 towards formula to be distributed by Crisis Nursery and $900 for the sign and sing classes in the Crisis Nursery.

The Granger Foundation provided funds for 10 months of dinners in Crisis Nursery.

First Federated Church continues to fund two months of dinners in Crisis Nursery. With no funding available to provide dinners to children during their time in Crisis Nursery, this funding provides over 150 meals a month.

Women’s Fund – provides a grant to fund parent support groups and parent-child interactions groups in Crisis Nursery.

South-West Kiwanis provided funding for 101 cans of formula that were distributed through Crisis Nursery. The need for formula is great in the community. With the assistance of this grant and others, we are able to distribute formula to families with no other means to provide formula for their infants.

The Community Foundation of Central Illinois is providing a weekly activity for children enrolled in the Child Development Center. This activity accompanies a book provided by Heart of Illinois United Way Success by 6 and Books for Kids. They focus on literacy, math and social-emotional development skills to ensure parents are engaged in their child’s development, and children are ready to learn when they enter kindergarten.

The Circle of Hands Giving Society Reception was hosted by Honorary Board Member, Christine Bonati Bollwinkle, at Mt. Hawley Country Club on April 25th. Our Circle of Hands Giving Society recognizes the exemplary generosity of individuals, organizations, corporations, and foundations whose support enables Crittenton Centers to meet its strategic goals; while enhancing programs and services. Eligible gifts of $1,000 or more received during Crittenton Centers’ fiscal year – July 1 to June 30 – are considered for the Society. As of this May, we are thrilled to recognize over 120 members in FY19.

Levels of Giving include:
- $1,000-$4,999 Helping Hands
- $5,000-$9,999 Hands of Hope
- $10,000-$24,999 Caring Hands
- $25,000-$49,999 Hands of Wisdom
- $50,000+ Loving Hands

Salem Lutheran Church “Salem Council” in addition to providing hands and feet to support our community garden, has now provided a grant to purchase a new stove in our kitchen to improve the quality and diversity of meals served to children both in the Crisis Nursery and Child Development Center!

Our 1st Annual Baby Brunch was a baby shower for Crittenton Centers. Guests enjoyed the plated lunches, signature MOMosas, baby shower games, mission moment, balloon pop revel of “Fill the Crib” donations, centerpieces donated by Washington Greenhouse, and Bremer Jewelry raffle! So much fun was packed into the Friday afternoon luncheon at Mt. Hawley Country Club on April 26th, chaired by Board Member, Ashley Spain. Thank you to our sponsors AMT, Great Clips, Rep. Ryan and Mrs. Ashley Spain, and all guests who came with donations in hand or sent in afterward. You are all invited back next year!
SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING EVENTS

The 11th Annual
First Federated Church’s Life Together Center
November 21-24, 2019

The 36th Annual
The Northwoods Mall & The Shoppes at Grand Prairie
December 12-22, 2019

13th Annual Kids’ Day presented by RLI

What:
Crittenton Centers’ 13th Annual Kids Day, Kids’ Dash presented by RLI

When:
Saturday, July 27th, 9am – 1pm

Where:
The Levee District, East Peoria

Highlights:
Dash participants get free inflatables all day!

If you would like a booth, to sponsor, or more information please contact Abby Colvin, Special Events Coordinator, at 674-0105 x 217 or abbyc@crittentoncenters.org.

REGISTER NOW @ www.Crittentoncenters.org

Kids’ 100 Meter Dash 9:00am

After the 100M Kids’ Dash enjoy family-friendly activities including live stage entertainment, water fun, safety vehicles, inflatables, face painting, informational booths, kid-friendly games and much more! This year we even have Mini Golf presented by EY! All proceeds from this event will benefit our programs. Since 2007, Kids’ Day, with the help of our community, we have raised more than $327,000 to aid in our efforts of preventing child abuse and neglect.

THANK YOU SPONSORS: