

Breaking the cycle of abuse and neglect

Childhaven is the only nonprofit organization in King County dedicated to the mission of healing young and vulnerable victims of abuse while breaking the cycle that leads to more hurt, more trauma.

For many of our children, we are the one constant in a young life marked by unpredictability and turmoil.

For many of our families, we are their first real chance to stay together.

They come to us from lives marked by abuse and neglect.

They leave with enduring relationships and hope for the future.

“Your care, guidance and parental support have given my daughter a better, happier mom and a dad who is more accountable to his sobriety. You’ve been a key factor in our daughter’s development into a healthy, happy, bright little girl. We thank you for all you’re doing in our lives.” – Childhaven parent

Healing. Hugs. Hope. For 100 Years.

Our mission: To prevent and stop the cycle of abuse and neglect through scientifically-supported programs that protect and treat children ages one month through five years, and their families.

Our impact: Yesterday, today and tomorrow, our community has come to rely on Childhaven as a recognized leader in therapeutic child care for the youngest victims of abuse and neglect. By focusing on research-based methods of attentive care, developmental therapy and parenting education, Childhaven’s approach is proven to forever change lives. By investing in Childhaven today, our community helps to ensure the unlimited potential of children who will go on to become nurturing, loving parents themselves.

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A United Way agency.

Childhaven is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

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Healing. Hugs. Hope. For 100 Years.



A century of caring for children

Since 1909, Childhaven has been a safe and caring place for babies, toddlers and preschoolers.

Today, we heal old hurts and nurture young lives through innovative, proven approaches to child development delivered in a therapeutic day care environment. We also help parents, giving them the skills and support they need to better care for their children and create loving, lasting family bonds.

Our legacy goes back 100 years to Seattle Day Nursery. We operated for nearly 70 years as a traditional child care center before our leadership recognized a grave need: the lack of services for very young victims of abuse and neglect.

In 1977, two years before the state of Washington mandated the reporting of child abuse, we created the nation’s first therapeutically-based child care program.

Each year, we help more than 500 young children and their families build stronger foundations—for themselves and for generations to come.

A safe haven for children, a healing place for families

Childhaven not only heals families already shattered by abuse and neglect, we also work to prevent it from ever occurring again. We intervene during the most critical period of brain development for children one month through 5 years of age, who receive the therapy, social interaction and emotional support they need to grow up happy and healthy. Parents and caregivers also get the encouragement and support they need to become the families they want to be. Here's how:

- * Therapeutic Child Care—Children referred to us by child welfare authorities receive developmentally-focused care and treatment in an enriched learning environment with very low child-to-staff ratios.
- * Drug-Affected Infant Program—Children affected by their parents' substance abuse (including in utero) receive care and treatment while their parents are enrolled in an outpatient chemical dependency treatment program.
- * Crisis Nursery—Temporary, home-based child care for parents who need a brief respite from life's crises and major stresses.
- * Wrap-around services—Health screenings, two balanced meals a day, door-to-door transportation to and from our branches, monthly home visits and daily home monitoring.
- * Parent education—Through individual and group support and a new program that uses videotaping and feedback, parents gain skills and confidence to better care for and nurture their children.
- * Committed, professional staff—Case managers who are licensed mental health counselors and social workers, therapeutic child care teachers, home visitors, pediatric nurses, and developmental therapists.
- * Multiple locations throughout Seattle and King County —Broadway Branch (Central Seattle), Eli Creekmore Memorial Branch (Burien area), Lake City Branch (North Seattle) and Patrick L. Gogerty Branch (Auburn).

A research-based, proven-effective approach

Research shows that without treatment, abused and neglected children are more likely to commit crimes... and to repeat the cycle of abuse and neglect. Early intervention is the key.

We are a recognized leader in therapeutic child care, which uses research-based methods and individualized attention to help children heal, form healthy relationships and learn to trust again.

A longitudinal study to examine the effectiveness of Childhaven's therapeutic child care revealed dramatic differences between those who participated in our program and a control group. The children were studied during their therapy and 12 years later as teenagers. The results, published in the February 1998 issue of *Child Maltreatment*, show that the Childhaven children were:

- * Six times less likely to have committed a violent juvenile crime
- * Better adjusted in school and less of a disruption for teachers
- * Two and half times less likely to abuse drugs

And, the Childhaven families received half as much money in welfare cash grants, medical coupons and food stamps than the comparison group.

The bottom line: An investment in healing a child today can save lives—and taxpayer dollars—tomorrow. According to the national nonprofit Prevent Child Abuse America, for every \$1 spent on preventing and breaking the cycle of abuse, more than \$320 is spent to deal with the after-effects of child abuse and neglect: criminal justice, health care, social services, foster care and more.

How you can get involved

- * **Donate** to Childhaven through our multi-year giving program, cash gifts, planned giving, stocks, memorial gifts and honorariums. You can also donate needed items to our branches.
- * **Volunteer** in the classroom or through many of our special projects and events. **Participate** through your workplace, guild or place of worship.



“I am so, so, so grateful for this opportunity for my child to participate in such a positive and safe environment. My mind and heart are always at peace with her care here.”

– Childhaven parent



“I absolutely love having my son at Childhaven. I know he is getting the best care possible. I know that at Childhaven he has the best opportunity to transcend any ill effects my drug use during pregnancy might have had on his developing brain. I am so grateful.” – Childhaven parent



“Thank you for helping us prevent many future parenting challenges and griefs with this excellent early childhood support. Our only desire would be that all families in need could receive Childhaven or other quality child care.” – Childhaven parent