The National Center on Family Homelessness reports that each year 1.6 million children - 4,400 daily - are homeless in the US. Homeless children suffer from hunger, poor health, mental health issues, and barriers to education including limited proficiency in core subjects.

Homeless children have three times the rate of emotional and are four times more likely to have developmental delays. By age 12 the vast majority (83%) of homeless children has been exposed to serious violence and is sick four times more than other children. **More than 60% of clients served at Sheffield Place last year were children – most under five years old.** In 2011, 64 children – 39 under 3 years old - called Sheffield Place home.

Sheffield Place is focusing on expanding and enhancing children’s services in 2012. The goal is to provide services to help our youngest clients be successful and healthy. Sheffield Place provides children’s therapy, support and family therapy. Therapy strategies include Parent Child Interaction Therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy for Children, Ages & Stages, and other best practice interventions.

In addition to mental and physical health, physical and intellectual development, and education, children’s programming also includes drug abuse prevention.

Children’s services are necessary for the children to be successful now. Children’s services also are critically important to break the cycles of homelessness, domestic violence, untreated mental illness, and addiction.

John F. Kennedy said it best, “Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its hope for the best future”. Our children are not only the best hope for their family but also our community.
Kelly’s Comments—Kelly Welch, Executive Director

2011 – A Year of Growth and Progress

I was struck by the letter that one of the mothers – let’s call her Cora – sent to the organization that adopted her family for the holidays:

I have been clean and sober for almost 7 years. Before that, I was homeless and addicted to crack for 13 years. I lost three children to the State. My mom and dad were both alcoholics. I went into the (foster care) system at age 11 and stayed there until I turned 18. I have made many poor choices. When I found out I was pregnant with my son, I turned my life around. I lived at Sheffield Place for nearly 2 years. Sheffield Place taught me how to live my life. I’ve been in my own apartment for almost 2 years. I have a part-time job and am trying to obtain a GED. I am involved in the alumni group at Sheffield Place. Thank you so much.”

Cora clearly experienced a new beginning. Her success in overcoming addiction, gaining employment, bringing up her child, and improving her education inspires the other mothers. Her example of a new beginning also encourages volunteers and members of the staff in their daily work.

As an agency, Sheffield Place also experienced a new beginning in 2011 by substantially expanding the number of people we serve and the depth and breadth of the services we offer while significantly decreasing expenses. For example:

- The number of homeless mothers and children we served in 2011 (45 families) was more than twice the 20 families the agency served in 2010.
- The hours of service (individual therapy, group therapy, educational groups) the residents are required to receive expanded to 10 hours per week.
- The expanded programming includes work readiness and personal financial management, dialectical behavior therapy, a community garden to teach good nutrition, pet and music therapy, and a mentoring group in which the mothers share and teach their particular skills such as cooking, knitting, or first aid.
- A new outpatient case management program provides continuing support to 20 families that have transitioned to permanent housing and case management for homeless women and their children who need non-residential services including case management and therapy.
- The Missouri Department of Mental Health granted certification.
- In recognition of our work, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Region VII Office recognized Sheffield Place as a best practice in homeless services.

This growth would not have been possible without the support of the community – thank you! Also I want to recognize the Board and staff for their generous contributions, hard work, and support. We look forward to the opportunities and challenges of 2012.
Honor a Special Woman in Your Life for Mother’s Day

How many special women touched your life? Your mother, grandmother, aunt, cousin, teacher, neighbor? Honor these special women through a gift to support the work of Sheffield Place. Your gift will help a homeless mother and her children as they make the difficult journey from despair to hope and from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

Giving is easy. Make a gift by check or credit using the enclosed envelope. Or simply make your gift online at www.sheffieldplace.org. Provide us with the name and address of the honoree and we will inform her of your thoughtfulness.

Salute to Volunteers

Volunteers are essential to the work of Sheffield Place. For that reason, Sheffield Place has expanded the number of volunteer opportunities that are available. We now have Saturday morning volunteer opportunities available as well. Volunteer roles include direct client services, bringing birthday cakes and healthy snacks on Saturdays, tutoring the children and adults, as well as helping with special events and office tasks.

Sheffield Place greatly appreciates the time, talent, and passion that volunteers bring to the agency. In 2011, 232 volunteers provided 2281 hours of service – more than twice the number of volunteer hours in 2010. For a complete list of volunteer roles, please visit www.sheffieldplace.org.

Sometimes volunteer opportunities arise that are not on the list. For example, SmartSpot, a tax preparation firm in Prairie Village, volunteered to prepare taxes for the mothers. This volunteer service saved the families thousands of dollars in tax preparation fees.

If you have ideas about how you or your company could assist the families at Sheffield Place, please let us know.

Key Facts Sheffield Place Residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages of Clients Served</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 5 years of age</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-12</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-19</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-35</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-55</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Client Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Sheffield Place Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, May 7th at beautiful Tiffany Greens Golf Course
8 a.m. registration and full breakfast
9 a.m. shotgun start
1 p.m. Lunch and Awards

$150 per player ($75 tax deductible)
$600 per team ($300 tax deductible)
Sponsorships are available.
Please register online at www.sheffieldplace.org, fax your registration to (816) 483-9927, or mail the enclosed flyer to: Sheffield Place - 6604 East 12th Street, Kansas City, MO 64126

Proceeds empower homeless mothers and their children to heal from their trauma and become self sufficient.