

Denver Children's Home

Organization Info:

Name of Organization: Denver Children's Home

Website: www.denverchildrenshome.org

Address: 1501 Albion Street, Denver, CO 80220

Mission Statement:

The mission of Denver Children's Home is to provide a therapeutic, safe place for emotionally distressed children, adolescents and their families to heal and grow.

Contact Person for Questions:

Holly Kerr, Development Manager. hkerr@denverchildrenshome.org 720.881.3366

Please check the most appropriate issue dealt with by your organization:

☒ Children ☐ Elderly ☐ Hunger/Homelessness ☐ Disaster Relief ☐ Animal Welfare
☐ Health/Wellness ☐ Environment ☐ Human Rights ☐ Families ☐ Soldiers/Supporting Troops

About Your Issue Area:

What is the deeper issue behind your organization?

Denver Children's Home was founded in 1876 as Denver Orphans Home to care for all the kids that were being brought in on the Orphan trains to work in the coal mines and on the railroad and all the kids whose families could not care for them. We became Denver Children's Home in the 1960's after the Foster Care System was implemented. We decided to still care for the neediest of children, which our Board of Directors at that time, decided was abused, neglected, and traumatized children. Many of the kids that are referred to us go through the Child Welfare System and have emotional disturbances. While we treat kids through therapy and intervention to stabilize them and so they can overcome their issues, we also break cycles of generational abuse.

What programs or services does your organization offer?

Here at Denver Children's Home we have three main programs: our Residential Program, Day Treatment Program, and School Only Program. We have kids that live in our facility and get 24 hour care. In our Day Treatment Program these kids live outside our facility, perhaps in foster care or with their family, but come to our facility for school and therapy. Our School Only Program is for those kids who no longer need therapy, but are not ready to transition back into the public school system.

We also have an In-Home Family Therapy Program when entire families will come to our facility and do therapy as a group.

Finally, we have a family resource center called our East Denver Collaborative that serves low income families in the East Denver area with such things like rent assistance, food, clothing, hygiene items, and other basic needs.

Do you have an interesting story about your organization or programs to share with the students?

Denver Children's Home is the oldest nonprofit in the state of Colorado. We have been caring for kids for 134 years. The facility that we are currently in was built in 1901 and has been a safe place for children for the past 109 years. Occasionally we have former Residents of the Home contact us who used to live here in the 20s, 30s, and 40s.

How Can Students Help?

How can students help through specific, tangible cash grants?

- ★ *Your* gift of **\$10** will feed a child for a day
- ★ *Your* gift of **\$20** will cloth a child for a month
- ★ *Your* gift of **\$50** will provide a child with new bedding
- ★ *Your* gift of **\$120** will provide a child with school supplies for a year
- ★ *Your* gift of **\$320** will feed a child at DCH for a month
- ★ *Your* gift of **\$665** will cover the cost for a child to benefit from art, yoga, music, and pet therapies for 3 months

How can students help through service grants?

Denver Children's Home is a very transitional facility, so we constantly get new kids admitted to our program while other kids leave our program. The average length of stay is 4-6 months. As a result we are in constant need of essential for our kids, like hygiene items, twin bed sheets, clothes, games, school supplies, electronics, and coping tools. Supplies drives where necessities for the kids we serve are collected and delivered to our facility are always needed and greatly appreciated. Upon drop off we would be more than happy to do an educational tour of our facility.

Do you provide volunteer opportunities for youth?

While we rely on the time, talent, and generosity of volunteers to help meet many of our ongoing needs, the types of volunteer opportunities we have are more "behind the scene" and not direct service opportunities with the kids that we serve. These behind the scene opportunities include serving on our event committee by helping to plan our fundraising events, facilities maintenance projects, such as painting, landscaping, cleaning, etc, although those come up on an as needed basis, and supplies drives. While we don't have a minimum age requirement to volunteer, all children need to be supervised by an adult.