



“Because all children are royalty in God’s eyes... and ours”

- A division of Topeka Rescue Mission -

## MISSION:

Bringing help and hope by sharing the love of Jesus Christ and showing children they are royalty in God’s eyes... and ours.

### PURPOSE & VISION

Our desire is to provide a safe, educational atmosphere for children under the age of six to receive care and love while residing at the Topeka Rescue Mission. We believe that helping children become ready for kindergarten, develop secure attachment, receive the transforming love of God and recognize their self-worth at an early age will later assist in breaking the generational cycle of homelessness within their families.

### NEED

Prior to the development of the Children’s Palace, infants, toddlers and preschoolers residing at the Mission were in need of structured care during their stay and were not entering school ready for kindergarten. Due to the crisis of homelessness and other life stressors that caregivers often face, the needs within children for secure attachment, edification, early education and structured play can be easily overlooked. Without these needs being met and the awareness of self-worth, children are more susceptible to grow into adulthood and repeat the cycle of homelessness.

### METHODS

Through a safe and nurturing atmosphere, the Palace will be a sensory-rich educational environment where homeless children can grow spiritually, cognitively and developmentally. Children will be reminded daily of their value and worth through a message that conveys their true identity of royalty and greatness. Families will also be empowered through parental education, support and numerous family engagement opportunities. Collaborations exist with a number of community providers and a strong emphasis on kindergarten readiness is also in place.

- ❖ The Children’s Palace is tentatively scheduled to open near the beginning of 2017.
- ❖ Once operational at full capacity, the Palace will be able to assist **124 children** who are homeless and residing at the Mission. *Based on occupancy and individualized need, children may remain eligible for care after their family leaves the Mission.*
- ❖ Hours of operation will be 7:30am – 5:30pm, Monday - Friday. Early and after care, including weekends, may be offered in the future based on need.
- ❖ Classrooms are designed to meet children’s developmental needs and include: Infant Room (2), Crawler Room (2), Toddler Room (2), Trainer Room (2) and Preschool (2).
- ❖ In addition to the ten classrooms, the following is also housed onsite: chapel/storm shelter, therapy room, resource center for families, staff work room, indoor play area, sick bay, kitchen, staff offices, satellite offices for community partners, outdoor play yards.
- ❖ The Palace will operate at full capacity with 41 staff persons.
- ❖ Annual operating budget is approximately \$1,500,000.

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### Contact Information

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*Donations should be made payable to Topeka Rescue Mission and marked “Children’s Palace”*