



“Because all children are royalty in God’s eyes... and ours”
- A division of Topeka Rescue Mission -

Every year, the Mission shelters over 2,000 homeless individuals. Many of these are not only void of homes, but also hope and purpose in life. This lack of awareness of value and self-worth begins in infancy. Children learn in their first months of life if they are valued or significant by the type of care, or lack thereof, received. A child deprived of nurturing and secure attachment in their first three years of life often fall behind in school and succumb to addiction, poverty and poor relationships later in life.

Science shows that our brains develop based on the experiences we have. Trauma, chronic stress, abuse or neglect (including the areas of nurturing and attachment) inhibits lower brain development which are the areas which control self-regulation, attachment and control. Without full use of this area of the brain, children have greater difficulty interpreting the world, forming relationships and successfully functioning in society later in life.

Thankfully, science also has shown that our brains are *plastic*, which means they can be reshaped by positive experiences both in childhood, adolescence and later in life. One of the primary goals for the Children’s Palace is to impart purpose and value into homeless children aged zero to five during these transformational years when brains develop more than any other stage of a person’s life. Through a safe and nurturing atmosphere, the Palace will be a sensory-rich educational environment where children can grow spiritually, cognitively and developmentally. An emphasis on kindergarten readiness is also in place. Additionally, families will receive support and empowerment through parental education and numerous family engagement opportunities.

The Children’s Palace will be a venue to bring forth the opportunity to break the cycle of generational homelessness; thus reproducing individuals who will succeed in childhood, adolescence and adulthood, while raising their own families in a productive and healthy manner down the road. Without it, many families are at risk for repeating the cycle of generational homelessness by replicating negative family life patterns. The result is a multiplication of children who will grow up in homelessness and raise their children in homelessness thereafter. **A method of breaking that cycle within the family unit must be in place to effectively change outcomes and shift the generational cycles of homelessness.**

The Topeka Rescue Mission is grateful for the opportunity to serve children and families in a new way which we believe will be transformational for our community. Rather than continuing to build more shelters to address the growing number of homeless individuals and families, we believe the cycle of homelessness can be broken through an intense focus on our children – *our future*. Through these efforts, we look forward to seeing children and families come to the awareness of their God-given purposes in life, finding hope and value where there was once none; and therefore reducing the number of homeless children and families within our community.

Contact Information

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