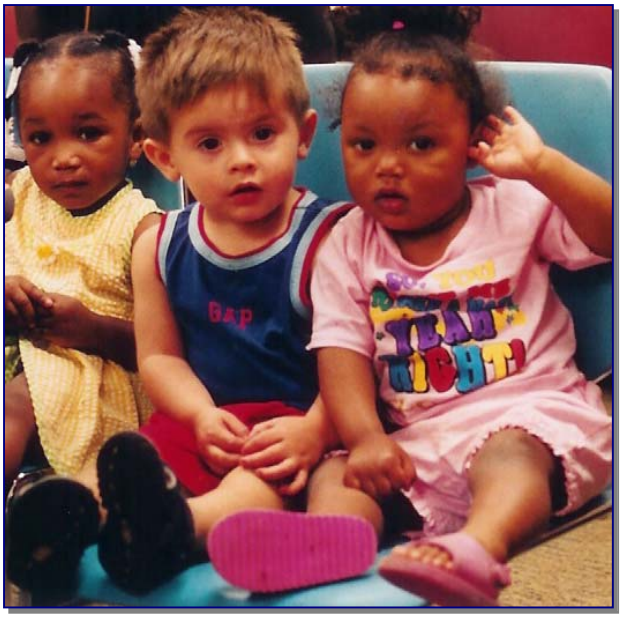

Who Cares for the Children?

A Proposal to

WGN-TV CHILDREN'S CHARITIES

Submitted by:

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Who Cares for the Children?

When a mother is chemically dependent, her drug becomes her greatest focus, not her child. Consequently, when **The Women's Treatment Center** frees a woman from the grips of an addiction, we release her children from bondage, as well.

In fiscal year 2003, TWTC directly served 1,200 women as well as 400 newborns and children in our outpatient and residential treatment programs. Not all of our clients bring all of their children to treatment with them. In some cases, children may have been older than eight years old, which exceeds TWTC's age limit for residential care. In other cases, some or all of a client's children may be in the custody of the Department of Children and Family Services.

With our census consistently revealing that TWTC clients have an average of 3.5 children, we can estimate that in 2003 alone, we impacted the lives of 4,200 children. During the past 13 years, we have helped improve the quality of life for tens of thousands of children, most from Cook County, Illinois. Because of TWTC's continuum of care and parenting curriculum, thousands of children now have mothers who are willing and able to be responsible parents, attentive and responsive to their children's needs, who are employed or employable, and have the tools to stay drug-free.

Many women who have completed TWTC's treatment programs have maintained sobriety for more than a decade, have completed their high school education or have obtained college degrees. Many had never worked prior to treatment and now are gainfully employed and are earning job promotions.

Who Cares for the Children?

Women with children often are denied residential drug abuse treatment services, because facilities lack accommodations for childcare services. At TWTC, we provide mothers in treatment comprehensive, compassionate and high quality treatment services, as well as a safe environment to detox without separating them from their children. Mothers at TWTC interact daily with their children, mending the bond broken by addiction. Pregnant women at TWTC have an opportunity to give birth to drug-free babies, providing these infants with a healthier start in life.

Although the need for comprehensive residential substance abuse treatment services for women with children has increased dramatically in Cook County, TWTC's capacity to serve this need has not. It is critically important to heal these families and strengthen these mothers so that they can nurture their children, breaking the cyclical pattern of intergenerational substance abuse and guiding them to be productive citizens.

At any given time, there are more than 70 children residing at TWTC with their mothers. The facility includes a fully licensed infant-toddler daycare, a special pre-kindergarten program staffed by the Chicago Board of Education that can accommodate 16 children; and a crisis nursery program that provides 24-hour care to children whose mothers are in crisis. The daycare, pre-kindergarten, crisis nursery and parenting components distinguish TWTC from other women's treatment programs.

The Women's Treatment Center has become a national, state-of-the-art model for providing treatment and support services to women and children in a community based setting.

Who Cares for the Children?

Christopher Michael is the 100th baby born in our MOMS Program. His mother says he would have been born malnourished and addicted to drugs without TWTC's intervention.

Research has determined that a sustained period of substance abuse treatment enhances the ability of women in recovery to make lasting changes in their lives. Data also reveal that treatment outcomes are further enhanced when women can bring their children with them into the treatment facility.

In response, TWTC has designed a continuum of care that can provide services to a family for a two-year period. This time frame is optimum for allowing the women to make lifestyle changes that can continue throughout recovery. Medical and social services, such as prenatal and pediatric care, clinic services for sexually transmitted diseases, HIV counseling and testing, and age 0-3 assessment and early intervention services are available on-site or through cooperative agreements with other agencies. Each of our on-site treatment programs and support services offers a different level of care.

The Women's Treatment Center (TWTC) pioneered the state of Illinois' comprehensive residential substance abuse treatment services for women with children. We employ a "one stop shopping" model, designed to provide a variety of services and to erase women's barriers to available treatment. Most of our clients are Cook County residents.

The Center is located on Ashland Avenue at Lake Street, on Chicago's near west side, in the building that formerly was the Mary Thompson Hospital. Dr. Mary Thompson founded the hospital in 1928, when, as a female physician, she had difficulty finding work in other hospitals. Dr. Thompson's hospital became a place where female doctors and nurses could work, and where poor women and children could receive medical attention. Today, TWTC is proud to continue Dr. Thompson's legacy of providing exemplary services for women and children in a caring, family-like environment.

TWTC opened with 14 beds – the same number of beds as the hospital had when it opened its doors 62 years earlier. Today, the Center includes 80 residential treatment beds for pregnant women and mothers with and without young children, outpatient programming, a 16-bed medical detoxification unit, as well as two recovery homes for women with children.

Who Cares for Children more than...

WGN-TV Children's Charities is dedicated to the well being of Chicago area children. The infants and children at The Women's Treatment Center are some of the most vulnerable in your viewing area. Many of them would have been born addicted to heroin, cocaine or alcohol, if their mothers not arrived at our Center in time. We ask you to support our children during this critical period in their lives.

Budget deficits in federal and state government have resulted in fewer dollars for life-saving, family-building programs such as ours. During fiscal year 2003, our largest funding source reduced our budget by 2%. This fiscal year, there is the further possibility that the reduction will be as much as 14%. We're seeing the same pattern in funding cuts from other sources. We've been forced to layoff some workers and have had to freeze vacant positions.

Donations of any size are appreciated; however, we need at least $10,000 in general operating funds, to help us maintain the high level of care, nurturing and education for our children while their mothers are healing and learning to be better parents.

TWTC Changes Children's Lives Now...

Miracle was born while her mother was in treatment at TWTC.

... and Later

Latrena Silas has come full circle. Like many former TWTC clients, she now is a substance abuse treatment professional.

- **Crisis Nursery**. TWTC provides 24-hour/daycare for infants whose mothers are at a crisis point in their treatment, such as during detox.

- **Infant/Toddler Development Day Care**. This licensed facility, staffed by certified childcare specialists, serves children (0-3 years old) of women participating in our treatment programs.

- **Pre-Kindergarten Program**. The Chicago Board of Education and the state of Illinois have joint ventured with TWTC to establish a pre-kindergarten program for four-year-old children who are in residence at TWTC.

- **Parents and Children Together Program** (PACT). This federally funded program enables 100 mothers incarcerated at the Decatur Correctional Center to maintain an on-going relationship with their children through two-way videoconferencing visits at our Madison Place transitional center.

- **MOMS Program: Cook Co. Dept. of Corrections/Sheriff's Dept**. A 16-bed residential program for pregnant women who are in the Cook County Jail system.

- **Residential Rehabilitation** (for women with children) A residential program that provides substance abuse treatment, parenting classes and daily life skills for women and their children. Children attend on-site infant toddler, daycare or pre-kindergarten programs.

- **Residential Rehabilitation** (for women only) This program is for women without their children who need substance abuse treatment in a residential setting.

- **Detox**. A medically supervised detoxification unit staffed by nurses, a physician and counselors.
- **Outpatient Program**. Intensive and regular outpatient programming for women who have completed residential treatment or whose needs are less intensive. Children may attend our on-site daycare program while their mothers are in treatment.
- **Project Futures Outpatient**. A six-month program for DCFS-referred women with infants and young children, who are in danger of losing custody of their children because of substance abuse.
- **Recovery Home**. This program is for women and their children who have completed residential treatment and need a safe haven in which to live while they continue outpatient treatment.
- **Ill. Dept. of Corrections Program**. Funded by the Illinois Department of Corrections, this program provides parenting skills, case management and medical monitoring within our Recovery Home program for inmates who are mothers with infants and young children who have less than two years to serve for non-violent offenses.
- **Madison Place**. Transitional living recovery home in a secure facility for women who have completed substance abuse treatment and their children, while the women are working or attending school.
- **Opioid Methadone Therapy Treatment**. This program uses methadone as a therapy for women in residential and outpatient programming, with priority admission given to pregnant and postpartum women.

Who Cares for the Children?

The Women's Treatment Center

TWTC is an Illinois 501 (c) (3) agency that serves all residents in the state. Most of our clients reside throughout the city of Chicago. We offer our services without regard to race, creed, color, national origin or ability to pay. All of our programs and facilities are accessible to persons with physical disabilities.

TWTC is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, which evaluates the facility and programs in the areas of health and safety, clinical programming, food and nutrition, physical plant, staff competency and others. This accreditation was renewed in 2002 for a third three-year period. We are licensed by The Illinois Department of Human Services, Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (OASA) for substance abuse treatment; Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for daycare and crisis nursery; and the City of Chicago for daycare.