



**F**or 25 years Volunteers of America has been helping women recover from addictions, while keeping their families together. Our residential treatment focuses on the wellbeing and development of both the child and mother. With the opioid crisis, the demand for women's treatment has escalated, and we are expanding our successful Mother and Child Residential Recovery Centers in response. Currently, we have 10 mother and child recovery centers, and our goal is to grow to 15 centers over the next three years. Based on our experience, we are confident that we can fund on-going operations. However, philanthropic partners are needed to grow the new centers. This support is essential to acquiring, renovating and furnishing the residential center and covering start-up costs.



Volunteers of America®

## Mother and Child Residential Recovery Centers

### Impact of Opioid Crisis on Mothers and Children

**Women face a growing opioid crisis and children are suffering.** Heroin deaths among women increased at more than twice the rate than among men. Opioid use among women giving birth has almost quadrupled in a decade, while the incidence of neonatal drug withdrawal syndrome (NAS) grew almost 5 fold in the same period. And, Child Welfare systems are deluged with children entering foster care due to parental drug use.

### Solutions that Work

**Experts agree on what works.** Recent reports by expert panels, recognize the necessity of specialized solutions for pregnant and post-partum women. Recommendations include family centered approaches that keep families together.

When mothers and children receive residential treatment together, the maternal bond is maintained, children

thrive, and mothers are motivated to achieve long-term recovery. The investment also saves money by reducing neonatal intensive care days, reducing costs of drug overdoses and eliminating the expense of more children in the child welfare system.

### Our Model for Mother and Child Residential Recovery

**Our residential recovery centers help** children and mothers reach their full potential. Centers are located in California, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming. Our model is distinguished for its -

- Family-centered continuum of treatment and recovery using evidence-based practices
- Care that includes residential treatment, intensive outpatient treatment and on-going recovery support.
- Gender-specific and trauma-informed practices and parenting education and support





- Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) in conjunction with licenses MAT providers
- Integration of behavioral and physical health care, psychological and emotional safety and support
- Close work with child welfare systems to support family preservation and reunification
- Aftercare supports, including housing, transportation, employment and education counseling

### **Shortage of Family-Focused Residential Treatment for Parents with Children**

**The demand for family-focused residential treatment** has expanded with the opioid crisis. However, with fewer than 300 facilities nation-wide there is a dire shortage of parent-child treatment.

### **Expanding Our Recovery Centers**

**Our centers in Indianapolis and Louisville**, two states hard hit by opioids, are expanding rapidly, and other affiliates have expansion plans as well. Currently, we have ten centers in seven states that serve over 1,500 mothers and children each year. We have five additional centers on the drawing board. Based on our experience and knowledge, we are confident that we can fund on-going operations by braiding together insurance, Medicaid and government funds. However, philanthropic partners are essential to expansion of the centers. Their support is needed to acquire, renovate and furnish the residential centers and to cover start-up costs.

Capital costs for buildings, renovations and furnishings vary. Louisville provides a recent example where \$5 million was raised to purchase, rehabilitate and furnish Freedom

House. Over 100 donors, from small individual gifts to large foundations, provided 90% of the funds to make Freedom House a reality.

To meet the growing need for mother-child recovery centers, Volunteers of America is committed to ramping up our work- with a goal of adding 5 more centers over the next three years. We have a proven model with over a 60% success rate, compared to the average success rate of 30- 40% for all treatment programs across the country. And, we are ready to replicate at a fast pace due to the expertise and experience of our staff. However, raising funds for buildings and start-up is a barrier. Relying solely on local fundraising will be too slow, so we are initiating a joint national-local campaign to raise funds to start new Mother and Child Residential Recovery Centers.