



## *Open a Door to Opportunity — Refer a Child*

Our residential programs provide young people an opportunity for a fresh start. On two Chicago campuses we offer fourteen specially-structured living programs for children of different ages and varying levels of need. These tiered services enable us to care for children with an array of emotional, therapeutic and educational needs.

Young people who come to Mercy Home are highly motivated to improve their lives. Mercy Home is an open campus and each young person's stay is voluntary — success depends entirely upon a child's willingness to participate fully and take charge of his or her healing.

Young people living at Mercy Home are required to attend school, participate in Academy courses, abide by program rules, and participate in therapy. In return, they are given the opportunities to:

- Improve self esteem
- Focus on academic improvement
- Develop life skills
- Build better relationships with peers and adults
- Gain employment experience

In addition, our children enjoy a safe, nurturing and supervised environment while they attend one of more than 50 Chicago-area public and private schools.

Throughout the year, our young people enjoy opportunities to participate in cultural, educational and recreational activities, or visit family or guardians on weekends. They partake in community service projects, take part in a summer internship program, and go camping during the summer. And, they receive vocational counseling, job placement assistance, on-the-job training, help in applying for college or trade schools, and in many cases, tuition scholarships.

## Who We Serve

In our full-time residential programs, Mercy Home cares for young men and women between the ages of 11 and 21. In addition, we provide life-long family and connection to former residents through our AfterCare program.

The types of challenges that young people who enter Mercy Home face are many, and often include:

- Abuse, abandonment and neglect
- Relational difficulties with adults or siblings
- Parents who are incarcerated or struggling with substance abuse
- Low self-esteem and depression
- Authority issues
- Pressure from gangs, legal involvement or poverty
- School Issues, such as failing grades, poor attendance, or disciplinary reports

Mercy Home does not provide services for youth who:

- Have psychoses
- Have perpetuated sexual or physical abuse
- Are actively suicidal
- Are currently self-mutilating
- Are pregnant
- Are fire-setting
- Have a primary diagnosis of substance abuse
- Have a profound learning disorder or have IQ under 80
- Have severe behavior or emotional disorders



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Know a kid in crisis? You can refer a child to Mercy Home by calling 312-738-7590.

[mercyhome.org/admissions](http://mercyhome.org/admissions)

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