



2023
ANNUAL
REPORT

1011 N. 7th Street, Springfield, IL 62702 | MOCN.org | 217-525-6800

Message From Our Executive Director



On a day in August 2023, I walked into the Nursery at 8:17 am. Assessing the situation, there were two bassinets with tiny ones, a 4 and 5-year-old, and a stressed pair of staff members holding a third infant and changing a diaper. Picking up an upset three-month-old, I relieved a coworker, letting them have a moment to collect themselves from the chaos.

You see, the family was from a domestic violence situation. Thankfully, most of our families are just overwhelmed or experiencing hardship, but every once in a while, there are situations that are more severe. The kids that we had that morning were quiet and very well-behaved. One of them even let me play in the sensory bin with him! But it was clear why they were there. One child had a broken bone, one was very confused and upset being away from Mom, and the tiny ones just wanted to be held.

It's days like that one that reminds me why I love my job. Our work here is so important - and I am so proud of my staff, our families, and our friends in the community. This family needed a safe space to land while Mom moved them out of a domestic violence situation, and we were able to jump in and help.

Most days, we see kids while parents are at doctor's appointments and job interviews. Most days, there's a lot of dancing, singing, and laughter. But some days, we cuddle and reassure, and provide a smile to someone that really needs it that day. And our staff, our "family," knows when and how to deliver what our kids need.

This year is our first annual impact report that we're sharing with our community, and I promise you, that while the statistics are impressive, we are much more phenomenal in person and in our element. Thank you so much for providing Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery with the tools we need to care for the families in our community.

With appreciation and warm hugs,

Jen McMillin

Jen McMillin, MPA,
and the MOCN "Family"



Who We Are

In the mid-1980s, a woman named Marinda "Mini" O'Beirne fell in love with the idea of preventing child abuse and neglect through crisis nursery services. Seeing the need and lack of services in Sangamon County, Mini worked tirelessly for two years investigating, planning, and encouraging others to join her crusade against child abuse. Amidst all of her planning, she passed away of cancer on April 29, 1988. A steering committee carried out Mini's dream and named the Nursery in her honor on May 15, 1989.

Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery is a non-profit social service agency that provides vital supports to families when they need it the most. The core service of the Nursery is emergency child care, and because there is no charge for care, we depend on financial support from the Illinois Department of Child & Family Services, Illinois Department of Human Services, corporate and local grants, fundraising through special events, and contributions by businesses, community organizations, and individuals.

Thank you to all the community supporters that have made our work possible for over thirty years!



Our Services

- **24/7 Emergency Childcare (365 days a year, including all holidays)**
 - The Nursery is staffed 24 hours a day to accept children for care. We are in a large home-like environment, which is a key component of our program. The welcoming space that children experience helps reduce separation anxiety and fear of new caregivers.
- **Basic Needs Pantry**
 - Each year, the Nursery is the beneficiary of so much generosity from the community. Any donation of items that are not needed in the Nursery is cycled out to our families and friends in the community. From formula to diapers to cribs, MOCN provided over \$95,000 worth of in-kind donations to the community in fiscal year 2023.
- **Family Support Services**
 - In addition to childcare and basic needs, the Nursery provides ongoing family support to those who request or sign up. This includes a weekly parenting class, outreach to our nonprofit partners, and assistance with problem-solving.

Reasons for Care

Being a parent is really hard. Sometimes, parents just need someone to look after their child, for a wide variety of reasons. That's where the Nursery can help!

Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery was founded to prevent child abuse and neglect in all forms, and is open to all children, from birth to their seventh birthday, regardless of income or location. Below are the classifications of admission for the Nursery, and each situation is addressed individually to determine the crisis level. Admissions are prioritized based on the severity of the family crisis, and lower severity clients may be asked to pick their child(ren) up early if a higher crisis situation arises.

- **Parental Stress**
 - Any stressful, emotional situation that might affect parenting ability and place a child at risk of immediate harm or neglect. (i.e. Death in the family, Family changes)
- **Domestic Violence**
 - Any home situation in which violence with fighting, physical or verbal, occurs or might occur. (i.e. Court related activity, looking for shelter, residing in a DV shelter)
- **Home Crisis**
 - Fire, flood, any environmental situation causing crisis/stress, utility shutoff, eviction, homelessness, looking for housing, moving, cleaning per DCFS.
- **Mental Health**
 - Mental health counseling for parents and/or children, in-patient psychiatric stay
- **Substance Abuse**
 - Rehab appointments, treatment facility, NA/AA group meetings, abuse counseling
- **Appointments**
 - Court appointments, doctor visits, assistance appointments
- **Job / School Related**
 - Job search or interview, pre-arranged daycare for work fell through, subsidized daycare paperwork being processed, GED, school attendance, exam, children's school meetings
 - Please note that parents will not be allowed to use the Nursery for regular babysitting or daycare.

Reasons Why MOCN May Not Be Able To Accept Children

- Illinois DCFS regulations prohibit the Nursery from admitting any child over the age of six. The day a child turns seven, they cannot be admitted.
- If the Nursery is full (the child-to-staff ratio is met within the Nursery) and a family calls to schedule, our staff may need to prioritize crises. This usually results in the Nursery offering a different time or shortening the time current children are able to stay.
- Illness - For the safety of both children and staff, the Nursery cannot accept children that have an illness or fever.



11,616

Crisis Childcare Hours
Served in
Fiscal Year 2023

1,386

Children Who Visited
the Nursery in
Fiscal Year 2023



Our Values

COMMUNITY



We are committed to a positive environment in which everyone may experience a sense of safety and worth. We honor relationships and take responsibility for fostering trust, respect, and goodwill. We desire to make a difference in the lives of others while making a living.

EMPOWERMENT



We are a strength-based organization. We support, trust, and empower clients, volunteers, and employees to further the shared mission of Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery. We are committed to developing confidence in every individual talents and capabilities.

INTEGRITY



We are trustworthy. We are reliable, authentic, and loyal. We do what we say we will do. We dare to do the right thing. We welcome accountability and conduct our business with honesty and transparency.

RESPECT



We honor the intrinsic dignity, autonomy, and worth of each person. We treat others the way we would want to be treated. We are considerate of each other's feelings, values, and points of view.

EXCELLENCE



We are committed to pursuing the highest possible standards at every level of the organization. We strive to become the benchmark through innovation and initiative. We are committed to putting forth our personal and professional best.

TEAMWORK

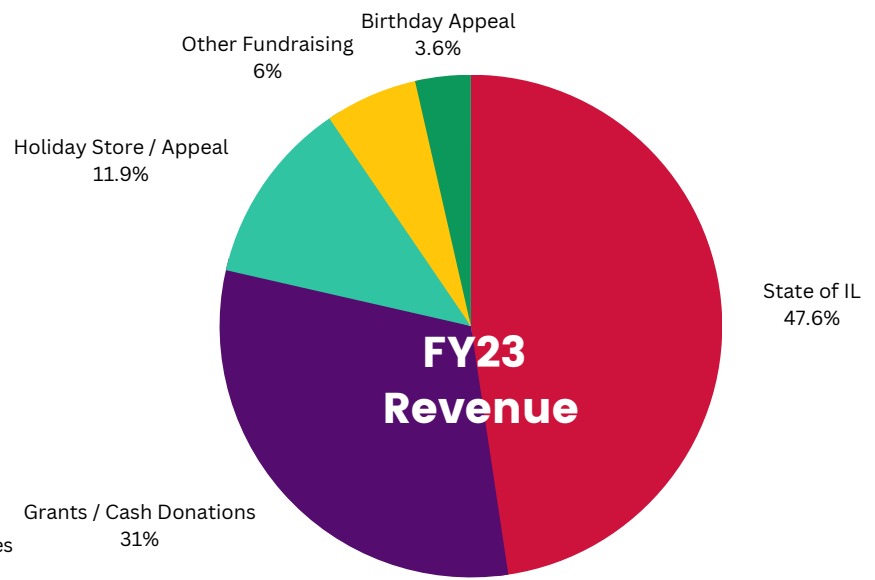
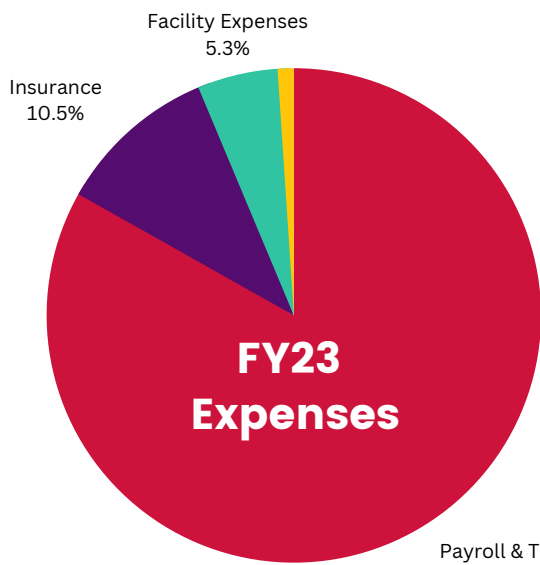


We work as a team, achieving more collectively than individually. We are a cohesive unit setting aside our agendas and working toward our shared mission. We are committed to creating synergy by encouraging each other and working collaboratively.

Our Successes

Since the pandemic, Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery has been working to not only return to pre-COVID admissions but expand our reach and improve our building. Highlights from fiscal year 2023 include:

- Expanding capacity to 8 children 24/7, including weekends
- Increasing the Nursery budget from \$622,000 (2020) to \$818,000 (2024)
- Full cleaning of all exterior toys and siding
- Remodel of the 2nd-floor office space
- Increase in base hourly wage for both full-time and part-time staff



23%

Increase in crisis childcare hours served from 2019 to 2023

Recognition & Partnerships

- Key partner with United Way of Central Illinois since our inception
- Licensed as an official DCFS group home and reauthorized in 2023
- Strategic partner with the SEED Initiative with the Springfield Police Department and other social service agencies
- Active participant in the IRIS referral program for home visiting and early childhood in the Springfield area
- Board participant in the annual One Stop Christmas Stop community give-away
- Nominated in 2021 and 2023 for Nonprofit Director of the Year at the Springfield Chamber
- Founding member of the Illinois Crisis Nursery Coalition
- Participant in the Center for Crisis Nurseries Community (National)
- Repeat award winner for Best Children's Support Organization by the Illinois Times
- 15 Under 15 Business Award from the Springfield Business Journal in 2023



FY23 Goals & Outcomes



Key Indicator	Activity / Project	Data / Outcome
<p>Protect At-Risk Children & Decrease Family Stress</p>	<p>Offer 24/7 shelter and care in a home environment to children experiencing a crisis or emergency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Served crisis childcare to 1,386 children • Provided 11,616 crisis hours in total
<p>Support Families Through Crisis</p>	<p>Provide services and assistance to ensure long-term child safety and family stability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restarted the parenting classes and outreach • Resolved 100% of crisis calls
<p>Build Nurturing Parenting Skills</p>	<p>Lead a parenting class and offer one-on-one assistance to self-advocate for resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructed parenting classes to 12 families • Provided over 50 hours of personalized home visiting & crisis counseling
<p>Strengthen Our Community to End Child Abuse & Neglect</p>	<p>Provide resources and prevention services to area social service and public agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended over 25 different community events with partners

Strategic Initiatives

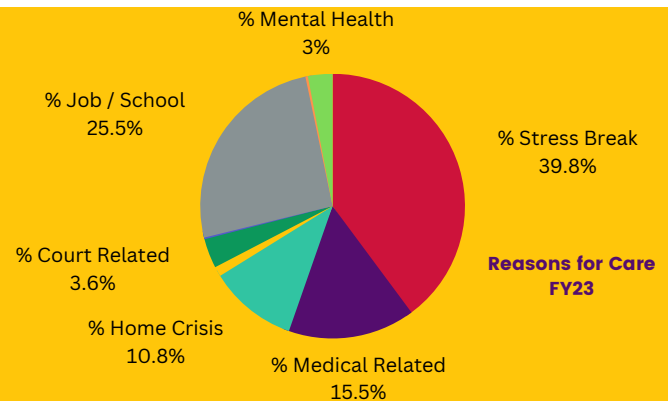
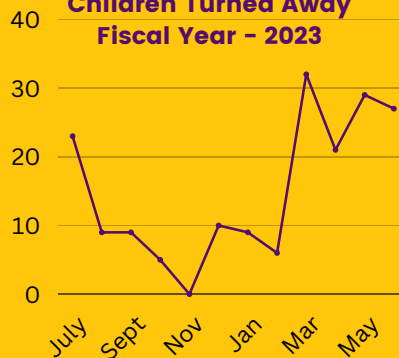
Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery has been a community staple since 1989. However, we create strategic initiatives to effectively achieve our mission, maximize impact, and ensure long-term sustainability. These initiatives provide a clear roadmap for the Nursery, helping it identify and prioritize key goals, allocate resources efficiently, and adapt to changing circumstances. By implementing the strategic initiatives below, the Nursery can enhance its effectiveness, attract additional funding and support, and make a meaningful difference in the community we serve.

Building on Mini's Legacy

Research and practice have shown us how the Nursery truly works to assist families during a crisis, and that providing our services in a home environment is a key aspect. For over 30 years, Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery has shown love, cooked meals, and tucked little ones into bed in a turn-of-the-century two-story home.

Thanks to John Shafer & Associates, Inc., we have started designing a revolutionary facility that combines the comforts of our home with the accessibility and needs of a small business. As of Fall 2023, the Nursery is actively locating a property and preparing a preliminary budget for renovation, equipment, and moving expenses.

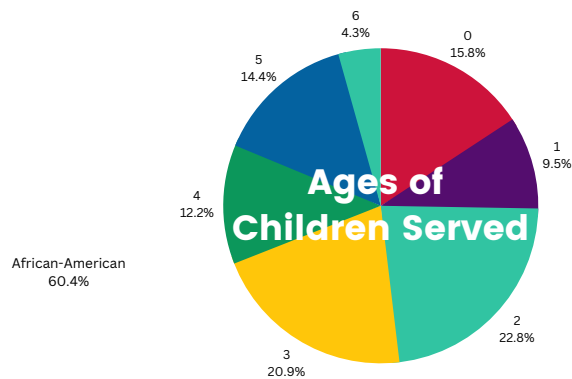
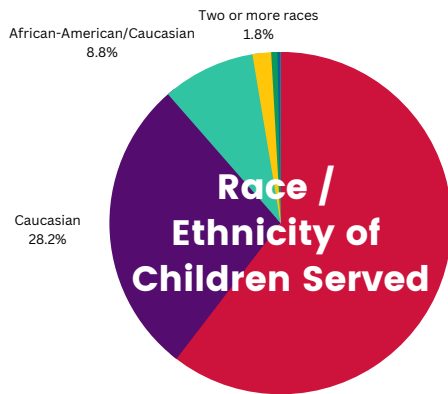
**Children Turned Away
Fiscal Year - 2023**



Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

- Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery is a diverse and inclusive organization. The families we support are white, black, multi-racial, and Latinx.
- We strive to ensure our admissions and care practices reflect appreciative inquiry and inclusivity sensitive to families' race, orientation, religious, and cultural preferences.
- In the last two years, the MOCN Board organized a DEI Subcommittee to review the nursery's policies, practices, and procedures. The job description language was updated to include lived experiences and non-traditional educational attainment.
- In addition, a new client satisfaction survey has been developed to monitor Nursery interaction with clients and children to ensure equitable treatment of every family.

Who We Serve



While the Nursery tries to serve as wide of a region as possible, we are not able to reach everyone. In Illinois, there are currently seven crisis nurseries that serve a similar mission. Learn more at CNCoalitionIL.org.



Our Friends

- Recipient of funding from Illinois Department of Child & Family Services, Department of Human Services, and Department of Aging
- A grateful recipient of several grants over the years, including but not limited to:
 - Carl Hendrickson Grant from Bank of America
 - Blue Cross Blue Shield Clean Air Initiative
 - Fat @ss 5K
- Current partner with SIU School of Medicine to provide wellness checks for families
- Actively participates in community activities and organizations to help refer resources to those in need
- Founding member of the community One Stop Christmas Shop, a holiday giveaway to Springfield families
- And a special thank you to all our childcare volunteers, board members, staff, and friends that have supported the Nursery since 1989!



FROM MOCN STAFF, BOARD, KIDS, AND FAMILIES -

THANK YOU!

All donations to MOCN are tax-deductible!

Our tax ID number is 37-1242640.

You can learn more about us at www.Guidestar.org, which provides comprehensive data about the social sector.



Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery

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