



Dear Community Members,

It takes strength to ask for help, and when a family contacts Pinwheel Place we help ensure they have concrete support in their time of need. Pinwheel Place is the **first and only crisis nursery in New Jersey** and we understand that it takes a village to help in raising children-- we are here for those who need that village. When families are brave enough to ask for help, a world of opportunities opens up.

Pinwheel Place respects and honors the challenges that parents face, more specifically those struggling with poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, and other everyday realities that end up isolating them from important support networks. In response Pinwheel Place offers free emergency childcare for families facing a crisis, an unexpected circumstance or a difficult situation. We also provide basic needs because we don't want families to have to choose between paying the rent and having enough formula or diapers to create a healthy environment for their child. Pinwheel Place believes that a safety net like ours is an integral part of the 'village' that can embrace and help families when the need arises for members of our community.

This past year COVID shone a light on the very basic needs that families struggle with on a daily basis-especially when unexpected events arise. In response to the restrictions imposed on us, we were all thrust into a suspended state of trauma, not knowing what would come next. This created added stress on many- but the most stress was felt by those families already living paycheck to paycheck or at the poverty level. COVID also highlighted the importance of child care and how the absence of that can lead to a loss of wages, loss of employment or the loss of job opportunities that can push families into a downward spiral in all other areas of life.

Pinwheel Place helps to alleviate the stressors involved with a multitude of daily needs faced by families, so that the stress doesn't trickle down to the children. It is proven that stress can contribute to child abuse and neglect and by supporting families during these difficult situations we are able to help alleviate both. Our mission is to help prevent childhood trauma, especially during the early developmental years. Childhood trauma has been proven to lead to higher rates of drug abuse, crime, mental illness, later health risks and even educational disparities. This is found in every community.

The staff and volunteers at Pinwheel give all they can, every day, to make a difference in the lives of our community's children--providing a critical safety net and working hard toward our mission to help prevent child abuse and neglect. We believe that helping families support their children is one of the most important things we can do for our community today and for the future of the community as well.

Pinwheel Place receives no government funding. We operate solely on funding generated by donations, business grants and fundraising events. We're reaching out hoping that YOU will work with us by sponsoring the Nursery. Your donation will ensure that our community's most vulnerable children and families continue to have access to resources in their time of crisis. **You** can truly make a difference in a child's life. And please know that we are always available to answer questions or come and speak to your business or staff. Thank you for considering contributing and choosing to participate in the village we are creating in our communities! We truly look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn Hawkins".

Lynn Hawkins  
Director  
Pinwheel Place