



Planned Parenthood of North Texas Sponsors Mother's Day Drive for Homeless Children in Dallas County

“Meet The Need for Moms in May” Drive to Benefit Vogel Alcove Childcare Center for the Homeless

DALLAS (March 31, 2005) – According to a 2005 homeless census by the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance, women and children now make up 48 percent of the county's known homeless population. Of the 624 children counted, nearly two-thirds were under the age of 10. For the Vogel Alcove Childcare Center for the Homeless and Planned Parenthood of North Texas (PPNT), this is a call for action. In response, the two organizations are partnering for a “Meet the Need for Moms in May” drive starting April 1 to collect childcare supplies for homeless families in the area.

Eight PPNT clinics in Dallas County will accept donations of new hairbrushes, combs, disposable diapers (all sizes), baby wipes, band-aids, batteries, clothes, socks, and underwear for kids under the age of six throughout the month. These items have been identified by the Vogel Alcove as those that are in short supply for homeless families every day. All of the donations collected at PPNT's designated Dallas county clinics will be delivered to the Vogel Alcove in time for Mother's Day.

“The ‘Meet the Need for Moms in May’ drive is an extension of our ongoing outreach efforts throughout North Texas,” James T. Roderick, PPNT President/CEO said. “We already offer several programs that focus on improving the health of families and we want to ensure these homeless families, who are often overlooked, receive our support as well.”

Charline Feris, Director of Volunteers at the Vogel Alcove, explained that the center provides families with free childcare, developmental and social services while they are homeless or transitioning to independent living. “We work with up to 113 children a day who literally have nothing,” Feris said. “While their families are working to change their situation and provide for their children, it's tremendously helpful for organizations like PPNT to involve the community and their support to meet the short-term needs of these families.”

Serving more than 450 infants, toddlers and pre-school children free-of-charge each year, the Vogel Alcove addresses the needs of homeless families with children, especially during the critical developmental years. It was one of the first childcare centers for homeless children in the nation to earn accreditation for the Academy of Early Childhood Programs, and receives referrals from 20 affiliate homeless programs in the Dallas area, including domestic violence and homeless shelters, and transitional housing programs.



PPNT has set-up collection points at eight clinics in Dallas County, which will be accepting donations through May 2, including:

- Addison: 5290 Beltline Rd., Suite 158
- Dallas: 7424 Greenville Ave., Suite 206
- Dallas: 9100 N. Central Expy., Suite 169
- South Dallas: 4343 W. Camp Wisdom Rd., Suite 213
- Garland: 1015 W. Centerville Road, Suite 118
- Irving: 1111 W. Airport Freeway, Suite 207
- Mesquite: 220 Town East Blvd., Suite 240
- Plano: 810 N. Central Expressway, Suite 116

The “Meet the Need for Moms in May” drive is also being conducted at selected PPNT locations in Tarrant and Johnson Counties. Donations collected in that drive will go to the Women’s Haven of Tarrant County, which serves victims of domestic abuse.

For 70 years, PPNT has provided compassionate health care in North Texas. In 2004, PPNT clinics served more than 80,000 patients in its 28 clinics. PPNT also provides health education outreach to 12,000 individuals a year.

*“Celebrating 70 years of providing compassionate health care in North Texas communities.”
(1935-2005)*

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