




LYDIA
Strengthening Children & Families

Strengthening families to care for children and
caring for children when families cannot.

LYDIA Home Association
4300 West Irving Park Road
Chicago, IL
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Poverty, domestic violence, drug abuse, and absent fathers are just some of the challenges that many of today's families face. With such tremendous stress and without help, parents sometimes become abusers, teens run away, and children fend for themselves for days at a time. These are people whose heartache and suffering is often invisible until their circumstances spin out of control, when law enforcement or child welfare officials are forced to intervene. At a time when our culture often seems to be coming apart, LYDIA is helping put families back together.

LYDIA Home Association



- LYDIA began in 1916 as an orphanage by the Ladies' Aid Society at Salem evangelical Free Church in Chicago.
- Today it is a multi-faceted social service agency.
- Programs include: Residential Treatment Center, Foster Care, Safe Families for Children, Family First Project (in Austin community), Counseling Centers, Urban Academy (Chicago and Rockford), Learn & Care (preschool), WHAT'S GOOD (life skills education), and a Graduate Training Program.
- **LYDIA serves over 3,000 children and families each year!**

Safe Families *for* Children



- This program's goal is to reunite children with their biological parent(s) in a home that is more stable and healthy.
- Volunteers open their homes to children whose parents are experiencing a short-term emergency, such as hospitalization, or a longer-term crisis, such as drug abuse.
- The only program of its kind, Safe Families is being spread throughout the nation.
- In 2009 over 500 children were cared for through Safe Families.
- Designed to extend and strengthen the community safety net for at-risk families, Safe Families is a healthy alternative to the state child welfare system, allowing parents to seek support and stabilize their home, without fear of losing custody of their children.

LYDIA Urban Academy

- An alternative high school dedicated to the belief that anyone can learn if given personalized guidance and the proper academic environment.
- LUA averages approximately 25 students at any given time. The enrollment numbers are kept low in order to allow for a wonderfully low teacher/student ratio.
- The highly individualized attention allows students to receive the instruction, supervision, and guidance that creates the success that many of the students who have gone through LUA have been able to achieve – improved GPA, higher attendance rates, and even after-graduation achievements.



Work-Study Program

- The work-study program gives our Urban Academy students the opportunity to finance part of their education while gaining critical job skills.
- The students gain an invaluable learning and work experience by working 8 hours per week (two 4 hour days or one 8 hour day).
- Working with adults in an adult environment helps students understand the importance of acting responsibly and professionally. Students are given feedback in order to help improve their work ethic and skills.
- Instead of paying the student a salary, the company contracts with LUA for the employee's services. The contract fee is tax-deductible as a business expense and covers much of the cost of the student-employee's tuition.

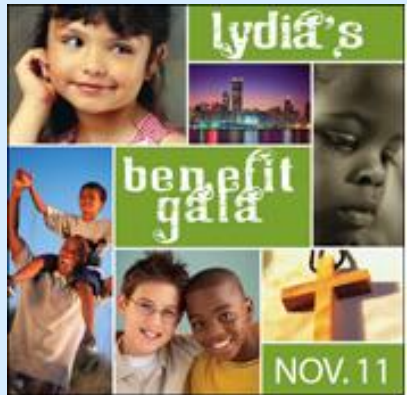


Residential Treatment Center



- Our aim is to provide healing and to teach these children the practical life skills they need to live in a home setting successfully.
- 40 kids, ages 7 – 17, referred to LYDIA by DCFS (Department of Child and Family Services) due to severe abuse and/or neglect.
- Residential offers a structured therapeutic environment for children and adolescents with serious behavioral issues.
- Our staff includes Therapists, Case Managers, Supervisors, Child Care Workers, Education Specialists, Consulting Physicians, and a Nurse.

What You Can Do...



- Volunteer with our Residential kids by planning a weekend activity
- Host a table at the Benefit Gala on November 11 (no financial obligation)
- Sign-up to be a Safe Family
- Be a partner with our Work-Study Program
- Donate baby basket items (diapers, formula, and baby socks)
- Join Team LYDIA for the Chicago Half Marathon & 5k (Sept. 12)
- Donate to help support services for our Safe Families, Residential, and Urban Academy programs



To Learn More...

- Visit Our Websites for:
 - [LYDIA Home Association](#)
 - [Safe Families](#)
 - [LYDIA Urban Academy](#)
 - [Work-Study Program](#)
 - [Residential Treatment Center](#)
- Or Call Us at: 773-653-2200