2019

Crisis Nursery Speech for David Jones Speech Contest

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Recommended Citation
https://spark.parkland.edu/ah/254

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I. Attention (must be a narrative)
   a. Attention getter: Imagine a little girl. Her name is Taylor and she is only six years old. At such a young age, Taylor is no stranger to abuse. Her parents, both with drinking problems, become aggressive and violent when they get drunk. Often, they are late paying the bills leaving Taylor without power or water. What do you think of when you think of your home?... Comfort?... Safety?... Love?... Taylor only feels fear when she thinks of home and family, so much so that she is afraid to go home after school. Unfortunately, children like Taylor are everywhere. These very real and traumatic situations are affecting children all over the world. Luckily, there is a place that dedicates everything to helping victims of abuse. Donations to The Crisis Nursery go straight towards helping young kids like Taylor.
   b. Thesis: Throughout this speech I want to talk about why The Crisis Nursery is worthy of your donation.
   c. I have supported this charity in the past, present, and will continue to do so in the future. Through the Crisis Nursery center in Urbana, I have personally donated my time and money. I have done a lot of research on this charity on top of doing research about child abuse studies and statistics in the state of Illinois.
   d. Preview of main points:
      1. Today, I am going to first explain the unfortunate commonality of child abuse and how long lasting the consequences of abuse can be.
      2. Next, I will further explain the services that the Crisis Nursery provides, how to donate to this charity, and how your donation could be used.
      3. Lastly, I hope to help you visualize and understand how important your donation would be in helping so many children recover from their traumatic experience.

Transition:

II. Need
   a. Unfortunately, abuse is one of those things that tends to hide in the shadows. It seems to be talked about less and less even though it is happening more and more every day.
      i. The Nursery has reported the admission of 5,741 children, and throughout the different locations, the Nursery is currently caring for 886 children that have been the victims of abuse and neglect.
      ii. According to a research study done by Susan Cole, a professor at the School of Social Work at the U of I, all of these kids are no more than six years old.
iii. Think about that for a minute. That is 5,741 children that have been admitted, 886 children that are currently living at the Crisis Nursery, all of these children are six years old or younger, and all of them are victims of abuse and neglect. This number of children is enough to populate a small town, and The Crisis Nursery does everything that they can to help them.

b. Not only is child abuse common, but it is also severe. The trauma that these young kids go through can have a negative impact on the rest of their lives.

i. The Crisis Nursery specializes in 24-hour emergency care as well as counseling for the victims of abuse and neglect.

ii. At such a young age, most kids are naïve to any bad thing that could possibly happen. However, in 2018 alone in Illinois, 1,862 cases of child abuse were reported. Child abuse can and has resulted in severe mental disorders along with physical and health issues.

iii. I want to share with you a story of how child abuse can affect someone as an adult. For the sake of anonymity, we will call this person Michael. Michael is a victim of child abuse, and now as a young adult he experiences stress related illnesses such as depression, anxiety, and panic attacks, and because of this anxiety his cardiovascular health is that of someone almost twice his age (Springer).

iv. The counseling services at The Crisis Nursery are to help with the recovery and mind development of the young kids they care for.

**Transition:** The Crisis Nursery is so helpful and important to these young kids, and I now want to go a little deeper into what services are provided.

**III. Satisfaction**

a. The Crisis Nursery offers many services to children and their families.

i. According to the Crisis Nursery official website, they are “the only emergency-based child care facility in Champaign County that is open 24-hours, 365 days a year for the entire community to access with no fees or income eligibility.”

ii. Donations to The Crisis Nursery allow for the development of family and child services such as counseling services, parenting workshops, and social services. Without these donations, The Crisis Nursery wouldn’t be able to provide a safe haven for these young kids, and they wouldn’t be able to help strengthen the bond of the families that come to them for help.

b. There is a pretty common factor that might make you hesitant to donate but let me explain why The Crisis Nursery is a trustworthy and worthwhile organization.

i. This factor is money. People often feel they don’t have enough to donate, or they feel that the amount they donate is not valued or is insignificant. However, at The Nursery, any contribution is appreciated.

ii. For an example, The Crisis Nursery holds an event called the Children’s Holiday Shop which is something I have participated in many times. This
shop allows children to shop for Christmas presents for their family at a very low price, often the gifts don’t cost more than $10.

iii. The entire event is possible because of community donations and volunteers. This allows 100% of the donations raised to be put right back into bettering The Crisis Nursery. The donations are dispersed between counseling services, parent and child workshops, building and nursery renovations, medical supplies, and toys for the young kids that are staying at The Crisis Nursery. This has been a great success which demonstrates how the tiniest amount really can make a major difference.

**Transition:** The Crisis Nursery offers so much, and because of this organization, these kids who are victims of abuse don’t have to feel helpless and afraid.

**IV. Visualization**

a. We all know victims of abuse and neglect; we may just not be aware of it. Your donation would be instrumental in helping The Crisis Nursery provide aid and comfort to so many children. By donating, you would be helping an entire generation to recover mentally, physically, and emotionally from the trauma that they have had to endure at such a young age.

b. The Crisis Nursery knows how to help these children; our neighbors, our friends, our friends of friends. They are able to provide comfort and care. They are able to give these kids a place that is safe.

**V. Action**

a. I ask that you consider The Crisis Nursery as the recipient of your donation. By making a donation to The Nursery you would be helping them provide care for so many children that desperately need it.

i. They have a website, [www.crisisnursery.net](http://www.crisisnursery.net), where you can volunteer or donate as well as view any in person donation opportunities such as the 35th anniversary dinner and auction held at the Ihotal on June 7th.

b. **Closing thought:** There are many children being helped by this institution, and as much as we would all like to be able to snap our fingers and make this problem go away, we live in a world where abuse is in every state, in every city, in every town. We alone cannot stop it, but we can help. It’s happening here, it’s happening now, and this crisis cannot be ignored. Let’s take a step in the right direction. I hope that you consider this charity worthy of your donation. Thank you.
Works Cited

Forrest, Sharita. “Crisis Nursery Kids More Likely to Return to Families from Foster Care.” *ILLINOIS*, 19 Sept. 2011, 9:00 am, news.illinois.edu/view/6367/205231.

