

Operation OK Kids Shelter for Children

Since 2005 there has been a concentrated effort to establish a free-standing emergency shelter for children in foster care for Custer, Dewey, Beckham, Roger Mills, Kiowa and Washita Counties. A site has been located for an (8) bed facility serving 6-17 year olds needing emergency care. Donations have been sought and continue to be accepted.

Children are removed from their homes:

- By court order due to child abuse or neglect
- By law enforcement to protect them
- For in-need-of-supervision or non-violent delinquent offenses
- For private placement by families that require care of the children outside the home

The closest free standing emergency shelter to this area is 60 miles away. Since our children do not live in any shelter's catchment area, the average stay is less than 48 hours which causes multiple placements for them across the state. The volunteer homes we currently rely on for emergency care cannot provide the required round-the-clock supervision.

OPERATION OK KIDS Children's Shelter will:

- Allow children to remain within their support system
- Keep siblings together
- Allow children to maintain established therapeutic relationships
- Increase family visitations
- Provide round-the-clock care for higher level need children
- Provide respite for stressed family units
- Save windshield time of child welfare workers and law enforcement

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
FY 2007
Number of Children in
Foster Care placed in county or out of county of residence
Custer, Dewey, Beckham
Roger Mills, Kiowa, Washita

County of Child's Residence	Average monthly # of children placed in Foster Care in Home County	Yearly total # of children placed in Foster Care in Home County	Average monthly # of children placed in Foster Care outside of Home County	Yearly total # of children placed in Foster Care outside of Home County	Average monthly # of children in Foster Care for the County	Yearly total # of children in Foster Care for the County
CUSTER	29	347	73	876	102	1223
DEWEY	0	0	3	32	3	32
BECKHAM	59	712	24	286	83	998
ROGER MILLS	0	0	1	12	1	12
KIOWA	14	171	12	143	26	314
WASHITA	7	86	10	114	17	200
TOTALS					232	2779

Note: These numbers may be a duplicated count of children, by county, since a child could have been in foster care placement one or more months.