



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter Announces Name Change and Children's Sheltering Fund

New Orleans, LA (October 7, 2015) – New Orleans Women's Shelter is proud to announce the changing of its name to the [New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter](#) in response to the growing number of children served by the shelter and the additional programs provided to assist them. The New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter is the largest shelter for homeless women and children in New Orleans and its mission is to transition homeless families to sustainable and independent living.

Since the relocation of the shelter in early 2014 to the old Liberty House in Central City, New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter has more than doubled in size and now serves twice the number of women and four times the number of children. The shelter for homeless women and children has served more than 750 women and children since 2007 and continues to stay filled to capacity.

According to Dawn Bradley-Fletcher, executive director of the New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter, "Two thirds of the individuals we now serve are children. Children are the most vulnerable homeless population and we want to make sure we meet the needs of every child that comes through our Shelter's doors."

This year, the New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter will serve 65 women and 130 children for an average stay of four months. Recognizing the needs for every child, the Shelter has implemented a comprehensive children's case management program and an after-school education and enrichment program.

"Critical to our success in moving families from homelessness to independent living is the ability to house, feed, clothe and care for them in a safe and secure environment while they receive these essential services," said Dan Silverman, president of the New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter. "One-third of our operating costs go to sheltering children and to meet these costs, we are creating the Children's Sheltering Fund. All proceeds earmarked for the Fund will go to the direct costs of sheltering and nurturing these incredible kids until their family is prepared to move forward."

The Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust is the 2016 Presenting Sponsor of the Children's Sheltering Fund with a \$75,000 donation. "We are quite pleased to be able to honor the memory and charitable interests of the late Oscar J. Tolmas by supporting valuable programs such as this," explained Trustees Vince Giardina and Lisa Romano. Vince Giardina also expressed the Trusts' reasons for starting the fund at the New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter, "We partnered with New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter because there is nothing more important than making sure we do our part to help these kids remain healthy and cared for so that they can grow up to reach their full potential."

To help homeless children in New Orleans and contribute to the Children's Sheltering Fund, visit <http://nowcs.org/support/>. For more information about New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter, visit [www.nowcs.org](http://www.nowcs.org) or find the organization on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) (@NOWCSshelter).

### **About New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter:**

*The largest shelter for homeless women and children in the metro area, New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter has served more than 750 women and children since 2007. A large majority (95%) of the children at the shelter are under the age of ten. An amazing 80% of the families helped since 2007 have transitioned to sustainable, independent living.*

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