

THE COTTAGE

Who Are We?

The Cottage is a private, non-profit residential facility that serves the dependant, abused and /or neglected children of Walker, Dade, Catoosa and Chattooga Counties. We are affiliated with the Family Crisis Center of WDCC, Inc.

Placement

The Cottage provides Emergency Shelter care and Long Term care. Children are eligible to be placed at The Cottage from 13 to 18 years old. Children are referred to The Cottage through the Department of Family and Children's Services. Reasons for placement may include: neglect or abandonment, sexual abuse, physical abuse, lack of supervision, truancy and/or runaway problems, parental illness, lack of appropriate living arrangements, parental incarceration or drug addiction of the caretaker(s).

Services

Aside from providing for the basic needs of our children, such as food, shelter and clothing, The Cottage provides much more. We have partnered with Lookout Mountain Community Services to provide counseling for our children. They complete an initial assessment to determine the level of counseling that each child needs, including more intensive Home Based Services. LMCS provides a counselor who comes to The Cottage weekly to provide counseling services. We also partner with the GA Teen Work Program that provides job sites for our older youth during the months of June and July. The Teen Work Program pays their salary while the youth works to obtain job skills that will benefit them in the future. The Cottage also requires our residents to participate in the Independent Living Program, which offers workshops that address teen age issues and information regarding topics that will help them to live independently after they turn 18 years old.

Medical/Dental

All children in DFCS custody are eligible for Medicaid coverage. The children receive a physical examination upon admittance and The Cottage staff arranges any follow up treatment. The children see a local pediatrician and dentist for all medical and dental needs. Staff members of The Cottage also provide transportation to appointments.

Community Activities

Our youth enjoy visiting local parks, arcades, swimming pools and recreational centers for various activities. We encourage our residents to participate in extra curricular activities through the school system and local recreation organizations.

Education

Our residents attend local schools in the community. Our staff strives to maintain open communication with the school administrators to insure that all of the educational needs of each child are being met. We also encourage our high school seniors to enroll in college courses at Northwestern Technical College to get a "jump start" on their secondary education.

Volunteer Program

We accept applications for volunteers to assist in a variety of areas such as craft and art projects, tutoring, mentoring, etc. Each volunteer must complete a criminal background check and sign a statement of confidentiality. All volunteers must be at least 21 years old.