



Short-Term Crisis Stabilization

*Schaffer Children's Shelter, Schenectady,
a program for youth ages 4–12*

KIM CUMMINS, LMSW
Chief Officer
Residential and Foster Care
518.426.2725
Kim.Cummins@nrfs.org

BILL MARSZALEK, MEd
Executive Program Director
Foster Care and Schaffer
Children's Shelter
518.346.4251, ext. 7532
Bill.Marszalek@nrfs.org

For more information or
to schedule a tour of the
Schaffer Children's Shelter,
contact:

BARBARA CHAIRES
Intake Services
518.346.4251, ext. 4302
Barbara.Chaires@nrfs.org

For youth ages 4–12, the Schaffer Children's Shelter in Schenectady provides comprehensive diagnostic services and emergency respite, with an emphasis on creating a plan for success for the child and family. The 8-bed diagnostic facility is licensed by the New York State Office for Children and Family Services (OCFS).

Often children with histories of trauma exhibit behaviors that become unmanageable in their home. The children's shelter offers a complete 30- to 45-day diagnostic that includes a comprehensive psychosocial and behavioral assessment, as well as psychiatric, individual psychological, and family psychological assessment. These assessments are conducted by three doctors, each of whom is licensed in his or her respective field. Using three doctors allows for a comprehensive overview of the child and family. The staff of the children's shelter prides themselves in providing recommendations and a road map for success for each child and family.

Schaffer Children's Shelter also provides brief emergency respite for children in crisis. These are children who are not in need of hospitalization, but who can benefit from a short stay away from their family home. Emergency respite can provide families with a much-needed break, while preventing out-of-home placement for their children.

Services

- Behavior management
- Comprehensive psychological assessment
 - Projective and IQ testing
 - Psychiatric assessment
 - Family assessment
 - Comprehensive write-up synthesizing doctors' assessments and the behavioral observations of the youth in the facility
 - Comprehensive document provided at the conclusion of the assessment to the local district, which contains all reports and assessments

Benefits

- The child is stabilized
- The child has improved daily functioning at home, in school, and in the community
- Caregivers are more understanding of and better prepared to manage their child's behaviors and emotional needs
- Caregivers gain a better understanding of how the child's and family's background impacts their current functioning
- The family receives a comprehensive document detailing the services provided, which can then offer guidance to future service providers

*These services are provided by
Northern Rivers Family of Services
and member agencies.*

- The family receives a comprehensive genogram of the family; this pictorial representation of a child's family relationships and medical history helps highlight and analyze hereditary patterns and psychological factors affecting relationships.

Get Started

The diagnostic program is available to youth ages 4–12 who are currently in the care and custody of their county's Department of Social Services (DSS). Emergency respite is available to some private insurance companies and certain local county mental health offices.

For more information on the Schaffer Children's Shelter or to arrange for a tour of the residence, contact:

Barbara Chaires
Intake Services
518.346.4251, ext. 4302
Barbara.Chaires@nrfs.org

