

## MISSION STATEMENT

SHIELDS for families is a non-profit community-based organization dedicated to developing, delivering, and evaluating culturally sensitive, comprehensive service models that empower and advocate for high-risk families for over 20 years.

## HISTORY

SHIELDS was formed in 1987 in response to high incidence of infants born prenatally exposed to drugs at Martin Luther King Hospital in South Central Los Angeles.

SHIELDS began providing services to this unique population and has since grown to provide over 30 comprehensive, family-centered, wrap-around programs addressing issues facing high-risk families in South LA.



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SHIELDS for Families is an equal opportunity service provider that does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation or belief, citizenship/status as a lawfully admitted immigrant authorized to work in the United States, or participation in any WIA Title I-financially assisted program or activity. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

[www.shieldsforfamilies.org](http://www.shieldsforfamilies.org)

We believe that with education, access to appropriate services and caring guidance, families can rebuild their lives and become productive members of the community, nurturing parents and achieve all of their dreams.

Genesis



Genesis is a family-centered, intensive day treatment program which provides comprehensive services to pregnant women and/or women with children who have been assessed as having moderate to severe problems with drugs and/or alcohol.





The very first program established by SHIELDS in 1990, the emphasis of the Genesis program is to promote family bonding and family reunification for substance abuse impacted families. We strengthen the family as well as the community by building skills through **educational services, counseling services, child development, individual therapy, educational groups and case management**. All services provided by the Genesis program are available in English and Spanish.



While working at Dr. Martin Luther King hospital, it was observed that there was a high percentage of families with drug exposed infants as well as a high involvement with the Department of Children and Family Services. In an effort to address these issues, the Genesis Family Day Treatment program was developed in 1990 to provide a new beginning for pregnant and parenting women and their families affected by drugs in South Los Angeles.

The target population for the Genesis program is pregnant women and/or women with children who have been assessed as having moderate to severe problems with drug and/or alcohol, but are still able to maintain some semblance of stability and support in their lives. Participants within the Genesis program receive **educational services**,



**counseling services, child development, individual therapy, educational groups and case management**. In addition, participants build leadership skills through participation in Client Council and the SHIELDS Consumer Advisory Board.

In an effort to provide comprehensive services to our participants, the Genesis program collaborates with several other SHIELDS programs to deliver an inclusive treatment model that supports sustainability and self-sufficiency. These programs include: SHIELDS Vocational Services Center (VSC) which provides **literacy skills, GED preparation, job development and computer training**; Heros & Sheros youth program which provides services such as **tutoring, physical Education, computer classes, mental health and individual/group therapy** to participants' school aged children between the ages of 6-17; SHIELDS Therapeutic Nursery which assists participants' children aged 3 to 5 with behavioral problems; the Genesis Child Development Center which provides comprehensive services for children ages 0 to 5; and Naomi Village which provides **housing and case management services**.

While Genesis is a 12 – 24 month program with an average completion rate of 18 months, the time spent in each phase of the program and the actual length of program participation may vary from client to client since we treat each person as a unique individual who will progress in their treatment and recovery at their own pace.

### Program Highlights

- Completion rates for Genesis have remained at 70% or higher since program implementation in 1990.
- Family Reunification rates are 90% for families involved with the Child Welfare System.
- The number of drug exposed births in the community decreased by 75% within 2 years of the opening of the program, decreasing costs at Martin Luther King Hospital by \$60 million.
- SHIELDS received the national C. Everett Koop Award for our work at Genesis.
- In order to address the Spanish speaking needs of our community, a monolingual Spanish track is available for participants.