Founded in 1888 as Wichita’s first orphanage to support and care for destitute and homeless children, the Wichita Children’s Home (WCH) is open 24/7 and serves children from birth to 22 years of age with emergency, temporary, and residential care in the shelter or foster homes. They provide assessment and intervention services, a temporary home, and education, prevention and advocacy initiatives.

Law enforcement refers 1,500 children annually. Social workers, parents in crises and sometimes the children themselves are admitted to the shelter. More than 2,000 children are admitted every year. Their Street Outreach Services (SOS) focuses on helping runaway and homeless youth with services to help them stabilize their lives. The program also helps youth who are aging out of foster care, pregnant or parenting.

The National Student Safety Program (NSSP) has selected Wichita Children’s Home as their community service project recipient at their 2020 Annual Teen Leadership Conference to be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Wichita, Airport. NSSP was held in Wichita in 2014 and WCH was their community project.

Donations in cash, checks, or gift cards are being accepted by NSSP at the conference event up until Tuesday, July 21, 2020. NSSP is the youth organization of the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association and was established in 1956 by the National Education Association. It is the oldest youth organization in the nation focused on reducing teen injuries and fatalities on our highways.

To make a donation or for more information about the project and conference, contact Janice Meeker at jan.meeker-sevilla@k12.hi.us.