

## Children's Emergency Shelter

### Success Story

His paternal Grandmother brought Tim, a 6 year old boy, to Childhaven. She was seeking help due to Tim being a safety risk to himself and his younger sibling. He would not listen to his grandmother, would run out of the house and yard at all hours and hide from her. Due to his risk-taking behaviors, Grandmother was not able to keep Tim or his younger sibling safe and needed someone to take care of him so that she could attend to the requirements placed on her to have legal guardianship of the children. Grandma was raising the children due to both parents being substance abusers and not providing a safe and stable environment for the children. She was unable to access financial, medical, or other needed services for the children since neither parent could be located to provide her legal guardianship.

Placement in Childhaven shelter was requested so Tim could receive a mental health assessment, have a medical checkup, and provide Grandma with some time to attend to issues needing resolved so she could access help for herself and the children.

Upon arrival, Tim refused to come inside the facility, he ran from Grandma (screaming and yelling), ran to the park across from the shelter and attempted to climb into a tree. It was pouring down rain and he was getting soaked. Several Childhaven staff and Grandma tried to get him to come inside. He kept running around the park and hiding, he eventually climbed into the trunk of Grandma's car and pulled the trunk down (lock had already been removed due to a previous incident where he locked himself in the trunk). For his safety, the decision was made to call law enforcement for assistance.

Law Enforcement was able to bring Tim inside the facility. Tim eventually calmed down, but continued to refuse to stay at the shelter. He became extremely agitated again when he realized his Grandma was leaving without him and began screaming, crying, and hid under a desk. One of the Childhaven therapists came and visited with him. She stayed with him, providing reassurance and allowing him time to calm down. Eventually she was able to gain his trust and convinced him to stay here overnight.

The next day he was more relaxed and was able to interact positively with the staff and the other children. He ate his breakfast, played inside with various toys, and joined in doing arts and crafts. Shelter staff were able to schedule him with a therapist for a mental health assessment and weekly therapy. Over the next several days, he became more and more relaxed and adjusted to the Shelter routine. Eventually staff were able to take him to an off-campus activity along with the other children, feeling confident that he would not run away from staff. During the remainder of his time in the shelter, he was able to express his feelings appropriately and enjoyed the activities with the rest of the children. The structured daily

environment of the shelter was what he needed and thrived in. Meanwhile, having a break from this high needs child, Grandma was able to resolve the children's legal issues and after several weeks she was able to take Tim home with her when he was calmer and in control of his feelings and actions.

Grandma has continued to keep in touch with the shelter staff and updates them on the progress that Tim continues to make. She can bring him back for occasional behavioral health respite care, but so far has not needed to take us up on the offer.