



Facility and Provisions

Alpha House provides a 24-hour crisis line that provides immediate access to safety and services. Our trained staff operates this crisis line from our facility 24-hours every day. We keep statistics by using a crisis call log and quarterly reports that help us to quickly reference our demographics and the different needs of our callers.

Alpha House currently operates out of an 1800 square foot modular home with five bedrooms and two bathrooms. We are located in Taft, CA, a small, rural community located in Kern County in California's Central Valley.

In 2003, Kern County Assessment listed homelessness as one of the county's most prominent unmet needs. Reports in Kern County show that forty-nine percent of the female householders with children below the age of five are below the national poverty level. According to the Domestic Abuse Women's Network (DAWN), "Nationally, one half of all homeless women and children are fleeing domestic violence." There exist only 2 other homeless shelters in Kern County, Bethany Center, and Tabitha's House, in Bakersfield. There are 2 other domestic violence shelters in Kern County; Alliance Against Violence (AAFV), a 38 bed facility in Bakersfield, and High Desert Shelter, a 26 bed facility in Ridgecrest. Alpha House is the only homeless/domestic violence shelter on the West side of Kern County. AAFV frequently refers their overflow to us at Alpha House.

Alpha House can accommodate up to 9 women (plus children) at the same time, and we offer a variety of support services to our clients. The moment the clients arrive at the shelter, Alpha House staff meets the immediate physical needs of our clients by providing them with emergency shelter, food, and clothing. We also operate a thrift shop that allows the women and children residing at Alpha House to receive clothing to meet their needs. We can provide up to 5 days worth of clothing per person if needed.

Alpha House conducts an in-depth assessment of each client upon arrival in order to better comprehend the individual situation and needs. Our staff is able to determine a course of action for both the short and long-term needs of each woman. We meet the immediate physical needs of our clients by

providing them with emergency shelter, food, and clothing. We also operate a thrift shop that allows the women and children residing at Alpha House to receive clothing to meet their needs. We can provide up to 5 days worth of clothing per person if needed. Alpha House offers an array of in-house support services for our clients, including group domestic violence classes and peer counseling. Depending upon the client needs, we will also coordinate with other qualified agencies and service providers for assistance such as mental health and medical services, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and drug treatment programs.

Women staying at Alpha House usually reside here for 3-14 days, but staff may extend their stay as necessary. While they are here, our entire staff advocates for the women to resolve their legal issues and find their own housing and in 2006 and 2007 we have assisted more than 20 families to find permanent housing. Alpha House also helps women to write resumes and aids in job searches for our clients by delving into our network of local employers and employment agencies.

Alpha House takes a strong stance on the importance of educating our community about the effects of domestic violence. We do this by sending out a quarterly newsletter, speaking at numerous engagements, and through church outreach. All of these factors help inform the community regarding where to receive assistance if they are abused or know someone who is being abused. We are campaigning for public awareness to provide extra training for law enforcement officers, social services agencies, health professionals, clergy, school district employees, and for anyone who may be interested. Each year we educate over 500 community members through these different communication efforts.

Over the years, we have established a comprehensive network of relationships to assist our clients with their needs. This network includes the Kern County Superior Court, the Westside Community Resource Center, Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, the Career Services Center, Kern County Mental Health, and many others.