



Meta House at a Glance

Reclaiming Women's Lives, Rebuilding Families

Mission: Meta House helps women struggling with drug and alcohol addiction reclaim their lives and rebuild their families. Its model program meets the unique needs of women and their children, ending the generational cycle of substance abuse.

Meta House is an internationally-recognized **drug and alcohol abuse treatment program for women**, and has been providing long-term, gender-responsive treatment since 1963. Meta House services help women not only stop using alcohol and drugs, but assist them in tackling a host of other barriers such as poverty, unemployment, homelessness and/or unsafe housing, parenting, poor physical health, mental health disorders, and past physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

Knowing that the women served at Meta House want to be good mothers, in 1988 our facility became one of the first in the nation to **include children in the residential treatment setting**. By including children, Meta House is able to provide comprehensive services to counteract the affects of maternal substance use and to break the cycle of addiction.

Meta House programs include:

- A **residential treatment program** housing up to 43 women and 17 children and offering them 24-hour care, 7 days a week;
- **Outpatient treatment services** for women able to maintain sobriety while remaining in their own homes while attending Day, Outpatient, or Intensive Outpatient Treatment;
- **Meta Housing** - transitional and permanent housing for families headed by recovering women in need of a safe and affordable place to live, while still benefitting from supportive services.

Program Results and Outcomes

The innovative and holistic treatment model has made Meta House a success. In 2009:

- Meta House served 298 women (46 of whom were pregnant) and 326 children.
- 76% of Meta House residential clients completed treatment, compared to a national average of 39%.
- Meta House facilitated over 2,000 supervised visits with children who were not in their mother's care.
- Average length of stay in Residential Treatment: Meta House: 117 days, National average: 59 days, Wisconsin average: 41 days
- Average length of stay in Outpatient Treatment: Meta House: 178 days, National average: 87 days, Wisconsin average: 89 days

Cost-Savings to the Community

In the past 25 years, Meta House has saved the Milwaukee community over \$515 million in costs that would have likely been incurred in the absence of treatment for services like emergency room visits, criminal justice activity, financial assistance, and disability payments.

