



- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Help & Resources](#)
 - [Facts about Mental Disorders and Children](#)
 - [Roadmap to Help](#)
 - [Library](#)
 - [Organizations](#)
 - [Advocacy Resources](#)
 - [Crisis Planning](#)
- [Juvenile Justice](#)
 - [Resources](#)
 - [Luzerne County Blog](#)
- [Ask the Advocate](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

[Home](#)»[News](#)»Six Pennsylvania Children's Facilities Now Official Sanctuary (SAFE) Sites

Six Pennsylvania Children's Facilities Now Official Sanctuary (SAFE) Sites

Posted on December 13 2010 in: [News](#), [Statewide](#)|[Comments](#)

The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare announced on December 8, 2010 that the first of 29 children's facilities implementing the Sanctuary Model have passed certification! The first six sites are Bridgeview, Sarah Reed, Perseus House, The Children's Home of Reading, Bradley Center, and Bethany Children's home. Congratulations to the staff, administration, children and families who accomplished this distinction.

The Sanctuary Model addresses issues of safety and wellness within an institution. This is of great importance to families when their children are placed outside the home. Institutions that use the Sanctuary Model promote peaceful and healing approaches among all the children and adults in a site. This reduces or eliminates traumatic experiences, including seclusion and restraint, bullying and physical assaults.

The Sanctuary Model achieves safety in four areas:

- Physical Safety = To be physically safe from harm
- Psychological Safety = To be safe in the world – includes self-discipline, self-esteem, self-control, self-awareness, self-respect
- Social Safety = To be safe with other people in relationships and in social settings
- Moral/Ethical Safety = To have a set of standards, beliefs, and operating principles that are consistent, that guide behavior, and that are grounded in a respect for life

More certification visits are planned in the near future. Good luck to all the sites committed to mastering this amazing process and becoming official Sanctuary Model sites. Accreditation through The Sanctuary Institute means that an organization has demonstrated a sustained commitment to nonviolence, emotional intelligence, social learning, shared governance, open communication, social responsibility, growth, and change.

More Information

- Read more about one of the six sites – [Bethany Children's Home](#)
- Read more about the [Sanctuary Model](#)

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The Children's News is a program of the [Mental Health Association in Pennsylvania](#) (MHAPA) and its [affiliates](#) across the state. We provide information for families on children's mental health issues in Pennsylvania – including advocacy efforts, events, and policies – and offer families the opportunity to [share information](#) on these issues with us.

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- © 2010 PA Children's News
- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Help & Resources](#)
- [Juvenile Justice](#)
- [Ask the Advocate](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Contact Us](#)