



Family homelessness is a silent epidemic effecting thousands of children in Dallas County. In fact, families with children are the fastest growing homeless group. Family Gateway was founded in 1986 specifically to meet the unique needs of homeless families; keeping families together while they recover from crisis and learn the skills needed to return to lasting self sufficiency.

The Challenge

The needs of homeless families are distinctly different from those of the chronically homeless. Family Gateway's facilities and programs are designed to meet the special needs of children and parents.

Objectives

- To satisfy the basic need for food and housing for children and their families
- To reduce anxiety and emotional disturbances caused by the stress of homelessness
- To train/counsel adults to effectively handle personal, social, familial and financial crises
- To develop employment and life-skills that lead to sustainable employment
- To develop self-esteem/reliance and self-confidence
- To establish stability in school, work, finance, housing and family relations
- To develop awareness of community support systems to aid in day-to-day living
- To prevent generational homelessness by breaking the cycle that perpetuates poverty in the lives of children
- To provide programs and counseling for children that teach coping skills, education and self-esteem development

How We Help

Annette G. Strauss Family Gateway Center

Qualified families begin an initial 10-15 week program at the Annette G. Strauss Family Gateway Center where they are able to live together in a private room. Recovery begins right away with a personalized family plan to address needs and create a roadmap for success. Children and parents are offered the counseling, training and assistance they need to make positive choices for their future.

Center Summary: 711 South St. Paul Street: (30 bedrooms) Services include: case management, housing search, counseling, referrals to mainstream resources, children's programs and training classes in parenting, relationships, budgeting, nutrition, employment skills and job search assistance.

Transitional Housing

After completing the initial program, families receive assistance to find housing in the community. Qualified families may live at the Gateway Apartments, or choose units elsewhere. This helps families return to independent living and continue to rebuild their lives, establish themselves in a job and maintain stability for their children.

Gateway Apartments Summary: 4712 Gaston Avenue: (25 two - and three-bedroom apartments) Services include: case management, housing search, counseling, referrals to mainstream resources, children's programs and training classes in parenting, relationships, budgeting and job search assistance.

Continuing Community Transition Services

Families are able to access continued support services, primarily through referrals, to help ensure their ongoing success. Included are regularly scheduled home visits or telephone calls as well as opportunities for families to utilize the services of Family Gateway.

Our Results

Since 1986, Family Gateway has nurtured and protected over 7,600 children and 3,800 families. One year after leaving the Family Gateway program, 94% of children are in families maintaining stable housing.