Core Principles

Housing is a right for all human beings.

Homelessness is an affront to human dignity. Everyone is ‘housing ready.’ Homelessness should be rare, brief, and non-recurring.

We provide both short-term emergency help and long-term support.

We work with our community partners to prevent homelessness from occurring. We provide emergency shelter and food to families in need. We house families quickly and give them support to maintain housing.

We value the independent strength of families.

In all we do, we recognize the innate strength and ability of parents to make decisions and provide for their families.

We leverage family supports and resources to help them achieve housing stability.

We advocate on behalf of families. Stable families are an important asset to our community.

We value our partners; those in the faith community, our local government, business and community volunteers, landlords and funders.

We honor their time and resources.

We value their expertise and guidance.

We express gratitude promptly, sincerely and often to our partners.

We value diversity and inclusion.

Family homelessness is a complex problem, and we believe a diverse, inclusive team is the best team to meet the challenge of ending family homelessness. We seek diversity and promote inclusion in our hiring of staff, selection of board members, and outreach to congregations. Diversity and inclusion extend to persons with lived experience of homelessness, of all faiths and races, sexual orientation and gender identification, physical ability and socio-economic status.

We educate others and ourselves about the problem of family homelessness.

To educate our community, we use all opportunities to advocate on behalf of families with local and national government, media, and in our training of volunteers. We commit to our own education as board and staff members to learn all we can about the causes of and solutions to family homelessness.

Mission:

Working together to end family homelessness in Washtenaw County.

Vision:

We commit to ending family homelessness.

Our 25 year service of providing emergency support to families in crisis

will continue as long as there are families in need.

Organizational Goals:

**We move families quickly into permanent housing.**

Objectives

* Shelter stay is as brief as possible.
* We empower parents as their family’s leaders.
* We strive to increase the pool of landlords who will work with our program.
* Our team’s work is focused on housing. Our message to clients is always ‘housing first.’

**We help families sustain housing:**

Objectives:

* We identify and acknowledge family strengths and resources.
* We stress increasing income, employment, education and training.
* We teach habits of good tenancy.
* We teach budgeting and financial planning.
* We support families with access to affordable, quality child care.
* We support food security.
* We support family health and safety.

**We work to increase affordable housing in our community:**

Objectives:

* We build strong relationships with landlords to house the families we serve.
* We raise community awareness of family homelessness.
* We leverage the strengths and resources of our community partners.
* We participate at all levels of action as individuals, staff, board and volunteers to increase community resources for families.