



## ORGANIZATION PROFILE

### Our Mission

Home for Families believes that families deserve and have the right to housing, financial, and educational stability.

### About The Homeless Families Foundation

Home for Families (HFF) was founded as The Homeless Families Foundation in 1986 by community volunteers who believed it was unacceptable for any child to be homeless for a single night, and that the great equalizer in society was a good education. That belief continues to drive our work, but no longer fully encompasses it.

We believe today that all families deserve and have the right to housing, financial, and educational stability, and offer **wraparound services** and **holistic programming** that support the entire family and **address the multiple systemic barriers** the families we serve face in achieving stability. We work to empower vibrant, active, loving families who are overcoming or at-risk of homelessness, providing them assistance with finding and securing quality, affordable housing; employment navigation; education enrichment programs for children and teens at our Dowd Education Center; and filling the gaps in funding that arise for food, clothing and household items through our Family Stability program.

As we continue to navigate our part of the global pandemic in Columbus, OH, we also face a housing crisis. The current housing wage – the amount a family must earn to spend 30% or less of their income on housing - \$16.64, yet six of Ohio's top ten jobs pay less. This means that the average renter must work 76 hours per week – 1.9 full time jobs – to earn an income substantial enough to afford such simple necessities as food and utilities after paying rent. The model is not sustainable or equitable, and real families are paying the price each day.

Every year approximately 1,200 families and 3,000 children are homeless in Columbus. Every day that we fail to end homelessness is another day real families and children are living without a home. At HFF, we work every day with purpose to recognize, address and dismantle these barriers, and to be a transformational force for families in housing, economic and educational stability.

### HFF History

HFF began operations with five modest apartments and an all-volunteer staff. Today HFF uses multiple housing prevention and housing options and continues to provide case management and support until the family becomes stable. To help families address the complex factors that affect their stability HFF provides and/or connects them with: crisis intervention, literacy and basic education skill-building, workforce training and placement, parenting education, mental health/substance assessment and counseling.

In 1991 the first children's program, a two week summer camp, was introduced. Education now includes a **fully licensed afterschool and summer educational enrichment program** for kindergarten through middle school children, **programming for teens**, and the **Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK)** home visit based program to improve school readiness for children in Franklin County who do not have the opportunity to participate in traditional early learning programs. the Dowd Education Center is open to all children in HFF's housing first program and children who are at risk of becoming homeless who live in Columbus' west side neighborhoods.