



## ORGANIZATION PROFILE

### Our Mission

Home for Families believes that families deserve and have the right to housing, economic 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, economic 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 a *Rapid Re-housing model that moves families directly into permanent housing* 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. By 1994 the program had grown to a three day a week education and tutoring program. The Program has developed into a *fully licensed afterschool and summer educational enrichment program for kindergarten through middle school children*. 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. In 2014, HFF added 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. Today, HFF encompasses 14 programs and serves approximately 650 families per year. We continue to grow to meet emerging needs, to empower our families on the path to stability, and to create – *Home for Families*.

## Current HFF programming:

- **Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)** helps homeless families living in shelter move into stable housing. Families living in shelter are referred to HFF for this program.
- **Rapid Re-Housing Intensive (RRHI)** helps families who have been in shelter multiple times. Families living in shelter are referred to HFF for this program.
- **Homeless Prevention for Expectant Mothers (HPEM)** provides housing and supportive services to improve the health and well-being of mother and child.
- **Housing for Pregnant Women (HPW)** provides housing and supportive services to women who are currently homeless or in danger of becoming homeless.
- **Housing Now for Homeless Families (HNHF)** provides assistance to families with a minor child or someone at least six months pregnant that are experiencing a housing crisis.
- **Housing Assistance for Transitional Age Youth (TAY, ages 18 – 24)** provides housing assistance and programming when the head of household is 24 or younger.
- **Success Bridge** provides housing assistance and supportive services for Columbus State college students.
- **Resiliency Bridge** provides housing assistance, job training and guaranteed job placement upon completion of the program.
- **Family Stability** is a safety net for all within the HFF sphere of influence. It provides financial and material assistance along with supportive services to prevent families from becoming homeless again.
- **Employment Navigation** assists current clients who need help with employment. Services include help with resumes and notification of job openings.
- **The HFF Choice Food Pantry** provides monthly assistance with canned and shelf-stable food as well as toiletries and paper goods for all families in the HFF sphere of influence.
- **Healthy Beginnings at Home (HBAH)** was a housing stabilization pilot program for pregnant women, led by Celebrate One, seeking to improve maternal and infant health outcomes in low-income families. HFF was a key partner in the program and provided housing stabilization services and insight.
- **HFF Dowd Education Center** offered programming as a Learning Extension Center during the pandemic and has resumed afterschool and summer camp programs supporting STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) focused education. They provide additional support in Social Emotional Learning, Skill Building, and Education/Career Exploration.
- **SPARK (Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids)** provides in-home educational services to help parents teach their children the skills needed to begin kindergarten. SPARK is offered in both English and Spanish.
- **YOUTH M.I.C.**, a program for youth ages 13-18, offers leadership training, exposure and mentorship in visual and performing arts, and programs teaching technology and communications skills.

## Key Events + Fundraisers

