



Home
for Families

Adapting to help families thrive

2025 IMPACT REPORT

A letter from our President & CEO

Dear friends,

This past year was a challenging one for nonprofits, as we all grappled with a tumultuous political landscape and a host of uncertainties surrounding Federal and state funding. In the midst of all the upheaval, what stands out to me the most is the ways in which our agile organization responded. We were proactive. We were communicative. And most importantly, we continued to adapt to best meet the needs of the families we serve.



Beth Fetzer-Rice

The current administration's proposed budget, among other policy changes, were expected to create waves in 2025. To bring our community stakeholders up to speed, we shared Q&A articles in July and November. We candidly explained how our programs and services could be impacted to inform and spur our supporters to action giving, sharing, and connecting resources to help us continue providing vital housing services.

In addition to relying on the written word, we strategically employed in-person events for meaningful connection. In June, we held a donor focus group to gain feedback about our strategy, processes, and communication preferences. The thoughtful discussion gave us a valuable window into donor engagement and helped inspire us to host our HFF Community Open House in recognition of World Homeless Day on October 10th.

While I appreciated the varied ways in which we connected with our community, I am also incredibly proud that we started

two new programs in 2025. Last year, HFF was selected as one of five agencies to participate in the City of Columbus' rental assistance pilot program, the Columbus Resilient Housing Initiative. Intended to help fill the gap left by the conclusion of the Federal Emergency Rental Act, the program provides rental assistance and housing-focused case management to tenants at risk of imminent eviction to prevent homelessness and support stable housing.

As a contractor with the City of Columbus, we also began offering Displaced Tenant Service programming last year, which promotes safe and stable housing for vulnerable tenants who have been emergency vacated by the City of Columbus Code Enforcement. HFF helps move vacated residents into safe and temporary housing, such as a hotel or with a friend or family member, within 24 hours of the emergency vacate order. We also provide transportation for vacated tenants during their search for permanent housing and offer supplemental supportive services, such as access to food and other basic essentials, to help stabilize their housing and financial crises.

As we embraced opportunities for growth, we adapted our programming in the face of logistical challenges. Because of location complications, our Dowd Education staff found themselves without a spot for our summer day programming last year. Rather than cancel the program entirely, we shifted operations to host students at our Main Street office.

Quickly, we transformed meeting rooms and office space into classrooms. Dowd staff arranged more field trips than in years past, increasing student experiential learning opportunities and mitigating stress on office operations.

While we saved our summer programming, shifts in funding meant we had to make difficult decisions regarding two of our housing programs. Since 2021, Success Bridge and Resiliency Bridge—two pivotal anti-poverty programs providing rental assistance and educational support—have helped nearly 400 families enhance their education and training to achieve downturn-resistant, high-paying careers.

While we ultimately had to sunset Success Bridge, I remain hopeful that we will find community stakeholders who will work with us to provide the funding necessary to restart Resiliency Bridge. Innovation and adaptability, two of our core values, were important themes for us this past year.

Your ongoing support enables us to continue staying creative so that every family struggling with housing insecurity has a safe and stable place to call home. Thank you for standing with us despite the ever-changing nature of the housing landscape. We couldn't do what we do without you.

With deep gratitude,

Beth Fetzer-Rice
President & CEO

Contact Us

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Get Social

f @homeforfamiliescbus
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Our Executive Team

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Howard Lipkin
CFO

Melissa Humbert-Washington, MSW, LSW
Vice President, Programs & Services

Andrew Snouffer
Vice President, Advancement & Continuous Improvement

Tionna Gonzalez
Senior Director of Finance and Human Resources

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A letter from our Board Chair

Dear friends,
When I reflect upon 2025, I feel immense pride and gratitude when I think of all the ways in which Home for Families empowered those in our community struggling with housing insecurity. Though the nonprofit world was particularly challenged with shifts in funding and the political sphere, HFF adeptly strategized to continue offering the programming crucial to helping families find safe and stable homes.



Stephanie Couhig

Maintaining a strong connection with donors, volunteers, and stakeholders can be difficult during a time that's rife with uncertainty. HFF communicated openly and often, hosting a donor focus group and a community open house and regularly sharing updates about how funding and policy changes could impact programs.

Because of a cessation in funding, 2025 saw the end of two important programs that provided education as well as housing assistance. Despite these setbacks, it was still a year for programmatic growth at HFF. We were especially excited to expand our trauma-informed care by implementing our new Canine Companions® facility dog, Tatum, into our programming.

HFF received Tatum free of charge from Canine Companions in the fall of 2024, and this past year she began working with our clients and their families in earnest, providing anxiety and stress relief, comfort, and unconditional love. I am proud of HFF's ongoing dedication to identifying the best ways to meet the evolving needs of the families we serve. We have an amazing staff that's truly passionate about the work that they do. I'm honored to work alongside my fellow HFF Board of Trustees members, in concert with the Leadership Team, and use our shared talents to help best position this organization for ongoing success and continued stability.

I am especially grateful to our community partners and individual donors and volunteers. Whether you've had a relationship with us for years or you've just begun working with us, your kindness and generosity make our work possible. I thank you for your commitment to the families we serve. Together, we work toward a future in which all families in our community have a safe and stable place to call home.

Gratefully,

Stephanie Couhig
HFF Board Chair

Our Mission

Home for Families partners with families and youth to resolve housing crises, strengthen financial stability, and bridge education gaps to prevent future homelessness.

Our Vision

Home for Families will be the leading ally and innovative housing advocate preventing and ending homelessness for central Ohio families and youth.

Our History

Founded as The Homeless Families Foundation in 1986 by community members with the shared belief that no child should endure homelessness—even for a single night—and that quality education can break the cycle of poverty, HFF profoundly impacts the lives of more than 1,200 families and youth each year. As one of central Ohio's largest providers of housing for homeless families outside of family shelter, HFF provides a vital safety net of housing intervention and homelessness prevention programs that empower families to heal from the trauma of housing insecurity, achieve long-term self-sufficiency, and prevent future shelter recidivism.

2025
Impact
Snapshot



932

households served through our housing programming



259

children served through our education programming



1,877

individuals served through our material assistance programming

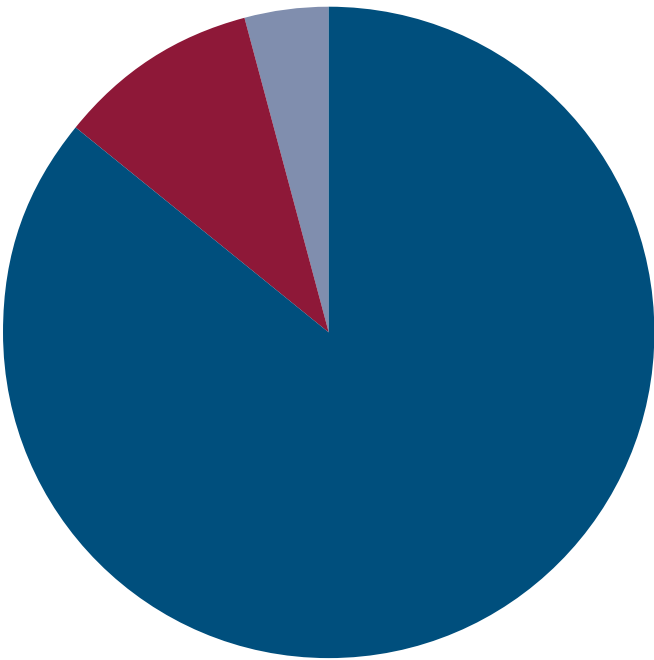


Financial Summary

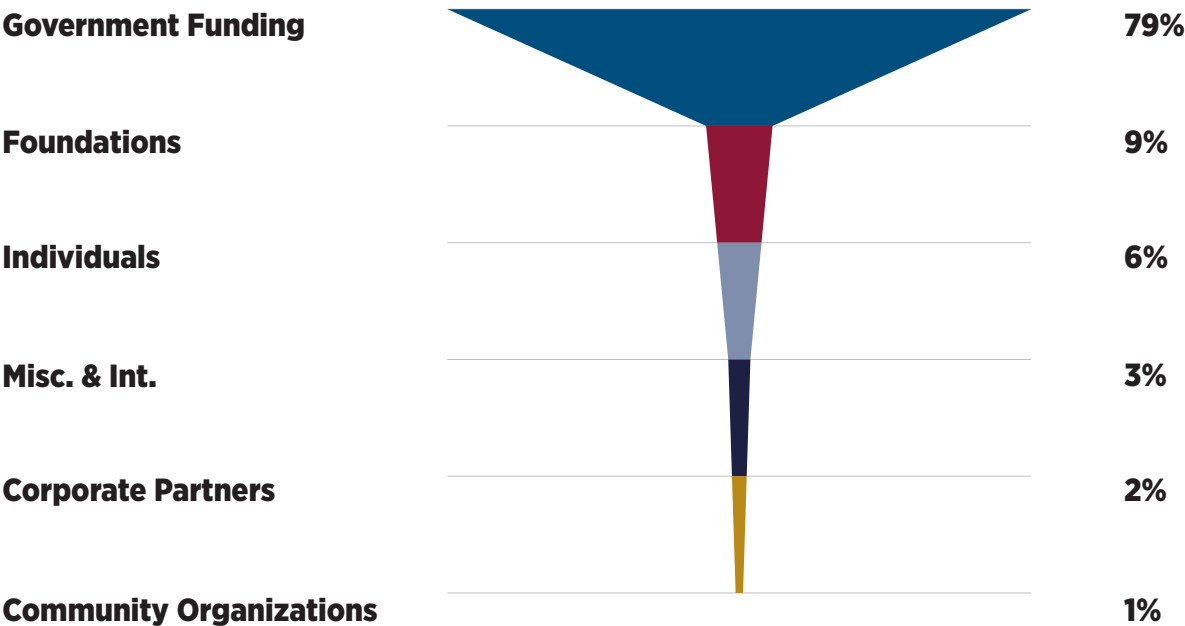
Expense Ratios

- Programmatic: 86%
- Administrative: 10%
- Fundraising: 4%

Total Spent: \$8,021,560



Funding Sources



Total Income: \$8,345,943



Housing



932

households served

1,926

individuals served*

less than 5% shelter recidivism across all programs in 2025

*Statistic includes duplicated numbers.

Determined to Rise *Tiffany's Story*

After Tiffany lost her contract job with a large company, she became determined to do whatever it took to launch herself into a more stable career.

The single mother of three had dropped out of college when she became pregnant with twins, and divorce made it even harder to regain financial stability. She knew she wanted to get into the technology field, but attending and paying for classes without a steady income while also managing her household seemed impossible.

Tiffany participated in two cohorts of Home for Families' Resiliency Bridge program. While she attended classes, Home for Families paid her rent and also helped her purchase a new vehicle when she was having issues with her car.

"I couldn't have asked for a better support system," she said.

Tiffany earned her certification in software development and plans to obtain a bachelor's degree in the technology field. With a certification in hand, Tiffany's earning potential is greater than it



ever has been. "Sometimes, when you're in survival mode, you can get stuck in a cycle," she said. "I don't have to continue to loop. I feel like I broke it."

Education



Game Day Magic *A visit to see the Columbus Crew*

Our Dowd Education program provides experiential learning activities to spur critical thinking, teamwork, and creativity. In June, our Summer Achievers got to see the Columbus Crew face off against Philadelphia Union. Before the game started, students had special access to high-five players as they arrived. They also received some Crew swag to cheer on the team in style. We're grateful to the Crew for making it possible for our students to have this amazing game day experience.



259 children served through our education programming

149 students participated in our SPARK kindergarten readiness programs

70 students participated in our Afterschool Achievers program

40 students participated in our Summer Achievers program

Family Stability



1,877

families served through our material assistance programming*

587

families received food assistance*

588

families received winter holiday support*

*Statistic includes duplicated numbers.

Graduation Day and a Brighter Tomorrow *Skyla's Story*

When new mom Skyla was connected to Home for Families, she was able to not only attain stable housing, but also complete her Bachelor's Degree in psychology. Skyla was staying in shelter with her newborn when she began working with her case manager in our Transitional Age Youth program, which provides housing assistance and programming uniquely designed to meet the needs of young adults. Skyla and her child were immediately placed in one of our Transitional Housing units, and her case manager helped connect her with resources to help make her new house feel like a home: Skyla got a desk, a kitchen table, a couch, and beds. She also received essential house supplies along with diapers and other much-needed items for a new mom. In addition to helping Skyla and her new baby feel comfortable in their new space, Skyla's case manager also helped her obtain a birth certificate for her daughter and provided her bus passes for transportation to and from school. Skyla had been trying to complete her psychology degree at Ohio Dominican, and she said her case manager's caring and supportive approach gave her the motivation to continue in her studies. Her hard work paid off: Skyla graduated on May 10—just a day after her daughter's birthday.



"It was a lot of celebrating," she said. As she begins an exciting new chapter in her life, Skyla shared that she's greatly appreciative of the support she found with HFF. "It's just been an amazing experience, really," she said. "I think this kind of program should be more available for other people," she said. "No one should be homeless." Skyla and her daughter moved into an apartment of their own, and HFF assisted with move-in costs. Skyla has secured a full-time position in the behavioral health field and is really enjoying her new career. The family was exited from HFF programming at the end of January, 2026, and they are doing well.

Donor Recognition

We could not do our work without you! Your continued generosity helps us support the crucial services, programming, and resources necessary for families and youths to secure and maintain stable housing. Your kindness truly changes lives, and for that, we thank you.

Stability Partners

Adam Biehl
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Cecelia Mullin
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Richard and Donna Larkin
Jonathan and Lisa Shiroma

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Dana Schwartz
The Kaplan Foundation

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Gillian Thomson Fund
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Fredric and Linda Brown
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Mr. Andrew Brendan Ross
Goussetis Family Charitable
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Brooks Family Fund
Scott and Terri Ranney Fund
Mr. Roger A. Beaupre
Cathy Brooks
Ken & Sheila Poggenburg
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Park National Bank
NJM Insurance Group
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Target Circle
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ment Center #9475

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tion

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\$4,999**

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Charitable Foundation

**Foundation Partners \$5,000-
\$24,999**

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Ohio Children’s Foundation
Safelite AutoGlass Foundation
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Reinberger Foundation
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Joseph and Kathleen Curatolo
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American Electric Power
Foundation
Siemer Family Foundation
Montei Foundation
Wilson Sheehan Foundation
James W. Overstreet Fund
Micah Fund of The Columbus
Foundation
Ingram-White Castle Founda-
tion

Volunteering

From stuffing backpacks to organizing meal kits, our volunteers help us complete large-scale seasonal giveaways that are critical to the wraparound support we provide. Thank you for dedicating your precious time and energy to support those we serve.



*Number of volunteers and hours worked include unpaid internships and do not include Dowd Education program volunteers.
*The monetary value of volunteer hours is based on the Independent Sector Value of Volunteer Time.

Community Support

Our Community Partners

Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
Athletic Club of Columbus
Bath & Body Works
BEB Realty Association
Besa
Bridgeway Academy
CAPA
Cardinal Health
Church of the Resurrection Women’s Group
Clark National Accounts
Columbus Mothers of Twins Club
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COSI Columbus
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Modern Woodman Fraternal Financial
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Netjets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots
Olentangy Local Schools
Purple Star Photography
Renier Construction Corporation
Rogue Blanketeers
Seeds of Caring
Sister Circle
St. Brigid of Kildare
St. Peter St. Joan of Arc Parish
Tri-Village Rotary
UA Rise/ Upper Arlington High School
United Way of Central Ohio
Upper Arlington Schools
Upper Arlington Student Foundation, (UA High school)
XPO Logistics

We’re incredibly grateful to our community partners for choosing to support our mission and the families and youths we serve. The work that we do simply wouldn’t be possible without your kindness and generosity. Thank you for standing with us in the belief that stable housing is something that should be for all of us.



Equal Housing Opportunity



Equal Housing Opportunity: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the Nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.

Financial Disclosure

The Homeless Families Foundation (dba Home for Families) receives support from the Community Shelter Board and its funders, which include the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, and the United Way of Central Ohio, supplementing the generous donations of numerous individuals, corporations, foundations, and community organizations.

Privacy Policy

The Homeless Families Foundation (dba Home for Families) collects information on donors including their names, addresses, e-mail addresses, and donation histories for contacting donors in the future and for internal record keeping purposes. It does not sell, trade, or lend names, addresses, phone numbers, or e-mail addresses. To review personal information and/or request corrections, contact HFF at 614-461-9247.



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