



# Hope House of Milwaukee, Inc.

209 West Orchard Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204

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*Ending homelessness and creating healthy communities*

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## FAMILY BONDS HOUSING PROGRAM

### 2021 Annual Report

The most recent (May of 2020) Homeless Management Information System Report for the state of Wisconsin shows us that 164 children in 65 households were living in places not meant for human habitation during the month of January last year. The families were living in the streets, in vehicles, abandoned buildings or doubled, tripled and quadrupled up in the homes of friends or family members. We know that one in 45 children suffer with homelessness in the United States each year (over 1.6 million children nationwide), and while they are homeless they experience high rates of acute health problems and endure a constant barrage of stressful and traumatic experiences. They often face the multiple burdens of inadequate interpersonal skills and poor support networks. Other impediments such as health problems or legal entanglements exacerbate the situation, plummeting both self-confidence and self-respect.

In 2019, to better aid these vulnerable families with small children, we combined our two flagship housing programs into one comprehensive program that provides immediate onsite shelter and also provides rapid re-housing. This new combined program makes it possible for us to encompass all of our previous services while being able to act more quickly to aid families in need. The program is called our Family Bonds Housing Program.

**The Family Bond Housing Program**, so named because we continue to be one of the only shelters that provides services solely to homeless families, is the culmination of three decades of experience and an exciting and important step in ending homelessness in the city of Milwaukee. Our goal is to get families off the streets immediately by housing them in our onsite shelter while working to help them find an apartment of their own. Previously, when a family was identified as homeless and was trying to get assistance in an overtaxed shelter system, the family would remain homeless (oftentimes living in automobiles, on the street, in abandoned buildings or other places not meant for human habitation) while case workers scrambled to find a suitable apartment and the voluminous intake paperwork was completed. This kept families in extremely vulnerable positions as the process could take weeks or even months. Through our new Family Bonds Program, Hope House will utilize our ten family units, located on the second floor of our building, to house families waiting to be placed into apartments of their own.

**In 2021, 118 families, containing a total of 161 adults and 307 children were served by our Family Bonds Housing program. Demographically, of the new intakes, 76% were African-American, 10% were Hispanic, 6% were White, 4% were Native American and 4% identified as mixed race.**

**Issues other than homelessness faced by the new adult intakes included Mental Illness (18%), Physical Disabilities (7%), Domestic Violence (50%), Alcohol Abuse (1%), Drug Abuse (2%), and Developmental Disabilities (7%). Many clients faced multiple issues simultaneously.**

## **PROGRAM GOALS, INDICATORS AND RESULTS**

The Family Bonds program offers immediate housing and case management services with the intention of promoting long-term housing stability in participants. The goals for clients in the Family Bonds Housing Program are as follows:

### **GOAL 1: TO OBTAIN AND REMAIN IN PERMANENT HOUSING**

**Indicator:** *Residents will maintain permanent housing at the end of the program.*

**Results:** In 2021, 91% of persons remained in the permanent housing program at the end of the operating year or exited to permanent housing (subsidized or unsubsidized) during the operating year.

**Indicator:** *Residents will work to increase total income.*

**Results:** In 2021, 100% of program participants worked with their case managers to search for jobs or apply for benefits.

**Results:** In 2021, 67% of persons 18+ maintained or increased their total income (from all sources) at the end of the operating year or program exit.

### **GOAL 2: TO ACHIEVE GREATER SELF-DETERMINATION**

**Indicator:** *Residents will pay utility bills and rent as required monthly.*

**Results:** 95% of residents have paid all utility bills and rent as required.

### **GOAL 3: TO INCREASE SKILLS AND/OR INCOME**

**Indicator:** *Residents will complete a monthly budget.*

**Results:** 100% of families completed a quarterly budget.

**Indicator:** *Residents will look for employment or work towards benefits as determined by case manager and resident.*

**Results:** 15% have increased their income through employment. This result was lower than our usual 35% due to the COVID-19 pandemic.