



Flagler Services for Homeless Families

Overview

The first transitional housing program of its kind in Virginia, St. Joseph's Villa's Flagler Services for Homeless Families is a comprehensive program that successfully empowers and transitions homeless families with children into permanent housing. This is achieved through the direct delivery of individualized educational, developmental and psychological services through on-campus residential (Flagler Home) and off-campus services. The program has served more than 600 families (including more than 590 mothers and 1,200 children) since its inception in 1989.

More than a third of all homeless children in the metro-Richmond area are served by this program.

Objective

The program's objective is to build stronger children, families and communities by breaking the cycle of homelessness and transitioning homeless families with children into self-sufficient families with permanent housing.

Location

The program is delivered through on-campus and off-campus services, this includes:

On-campus (*For homeless mothers and their children*)

On-campus, temporary housing for families who reside in three cottages on the St. Joseph's Villa grounds. Each cottage has its own kitchen, laundry, living, and play areas. Families have their own private living quarters, which include a bedroom and private bathroom.

Off-campus (*For single mothers, fathers, intact families and inter-generational families*)

Off-campus services are delivered directly to families that have transitioned to permanent housing. These families maintain their own residence off-campus and are assisted by home visits from program staff and other services within the community. Services are delivered in-home and through a downtown Richmond office, located at 700 East Franklin Street, Suite 814.

Size

The Flagler Program provides services to more than 60 adults and 100 children at any given time (26 families on- and 24 off-campus).

Services / Acceptance Criteria

Services

- Up to two years of transitional housing on the campus of St. Joseph's Villa (for homeless children and their mothers);
- Up to two years of off-campus services (For mothers, fathers, intact families and inter-generational families);
- Full-day and after school children's education/childcare and child development assessments;
- Job and career counseling, skills training and support;
- Educational and vocational training support and counseling;
- Mental health and abusive relationships counseling;
- Parenting skills training;
- Budgeting and financial planning training;
- Medical assistance; and,
- Support groups and social network building.

Acceptance Criteria

- Referred by a shelter or transitional housing program, self-referral, and meet guidelines for homelessness;
- A head of household who is at least 21 years old (both males and females are eligible but only women heads of household are accepted for on-campus living);
- Custody of at least one child, (On-campus maximum of three children per family that are under age 10 ½; Off-campus also includes teenagers); and,
- Free of active substance abuse for at least 1 year.



Program Requirements / Goals

Program requirements

Once accepted into the program, the head of household agrees to:

- Successfully complete a 30- 60- or 90-day orientation period;
- Follow program guidelines;
- Complete psychosocial and vocational assessments;
- Obtain a general education diploma (GED) within the first six months (if applicable);
- Pursue educational/vocational training to improve employment opportunities;
- Develop and follow a Family Life Plan;
- Create and follow a family budget and debt reduction plan;
- Meet regularly with staff as assigned;
- Attend all required counseling or support groups; and,
- Work on a housing plan and secure and maintain safe and affordable housing.

Goals

The goals of the program include having participants attain:

- Happy, healthy and educated children;
- Permanent housing;
- Permanent employment;
- Financial self-sufficiency;
- An increase in life skills;
- Good physical and emotional health; and,
- An active engagement and participation in the community.

Staff / Partnerships

Staff

Staff of 16 is comprised of specially trained, educated and experienced professionals.

Partnerships

St. Joseph's Villa's Flagler Services for Homeless Families, a participant in the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care, maintains working relationships and partnerships with more than 100 state, local and national nonprofit, governmental and corporate organizations and individuals.

For More Information

For more information and/or to schedule a visit to St. Joseph Villa, please call 804 553-3258.

St. Joseph's Villa

Established in Richmond in 1834, St. Joseph's Villa is metro-Richmond, Virginia's oldest and largest continuously-operating children's nonprofit organization. The Villa is located on a spacious 82-acre campus in Richmond/Henrico County and builds stronger children, families and communities. The Villa serves more than 600 children and families daily, through the delivery of six major day and residential programs that includes: special and nontraditional education; education/housing services for homeless children and their families; respite, summer and after-school care for children with disabilities; emergency shelter for children in crisis; and, housing for adults with disabilities.

St. Joseph's Villa admits clients of any race, color, gender, age, religion, disability or national origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accepted or made available to clients at St. Joseph's Villa. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, St. Joseph's Villa is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability and retaliation in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other agency-administered programs. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any U.S.D.A. related activity should write to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.