



A Safe Place Matters



Vision: Every family and individual lives in safe, affordable housing.

Mission: To provide a range of supportive services and housing that empowers homeless families, who are survivors of domestic violence or other trauma to become independent, self-sufficient, and adequately housed; to foster low income housing opportunities to prevent homelessness and encourage safe, affordable housing.

Poverty

- Poverty affects all of the families living at HEARTH. There is a direct correlation between poverty and domestic violence or trauma.
- Poverty leads to issues like food and housing insecurity, which cause a lack of physical safety. Children who are food insecure are 3x more likely to be suspended from school and 2x as likely to repeat a grade and need special education.
- Lack of accessible affordable transportation options make it difficult for mom to go to work or school.
- Lack of affordable and accessible child care options means Mom has to travel for child care.
- Domestic violence often includes financial abuse. Many of the moms at HEARTH were not in control of their finances, many of them were not allowed to work. This means that they do not have the education or job skill training necessary to earn a living wage.
- **HEARTH impact on Poverty**
- Education and job skill training are the key resources needed to lift families out of poverty and homelessness. Each HEARTH participant must enroll in a post-secondary education or training program.
- HEARTH provides life skills training, which includes budgeting, credit repair, and tax prep.
- Access to affordable and safe child care. HEARTH has an Early Head Start on-site, as well as weekly child care on Monday nights.
- HEARTH's program stops the cycle of poverty by instilling important skills with mom that she will teach her children. HEARTH's program provides and intergenerational change. It is the bridge homeless women with children need to become economically self-sufficient.
- HEARTH addresses insecurities by providing access to important resources , including a food pantry, clothing pantry, health services, transportation, and weekly case management sessions.
- HEARTH's program works! 66% of program participant's increased their income, 85% obtained permanent housing, 61 % obtained employment, and 70% increased their education level.

Poverty by the numbers

- 11.5% of Allegheny County , PA lives in poverty
- Women from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds are twice as likely to experience domestic violence, and are more likely to be repeatedly abused or to experience severe violence, than women in more advantaged backgrounds
- 3,000 children in Allegheny County were identified as homeless. This number may be higher due to families not reporting.
- 42,000 children in Allegheny County face food insecurity.

Resources

<https://ncadv.org/statistics>

[https://www.nlchp.org/documents/DV Fact Sheet](https://www.nlchp.org/documents/DV_Fact_Sheet)

<https://homelessfund.org/faqs/how-many-children-are-experiencing-homelessness-in-the-pittsburgh-area/>

<http://www.justharvest.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Just-Harvest-Fact-Sheet-on-Hunger-in-Allegheny-County-2017.pdf>

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/allegHENYcountypennsylvania/PST045216>

Contact Us

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