



Hope House of Milwaukee, Inc.

209 West Orchard - P.O. Box 04095
Milwaukee, WI 53204

Ending homelessness and creating healthy communities

FRESH START PROGRAM

Mid-Year: January 1 – June 30, 2015

Homeless individuals and families often face multiple burdens such as loss of income, inadequate support networks, and mental and physical disabilities. The [Fresh Start Program](#) is designed to provide short-term shelter and supportive services to homeless families and single adults. Program participants can stay up to one month, so staff work quickly with them to develop gainful employment opportunities and to secure permanent housing. Children in shelter grow and learn through our Shining Stars after school program. Adults are provided with practical, applicable information, education, and services in a condensed timeframe. In this way, clients who are temporarily experiencing homelessness can find stable, permanent housing and a better future. Fresh Start is a new program that represents an expansion of our emergency shelter (previously called "Thresholds" and serving only men), in order to meet the changing needs of our population.

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

The population served in the Fresh Start Program is homeless single men, single women and families from the city of Milwaukee. These people have entered the program from extremely low-income backgrounds with inadequate resources to secure housing.

During the first half of 2015, 298 people were served by the Fresh Start Program: 71 single men, 67 single women and 52 families—containing a total of 60 adults and 100 children. There were 124 new single intakes and 52 new family intakes this year. There were 115 single discharges and 43 family discharges. Demographically, of the new intakes, 61% were African-American, 33% were White, 4% were bi-racial, 1% were American Indian and 1% were Asian. 9% also identified as Hispanic or Latino. The average length of stay for singles and families was less than one month.

Issues other than homelessness faced by the new adult intakes included Mental Illness (58%), Physical Disabilities (54%), Domestic Violence (40%), Developmental Disabilities (15%), Alcohol Abuse (11%), Drug Abuse (9%), and HIV/AIDS (3%). Many clients faced multiple issues simultaneously.

PROGRAM GOALS, INDICATORS AND RESULTS

The Thresholds Program is based upon the active and rapid involvement of homeless people in a variety of activities, workshops, and concrete tasks that increase knowledge, improve skills, and teach new behaviors and strategies for future success in stable, long-term housing.

GOAL 1: TO REDUCE HOMELESSNESS FOR FAMILIES AND SINGLE ADULTS.

Indicator: 30% of participants will obtain stable housing.

Results: 44% of participants who left Hope House obtained stable housing upon discharge.

GOAL 2: TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT INCOME FOR PARTICIPANTS

Indicator: *20% of Fresh Start adult participants will secure employment upon exiting the program.*

Results: 31% of participants have successfully obtained employment upon exiting the program.

GOAL 3: TO INCREASE GREATER SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PARTICIPANTS.

Indicator: *Adults that complete the Fresh Start program will receive supportive services that prepare them for employment or housing.*

Results: 100% of program participants received supportive services during their stay.