



Hope House of Milwaukee, Inc.

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

Ending homelessness and creating healthy communities

SAFE LANDING

Mid-Year: January 1 – June 30, 2015

The goal of the **Safe Landing program** is to rapidly move families into their own housing so that they can gain independence in a sustainable manner. Begun in January 2015 with funding from the federal and city governments, the Safe Landing “rapid rehousing” program is a response to recent research that suggests a homeless family will succeed best when connected with individual housing opportunities. Utilizing housing as the core from which a family can improve other aspects of its life, Safe Landing draws participants from the Hope House Fresh Start program, as well as other agencies serving the Milwaukee homeless.

Safe Landing is the bridge between emergency shelter and permanent housing—enabling families to move from a situation of homeless to a place of independence and stability. Case Managers at Hope House work with families to locate an apartment or house that fits their needs, then assists each family with rental subsidies based on the family’s income. During the period in which they are receiving subsidies, families also meet regularly with Case Managers to assess their needs, obtain necessary resources and apply for jobs or work towards other income. When families successfully transition out of Safe Landing, they are in a more stable position and can afford to pay rent on their own.

So far in 2015, a total of 62 families—including 127 children and 67 adults—were served by Safe Landing. 57 families were permanently housed, and 8 families were discharged during this time, either because they found other housing, or because they were evicted. A majority of families have been in the program for 3-6 months. The average length of time between a client’s initial intake and the date when he or she moved into housing was 26 days.

Demographically, 73% of program participants were African-American, 21% were Caucasian, 4% were bi-racial and 1% were Asian. 10% of participants also identified as Hispanic. Issues other than homelessness faced by adults in the program include Mental Illness (34%), Domestic Violence (34%), Physical Disabilities (17%), and Drug Abuse (9%). Many of these clients faced multiple issues simultaneously.

PROGRAM GOALS, INDICATORS AND RESULTS

The Safe Landing 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 Safe Landing Program are as follows:

GOAL 1: TO OBTAIN AND REMAIN IN PERMANENT HOUSING

Indicator: *Residents will maintain permanent housing for at least 3 months.*

Results: **Out of the 57 families who secured permanent housing, 100% maintained their housing for at least 3 months.**

Indicator: *Residents will work to increase income.*

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

GOAL 2: TO ACHIEVE GREATER SELF-DETERMINATION

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

Results: 96% 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 monthly budget.

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

Results: Of the residents who have been surveyed thus far regarding changes in income, 41% have increased their income through employment or other benefits.

SUCCESS STORY

The Rodriguez family* used to own their own home down in Texas, but several years ago, they fell on hard times and had to default on their mortgage. They ended up in Milwaukee and found themselves at Hope House a few times over the last couple of years. Because Julio Rodriguez works for a roofing company, this family of six struggles to make ends meet during the winter months when construction jobs are harder to come by. We were glad to provide them with temporary shelter and to provide their children with an enriching atmosphere in our after-school program—but we were even more glad to see them leave. The Rodriguez's worked with one of Hope House's partner landlords and a dedicated case manager to find their very own home through the Safe Landing program. They now have the stability and safety they need to build their income and be able to support themselves soon. Julio is already back at work and the family has regained their independence in this new home.

**Name changed for privacy.*