

HOLY FAMILY SHELTER

Building A Larger Facility, Expanding Caring Services

Holy Family Shelter is an emergency shelter designed to help homeless families move to a life of self-sufficiency. During 2007, Holy Family Shelter provided emergency services to 899 people in need. This translates into 341 families, including 490 children. A most impressive 75 percent of the clients are well on the road to self-sufficiency by the time they leave the shelter.

At its present location, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Holy Family Shelter has 22 private rooms in which families stay from 30 to 45 days. The shelter staff provides a caring, structured environment where homeless families can find steady employment, a safe place to live, education classes for both adults and children, counseling services and a collaborative support system.



“We try to make it their home during this often traumatic time in their lives. Our mission is to support the family as a whole while they work toward permanent, sustainable housing and self-sufficiency,” explained Bill Bickel, director of Holy Family Shelter. The shelter was the first in Indianapolis to serve families when it opened in 1984. It has proved to be a tremendous community asset over the past 24 years.

Today, skyrocketing utility costs, home foreclosures and increased property taxes are impacting families. These factors make families even more vulnerable as they struggle to make ends meet. During these tough times, Holy Family Shelter is experiencing an increasing demand for emergency services.

Bickel stressed that the demand for emergency shelter is so great that space for services at the current location is inadequate. “Every room at Holy Family Shelter is a multi-purpose room,” he said. Currently, some 15 service partners such as physicians, nurses, attorneys, school tutors and social workers come to the shelter and offer their services to the families in residence.

With such limited space, families often must meet with one or more of the service partners in the dining room while meals are being served. Sadly, there have been opportunities presented to the shelter to enhance essential services such as additional job training and parenting ➤



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classes that could not be accommodated simply because Holy Family Shelter did not have adequate classroom and office space for the activities.

Space is so tight because the shelter is located in a former convent built to house one nun in each room. Families of four or five, or sometimes more, now occupy these small rooms during their time at Holy Family Shelter. Residential rooms need to accommodate a diverse range of family sizes.

This building does not have the space available to maximize the services needed by our clients and accommodate the living conditions for 22 families each day. The current structure cannot be expanded to meet the long-term human services we provide our residents.

Holy Family Shelter is now in the process of focusing on the ever-increasing demand for emergency shelter by building a new facility on the grounds of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, which is located on the westside of Indianapolis. It also will be an excellent location for our homeless residents who rely on public transportation and social service providers in the area.

The new facility will have plenty of meeting and study space for adults and children, offices for counseling and



medical care, ample storage for personal belongings, a community laundry area and dining facilities as well as rooms for families.

“We are serving the poorest of the poor in our community, and it is vital that we have adequate facilities to serve them,” Bickel noted.

Your gift will continue to enable the staff of Holy Family Shelter to expand its mission of providing homeless people with the tools to break the cycle of poverty. We expect to break ground at the new location during the fall of 2008.

Holy Family Shelter transforms lives by equipping individuals and families with life skills that will endure. Our approach provides high-quality client services that lead homeless families to self-sufficiency.



FINANCIAL MODEL

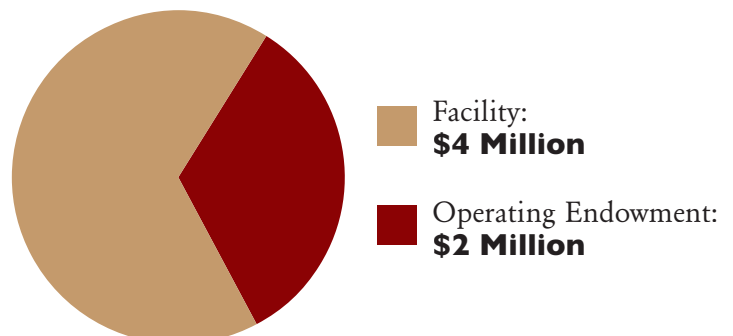
Building and endowing a new facility for Holy Family Shelter is a \$6 million project. We have received \$4.3 million in support from generous *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign donors and civic partners, including a \$1 million capital investment from the United Way of Central Indiana Capital Projects Fund. Four million dollars is earmarked for construction of the new facility, and \$300,000 is designated for the existing Holy Family Shelter Endowment Fund.

Our goal is now to raise the next \$1.7 million in order to sustain the services of a larger facility that will serve an additional 100 to 150 families annually.

YOUR INVESTMENTS IN HOLY FAMILY SHELTER WILL BE USED TO:

- ⊕ allow growth and expansion of services and programs for training in self-sufficiency
- ⊕ maintain and expand infant, child and youth services, including summer camp
- ⊕ support operations that will ensure a safe and secure environment for families who have lost their homes.

Holy Family Shelter Financial Goal: **\$6 Million**



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THE WINTERS FAMILY: PREPARING FOR TOMORROW WHILE PAUSING FOR TODAY

Christina and Eric Winters thought they were doing everything right. He had a good job as an information technology support specialist, and she was paid to watch other children in their home while also caring for their two children. But they had difficulty keeping health insurance, and the young father's Crohn's disease was flaring up again.

The latest round of medical bills and lost time from work cost Eric his job and depleted the family savings account. Then they lost their apartment in a suburb of Indianapolis. After being evicted, they lived in a motel for about a month before finally admitting that they needed help.

Eric and Christina arrived at Holy Family Shelter in April 2008 with their children, Ariel, 3, and Lucas, 1. It took them a couple of weeks to fully comprehend that they were living in a homeless shelter. Ariel celebrated her third birthday in the shelter.

Eric was able to recuperate and find another job that pays more than his previous position. Christina realized

she needs to complete her education to be able to provide a steady income and health insurance for the family.

Through the support of Holy Family Shelter case managers and other community programs, the Winters family found an affordable apartment. Eric now realizes his need to balance maintaining his physical health with providing for his family.

During the time they lived at the shelter, "we've seen everybody with all [kinds of] stories," Eric said. Their eye-opening experience with homelessness forced them to re-examine their present situation.

The staff of Holy Family Shelter has taught them to evaluate their monetary and health priorities. Christina and Eric realize that it will take both of them to make ends meet and provide for their children's future.

MARY: LEARNING NEW LIFE SKILLS— ONE DAY AT A TIME

Mary and her 6-year-old daughter came to Holy Family Shelter last summer after losing their apartment. She had been a housekeeper at a local hotel but left her job abruptly due to health issues.

With the help of her Holy Family Shelter case manager, she was re-enrolled in medical benefits she had lost when she began working. Mary's daughter participated in a summer youth program. Mary attended a job search assistance program that helped her find employment. After three weeks of submitting applications, Mary was hired by a hotel on the far northwest side of Indianapolis and began work in late July. Using public transportation, Mary traveled two hours each way to and from work.

Despite the long bus rides, Mary vowed to keep her current job until she could find another job that requires less travel time. Mary saved diligently to be able to pay outstanding debt and prepared herself to move into her own apartment. She had the opportunity to repair damaged credit and save money. She had the support of a case manager

to set goals, to outline the steps necessary to reach those goals and to begin to fulfill her dreams for herself and her daughter.

Like many of the families at Holy Family Shelter, Mary has worked hard to correct past mistakes and learn new skills to be successful in the future. Success comes one day at a time—and staff members are there to help families become self-sufficient in a dignified environment.



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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Why is a new shelter needed?

Holy Family Shelter currently is located on the near southside of Indianapolis at 30 E. Palmer Street. Originally constructed as a convent for 25 Catholic nuns, this 40-year-old building has housed more than 8,700 homeless families since the shelter's opening in 1984. Over the last several years, the shelter has faced multiple challenges: inadequate space to serve a growing number of homeless families, constant maintenance and repairs exceeding annual budgeted costs, and limited flexibility for providing programs. Space is so limited that families often have to meet with service providers in the dining room while meals are being served. Sometimes three meetings are taking place simultaneously in one room, which jeopardizes the quality of services and frustrates families, providers and staff.

Catholic Charities Indianapolis commissioned a feasibility study in 2004 to determine the future of Holy Family Shelter's location. The study confirmed that the building's structure would not allow for expansion. After considering more than 20 options for the shelter's new location, the site at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on the near westside of Indianapolis was selected. The 31,247 square-foot shelter will have expanded residential, program and office space. The new shelter in the Haughville neighborhood will be located on two arterial bus routes and will be closer to service partners.

When will construction begin and how long will it take?

Construction will begin in the fall of 2008. It is a 54-week project, which means the shelter staff will be ready to welcome homeless families in late fall of 2009.

How much will the project cost?

The cost of the entire project is \$6 million, which includes demolition and preparation of the site, construction of the new facility, and appropriate funding for increased operational costs to serve more homeless families.

How will the new facility better address the needs of homeless families?

The new, larger facility will allow Holy Family Shelter to:

- ⊕ provide emergency shelter, meals and support services to more homeless families
- ⊕ increase the number of collaborative partners providing on-site services to homeless families
- ⊕ enhance services by providing them in designated rooms and private offices, allowing for a more productive and dignified approach to service delivery
- ⊕ improve organizational efficiencies through additional technology and equipment.

How many community volunteers and parishioners currently participate at Holy Family Shelter?

More than 600 individuals selflessly volunteer by sharing their time, talent and treasure with Holy Family Shelter each year.

How can community volunteers and parishioners participate in this project and the future operation of the shelter?

Community volunteers and parishioners can participate in the new facility and its future operation in a variety of ways. Financial assistance is certainly the most pressing need. Additionally, Holy Family Shelter will continue to have numerous volunteer opportunities, which include preparing and serving meals, office assistance and general cleaning. Please contact the shelter for more information at (317) 635-7830.



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