



Working to end homelessness, one life at a time. CATHEDRAL CENTER

Child and Family Services Builds Positive Parent-Child Relationships

CATHEDRAL CENTER NOW PROVIDING ADDITIONAL ON-SITE RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Every day, Cathedral Center witnesses new beginnings: from the woman who made it to our doorstep for the first time or the family who moves out and into their own home. We begin anew when we assess our programs and services or work with our clients to re-evaluate their goals. In response to our recently updated strategic plan, Cathedral Center determined that we needed to expand services specifically for the children and families we serve.

Today, we are proud to announce a very important new beginning in our programming. Cathedral Center launched our Child & Family Services program earlier this summer!

We created an environment that is both welcoming and supportive to families, providing child-focused, compassionate services for children while their parents participate in services on site. Services build on the foundation for success by providing supported play and age-appropriate psycho-educational activities. Through access to age-appropriate programming, children can build their own network of trusted adults. Parents also receive support through activities for families and additional parenting resources.

Today, families are facing more challenges than ever. For parents to work effectively on goals focused on wellness and self-care, increasing earned income, and securing safe housing, they need to know their children are safe and well-cared for.

Our new Child & Family Services program adds new services to support the existing programs of Case Management, workforce development, and housing support.

Added support for families and children reduces barriers to on-site engagement in



established services while also integrating targeted services to positively impact children and parents with short- and long-term benefits. With increased support and services, we can reduce stress and build more positive parent-child relationships as families return to secure, independent housing. These child-focused services allow parents to attend vital meetings, employment workshops, and telehealth meetings without interruption. The program provides a short period of much needed respite to parents as well.

We are excited to announce that an internal candidate from our Case Management Team, who has 10+ years of direct-care and leadership experience in early childhood care and education, started this summer as the Child & Family Services Coordinator. We're also very excited to highlight the new space where program activities are located. The new multi-purpose program space, located at our Emergency Shelter, includes a developmentally appropriate play area for younger children

where they can do their homework, take a nap, or play with friends while their parent(s) attend services in another place within the building.

The interactive space, which complements a similar child-focused space at Friendship House, provides an excellent environment for the promotion of positive play and healthy social, and emotional interactions while also allowing for skill building classes and educational support.

We would like to thank our local partner, Bader Philanthropies, and the Day 1 Families Fund, for providing the funding necessary to launch this new program. We also wish to recognize Crossroads Presbyterian Church as the program's first philanthropic partner as well as Zonta Club for their support in purchasing furnishings. We greatly appreciate your support and look forward to further enriching our efforts with new programs like this, as we continue working to end homelessness, one life at a time.

Strength In Family



"I don't believe in the idea of parenting experts. There are a million different ways to be a great parent" Brene Brown, research professor at the University of Houston and author, said to a group of Houston parents.

I love this quote. I believe – I strongly believe – in the idea of efficacy. To me, this means that a person can be effective and useful and have worth, while still having lots of room for growth. Doesn't that apply to us all? There is no one size fits all when it comes to parenting or adulthood in general.

Cathedral Center builds all our services on the foundation that we are each different, we each begin at different places, have varying levels of need, and we all need and deserve compassion. Our response to basic needs crises is rooted in accessible support that emphasizes individual needs and unique strengths. Our Flexible Housing model was born from this conviction – that being flexible in how much service we provide and how long a person remains engaged in services allows us to serve each individual best.

Over the past five years, Cathedral Center built services around this foundation of service delivery, providing flexibility and accepting those we serve as they are. With our Flexible Housing model, everyone is supported to achieve the next level of growth. We embrace that there are many reasons to celebrate each individual we serve.

Our Community Case Management program doubled its reach over

FROM THE DESK OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – DONNA RONGHOLT-MIGAN

the past year, demonstrating that our Flexible Housing model works. As our new Child & Family Services program continues to grow, we will create services that support parents during the challenging times we meet. Services are geared toward parenting support and education, while celebrating parent successes.

Frequently, building individual self-worth requires more attention than building new skills. Personal growth and confidence can be challenging without a solid foundation. Family is actually proven to be a critical component of health and longevity, among many other benefits. So, I am asking you to join me in celebrating the upcoming holidays by keeping your loved ones close. Spend loving time with your family – whether your family is made of parents and siblings or comprised of people who you chose because they have your back. If relationships are in need of repair right now, do that work. Taking care of yourself shows that you understand that we are all in this together. Then, maybe do that one random kind act for someone else.

Cathedral Center will continue to focus on removing barriers and building on the strengths of those we serve, because everyone matters. That's why we're here.


Donna Rongholt-Migan
Executive Director

Community Case Management

LEARN ABOUT OUR UNIQUE APPROACH TO HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Over the past three years, Cathedral Center expanded our Community Case Management program to incorporate our Flexible Housing Model. The program serves single women and families with children who are experiencing a housing crisis - providing those in crisis with a direct link to supportive services in the community. This is truly a unique, tailored approach in the rapidly changing world of homeless services. We combine flexible financial assistance with Case Management services to help clients to avoid a stay at an emergency shelter altogether or prevent a return to shelter.

Clients get connected with the Community Case Management program through Milwaukee's social services hotline, Impact 2-1-1. Once engaged, our Community Case Managers work with clients to coordinate extended occupancy in their current residence, while the client and Case

Manager work together to find a safe and stable housing situation. Clients also have access to employment services through our Women's Independence Program (WIP) and receive support in other ways, such as providing bus tickets, food, and other basic needs. We may also support community clients by providing stipends to cover the security deposit on their new home.

The Community Case Management program doubled its reach and saw great success in 2021, and we look forward to even more sustained success as the program continues to blossom into next year. Cathedral Center is proud to offer this unique, personal approach to homelessness prevention as we continue working to end homelessness, one life at a time.





Working to end homelessness, one life at a time. **CATHEDRAL CENTER**

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Client Success Stories

LEARN HOW WE'RE WORKING TO CREATE BETTER OUTCOMES FOR THOSE WE SERVE

Emergency Shelter

Jessica* came to stay at Cathedral Center's Emergency Shelter this fall. While residing at Cathedral Center, Jessica worked with her Case Manager to obtain her social security card and also enrolled in a GED Completion Program through the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in Milwaukee. Jessica's Case Manager was also able to connect her with Lola's New Beginnings, a local program that supports moms through their pregnancy to be healthy and baby ready. Through this program, staff from Lola's New Beginnings were able to travel to Cathedral Center to work with Jessica so that she didn't need to worry about transportation. We are extremely grateful for our strong relationships with these organizations and our great clients like Jessica who utilize them to work towards a self-sufficient lifestyle.



Community Case Management

This fall, Imani*, a mother of four, found herself suddenly without an income and facing eviction from her landlord. Despite cutting corners and pursuing a busy job search, she was within days of eviction. Determined to avoid a shelter experience for herself and her children, she was referred to our Community Case Management program.

With her Case Manager's support, Imani was provided with food and other basic needs, secured employment via our Women's Independence Program (WIP), and began working within weeks. While this did not come in time to prevent eviction, she was supported to stay with friends briefly and create a clear financial picture. Cathedral Center provided a cash stipend to cover their security deposit, which secured the lease for their new home.

Friendship House

Elena* was in her 3rd trimester of pregnancy while staying at our Emergency Shelter and eventually moved to Friendship House because she needed more time to heal from childbirth and begin her employment and housing searches.

While at Friendship House, Elena worked with our Clinical Case Manager and our Women's Independence Program to address the reasons she became homeless and create a plan towards independence. Elena was able to gain employment, save up money, and find her own apartment during her stay. Today, Elena continues to be employed, and has moved her family into a more

spacious and comfortable apartment than the one they originally moved into from Friendship House. We are so proud of all that Elena has accomplished both during her stay with Cathedral Center and in the years following.

*Names and images have been changed to protect the identity of our clients.



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Cathedral Center

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*Cathedral Center
provides a safe environment
for women and families
while working
to end homelessness,
one life at a time.*



HEART MATTERS



Working to end homelessness, one life at a time. **CATHEDRAL CENTER**

Thank You Front Room Studios!



Earlier this month, our hardworking staff took a short break from their busy schedules to enjoy a personal photoshoot to get updated headshot images for professional use. We'd like to extend a huge "thank you!" to Front Room Studios for donating the photo sessions!



Join Our Team!

REWARDING OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a new job with the ability to serve your community directly? Please visit cathedral-center.org/employment to view our available full and part-time employment opportunities and become a part of a dynamic team of professionals.