

A WAY TO HELP THE HOMELESS . . .
INTERESTED? READ ON.

Families Moving Forward



Did you know that in Carver and Scott County every night there are more than 150 individuals identified who are experiencing homelessness?

- 35% of them are children.
- Homelessness negatively impacts a child's health and development.
- Most adults experiencing homelessness have jobs, but unfortunately they've hit on situations where they weren't able to keep a roof over their heads.

Want to know how you can help? See the other side!

Is there help for families experiencing homelessness?

--Yes, there is help available thanks to "Families Moving Forward."

What is Families Moving Forward?

--Families Moving Forward (FMF) is an emergency shelter program for families experiencing homelessness. They work in collaboration with local church congregations whose church facilities serve as a place of rest for families experiencing homelessness. Typically, a congregation would host for a week at a time.

What are the responsibilities of a host congregation?

--A host congregation provides hospitality, meals and shelter in their building at night. Currently, there are a number of St. Victoria parishioners who are volunteering at two Families Moving Forward host congregations, St. Hubert's and Shepherd of the Hills in Chaska.

How many congregations are involved in FMF?

--Nearly 30 congregations collaborate as host site in Carver and Scott County. (Surrounding communities and counties have similar programs.)

How long does a homeless family typically stay with the FMF program?

--75% of homeless families enter stable housing in less than 60 days. This is due in large part to "Beacon," an advocacy group that works to provide services to help families find stable housing.

What is Beacon?

--Beacon is an interfaith collaborative of over 80 congregations working together to end homelessness by 1) creating housing, 2) providing shelter and 3) providing resources to end homelessness.

If I were to join other St. Victoria parishioners who are volunteering at St. Hubert's and Shepherd of the Hills how much time would I spend there?

--A couple of hours on the night of the week that works for you. You can try it once and if you like it, you can sign on for more.

As a volunteer what would I be doing?

--There are a number of options including preparing a meal and/or serving a meal, engaging and playing with children or engaging in a conversation with adults.

Where does the funding for FMF come from?

--80% of the funding for Families Moving Forward comes from private donors

Who benefits from the Families Moving Forward Program?

--Not only families benefit, but congregations grow from the experience. It is experiences like this that change hearts.

Who do I contact for more information?

--See the coordinators in the Commons after Mass or contact Russ St. John at 952 686-8943 or russtjohn@yahoo.com .