



Thomas House Temporary Shelter

The **mission** of Thomas House is to provide a safe, supportive environment and the resources necessary for homeless families with children to remain together while empowering them to become independent and self-sufficient.

Founded in 1986, Thomas House has a long history of providing services to homeless families with children. To date, Thomas House has helped over 3,300 individuals and over 1000 families on the road to improve their lives. Thomas House facilities include 18 apartments (15 to shelter families, 2 for services and one for a resident manager). Fifteen families reside at Thomas House at a time (stay is usually 6-9 months but some for as long as a year). Thomas House has a 95% success rate helping families graduate from homelessness to permanent housing.

Thomas House provides a “hand up” and not a “hand out.”

Children living in poverty can be negatively impacted with lasting effects. Homelessness is associated with developmental delays, behavioral problems, asthma, poor nutrition, and low birth weight. Thomas House accepts homeless families, both one and two parent, with children. The program is designed to allow the family to remain an entity as it progresses to self-sufficiency. Emphasis is placed on the needs of the children. It is at this stage in their lives that they are most vulnerable and when the seeds of another generation of homelessness may be generated.

Families entering Thomas House are required to follow a program that will give them the tools needed to succeed in life. Participants must maintain or seek full-time jobs, budget their income, pay outstanding bills, and save 80% of their income after expenses so they may have the financial cushion to succeed after graduating from the program.

While at Thomas House, residents receive the following services:

- Case management
- Life skills – parenting, budgeting, nutrition classes
- Employment counseling
- Family counseling
- Children’s programs – including homework assistance, arts and crafts, tutoring, school monitoring and off-site childcare services
- Supplemental food and clothing distribution

In addition, Thomas House provides continued assistance to residents who have graduated from our program so we may continue to provide services to help them meet new challenges.

Thousands of families experience homeless every single day. 60-70% of the homeless population is families with children who never thought they would be in this situation. As the rate of homeless families increases due to the economic crisis and rise in domestic violence across the United States, Thomas House is committed to expanding services to include providing permanent housing, additional family supports and vocational resources to improve each family’s long-term financial stability. Our strategic goal is to completely break the cycle of poverty.