Understanding Family Homelessness 101

*Emergency Homeless Shelter Programming:*

Anne Face

Associate Director, Family & Community Services, Inc.
MISSION

Family & Community Services, Inc. seeks to strengthen, empower and enrich the lives of individuals and families through a broad continuum of services.

VISION

Family & Community Services, Inc. will effectively respond to community needs by advocating for social awareness and social action in four primary areas: Engaging and Empowering Communities; Strengthening and Supporting Individuals and Families; Focusing on the Futures of Children, Dependents and Youth; and Providing Tools for Healthier Lives. Action outcomes include striving towards achieving a high level of dignity and satisfaction for our clients, developing innovative partnerships, promoting volunteerism, and maintaining a strong financial position.
Strengthening & Supporting Individuals & Families

- Center of Hope/Christian Cupboard
- Kent Social Services/Lord’s Pantry
- Mobile Meals & Meals in Motion
- County Clothing Center
- Housing & Emergency Support Services
- Safer Futures & Place of Peace
- Someplace Safe & Solace Center
- Miller Community House
- Freedom House, Valor IOP & Valor Homes of Summit & Lorain
- White House & Miss Liberty
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families
- Portage Area Transitional Housing
- Next Step
- Property Management
- Safe Path
Portage County
Portage County PIT Count: 2019

Where are you sleeping tonight?

- Street/Sidewalk
- Vehicle
- Park
- Abandoned Building
- Bus, Train Station, Airport
- Under bridge/overpass
- Woods or outdoor encampment
- Other
- *Couch Surfing
MCH is the only 24/7/365 Access Point for Portage County.
Miller Community House provides emergency shelter to individuals and families of Portage County in a housing crisis. MCH provides support, advocacy, and referrals to encourage self-sufficiency and movement toward permanent housing.

*Portage County offers specialized shelter services for veterans and victims of domestic violence. MCH serves anyone experiencing homelessness.*
Served

People
- Children
- Adults

HH Type
- Singles
- Families
Shelter type
This is shared space, large & comfortable. During business hours television and/or electronics are not permitted to be used in order to encourage residents to work on their housing goals. Staff are available 24/7/365.
Residents prepare their own meals and eat together or on their own.

Organizations, families and church groups often provide cooked meals to help out.
Space provided for children of all ages!

Firefly Youth Room

DeRoia Gaming Center
Single Adult: Female Room

A shared bedroom space for up to 5 who identify themselves as female.

35-40 Single Females call MCH home annually
3 rooms for families with children:
Oak: 1 bunk, 1 double bed
Birch & Cedar: 2 bunks, 3 twin beds each
Shelter Staff

- Program Manager
- Case Manager
- Child Advocate* 
- Specialists

*as funding allows
Shelter Services

- 24/7 Staffing
- Case Management
- Advocacy & Outreach
- Child Advocacy
- Self Care
- House Meetings
Challenges in family homelessness

- Funding
- Fear of entering shelter
- Wait to get into the shelter
- Schools
- Space
- Transportation
- Child Care
- Housing Options
- Employment
Successful Interventions

- Advisory Board
- Relationship with schools
- Relationship with JFS
- Relationship with transportation
- Relationship with resource centers
- Relationships with churches
Successful Interventions

- Building/buying property
- Strong community housing teams-sharing resources
- Staying on top of trends
- Partnering with other agencies
Future

- Funding cuts
- Increase needs
CONTACT
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