

When a Child Has a Home

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHILD HOMELESSNESS



On any given night there are nearly 128,000 children in the United States that are homeless. These children are being tucked in — not in their own beds and under the safe embrace of a home — but in a shelter or worse yet, in a car or on the street.

These children, like all children, deserve a childhood filled with things we may take for granted: school, homework, family dinners, and a bed to call their own.

■ WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

But, we know how to end homelessness and change the lives of these children for the better. The solution is housing.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness is proud to recognize several homeless service providers that are using effective housing programs to champion change in their communities. They are, in our esteem, champions because they are showing, by example, that there are proven programs and technologies that can help us end child and family homelessness.

■ THE 2016 AWARDEES

Mercer County, NJ

Finding homes for children and families is something Mercer County, NJ takes to heart. Over the past five years, the county has successfully decreased child and family homelessness by 61 percent. This success started in 2008 when they transformed their family homelessness system and started using rapid re-housing as a solution to end homelessness.

Flagler Housing & Homeless Services, St. Joseph's Villa - Richmond, VA

Family and child homelessness decreased 30 percent between 2010 and 2015 in Richmond, due in part to the work of Flagler Housing and Homeless Services. Beginning in 2013, St. Joseph's Villa began turning its transitional housing services into rapid re-housing programs, with much success. In 2015 Flagler's rapid re-housing program won the Virginia Housing Award for Best Housing Program.

Will Evans, VP of Housing, Community Connections - Jacksonville, FL

Every so often there is a voice in the community, a champion, who leads the charge for change. Will Evans has been that voice for homeless children and families in Jacksonville, FL for nearly two decades. Over the past five years, Mr. Evans has seen child and family homelessness decrease by nearly 40 percent in his community. Mr. Evans approaches issues with a non-profit heart, but a business head and enjoys negotiating and structuring transactions and programs.

DID YOU KNOW...

- At any point in time, **nearly 65,000** families in the United States are struggling with homelessness.
- Over the course of a year, at least **253,000 school children** will live on the street or in a homeless facility; enough to fill the average football stadium **nearly five times**.
- Half of all children that experience homelessness are **five or younger**.
- Low-income women who are pregnant or have recently given birth are more likely to experience homelessness.
- A child is **more likely** to be placed into foster care if their mother has experienced homelessness. These children are less likely to be reunited with their families.