



saint john's
PROGRAM FOR REAL CHANGE

Building for the Future

The Case for Support

Saint John's Program for Real Change

Breaking the cycle of poverty and dependence one family at a time

A Staggering Need. More than 550 women and their children are homeless on any given night in Sacramento County, representing a nearly 28% increase since 2009. Sadly, women and children are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population both locally and nationally. While Saint John’s has grown its capacity by 60% in recent years, now serving 180 women and children daily, 300 women and children remain on our daily waiting list because we simply don’t have the facilities, nor the financial capacity, to serve them. Two other facilities serve this population in Sacramento, but both offer a maximum of 30 days of shelter only. Saint John’s Program for Real Change, which operates by far the largest shelter in the region, offers an 18-month comprehensive program designed to result in self-sufficiency and eradicate the cycle of poverty and homelessness. The need is growing, and we have a plan...

Building for the Future. We have an immediate opportunity to purchase the 11,000-square-foot building adjacent to our existing campus which will allow us to serve up to 100 more women and children daily and reduce our wait list by 30%. The adjacent building will allow us to utilize the facilities already in place, thereby creating a campus environment that allows us to leverage some economies of scale. While we have secured funding commitments totaling \$1.5M to date towards this effort, we still need to raise \$2.5M more to serve these additional families. **Our deadline is looming.**

Giving Opportunities. All gifts to Saint John’s Program for Real Change (Tax ID: 68-0132934) are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Please give your most careful consideration to the following giving opportunities. By giving generously today, you will help secure the future of programs that hold the promise of an end to homelessness.

Giving Opportunities

Naming Opportunities	Available	Level
Building Naming	1	\$750,000
Reception/Lobby Area	1	\$100,000
Teen Lounge ————— Fulfilled	0	\$50,000
Classroom ————— Fulfilled	0	\$50,000
Garden	1	\$20,000
Laundry Room	1	\$20,000
Women's & Boy's Showers	1 each	\$20,000
Volunteer Area	1	\$20,000
Breakroom	1	\$20,000
Water Fountains	2	\$10,000
Bedrooms (customized at your discretion)	22	\$10,000
Office (plaques displayed outside each office)	8	\$10,000
Kitchen Tables	8	\$5,000
Outside Benches	5	\$3,000
Commemorative Bricks-Family	500	\$500
Commemorative Bricks	1000	\$250

Who Benefits from Your Gift?

Families. The picture of homelessness is a family portrait. The number of families is rising more quickly than any other homeless demographic. 85% of homeless families are headed by single mothers.

Children. One in 30 children in the United States is homeless. The average age of an individual who has become homeless is eleven years old. A child's brain is highly malleable. In the early years, when it is growing rapidly, the young brain responds to cues about the kind of environment that surrounds it. When children are raised in a chaotic and unpredictable environment, they become more attracted to immediate rewards, versus larger but more distant rewards. If children don't have the benefit of interventions that reduce the stress to which they are exposed, they will become overwhelmed by trauma and suffer permanent damage. Several decades of research shows that increasing security for children will better prepare them to break the cycle of poverty and they will grow up to be more responsible adults. To help develop these children into responsible and self-supporting adults, we need to do as much as we can today to improve the security of childhood.

Women. The women we serve are, on average, 33 years old with two children. All of them (100%) live below poverty level and are dealing with multiple and complex issues that have led them to become homeless: an inability to maintain sobriety (74% are addicted to either drugs and/or alcohol), an inability to hold down a job (70%), an inability to manage their mental health issues (54%), and a lack of social support (100% lack the family/friend support needed to help them get back on their feet). Further obstacles to their ability to become self-sustaining include histories of domestic violence (76% come to us embroiled in abusive relationships), a lack of education (40% do not have a high school diploma), and criminal records (60% have served time in either jail or prison). Most have poor rental and credit histories and little to no financial knowledge, which creates an additional barrier to finding affordable housing.

A Comprehensive Approach. Saint John's Program for Real Change is a non-profit organization with a comprehensive approach carried out at six separate sites including a shelter facility, transitional housing, independent apartments, two restaurants and a Child Development Center. Today, the organization has an annual budget approaching \$5 million, 65 dedicated staff members, more than 1,000 volunteers and an impressive track record.

To break the cycle of poverty and dependence, a deep commitment is required of each woman entering Saint John's. While sobriety is strictly mandated (which disqualifies us from receiving federal funding), this 18-month comprehensive program includes mental health therapy, alcohol and drug counseling, parenting education, budgeting classes, healthy relationship training, and in a landmark approach to helping these individuals re-enter the mainstream, each woman must participate in Saint John's Employment Training Program at one of the organization's three social enterprises, Plates, Plates Midtown and First Steps, where the women build work ethic and on-the-job training skills in the restaurant and daycare industries. **96% of Saint John's Employment Training Program graduates secure employment with no public or private subsidy**, a crucial step in their journeys to self-sustainability. As Saint John's focuses on the root causes rather than the symptoms of homelessness, its clients are able to break the cycle, learn how to become independent and turn their lives around.

Saint John's is not an easy program. It's a tough, no-nonsense program that requires an individual to look at herself in the mirror and confront the consequences of her choices. It begins with housing and therapy, continues with a heavy dose of education and problem solving and ends with long-term self-sustainability. Each client must work with a case manager to build, and follow through on, a plan for overcoming barriers and bad habits. Every client must lead the effort in her rehabilitation and must remain clean and sober. Rebuilding isn't easy, but it is encouraged by the immediate reward of a safe, comfortable home, a community of others working towards the same goals, and the opportunity to have her children well cared for while she works on herself.

From its humble beginnings in 1985 as an emergency shelter for 20 women and children found sleeping on the steps of St. John's Lutheran Church, Saint John's recently marked 30 years of vision and growth and celebrated nearly 30,000 lives transformed. Our community's response to homelessness would not be nearly as strong as it is today without the support of Saint John's many contributors, yet existing revenue will not accommodate growth.

The \$2.5M Building for the Future fund raising campaign is a need in addition to our annual operating expense budget. With your help in **both efforts, we can affect even more Real Change.**

To make your donation to the Building for the Future Campaign, please call or email:

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Enough is Enough
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