



HOMELESS NO MORE

putting families first

GCS recognizes Homeless No More as the Organization of the Month for June

Government and Community Services (GCS) is a proactive outreach arm of the County. GCS focuses on facilitating improved community outreach, administration of government services, and the resolution of community issues. GCS recognizes an “Organization of the Month” that exemplifies the importance of supporting the community and assisting in getting resources to those most in need.

▪ About the organization

The mission of Homeless No More (HNM) is to create an environment and support for homeless and at-risk families to maximize their potential and move towards independent lives with the ultimate goal of ending family homelessness in Richland County. HNM remains the only agency in the Midlands that allows the entire family, including fathers and boys over the age of 12 years old, to remain together and provides a full continuum of services to those we serve.

Formerly known as Trinity Housing Corporation, HNM was created in 1989, in response to the rising number of homeless families in the Midlands of central South Carolina. The organization built its reputation for serving homeless families through its transitional housing program, St. Lawrence Place. In 2016, HNM expanded its programs for homeless families beyond St. Lawrence Place to include emergency services, affordable housing, and the community round table. In 2017, the organization assumed management of Family Shelter, which officially became a program of HNM in January 2018.

Homeless No More provides a comprehensive and centralized service and housing center for homeless families and families at-risk of homelessness in the Midlands of South Carolina, serving families through a layered approach that includes the following strategic areas of focus:

- Emergency shelter and support services for up to 17 families at a time at Family Shelter
- Transitional housing and support services through St. Lawrence Place, a 26-unit community recognized as a best practice in serving homeless families and their children

- Affordable housing through Live Oak Place which has 29 homes scattered throughout Richland County. The homes are scattered throughout safe neighborhoods and near community centers, strong schools, and public transportation.
- Services that promote independent living including case management; job, parenting, and life skills training; education and employment support; childcare; and more
- Serving as a community bridge that helps strengthen partnerships and collaboration to make collective progress on systemic issues that impact the families we serve

Our continuum of care keeps each family together and meets their needs at the right time with the right services. By providing the support to move each family toward a permanent, self-sufficient solution, we can eradicate family homelessness and help parents and their children achieve lasting independence. Our comprehensive support services address the needs of both adults and children. By providing case management and services such as job training and employment services, education assistance, after school care, and full-day summer and school break camps, HNM not only addresses families' housing needs - we help families achieve long-term economic sufficiency and independence.

While many people still hold onto the stereotype of the homeless as a man and women in view on Main Street, families with children are often considered to be the "hidden homeless." The National Coalition for the Homeless reports that families are one of the fastest growing segments of the homeless population in the United States and nearly half of homeless children are under the age of six.

Richland County has reported a shortage of affordable housing in part due to an increase in renters and increases in rental costs. According to the 2019 South Carolina State Housing Authority's needs assessment, 51.8% of renters in Richland County were cost burdened with 16,870 households experiencing a severe housing cost burden. In 2015, the Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness, ranked South Carolina 37th in the nation for affordable and available housing units per 100 extremely low-income households.

Although some adults that we serve are employed, all are making wages 30% or below median family income. Fair Market Rent for a 3-bedroom unit in Richland County is \$1,236 per month. An average St. Lawrence Place resident earns approximately \$1,000 per month and an average Family Shelter resident earns approximately \$750 per month. We serve families who reside in the Midlands area of South Carolina, primarily Richland County.

- **Recent Accomplishments (Myrtle Grove, Family Shelter)**

In 2018, Homeless No More launched a \$5.5 million capital campaign to give us the ability to most effectively implement our entire spectrum of services which depends on expanding both our campus and capacity. Projects include a new education center for use by all in our programs, renovation of dorms at Family Shelter and administrative space and shared amenities at St. Lawrence Place, purchase of land critical to these projects, and construction of 15 new units of affordable housing. We are thrilled to have received pledges totaling 100% of our goal and are making significant progress on these important projects.

In mid-May, families began moving into Myrtle Grove, the new 15-unit townhome complex offering affordable housing to the community. Families living here have the option of utilizing our children's program and life skills classes.

Renovations are complete on the Family Shelter dorms and families will begin moving in on June 7th.

- **Upcoming Events**

On June 3rd, we will host a ribbon cutting event as we prepare to welcome families back onto the Family Shelter campus.

We anticipate the Education Center will be ready to open with the school year in August and will host an event to celebrate the occasion and all of the completed capital projects.

- **Links to stories, resources (Myrtle Grove & more)**
- [New affordable housing development unveiled to help curb crisis in South Carolina](#)

[Homeless No More Breaks Ground on New Education Facility](#)

[Homeless No More moving emergency shelter families to motels during renovations](#)

[Local nonprofit receives new pavilion to help homeless families with children](#)

[Homeless No More's Family Shelter reopens after renovations](#)