



***A Brighter Future Begins  
with a Place to Call Home***

In the late 1980s, women and children experiencing homelessness represented the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population in our community; yet shelters were primarily designed to help single men, not women—certainly not mothers caring for young children.

In 1990 the Grand Rapids Housing Commission joined forces with the Home & Building Association of Greater Grand Rapids, Heartside Ministry, the City of Grand Rapids and a broad spectrum of community organizations, foundations, businesses and concerned individuals to develop a resource dedicated to meeting the needs of women and children experiencing homelessness. The result was Hope Community, a \$1.8 million facility that offers vulnerable families not only shelter but also the tools they need to reclaim and maintain self-sufficiency. Today the program serves all families experiencing homelessness.

***Helping Families Regain  
Self-Sufficiency***

Hope Community is a rapid re-housing program that provides limited-term rentals and supportive services to meet the needs of families experiencing homelessness. Applicants are referred by The Salvation Army. Those who choose to become a part of Hope Community agree to participate in an individualized self-discovery and educational process designed to help them identify and overcome barriers to self-reliance.

Our facilities include a Service Center that houses offices for management and Resident Services staff as well as twelve private apartments equipped with a kitchen, living room, bathroom and bedrooms appropriate to each family's size.

As residents gain the skills they need to progress toward independent living, they receive a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher that empowers them to find privately owned rental housing.



*One of six two-family Hope Community duplex developments*



*The Hope Community Service Center includes 12 dwelling units as well as resident services and housing management offices*

***How Hope Community Works***

Hope Community staff collaborate with a network of community health and human services agencies that provide educational, work readiness, counseling, parenting and health care programs directly to resident families.

- On-site Resident Services Specialists work with residents to set goals, secure housing, address issues that threaten housing stability, develop action plans and monitor progress.
- Residents are provided with workshops offered through a Housing, Options, Preparation and Education (H.O.P.E.) curriculum. These cover a wide variety of topics, including...
  - How to be a good tenant
  - Housekeeping
  - Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers
  - Making money decisions
  - Safety
  - Department of Health and Human Services





## Donation "Wish List"

### KITCHEN:

Tables/chairs, microwave ovens, silverware, cups, plates, bowls, pots and pans, brooms, mops, dust pans, can openers, bakeware, mixing bowls, kitchen towels, dish cloths, cutting boards, salt and pepper shakers, kitchen knives, pot holders, dish soap, scouring pads, dish drainers, foil, food storage bags

### BEDROOM:

Bed frames and mattresses/box springs (prefer twin but will take full size), dressers, alarm clocks, lamps, wastebaskets

### LINENS:

Bed pillows, blankets, pillowcases, sheets (twin and full), vinyl mattress covers (twin and full), rugs, laundry baskets

### BATHROOM:

Shower curtains and rings, bath towels, wash cloths, hand towels, rugs, wastebaskets

## BECOME A HOPE COMMUNITY DONOR OR VOLUNTEER!

Hope Community housing facilities were built by members of the Home & Building Association of Greater Grand Rapids, who donated both labor and materials. The need for goods and services is ongoing, and we continue to rely on the generosity of community donors to obtain many essential supplies and services.

### PERSONAL CARE:

Deodorant, razors, soap, body wash, hair clips, hair brushes, tampons/sanitary pads, toilet tissue, hair shampoo and conditioner, body lotion, adhesive bandages, thermometers

### LIVING ROOM:

Sofas, chairs, end tables, coffee tables, lamps, telephones, rugs

### HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES:

Paper towels, laundry soap, bleach, all-purpose cleaner, abrasive cleaner, window cleaner, garbage bags, sponges

### BABY ITEMS:

Bassinets, cribs, crib sheets, mattress pads, blankets, car seats, strollers, baby wipes, diapers, pull-ups

### PARTY NEEDS:

Wrapping paper, cards, decorations, small gifts for residents

### Large Items:

Reliable cars, washers, dryers, televisions, wagons, stoves, microwave ovens, refrigerators, vinyl flooring, carpet

## Volunteer Opportunities

- Mentor or tutor a resident
- Repair residents' cars
- Pick up donated furniture and supplies
- Help landscape and maintain the Hope Community grounds
- Help clean, paint and stock vacated units

For complete details about how you can support Hope Community, please call our administrative office at 616/235-2893.

*Thank you for your support!*

