



# FAMILY HOMELESSNESS IN MARIN

MISSION: EDUCATING AND INSPIRING COMMUNITY ACTION TO HELP PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS IN MARIN.

## Family Homelessness

Families with children living in poverty are extremely vulnerable to becoming homeless. While the majority of families will not end up living in their cars or on the streets, many families who become homeless move from place to place living with friends, family, in motels often living doubled up after losing their housing.

- A typical family homelessness episode begins with a housing crisis often caused by one or more events such as unemployment, reduced work hours, or a rise in household expenses like a rent increase or car repair bill.
- The gap between housing costs and income is the most significant factor placing families at risk of homelessness. Families simply can not afford housing due to an inadequate supply of low-cost housing and because family incomes are so low they cannot pay for housing that is available.
- Those fleeing domestic violence are also more likely to become homeless or have a problem finding housing due to their unique circumstances.
- Characteristically families experiencing homelessness tend to have young children and are often young parents. Many families are headed by single women. The average number of children in a homeless household is two.

## Homelessness and Education

- Children and youth experiencing homelessness face unique barriers to education which include lack of transportation, school supplies and clothing.
- Young people experiencing homelessness often are unable to attend or even enroll in school due to their lack of housing. This prevents them from obtaining the education that is both their legal right and their best hope of escaping poverty.
- Children who experience homelessness are twice as likely to repeat a grade compared to non-homeless children.

## Impact of Homelessness on Children

Homelessness can have a devastating and often lasting impact on the health and well-being of young people.

- Children experiencing homelessness suffer from higher rates of asthma, illness, and mental health problems such as anxiety and depression.
- Children who experience homelessness are twice as likely to go hungry, and four times as likely to have delayed development. These conditions have potentially devastating consequences if not treated early.
- Homelessness increases the chances of a family breakup. Families experiencing homelessness are more likely to have children placed into the foster care system.



For a list of volunteer and other opportunities to help cure homelessness in Marin, visit: [www.homeforallMarin.org](http://www.homeforallMarin.org)