

Families Driven from Homes

2,922 CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS ARE HOMELESS TONIGHT IN KING COUNTY



Photograph by Nicholas Prior

BY PATRICIA GRAY
Family Services

On a typical Monday morning the phone rings off-the-hook at Family Services. The receptionist, Erin, listens to pleas for help, while trying to figure out the best department to transfer callers to for assistance. Between “hellos” and “good-byes” she can’t help but keep a vivid snapshot of each family in her mind:

“One mom with three kids is living out of her car. She can’t pay for a motel, and the shelters are full. They left home after the abuse from her husband got too bad.”

“A single dad was injured at work and is living off of disability with his two kids. He’s been behind on bills for months. The power is going to be shut off any day now and he was served an eviction notice yesterday.”

“A family’s house burnt down, they’re in a shelter, but they can’t afford to pay for an apartment.”

Erin transfers the calls on, hoping the callers get the help they need. The reality is the need is higher than ever, and budgets are getting cut all over the place. Help isn’t always available today or even tomorrow. “Call back next week when more funds become available,” says a caseworker, who winces with pain every time she has to deliver this news to another family.

How do you tell a mom and her kids to wait another night or week before safe housing opens up? It happens every day across King County, and it happens here at Family Services too.

That’s where CEO/President of Family Services Ruthann Howell believes we have the opportunity to change this story:

*Is HOME a car,
or a warm apartment?*

*Is HOME scary and uncertain,
or safe and stable?*

*Is HOME where trauma stops
opportunity, or where nurturing
promotes growth?*

HOME IS up to us – a community of support can change the story from one of hopelessness to hope for every child, mother and father. We need your help and commitment to make HOME better for everyone.

Attend our 15th Annual Spring Benefit Luncheon to support an organization that is creating safe, stable, secure homes for thousands of families throughout King County.

*HOME IS ... up to you.
Will you be there?*

In King County:

- An estimated **1,878 children** are homeless tonight
- It costs **five times** more to help a family regain housing once they are homeless, than it does to prevent them from becoming homeless.
- Over **23,000 children** will witness domestic violence this year. Sadly, half of them will also be abused.



**YOU CAN HELP
CHANGE THESE
STATISTICS**

RSVP online now:

**Family Services
Spring Benefit
Luncheon**

**GO TO:
family-services.org**



*“HOME IS where
parents MUST
nurture, families
NEED to thrive,
and children
DESERVE love
and direction.”*

STEVE RAIBLE
KIRO 7 News Anchor
Spring Luncheon Emcee