



MISSION

The mission of A Way Home is to house homeless families who have a path to self-sufficiency within 24 months and to prevent homelessness among at-risk families.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- ✓ Rental subsidies in market-rate apartments scattered throughout Char-Meck.
- ✓ Social services provided by the County and agencies receiving grants.
- ✓ Tracking families for 2 years after subsidies and social services cease.
- ✓ Targeted prevention to keep additional families from becoming homeless.

FUNDING MODEL

- ✓ \$20 million public/private endowment to be fully funded by 2020
- ✓ 100 families housed every year using endowment income starting in 2021
- ✓ 100+ at-risk families to receive support to remain stably housed in 2021

2018-2019 PLAN

- ✓ 49 new families moving into housing
- ✓ 85 new families receiving Targeted Prevention support
- ✓ Seeking remaining \$340K capstone gift to complete endowment

\$1.4 MILLION PILOT PROGRAM 2014-2018

Funded by the faith community, FFTC, and The Merancas Foundation.

IMPACT

- ✓ 114 families housed
- ✓ 77% of first cohort group of pilot families remain stably housed, with stable jobs, and no new evictions for 2 AWH years and then for 2 years after support ends.
- ✓ Nearly half of successful families signed a lease for a third year in their same apartment without a subsidy, providing 3 years of stable schooling and housing.
- ✓ 281 families received targeted prevention support; 78% remain stably housed.

COST

- ✓ Rental subsidies average under \$10,000 per family in total for the two years.
- ✓ Social services from the County or agencies cost an additional \$5,000 per family.
- ✓ If a family remained in a homeless shelter instead of A Way Home, the cost to the community would be more than double – exceeding \$30,000 per family.
- ✓ \$618 average cost per family for Targeted Prevention support.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF FAMILIES RECEIVING AWH RENTAL ASSISTANCE

- ✓ Typically a single mom in poverty with a high school education and 2 children, often with an eviction or poor credit, undependable child care and/or transportation challenges, and sometimes health issues or domestic abuse.
- ✓ All earn under 50% of Area Median Income at intake (<\$39K for a family of 3).
- ✓ More than half of families earn under 30% AMI (<\$19K for a family of 3).

Two Client Stories



Ms. Ganaaya Singletary came to Charlotte after losing employment and being evicted from her home in Harrisburg, PA with her 14-year old daughter. Like many people, Ganaaya saw better job opportunities, housing and school options for her family here in Charlotte.

While in A Way Home, Ganaaya worked on repairing her credit by working two jobs and learning how to budget. Ganaaya recalled a time when she was short on rent and felt disappointed in herself. Her social worker worked with her on her monthly budget, and now she has a month's rent saved as a cushion for the future.

Before the program, Ganaaya remarked that she had never thought about only using 30% of her income towards rent and utilities. However, she knew that she was tired of living "paycheck to paycheck," and needed to make some changes. She has earned a \$2/hour pay increase + commission that now allows her to stay in the same unit without a subsidy and save money towards her homeownership goal. Another important reason for remaining in her same apartment is her oldest daughter who is now a junior in high school and is on track to graduate early.

Ganaaya plans to begin the homeownership process sometime later this year and wants to buy a home in her current 28210 zip code.

Ms. L and her children lived in the homeless shelter for 6 months, and then experienced additional hardships in public housing that caused her to become a resident of Safe Alliance where she and her 4 children received therapeutic counseling services.

She is still maintaining the residence that she was placed in through A Way Home. Ms. L discussed her experience in the two-year program and how it helped her:

"The A Way Home program was very helpful for me and my children. It gave me an opportunity to get on my feet. People don't realize the amount of time it actually takes to become stable and independent. Starting this program in a new apartment I had nothing. No furniture or anything. My case manager assisted me with not only getting furniture, and beds, but also helped me get essential items for the home like pots and pans to cook, and even helped me get food; filling up my refrigerator and pantry."

"Overall these two years really motivated me to make the necessary changes to keep going. I learned about community resources, budgeting, and set goals for myself. I currently have \$1700.00 in my savings account plus one month's rent for emergencies. My goals and focus now is to start the process of owning my own home and raising my credit score. This was life changing for both me and my children. Hopefully next year sometime when you speak with me, I will be in my own home!"