

# Number of homeless children growing

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The disturbing fact that children are the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population means the face of homelessness is often a child — falling behind in school, going to bed hungry and doubling up with relatives or sleeping in the family car.

At Volunteers of America, we work to reverse that trend. We return 85 percent of the families who enter our shelter to affordable, stable, decent housing. While in our care, family members stay together, providing perhaps the most essential element of support during this difficult time — the support of the family itself. While our evidence-based, accredited program is a tribute to a highly professional and compassionate staff, as well as to the family members themselves who are seeking to return to self-sufficiency, it is also a tribute to our community and our funders, including Louisville Metro government.

And yet, we cannot serve all of those who seek our assistance and, increasingly, it is difficult to find housing — even when families are ready to move to a greater level of independence.

Adequate, decent, affordable housing is a must for a community that cares about all of its citizens. Decent housing is a basic need and a launching pad for healthy families and healthy communities. As we consider the future of our community, the focus on increasing affordable housing will be an essential building block, and it is the most critical element of a plan to eliminate homelessness.

The nearly 11,000 homeless children in this community don't deserve to end their days hungry, and without a decent, safe and stable home. We are committed to ending family homelessness at Volunteers of America, and we ask our community and our metro government to join us.

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