

A Mentor's Role

A mentor's role is to provide support and encouragement as client families develop and build upon the life skills that will move them toward independent living.

- **Mentors serve as a life skills coach** assisting the parents with budgeting, managing a checkbook, meal planning and nutrition, job search skills, challenges of parenting, and similar life skills.
- **Mentors help parents** identify strengths and weaknesses, set and obtain personal goals, and work toward achieving self-sufficiency.
- **Other areas of assistance** may include helping the family network to find various community resources, securing child care, locating health providers and other practical problem solving.

"Everyday, we take so many things for granted. To help a parent and their child(ren) blossom in their stable home that LATH has provided is truly amazing!"

(LATH Mentor)

To Become a Mentor

- Must be available to meet once a week with your LATH family
- Have your own transportation
- Complete the LATH Mentor Training Program and ongoing educational support

**For more information, please contact the LaGrange Area Transitional Housing Program
P.O. Box 96, LaGrange, IL. 60525
708.PILLARS (745.5277)**

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LaGrange, IL. 60525



MENTOR PROGRAM

A program of



Since 1991...

LATH has been dedicated to serving local families with children who are facing homelessness. Loss of a spouse, loss of a job, medical expenses from an illness, a financial crisis, escaping domestic violence or a combination of these circumstances may lead a family to the brink of homelessness.

LATH provides significant assistance and support to families who have the desire and potential to once again become self sufficient.

The supportive services of the transitional housing program provide a stable environment for families to develop or enhance skills needed to live independently. The parents work with their mentors to learn many life skills that are often taken for granted.

Homelessness Facts:

- Every year 600,000 families with 1.35 million children experience homelessness in the United States.
- 44% of our nation's homeless are living in un-sheltered conditions.
- 57% of the homeless population in suburban Cook County are persons in families with children (based on Cook County Continuum of Care)

(National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2007. Research data conducted in January 2005)

Our Services

Housing

Families accepted by the LATH program are provided living space in either an agency owned condominium or local rental. Assistance with obtaining furniture and household items can be provided.

Mentors

The heart of LATH are the 2 person mentor teams that serve as life coaches, providing direction, encouragement and support. LATH Mentors are a critical element for these families to achieve their goals.

Case Management

The LATH program coordinator provides case management and professional guidance to the families who are in need of additional services.



"Knowing LATH has been there just in case a problem arises, or if I need advice, has helped me to ease the fear of losing everything again. Thank you."

(LATH client)

Who is eligible?

LATH accepts referrals from social service agencies, faith based organizations, and school social workers. Client families must have resided in the western suburbs within Lyons Township prior to becoming homeless. Parents must be sober and drug free.

To qualify for the transitional housing program, families must meet four basic qualifications:

- The family must meet HUD's definition of being homeless
- Have at least one dependent child in their custody the entire time they are in the program.
- Parent or guardian must be employable or currently employed, going to school or actively involved in a trade or educational program.
- Must be willing to work towards personal growth and independence by working with their assigned mentor team and participating in supportive services.

Clients are required to participate in supportive services that will help them develop the skills necessary to move toward independence.