

Myths about the Homeless

Myth: Homeless people don't work and get most of their money from public assistance programs.

Fact: *One out of four homeless is employed and according to research less than one third receive government assistance. The homeless are often employed in service industry jobs that do not provide benefits or sufficient enough wages to support a home.*

Myth: Homeless people are mostly single men.

Fact: *The fastest growing homeless group in the U.S. is parents with children. Families comprise the majority of homeless people in rural areas.*

Myth: I will never become homeless.

Fact: *Most people don't plan on losing their job, becoming mentally ill, or having inadequate insurance to address a major illness or injury.*

*Most people don't marry with the expectation that they will need to flee physical, mental or sexual violence in their homes. The fact is life deals each of us many unexpected blows. **There but for the grace of God go you and I.***

OUR MISSION:

The Baby Fold embodies Christian principles to serve children and families and help them build safe, loving and healthy environments.

How You Can Help:

Community Support: A half-time coordinator position is all that is funded through this program's grant. For all other necessary operating funds (landlord guarantee fund, brochures, mailings, snacks for class, child care, etc.) we rely on the generosity of the community. If you would like to help support this much needed program, please contact The Baby Fold.

Landlords: If you own safe and affordable rental properties and would like to participate in this program, please contact Jeff Doerr or Kathleen Bush at The Baby Fold.

To make referrals to this program contact:



Kathleen Bush, MA, NCC

The Baby Fold
612 Oglesby Avenue
Normal, Illinois 61761
(309) 454-1770

The Baby Fold is a not for profit private agency, licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The Baby Fold is accredited by the Council on Accreditation and EAGLE, and affiliated with the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. We serve all races, nationalities, and creeds.

Second Chance Renters Program



Bringing landlords and tenants together

A program designed to assist families with poor credit or rental history at obtaining and maintaining safe and affordable housing



This program offered by
The Baby Fold

About the Program:

History: The Second Chance Renters Program is modeled after a highly successful program by the same name in Eugene, Oregon. The local program is funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, through the Continuum-of-Care. This project is a collaborative effort between local landlords, PATH, University of Illinois Extension Office and The Baby Fold.

Program Purpose: The program is designed to give families with poor credit or rental histories a “second chance” at obtaining and maintaining safe and affordable housing.

Services for Participants:

- 1. Becoming a Successful Tenant (BEST) training classes** – an eight week class designed to improve the participant’s knowledge and skills related to obtaining and maintaining permanent housing. Graduates will be given a certificate of completion to share with potential landlords.
- 2. Case Management Services** – **BEST** graduates will receive up to six months of case management and housing advocacy services.
- 3. Referrals** – Upon successful completion of **BEST** classes, graduates will be provided a list of landlords that are willing to give them a second chance.

Services for Landlords:

- ◆ Rent to a tenant with a sustainable income who has put forth extra time, energy and effort to rent from you.
- ◆ Rent to a better educated tenant; a tenant who understands his/her responsibilities as a renter.
- ◆ Rent to a tenant who will receive up to six months of supportive case management services.
- ◆ Ability to access a \$500 guarantee fund for the first six months to be used if the tenant fails to meet his/her contractual obligations.

BEST Course Outline:

The **BEST** training curriculum is designed to educate program participants on:

- Landlord/tenant rights
- Time management
- Stress/conflict/anger management
- Budgeting
- Nutrition and how to prepare nutritious meals on a budget
- Energy conservation
- Job application & job development

Myths about the Homeless

Myth: More services will attract more homeless - often called “The Magnet Theory.”

Fact: *Studies have shown that homeless people DO NOT migrate for services. To the extent they do move to new areas, it is because they are searching for work, have family in the area, or other reasons not related to services.*

Myth: All homeless are mentally ill or substance abusers.

Fact: *Around a quarter of homeless are mentally ill and about 40% are alcohol or substance abusers, with about 15% suffering both disabilities.*

Myth: Homeless people are dangerous and they often break the law.

Fact: *In general, the homeless are among the least threatening group in our society and are in fact more likely to be victims of crime.*

Myth: Charitable groups will take care of the homeless:

Fact: *The growth of homelessness has far exceeded the capacity of charitable organizations. Homelessness is a societal problem that requires a partnership between private charities and the government, with active public support.*

Myth: They are to blame for being homeless.

Fact: *Many homeless people have lost their jobs. Some are fleeing from child abuse and domestic violence. Nearly one quarter are children.*