



MAKING ROOM

Housing Campaign

The Care Service's plan to add 20 transitional and affordable homes in our area will provide struggling families and individuals relief from the stress of housing insecurity or homelessness and transform not just their lives, but our entire community.

Statistics show that 30,000 people in St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren counties live below the poverty line and struggle to afford a place to live. Nearly 400 of them will find themselves with only a tent, car, or space under a bridge to call home on any given day. Individuals suffering stress due to their housing insecurity or homelessness have an increased likelihood of physical and mental health problems, violence, addictions, and poor educational outcomes. Homelessness also has a negative impact on our community through increased costs of healthcare, supportive services, and public safety.

A safe and secure place to live is recognized as one of the most basic human needs. It is not something expected to be lacking in the tri-county area.

OUR MISSION:

To serve those in crisis and to prevent homelessness and hunger.

IN 2021 **3,781** PEOPLE
became **HOMELESS** IN
THE TRI-COUNTY AREA

30,000 PEOPLE IN THE
TRI-COUNTY AREA LIVE **BELOW**
THE **POVERTY LINE**

WHAT WE'RE DOING



PROVIDING
CASE MANAGEMENT



PROVIDING HOUSING FOR
HOMELESS FAMILIES



PROVIDING FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE



PROVIDING BASIC
SURVIVAL ITEMS

The Care Service Has Been The Leader In Assisting Low Income Individuals Who Are Facing A Housing Crisis In St. Charles Counties For More Than 40 Years.

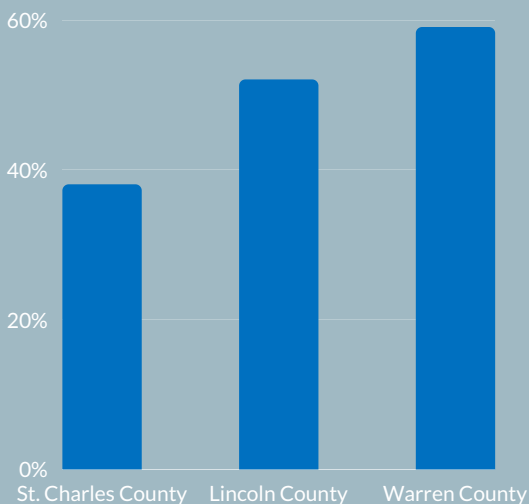
The Care Service's core programs are designed to support families and individuals during a time of crisis. Programs provide comprehensive direct services that guide toward long-term self-sufficiency and community-wide systemic change.

Care Service programs prevent homelessness and assist those who are homeless by:

- Securing housing by outreach to landlords with pledges of deposit and rental assistance.
- Supporting families and individuals with trained case managers who assist parents in setting and achieving goals designed to lead to a more stable life.
- Providing financial assistance, in the form of rent and utility payments, to prevent evictions and disconnection of services.
- Housing homeless families or individuals in one of six transitional housing units which provide a safe and secure place to call home while they work toward their goal of self-sufficiency.
- Distributing basic survival items (food, tents, sleeping bags, etc.) to those who are homeless while working with them to secure housing through the Street Outreach team.
- Distributing food and other basic need items at two food pantry locations (and a soon-to-be-in-operation mobile food pantry) and gifts through an Adopt-A-Family program at Christmas.
- Connecting individuals and families to partnering agencies in the community.

These current efforts are simply not enough for the people in our tri-county area who face a daily struggle to provide shelter for themselves and their families. The greatest barrier to overcome is a severe lack of affordable housing. In Missouri there is a deficit of 122,075 affordable and available rental housing units according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC).

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS MODERATELY TO SEVERELY HOUSING COST BURDENED BY COUNTY



The cost of housing is considered a burden when the cost of housing requires more than 30% of a household's income.

The three counties which comprise the area served by the Care Service all have a significant portion of their population who are **moderately to severely cost burdened** by their housing based on information from the National Association of Counties. One crisis could force these people into homelessness.

Low-Income Families And Charles, Lincoln And Warren

The average monthly market rent for a one-bedroom apartment in the tri-county area is \$701. A full-time employee earning minimum wage has a pre-tax monthly income of \$1,490. Nearly 50% of the pre-tax income would be needed for a one-bedroom apartment. A single parent earning minimum wage who needs a two-bedroom apartment faces an impossible situation when the average apartment rent in the tri-county area is \$932 per month.



Community-wide data is tracked from calls received from individuals in crisis who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Callers represent a broad spectrum of residents – single adults and families, men, women, and children, infants and the elderly. The thing they have in common is the inability to afford a place to live.

The cost of unstable housing on individuals and our community is immense.

- The average child who is homeless moves as many as four times per year and may attend three or more schools in one school year. Children who are homeless are twice as likely to have a learning disability, repeat a grade or be suspended from school.
- Adults and children in unstable housing are more likely to have poor physical health and rely on emergency services for treatment.
- The stress of unstable housing on children, which is often coupled with poor nutrition, results in negative effects on their physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development.
- Individuals who are cost-burdened by housing find it difficult to afford food, transportation, educational opportunities, and medication.
- By age 12, 83% of children who are homeless have been exposed to at least one serious violent event.
- About 9% of youth who are homeless with their families have attempted suicide within the past 12 months – more than twice as high as their peers who were not homeless.
- By the time children who are homeless reach school age, they are already behind their peers academically. And they tend to stay there. Children who are homeless are less likely to graduate from high school. Their lack of a high school diploma or GED follows them the rest of their lives and is the number one contributing factor to becoming an adult who is homeless.



The Care Service recognizes that a key factor in reducing housing insecurity is increased housing options. **Continuing our mission to serve those in crisis and to prevent homelessness and hunger, the Care Service will take the next step with the purchase of 20 housing units.** These units will be utilized as a mix of affordable units and units set aside for transitional housing. It is anticipated that the units will be multi-family units consisting of either a multi-unit apartment building or individual duplexes.

The Care Service has operated transitional housing units for more than 15 years and is experienced in best practices that lead to successful placement, support, and long-term success. The procedures that have led to success will be used to guide both the expanded transitional program as well as the program to oversee the new affordable units. Residents of all Care Service homes will be eligible for other Care Service supportive programs.



Our goal is to raise \$1.5 million to purchase 20 housing units and prepare them for new residents.

The \$1.5 million cost for Making Room will result in a savings value to the community of more than double that amount through the reduced usage of community support and resources, including medical, educational and emergency services.

This year 11,612 individuals in our community, many of them children, will have no place to call home or will be on the verge of homelessness.

- Residents in these housing units must be residents of St. Charles, Lincoln, or Warren counties and meet income guidelines to qualify for Care Service assistance.
- Affordable housing residents will have regular income which may include earned wages, social security, disability payments, or regular income from another source.
- Affordable housing units will be available for individuals or families. The rent for each unit will be set at an affordable level for each client. They will pay monthly rent at a level that will not create a cost burden.
- Transitional housing units will be used for individuals or families who are homeless and may not be immediately able to pay the affordable housing rent rate.

We invite you to help us in Making Room for them by making this project a reality. Join us in providing a safe, secure haven for someone struggling to afford a home.

Sts. Joachim and Ann
Care Service