



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Self-Sufficiency Programs

What are Self-Sufficiency Programs?

Self-sufficiency is a state of being that takes everyone time to achieve. When individuals are faced with challenges like poverty, domestic violence, or addiction, it is even harder to attain and maintain self-sufficiency. Catholic Charities Self-Sufficiency programs offer a spectrum of support individualized to clients' needs. Key components in all the programs are:

- **FLEXIBLE TIME-FRAMES:** Our emergency shelters allow families to stay for longer than a single night, and our Self-Sufficiency Program in Lake County works with families for up to five years.
- **SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS:** Staff forge relationships with families that allow trust and confidence to grow as clients move through the programs.
- **SERVICES:** Mental health counseling helps families heal from the disruption homelessness causes to family life and allows them to gain insight as they practice new coping skills. Financial counseling allows heads of household to measure their progress with budgets and savings goals. Service plans include work and/or educational benchmarks to help families build a stable foundation for self-sufficiency.

Lake County Family Self-Sufficiency Program

This program assists low-income, single parents with dependent children break the cycle of welfare and poverty. Participants receive education, training, employment assistance and case management for up to five years as they learn to achieve and maintain an independent, self-sufficient lifestyle that allows them to provide for their families' basic needs.

Family Shelter Program

Catholic Charities Family Shelter Program provides interim housing to families with children. The shelter serves single parent families, with children up to age 18. Heads of household must be at least 18 years of age. Residents are given room, board, and other basic needs services, as well as social services.

Lake County Samaritan Hope

Samaritan Hope is a scattered site apartment-style permanent housing program with supportive services for families to obtain stable housing and become self-sufficient. Families facing homelessness receive help locating an apartment, a gradually decreasing rental subsidy and wrap around supportive services such as case management, counseling, budgeting, employment, housing stabilization, and self-sufficiency services.

New Hope Apartments

This program provides housing with intensive case management services for homeless families with children in the City of Chicago and suburban Cook County. Families live in apartments and receive services such as rental assistance, household furnishings, employment assistance and training, educational referrals, child care, budgeting assistance, transportation, and referrals to other pertinent programs and benefits. Gradually, families make the transition to become fully self-supporting.



Lake County Family Self-Sufficiency Program

671 S. Lewis
Waukegan, Illinois 60085
Intake: (847) 782-4233

Family Shelter Program

Intake: 311

Lake County Samaritan Hope

North Chicago, Illinois 60064
Intake: (847) 782-4000

New Hope Apartments

2601 W. Marquette
Chicago, Illinois 60629
Intake: (312) 655-7718

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

721 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60654

www.catholiccharities.net

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THE MISSION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities fulfills the Church's role in the mission of charity to anyone in need by providing compassionate, competent and professional services that strengthen and support individuals, families and communities based on the value and dignity of human life. *In order to remain faithful to our mission, Catholic Charities is guided by these core values: Respect, Compassion, Competence and Stewardship.*

Self-Sufficiency Programs



Above, three graduates of a past Lake County Self-Sufficiency “Achievement Celebration.” Below, stories of other women in self-sufficiency programs.

Living a Life of Self-Sufficiency

Stories of hard work, hope, and help from Catholic Charities

Jo*, a single parent, explained that she was given a hand up, not a handout by the **Lake County Family Self-Sufficiency Program**. *“I am very thankful for the help this program has extended to my four children and me. When I was homeless, with no food or clothes, they picked me up and gave me a helping hand. I am extremely grateful and will always carry Catholic Charities in my heart for the rest of my life. All the staff, my case manager, my employment case manager and supervisor, went the extra mile and were great examples for my children and me. I thank God for this program and know it can help anyone at any age, young or older, to be successful in their lives,”* Jo said.

*names changed

Naomi*, a single mother, was living at PADS in the Northwest suburbs with her young son after having been laid off as the manager of a health club due to the recession. *“I wanted to get out of the shelter and get him back into stable housing,”* said Naomi, who entered **Catholic Charities New Hope Apartments** transitional housing program. Now, she is moving toward self-sufficiency because she had the time and the guidance to figure out how to improve her life. *“No one had ever taught me how to separate my needs from my wants,”* she said. *“Catholic Charities literally saved my life, because so many doors had been shut in my face when I was in my time of need. I plan on volunteering here after I leave the program.”*

Renee*, a single mother, had lost everything, including her home and all personal property, in a fire. The building that she and her daughter lived in did not have insurance, nor did she have rental insurance. She found out about **Catholic Charities Family Shelter Program** when she called the City of Chicago’s 311 non-emergency phone number. She and her daughter were hungry and alone when they arrived on Catholic Charities door step. Renee discovered that she had not lost everything; with her inner strength and the wonderful staff of the program, she began to rebuild her life. In a very short period of time, she had gotten a better job, and was able to save enough money to move into a new apartment.

For more information visit:

www.catholiccharities.net

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