



## IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS IN DUPAGE COUNTY

- The average age of a homeless person in DuPage County is eight. Of the 45,000 DuPage County residents living in poverty, 30% are under age five (DuPage County Homeless Continuum of Care).
- Nearly 23% of families in the Chicago area collar counties pay more than 50% of the income towards housing (Chicago Area Snapshot on Poverty; Mid-America Institute on Poverty of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights).
- DuPage County poverty growth rate has increased 63.3% between 1980 and 2006 (Chicago Area Snapshot on Poverty; Mid-America Institute on Poverty of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights). In 2006, 13, 673 children in DuPage County lived in poverty; this is an increase of 31% in the past 15 years.
- A One Night survey conducted on January 25, 2007 indicated that 766 persons in DuPage County were homeless that night. This includes 143 family units (DuPage County Homeless Continuum of Care).
- In 2008, Bridge Communities received 1008 phone calls from families in a housing crisis.
- It is estimated that 87,918 Illinois homes will be lost to sub-prime foreclosures. An additional 2.5 million surrounding homes will be affected by home value/tax base declines (2008 Report on Poverty, Mid-American Institute on Poverty of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights).
- The Public Housing Authority in DuPage County that offers housing vouchers has a waiting list that has been closed for nearly 5 years. This means that a family in need of housing assistance can NOT even put their name on the list for a future voucher.

- In 2007, 32,000 people (10,000 households) received emergency assistance in the form of housing, food, clothing, prescriptions and transportation. One in every 20 persons in DuPage County lives in poverty (DuPage County Homeless Continuum of Care).
- Nearly all of the net population growth in DuPage County is among the immigrant, low income and minority populations. In 1990, there were 101,328 minority persons in DuPage County. By 2004, that number increased by 139.44% to 242,624 (DuPage Federation on Human Services).
- A family of four with an annual income of \$21,200 or less qualifies as living in poverty (2008 Federal Poverty Guidelines). This equates to a full-time salary of \$11.09/hour or less.
- A 2005 American Community Services Survey indicates that 121,000 DuPage County residents qualify as working poor (DuPage Federation on Human Services).
- The National Low Income Housing Coalition reports that 107 hours per week are needed to work at minimum wage in order to afford rent in DuPage County.
- There are more than 1,700 people now living self-sufficiently after completing Bridge Communities two-year transition program.