



IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS IN DUPAGE COUNTY

- Typically, a homeless family is headed by a single mother with two or more children. **This is an average Bridge Communities family.**⁷
- In 2014, Bridge Communities provided **90,234** housing nights. Of the **128** families served, **135** were adults and **224** were children.⁷
- **\$35** is the cost to provide one day of housing and service per person in the Bridge Communities' Program.⁷
- The average age of a homeless person in DuPage County is 8 years old.
- 1 out of 30 American children go to sleep every night without a home of their own.⁶
- Major causes of homelessness for children in the U.S. include: the nation's high poverty rate; lack of affordable housing across the nation; continuing impacts of the Great Recession; racial disparities; the challenges of single parenting; and the ways in which traumatic experiences, especially domestic violence, precede and prolong homelessness for families.⁶
- During the 2013-2014 school year, 1,633 homeless students were identified and educated in DuPage County schools. This is a 26% increase from 1,287 homeless students during the 2012-2013 school year.²
- Families make up 40% of the country's homeless.¹
- 64,734 DuPage County residents are struggling with incomes below the Federal Poverty Level according to the latest census in 2013.¹
- Of the 64,734 DuPage County residents living in poverty, 21,449 (9.8%) are children under the age of 18.¹
- Last year, nearly 171,000 DuPage residents had annual household incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level. This leaves 1 in 5

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residents of DuPage struggling to meet their most basic needs of housing, healthcare, food, childcare, and transportation.¹

- A person has to make over \$18.83 an hour, and work 40 hours per week in order to afford only the rent of a two-bedroom apartment in DuPage County.³
- A full-time minimum wage worker (\$8.25 per hour) in Illinois will earn \$330 a week or \$17,160 per year and even less after taxes.
- One person making minimum wage (\$8.25 per hour) in DuPage County would need to work 2.5 full-time jobs to be able to afford a two-bedroom apartment rental unit at fair market rates. That would require working at least 91 hours per week³
- A family of three (3) with an annual income of \$20,556 or less qualifies as extremely low income and living in poverty (Federal Poverty Guidelines).⁴
- The income needed for families to achieve self-sufficiency in DuPage County is \$61,910 with an hourly wage of \$29.31. This is the highest in the State of Illinois. In contrast, Edgar County has the lowest self-sufficiency wage in Illinois; the same family would need an hourly wage of \$12.78 or \$26,986 annually.⁵
- A One Night survey conducted on January 28, 2015 indicated that 642 persons in DuPage County were homeless on that night, a 2.7% increase from 2014.²
- In Illinois 13% of the homeless are U.S. veterans.
- Thanks to your support with Sleep Out Saturday, there are now more than **750** families living self-sufficiently after completing Bridge Communities two-year Transitional Housing Program.⁷

Sources: ¹www.census.gov, ²www.dupagehomeless.org, ³<http://nlihc.org/oor/2014>,
⁴<http://aspe.hhs.gov>, ⁵The Social IMPACT Research Center's Illinois Self-Sufficiency Project
⁶<http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org>, ⁷Bridge Communities Program statistics.

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