



IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS

- Typically, a homeless family is headed by a single mother with two or more children. **This is the average Bridge Communities family.**⁷
- The major causes of family homelessness are lack of affordable housing, generational poverty, underemployment, unemployment, lack of education and marketable job skills, divorce, domestic violence, lack of reliable transportation, and high debt.
- There are 65,538 DuPage County residents living in poverty.³
- 43.1 million people in the USA live in poverty.⁸
- A full-time minimum wage worker (\$8.25 per hour) in Illinois will earn \$330 a week or \$17,160 per year.
- 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 that person to work at least 97 hours per week.³
- One person has to make over \$19.98 an hour, and work 40 hours per week in order to **afford** only the rent of a two-bedroom apartment in DuPage County and **nothing else.**³
- Last year, nearly 1 in 14 DuPage residents lived in poverty and struggled to meet their most basic needs of housing, food, childcare, healthcare, and transportation.¹
- 1 out of 30 American children go to sleep every night without a home of their own.⁶
- The average age of a homeless child in Bridge Communities' Transitional Housing Program is just under 8 years old.⁷
- During the 2016-2017 school year, 1794 homeless students birth to 12th grade were identified and educated in DuPage County schools in birth to three year old programs, public preschools, elementary schools, and high schools. ²

These materials were made available under license from Bridge Communities Inc, a 501(c)(3) organization located in Glen Ellyn, Illinois

- In 2016, Bridge Communities provided safe, stable housing, mentoring and supportive programs for **127** families. Included in these families **were 240** children **and 143** adults.⁷
- Since 1988, through the support of volunteers and donors like you, nearly 800 families are living self-sufficiently. They are able to maintain stable housing and employment and meet their basic needs after completing Bridge Communities two-year Transitional Housing Program.⁷

Sources: ¹www.census.gov, ² www.regionalofficeofeducation.org,
³<http://2017.ilpovertyreport.org/county/dupage-county> ⁴ <http://aspe.hhs.gov>, ⁵ The Social IMPACT Research Center's Illinois Self-Sufficiency Project ⁶<http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org>,
⁷Bridge Communities Program statistics, ⁸<http://www.povertyusa.org/the-state-of-poverty/poverty-facts>

September 2017