

Yes! I want to help support HPTHP's guest family while they work to become independent!

Enclosed please find my contribution of
(*please make checks payable to "Hyde Park Transitional Housing Project"*):

\$50 \$100 \$200

other (\$_____)

monthly pledge of \$_____

I would like to my contribution to be anonymous.

Name:_____

Address:_____

Faith Community affiliation (if any)

Other contact information (phone, email, etc.) _____

I am interested in becoming a mentor. Please contact me.

I am interested in volunteering with HPTHP. Area of interest:

Send to:

**Hyde Park Transitional Housing Project
c/o University Church
5655 South University Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637
email: hpthp@att.net**

Hyde Park Transitional Housing Project
c/o University Church
5655 S. University Ave.
Chicago, IL 60637



Hyde Park Transitional Housing Project



What is the Hyde Park Transitional Housing Project?

The Hyde Park Transitional Housing Project (HPTHP) provides housing and a stable, supportive environment for up to two years for homeless families who are working on improving or developing the skills necessary to live independently. HPTHP partners with local congregations and organizations which provide volunteer mentors and essential financial support. The strength of HPTHP is in the positive relationship which develops between mentors and the families they are supporting.

HPTHP is a project of the Hyde Park cluster of Interfaith Open Communities, an organization concerned with issues of affordable housing in the Chicago metropolitan area.

What kind of services can the client families expect from the HPTHP?

- *Housing:* Clean, safe apartments in or near the Chicago Hyde Park Neighborhood.
- *Mentors:* Volunteer mentors meet regularly with the client families to provide ongoing support with budgeting, goal setting, and other family needs.

- *Referrals:* Client families may be provided with referrals to educational and employment services as well as other needed services.

What is the client family expected to do in the HPTHP?

To sign a Program Contract and to abide by the terms of this contract, which include:

- Meeting regularly with the designated mentors and the case manager to identify short and long term goals, and to plan how to work towards them.
- Actively and consistently working on achieving the set goals so that the client family can develop the skills needed to live independently.
- Working closely and cooperating with the mentors on budgeting and spending limits.
- Involving the client family's children (and/or significant other) in the program for the benefit of the entire family.
- Attending any scheduled counseling sessions, support groups, or other scheduled meetings, appointments or classes.

Client families in the program participate in the decision-making process for determining their goals. All information and records are kept confidential, except when a written release is given.

Application Process

Before a family is accepted into the HPTHP, the following steps must be taken:

1. A telephone intake interview is completed with the case manager.
2. An in-person interview is completed.

Appropriateness for the program will be determined after the interview. This is done by the case manager with others possibly present from HPTHP and/or a referring shelter, congregation, or organization.

3. A second in-person interview is completed with the potential mentors, *after which the final decision is made* regarding entry into the HPTHP.
4. Entry into the program is always subject to housing unit availability.

HPTHP accepts referrals of client families from congregations, homeless shelters and qualified social service agencies, with preference given to families residing on the mid-South side. *Prospective client families should not apply directly to the program.*

The Mentoring Program

The mentor is the primary point of contact between HPTHP and the client family. Mentors meet weekly with the client family in the apartment provided to the client by HPTHP. Mentors usually work with the client in teams of 2 or 3 and may meet together or separately with the family. The mentor works with the family on goals that the family has set to become independent, including permanent housing, employment, education, parenting and child care, mental and physical health, credit and money management, and transportation. The mentor is a generalist, helping the family solve any problems that may impede their progress towards ending their homelessness. The family's goals are met on a gradual, incremental basis, through activities chosen by the client with the assistance of the mentor. The mentor is not expected to provide professional services, however, but may assist the family in finding

professional services as needed.

Prospective mentors are required to attend a training session, arranged by the case manager. During training, mentors learn why families become homeless and become acquainted with HPTHP's mission, vision, history and organizational structure. Mentors will be able to distinguish between the role of the lay-mentor versus the professional social worker. Trained mentors then participate in the selection process for the family with which they will work.

Qualifications for mentors include:

- Maturity and wealth of life experience, including independent living and a career.
- Excellent empathetic listening and personal coaching skills.
- Ability to keep appointments, in particular, weekly sessions with the family for up to two years.
- Ability to maintain a non-judgmental attitude toward the client.
- Ability to work with other mentors. (Mentors may decide to work separately with the client at different times or specialize with respect to issues.)
- Ability to maintain confidentiality in matters pertaining to the client family.

Contact information:

For general information:
Mark Granfors 773-351-2049
mgranfors@speakeasy.net

Website: <http://www.iocillinois.org/hydepark/transitionalhousing/>

The Hyde Park Transitional Housing Project is a 501 (c) (3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.