



## 2016 Successes

### By the numbers

#### Families

- **42** Families with **98** children received housing and support services at Saint Louis House.
- **10** families found the skills, resources, and confidence they needed to graduate out of Saint Louis House into other stable housing.
- **2** graduating families moved into houses they purchased themselves using community support and resources made accessible by Saint Louis House.
- **9** families who were homeless at the beginning of the year found a home at Saint Louis House in 2016.
- **100%** of families served maintained stable housing at Saint Louis House or exited to stable housing.

#### Volunteers

- **100+** volunteers and as many as **50** volunteer groups representing Central Texas contributed almost **8,000** hours of service to Saint Louis House families.

#### Community of Support

- **17** foundations, **2** local government entities, **28+** faith-based and community groups, and **over 500** individual contributors.

## **What we do at Saint Louise House...*through a mother's eyes:***

### **Saint Louise House provides families with fully-furnished apartments.**

*When I first moved to Saint Louise House I had nothing but me and my children's clothes...When I opened the door...it was one of the best days of my life. I walked in my whole apartment was already beautifully decorated with everything we needed. But what I was more excited and appreciative for were the beds. My boys and I had been sleeping on mattresses for years, not having real beds!*

### **Case managers support mothers in setting achievable goals around education, employment, parenting, support systems, and money management.**

*Being in the Saint Louise House program gave me not only the opportunity to start college but they helped me through it, whether financially or encouragement... I recall working late on some math homework and one of the case managers was literally right there staying late working with me! Who does that?... Days I really, truly wanted to give up but on those days the case managers and director were the people that God used to give me strength.*

### **Saint Louise House offers weekly, interactive group opportunities for mothers to develop life skills.**

*I'm a better person because of the communication classes, I'm becoming a better and healthier cook because of the cooking groups, I'm a better listener because of the conversations and understanding the case managers has helped me to receive. I'm a better mother because of the support, encouragement and love I received from [...] case managers. I'm a better person because of the belief, care, patience, love, concern, generosity, and joy Saint Louise House has given and been for me.*

### **Saint Louise House builds a community of support and encouragement for families.**

*Being able to have a place to call home is a blessing but being able to have complete strangers except you for who you are and care about you enough to help you blossom into the beautiful pink rose they know you can be is an even bigger blessing. An even bigger blessing is those strangers treated you as family.*

### **Saint Louise House empowers women with children to overcome homelessness.**

*Saint Louise House has been like a mother to me especially in the beginning, but with the help, support and encouragement I can now stand on my own two feet. I can make the right decisions and answer any questions for me and my children's lives. I have reached a point where I can let go of momma Saint Louise and stand firm on what I know, stand firm in believing there are still people out there that actually care about other human beings. I can stand strong in my values, my beliefs, and my worth, something I wasn't ever able to do before, something I never even thought I had the right to do before coming to Saint Louise House.*

Sondra (name changed to protect her privacy) was welcomed into Saint Louise House after aging out of foster care and experiencing years of instability and homelessness. Sondra and her three children graduated from Saint Louise House this past year. Her family is currently thriving – she's completing her associate's degree, working part-time, ensuring her children receive appropriate services for their disabilities, and enjoying hard-earned independence in a beautiful, safe and stable home. Quotations are excerpts from her nine-page, handwritten thank you note.