

Around The Clock Caring's Program Overview

Mission: Reduce the burden of homelessness on families through transitional housing, employment mentoring, and network development

Around the Clock Caring (ATC Caring) was incorporated as a Florida nonprofit corporation in December 2011. The organization was initiated by CEO Derik Fay to give back to the Southwest Florida community. ATC Caring brought on Dr. Cindy Banyai as Chief Operations Officer at the end of 2012 to complete the program design and prepare for implementation.

The main objectives of ATC Caring are: to put homeless families on the road to independent housing, increase permanent independent residential placement of homeless families, increase the employability of homeless family heads, increase employment for homeless family members, increase the job skills of homeless family heads, increase the entrepreneurial potential of homeless family heads, develop the support network of homeless families through peer connections and community involvement, improve the quality of life for impoverished and homeless families, and reduce the reoccurrence of homelessness among families.

The programs offered by ATC Caring include: the Transitional Housing Program (THP), the Employment Mentoring Program (EMP), and the Peer Mentoring Program (PMP).

The overall aim of ATC Caring is to provide programs that reduce poverty and homelessness in Southwest Florida. It is estimated that ATC Caring will take on two families in 2013, with expansion plans for assisting 10 families per year by 2015.

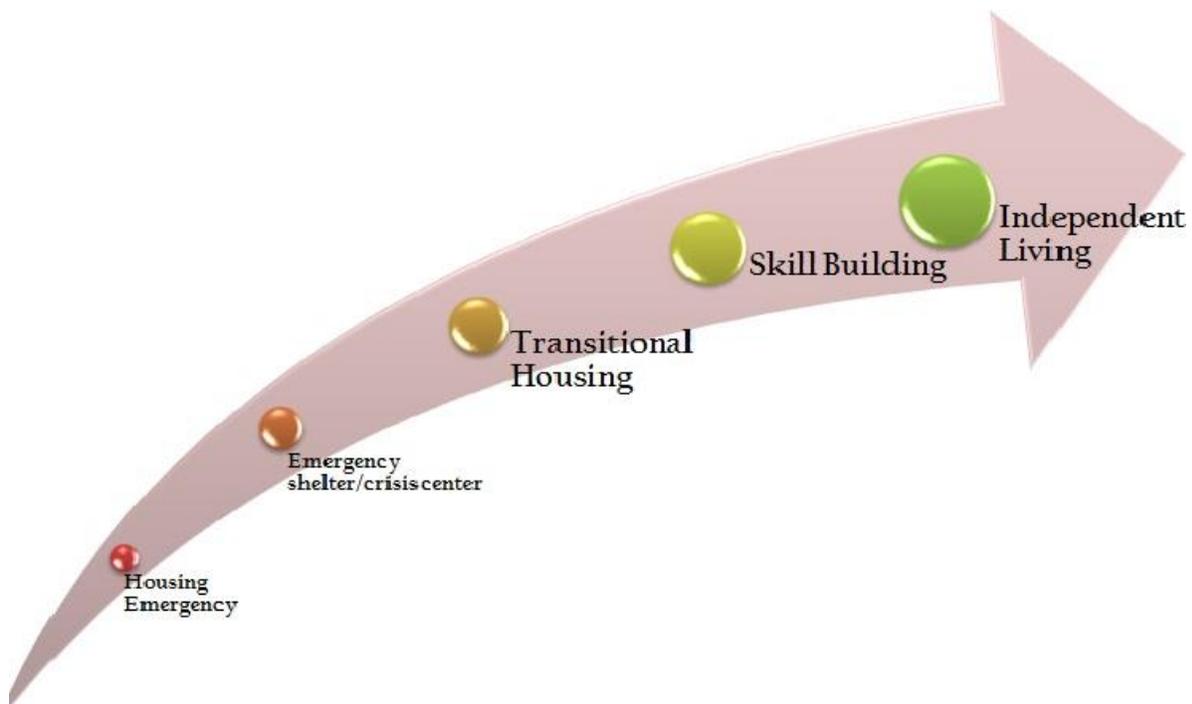


Transitional Housing Program

Program Summary

Around the Clock Caring's (ATC Caring) Transitional Housing Program (THP) is the first step to helping families get back on their feet after a crisis. Our THP gives a homeless family time to re-enter the workforce, re-establish their family cohesion, work through issues, get appropriate training, and prepare for independent living. We fall in the middle of the Continuum of Care as a necessary step on the road to independent living (Figure 1).

Figure 1 - Continuum of Care



We receive referrals from recognized Community Partners to place families that are motivated and well-suited to our complement of programs. Our 3 step uptake process includes an application and referral, a panel interview, and then placement. Figure 2 illustrates this process.

Figure 2 - THP Uptake Process



We look to serve recently (within the last 3 months) homeless families (at least one parent or caregiver with at least one child under 18). Families should no longer be in the crisis stage of homelessness and should be ready to join the necessary programs to support independent living. Family heads of households should demonstrate a willingness to re-enter the workforce and avert future homelessness.

THP participant requirements are as follows:

- Families must fill out application and write an essay or provide a video on why they would like to join ATC Caring THP (must demonstrate commitment to finding employment)
- Family must be recently (within the last 3 months) homeless for the first time
- Family must include at least one child under 18
- Family heads with substance abuse issues must be entered in the appropriate programs
- Families must be referred to the ATC Caring THP from one of our recognized Community Partners
- Families must pass the screening of our program intake panel
- Family heads need to sign our residential agreement and release of confidentiality before entering our program

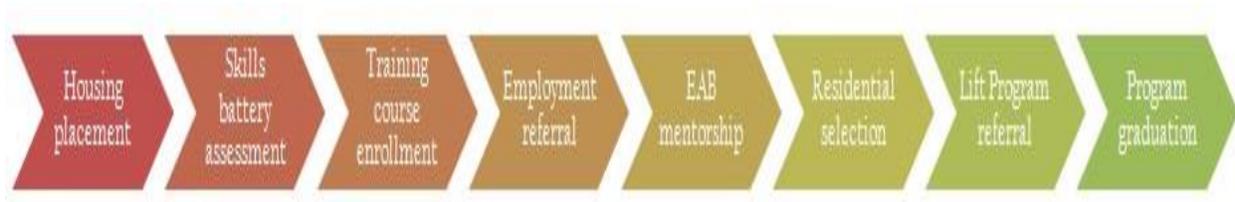
Families meeting our rigorous requirements and advancing through our screening and selection process stay in a fully furnished house for a maximum of 3 months. During that time, they will be asked to pay a prorated service fee that will be collected and saved by ATC Caring. Families successfully completing the all of ATC Caring's program requirements will receive their stipend back upon graduation.

Able family heads (FH) must either be employed, own their own business, or enter into our Employment Mentoring Program. ATC Caring assists FHs with any necessary training and matches them with a peer mentor who can help them navigate the road to independent living.



During their stay program participants are expected to respect and maintain the transitional house, find a suitable independent residence, successfully maintain employment, and participate in other relevant training programs (such as job skill training, household budget management training). If all expectations have been met then participants can request to be referred to Lee County's LIFT Program to assist with moving expenses. The THP process can be seen in Figure 3.

Figure 3 - THP Process



THP graduation requirements are as follows:

- Fulfillment of the residential agreement
- Sustained employment throughout residence
- Pay monthly prorated monthly service fee(\$50-\$500/month) that will be accrued and returned as a upon successful complete of program parameters
- Complete 1 skill training program
- Participate regularly in community activity
- Choose independent residence
- Apply to LIFT Program (if desired)
- Enter in our peer mentor pool

Goals

The overarching goal of the THP is to reduce poverty and homelessness in Lee County. This is accomplished through meeting our sub-goals of 1) placing homeless families on road to independent living, 2) increasing the residential placement of homeless families, 3) increasing the social capital of families through mentoring and community participation, and 4) mitigating the potential for post-program recidivism.

Employment Mentoring Program

Program Summary

Around the Clock Caring's (ATC Caring) Employment Mentoring Program (EMP) is a complementary program to our Transitional Housing Program (THP), meaning all family heads in the THP are also participants of the EMP.

The EMP helps family heads re-enter the workforce through building their skills in an industry that is well suited to their abilities and desires. Industry-related employment capacity is built through not only enrolling family heads in related training programs and assisting them with job placement, but by matching them with willing local business leaders that have agreed to be part of our Employment Advisory Board (EAB) to serve as mentors and advisors.

The EAB is comprised of local businesses and leaders that are willing to accept employment referrals from ATC Caring. In addition to considering our program participants for employment, they have individuals who are willing to take the extra step of providing mentorship to EMP participants to improve their overall employability and build long lasting relationships.

EMP participation requirements are:

- Participants must be family heads in families already placed in the THP and comply with all necessary components of that program
- Able family heads must complete employment assessment
- Participants must prepare a resume
- Participants must contact suitable employers and submit application/resume
- Participants must show up to all scheduled interviews
- Participants must choose suitable employment, explore reasonable options
- Participants must comply with employment obligations
- Participants are to meet with mentor once a month
- Participants should try to cultivate relationship with mentor
- In the case of terminated employment, participants must search for another job
- Participants should enroll in any relevant training programs

EMP graduation requirements are:

- Participants graduate from the program when they graduate from the THP
- Participants are encouraged to maintain relationship with mentor

Goals



The overarching goal of the EMP is to reduce poverty and homelessness in Lee County. This is accomplished through meeting our sub-goals of 1) increasing the employability of homeless heads of households, 2) increasing employment for homeless family members, 3) increasing job skills, 4) increasing entrepreneurial potential, 5) increasing social capital of heads of households, 6) improving the quality of life for impoverished, homeless families, and 7) reducing post-program recidivism.



Peer Mentoring Program

Program Summary

Around the Clock Caring's (ATC Caring) Peer Mentoring Program (PMP) is designed to help families participating in ATC Caring's other programs get through this challenging phase. By matching participant families with other families that have been through the program it is hoped that they will share experiences and strategies, as well as increase their knowledge of available resources and their support network.

The PMP has many projects to support program participants and graduates, including general support and monitoring of graduates by ATC Caring staff. Program graduates are also asked to join our Peer Pool to assist future graduates. Former participants in the Peer Pool are then matched with incoming THP participants so they can learn from one another's experiences.

In addition to the peer matches, online and social media forums are available for current and former participants to stay connected with one another, as well as share resources and experiences. Real world encounters between peers is also facilitated through ATC Caring's coordination of the annual graduate/participant gathering and monthly peer outings.

PMP requirements are:

- Be a current or former participant of ATC Caring's programs
- Stay in regular contact with matched peer
- Be willing to take an active role the PMP's online communities
- Commit to attending the annual gathering and at least 4 monthly outings

Goals

The overarching goal of the EMP is to reduce poverty and homelessness in Lee County. This is accomplished through meeting our sub-goals of 1) reducing post-program recidivism, 2) increasing social capital of participant families, and 3) improving quality of life for impoverished, homeless families.



Around the Clock Caring
Program Information
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Contact Information

Website: www.AroundTheClockCaring.com

Email: Info@AroundTheClockCaring.com

Phone: (239) 464-6976

Fax: (239) 242-2353

Address: 1140 Ceitus Ter. #8, Cape Coral, FL 33991

