For more information contact

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# Family Centre

"I was scared . . . I couldn't believe we were homeless. The staff made us feel welcome and they kept telling me I would get through this . . . they were right"

"They gave me the time and the tools to figure out what my family really needed to have a better life . . ."

"I didn't know anyone I didn't speak English but I knew that the staff would help us."

"We found a good place to live and now I know where to get help if I'm struggling again . . ."

Family Centre clients

At Good Shepherd we have Faith in People. This means seeing the whole person, not just the problem. Hearing the warmth in their voice, not just the despair. Recognizing that everyone is a father, a mother, a son or a daughter. Seeing the potential and promise where others can't – or won't. For those we serve at Good Shepherd, our faith in people means all of this. Most of all, it means they discover their faith in themselves.

Our services depend on the support of people who share our vision. There are lots of different ways to get involved – from volunteering your time and talent, donating food and clothing, to making a financial donation. To find out more about us, please contact us or visit our website at www.goodshepherdcentres.ca.

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## Family Centre

Good Shepherd Family Centre offers emergency accommodation to families who are homeless. All services and supports are geared towards assisting families in achieving sustainable housing and greater stability in the community. The Family Centre staff recognizes that each family has unique needs and strengths. All of our services support families in building on those strengths to achieve their short and longer term goals. We strive to provide a welcoming, safe environment where families in transition can overcome the barriers they face in finding and sustaining housing.



## Our Goal Faith in People – Faith in Families

The Family Centre staff work closely with families to help them identify and access the resources required to find housing and build effective support networks that will enhance their quality of life in our community. In addition to temporary accommodation, a full range of supports including emergency food and clothing, housing assistance, supportive counseling, advocacy, and referral to community services are available. A skilled staff team is on-site 24 hr, 7/days/week and includes family support workers, child and youth workers, and a housing advocate.



### **Facilities**

The Family Centre offers private, accessible, family accommodation in the form of furnished, self-contained bachelor, 1, 2, and 3 bedroom apartment units. Each unit has a private kitchen, washroom, living/dining room and bedroom(s). A private, local telephone line and voicemail is available in every unit. The Family Centre also offers laundry facilities and a variety of indoor and outdoor common spaces for meetings, activities, and recreation.



#### Our Services

All services are free and confidential. Services include:

- 24-hour support from residential counselors
- Individual in-house and community based cultural interpretation services
- Access to community kitchen, snack program and food vouchers
- Assistance in resolving outstanding housing issues and housing search
- Supportive counseling, advocacy and referral services
- On-site medical services provided by family physicians and nurse practitioner
- On-site services from Ontario Works income support
- Specialized services for parents, children and youth including assistance with school registration and daycare referrals
- Information and education programs on topics including budgeting, employment and counseling and landlord/tenant issues, and immigration.
- Recreation activities for children, youth, adults, and families.