

## What Our Families Say

*"I want to be a good role model for my daughter, so she will grow up to be self-sufficient and not depend on others to take care of her....I have learned not to take things for granted such as gas in my car, food to eat, bed to sleep in. It has made me stronger, and is the last step to get where we need to be."*

— Mother with 9-year old daughter

*"I feel I accomplish some of my goals every single day. One of my goals for the future's to be responsible and secure enough to have my own home by the time I have to leave here. I've been saving money and learning something new each and every day."*

— The Home Connection family

## How Can You Help?

Your gift today to Hawthorn Hill will have an immediate impact on the families we serve.

**W**ith additional funding, we can offer more case management and more assistance to the homeless families in need.

Your contribution for Hawthorn Hill immediately goes to work for these families. You can lend a hand to our homeless families with children.

**We also have many volunteer opportunities.**

## Is it ok?

- *Is it ok that the majority of homeless are families with children?*
- *Is it ok that the majority of the homeless families with children are headed by a single mother?*
- *Is it ok that your child's best friend might not have a safe place to sleep?*
- *Is it ok for children to live in an unsafe or unhealthy environment?*

**W**e can't afford to have families fail. Hawthorn Hill is here to help families experiencing homelessness in Iowa.



## HAWTHORN HILL

*New Directions Shelter • The Home Connection*

515.243.7456

515.244.9748

3001 Grand Avenue • Des Moines, IA 50312-4206

Admin. Phone 515.283.1911 • Fax 515.244.9752

[www.hawthorn-hill.org](http://www.hawthorn-hill.org)



## HAWTHORN HILL

*New Directions Shelter • The Home Connection*



There's no place  
like *home...*

# HAWTHORN HILL

Hawthorn Hill is a private, non-profit local human service agency that has provided services to Polk County since 1978. There are two programs – **New Directions Shelter** and **The Home Connection**.



## New Directions Shelter

Opening in 1990 in Des Moines, New Directions Shelter provides free, temporary, emergency shelter and services for homeless mothers with children.

The Shelter provides 8 private bedrooms, nutritious meals, laundry facilities and case management services for the families. The program offers a home environment which is drug and alcohol free for families in need of a temporary home.

During their stay at New Directions Shelter, women are assisted by staff in locating more permanent housing and in accessing available community services such as healthcare and childcare. They are also assisted with finding employment if needed.

## HOMELESSNESS IN IOWA

According to the “2005 Iowa Statewide Homeless Study”,

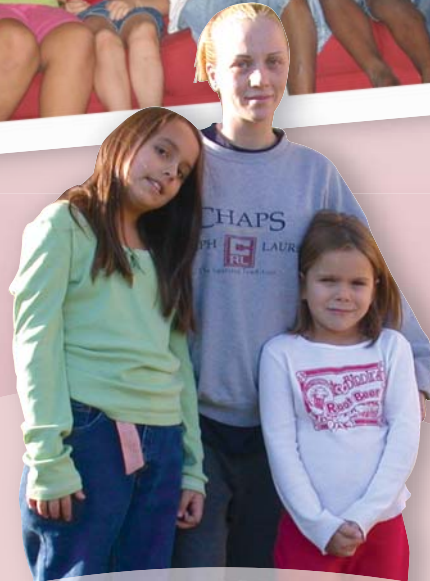
- Polk County had 6,008 individuals (1.5% of Polk County’s population) that were homeless at some point during 2005.
- The study also found that homeless families with children make up approximately 61% of the homeless in Iowa.
- Female headed households with children are the largest growing homeless population.

## The Home Connection

Founded in 1986 as the Des Moines Coalition for Homeless, The Home Connection’s goal is to move families with children from homelessness to permanent housing with emphasis on economic self-sufficiency.

The Home Connection pioneered transitional housing in Polk County. It is the **only transitional housing program** with 15 single family homes and 3 duplexes located in various neighborhoods in Des Moines that serves homeless families with children. The goal is to provide as much normalcy as possible for the families served. Families are able to live together in an ordinary home in ordinary neighborhoods for up to two years.

Families that enter this transitional housing program are homeless when they enter the program and are very low income, but leave the program with the necessary education and job skills to be financially independent.



## MISSION

*Hawthorn Hill’s mission is to establish and operate housing programs for homeless families with children that help them obtain permanent housing and to provide services to help families achieve economic self-sufficiency.*

