



HELPING PEOPLE END THEIR HOMELESSNESS....

HOPES Center was founded in 2008 as a sponsored ministry of the Racine Dominicans. It is a non-profit organization and an active member of the Homelessness and Housing Alliance of Racine County. On any given night, over 200 people experience homelessness in Racine County, living on the streets or in Racine's homeless shelters. Recognizing the worth and dignity of each person, HOPES helps people end their homelessness through three main services:

- 1) **STREET OUTREACH:** Most of the people who are homeless in Racine live in shelters. About 4% to 10% of Racine's homeless population live outside at night in places not meant for human habitation. HOPES Center is the organization in Racine responsible for street outreach to this unsheltered portion of our community. Street outreach teams go out at night to locate and engage with people on the streets. The teams provide food, water, blankets, socks and other items to meet their basic needs, while establishing a relationship of trust and connecting people to services and resources that will help them off the streets. The teams can take people into shelter, but many decline shelter. With a housing focus, strong relationships, patience, and respect, HOPES has helped many people leave the streets straight into their own apartments.
- 2) **MENTAL HEALTH:** HOPES Center runs the PATH program in Racine. PATH stands for Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness. It serves people who are both homeless (or at risk of homelessness) and who have a serious mental health challenge. Like street outreach, PATH is both relationship and housing focused. It connects program participants to mental health services, income, and permanent housing.
- 3) **HOUSING:** Homelessness is a housing problem. When someone is housed, they are no longer homeless. HOPES Center's Rapid Rehousing program helps people enter housing and exit homelessness. Rapid rehousing provides housing search assistance, rental assistance for up to 24 months, and case management. HOPES' case manager and partners help people earn income and resolve other issues so that they can take over their apartments and remain stably housed after they leave the program. HOPES serves 75 – 100 people annually through its rapid rehousing program, with a special focus on families with children who are homeless.

HOPES Center provides a wide range of other services to walk-ins at its office, but through its street outreach, PATH and rapid rehousing programs, HOPES is a critical part of Racine's network of agencies and concerned people who are dedicated to addressing and eliminating homelessness in our community.