



Decatur Cooperative Ministry

DCM OVERVIEW

Mission:

Decatur Cooperative Ministry's mission is to help families facing homelessness settle into safe, stable homes and build healthy lives filled with peace, hope and opportunity.

History:

Founded in 1969, DCM originally served as a coordinator of services provided by local churches. In the early 1980's, DCM narrowed its efforts, choosing to grow and nurture a few programs rather than many. At this time, it established an emergency shelter for women with children and a homelessness prevention program. Shortly thereafter, DCM refocused its mission towards the prevention and alleviation of homelessness. Today, DCM offers services along the entire spectrum of currently recognized homelessness interventions.

Target Population:

Together, DCM's programs serve over 1,000 children and adults each year.

These programs are targeted towards low-income seniors, homeless families, families living in hotels/motels, and families at risk of becoming homeless. In 2017, 52% of individuals served were under the age of 18; 11% were 55 or older. Fifty-eight percent of those served were female. Forty-seven percent of adults (and 36% of families) served had no income at program entry.

Core Programs:

1. Housing Programs and Services:

- Hagar's House: 90-day emergency shelter for women and children
- Family House: 6-month transitional housing for homeless families
- Family Success: permanent supportive housing units for chronically homeless families
- Rapid-rehousing services for homeless families

2. Project Take Charge, Homelessness Prevention Programs:

- Rent and utility assistance
- Food relief (through the operation of four food co-ops for seniors and veterans)

Clients in all programs work closely with a case manager to identify and address the factors impacting their housing stability (like employment and income, mental and physical health, or histories of eviction). DCM partners with a number of community organizations to ensure that clients have access to services (like childcare, healthcare, and employment training) outside of its scope. These partnerships also help ensure that clients have access to other basic necessities like clothing, food, and furniture.

2017 Successes:

- 109 homeless individuals exited Hagar's House to more permanent housing (this represents 79% of those who exited the program)
- 30 homeless individuals exited our transitional housing program to their own homes; the majority of these individuals required no ongoing housing subsidy
- 22 individuals with long histories of homelessness were stably housed for more than a year in our permanent supportive housing program
- 779 individuals (including 112 Veterans) diverted homelessness through emergency financial assistance