



Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition
Of St. Johns County, Incorporated
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E.S.H.C.

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ESHC TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

ESHC is a private, non-profit agency providing transitional housing to families with children that have encountered difficult times and are in crisis. *This program is not a hand-out - but is a hand-up. We help homeless families who want to help themselves.* We have fourteen houses for single-parent, or two-parent families at Chapin Street and Nesbit Avenue in West Augustine. This is a cigarette free, drug free and alcohol free program.

This is *not* emergency shelter. Transitional housing can be three months to twenty-four months. Average stay is eight months.

It is an application process that requests five pages of information that is verified. ESHC services and programs are available to all qualified applicants regardless of race, creed, sex, religion or National origin. Applicants are interviewed and sent for pre-entry drug tests. Residents are on a sixty-day initial housing "probationary" period.

While living in ESHC housing, (1) Parents must be employed and (2) must maintain a savings account with deposits every payday. (3) Families submit weekly budgets with receipts detailing the spending of the balance of their paycheck. These budgets are used for budgeting workshops with each family. (4) Each home is inspected weekly to encourage a clean living environment for the children. (5) Families are responsible for yard care. (6) Parents attend workshops for budgeting, nutrition and parenting. (7) Children's school attendance is monitored and all are enrolled in summer camp. (8) Parents are encouraged to obtain a GED, enroll in college or vocational classes to increase their income potential. (9) New employment opportunities are posted weekly.

Conceived by a group of concerned civic, religious and business leaders, ESHC has been operating since 1998. Our Board of Directors consists of seven volunteers. Our membership includes representatives from sponsoring religious congregations, other charities, businesses, government agencies, the homeless and previously homeless, and concerned individuals. We receive funding from the Fla. Dept. of Children and Families Office on Homelessness, St. Johns County Health & Human Services, Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, clubs/organizations, individuals, and religious congregations. We also hold major fundraisers each year as the opportunity presents itself.

ESHC's mission is to truly make a difference in the lives of homeless families by providing the opportunity for them to remain intact, stabilize their lives, save towards affordable permanent housing, and *break the cycle of homelessness and poverty.*

ESHC also serves as the Lead Agency of the St. Johns County Continuum of Care.

Thank you for caring.

January 2005

