Journey Program Overview

Family Promise of West Michigan provides supportive services for families after they exit shelter into housing. A family’s journey through a housing crisis is traumatic and stressful on the parents, children, and the family unit. The Journey Program provides services to promote housing stabilization after this crisis.

Family Promise of West Michigan utilizes a holistic and strengths-based approach when working with families returning to stable housing.The Journey Program follows *The Young Family Critical Time Intervention* model and is adapted from the Mobility Mentoring curriculum from *EMPath*. These evidenced based, goal oriented models build on the strengths of the individual family while also increasing their access to support in the community.

In addition, this work has an intentional focus and support for young children and their emotional, physical, and behavioral successes to be ready for and succeed in school. The engagement with families is a progressive engagement approach to provide support throughout a twelve to twenty-four-month period. Phase I of the model begins when the family moves home from a housing crisis. The intensity of assistance decreases in Phase II and III, which allows the family to be able to grow in self-sufficiency. Phase III allows the family to continue with their coach through the process of resigning a lease or finding a new housing opportunity.

Upon moving home, families are matched with a coach and discuss goals, dreams, and needs. The family and their coach will complete the Path to Success assessment and begin the goal setting process. Additional assessments may be available to complete for families that have children under the age of six years old. Services provided for children are always age specific.

To encourage engagement, goal progress, and support with basic needs, families are able to earn Ambition Bucks for participation. Ambition Bucks are earned in greater quantity for connecting with the community and meeting personal set goals. These can be spent for household items, gift cards, basic needs supplies, or saved for a fun family activity.

By using the models and tools available, families are supported, encouraged, and Family Promise grows in the mission of ending homelessness one family at a time.