

Perspectives Quick Facts

Location

3381 Gorham Ave.
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Contact Info:

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Founded

1976 in Minnetonka, MN

Founders

Carol Daniels (deceased)
Barbara Montgomery (deceased)
Jane Onan (deceased)

President/CEO

Jeannie Seeley-Smith – Since 1981

Mission

Breaking cycles for at-risk families and children for total family recovery.

Population served

Homeless, dual-diagnosed (chemical and mental health diagnosis) women and their children.

Brief History:

Founded in 1976, Perspectives, Inc. is an award-winning human service agency with comprehensive programs that address substance and mental health disorders. Located in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, our initial mission was to create community awareness around the issues of substance abuse and its negative systemic effects on both the family and society. The target population was women who, because of the stigma around addiction, remained undiagnosed and/or were unsure how to intervene with a household member who was an addict. As one of the first agencies to develop the social support group, after ten years of successfully promoting community awareness around recovery, we shifted our focus from developing awareness to providing direct services, with an emphasis on recovery for women with children. From that time forward, Perspectives' mission and programs changed significantly.

Early in 1987, Perspectives launched a community study of women who lacked resources for substance abuse treatment and the subsequent support needed to maintain their sobriety. This study was conducted primarily with women who had been incarcerated and were homeless upon their release. Their recidivism was high, as their chemical dependency was not being addressed. This cycle of poverty, recidivism, and relapse also created tremendous trauma for their children, who were tossed from child

protection to foster care to family members who often were active participants in their own addiction. Pursuing methods to close the profound services gaps, in 1988 we received a two-year planning grant from the Bush Foundation. The goal was to design a sober housing program to address the needs of recovering, homeless women who were seeking safe housing and recovery services for themselves and their children. After two years, we developed an operational model that has been progressively enhanced each year since then. Today we are the largest supportive housing program in the Midwest for homeless, dual-diagnosed mothers and their children with 52 fully furnished apartments and an array of support services which help to return 75% of our families to permanent housing.

Our Programs

Supportive Housing Program

Program Goal: To return homeless, recovering women and their children back to the social and economic mainstream.

Target Population: Homeless, recovering, dual-diagnosed mothers and their children.

Numbers Served: On average, 70 women and 120 children live in our 52 fully furnished apartments each year.

Kids Connection

Program Goal: To increase the academic, social and health outcomes of homeless and at-risk children from pre-kindergarten through middle school.

Target Population: Homeless and at-risk children on the free and reduced lunch program.

Numbers Served: On average, we serve 130 students during the school year, 70 students during the summer and 15 pre-K students.

Clinical Services

Program Goal: To provide intensive, evidence-based, trauma-informed chemical and mental health services.

Target Population: Homeless, dual-diagnosed women who are living in supportive housing.

Parenting Time

Program Goal: To provide a safe and nurturing environment for children to meet with their non-custodial parents and to provide parenting support for at-risk parents.

Target Population: Children with parents under court order for supervised visitation.

Numbers served: On average, over 200 parents and 175 children take part in close to 1,000 supervised visits each year.

Employment Program

Program Goal: To help participants attain self-sufficiency and financial independence by becoming employed.

Target Population: Hennepin County Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) recipients.

Numbers served: On average, over 250 individuals receive employment assistance each year.