



Information regarding 3800 East Douglas Avenue

Hope Ministries is seeking to purchase a property at 3800 East Douglas Avenue in Des Moines that currently houses Experience Church of the Open Bible. At this location, Hope Ministries will establish a new campus to serve homeless women and mothers with children.

What is Hope Ministries' experience in serving homeless women and children?

- Hope Ministries has been serving homeless people in Des Moines since 1915.
- Hope Ministries has served homeless women and children in Des Moines with safe short-term programming and long-term residential life recovery since 2004. In 2019, more than 70 percent of women staying at Hope Center for Women and Children chose to enter residential life recovery programming. In the life recovery program, women and children stay at Hope Center for Women and Children for up to two years.
- Hope Ministries recognizes the huge underserved need for services for homeless women and moms with children in Des Moines.
- In the Des Moines Public School District alone, more than 1,000 students were classified as homeless for all or part of the 2017-2018 school year.
- In 2019, Hope Ministries has received more than 1,000 calls from homeless women seeking immediate help for themselves and their children.
- Hope Ministries' current campus for women and children can serve around 35 people and there is no opportunity for expansion at that location. It also does not allow for same-day check-ins.

What services will Hope Ministries provide at a campus for women and children at 3800 East Douglas Avenue?

- Hope Ministries will serve up to 100 women and children at the new campus. This includes 50 beds of short-term programming and 50 beds of long-term life recovery programming as well as support spaces such as dining facilities, classrooms, daycare and a chapel.
- Women and children participating in Hope Ministries' life recovery program may reside on the campus for up to two years. The campus will not provide permanent supportive housing.
- Hope Ministries' services are provided by paid staff and volunteers, and the campus for women and children will be staffed 24/7/365.
- Safety is a primary consideration at Hope Ministries. Clients are screened at the time of admission, with Hope Ministries staff looking at issues such as mental health, addictions, domestic violence and criminal history, to assess on a case-by-case basis whether Hope Ministries can safely and effectively serve the individual or family. If staff assesses that a woman or child poses a risk to themselves or others, Hope Ministries will refer them to other resources. Hope Ministries is not, and will not be, a domestic violence shelter.
- Women and children being served through short-term and life recovery services at Hope Ministries are allowed to stay on the Hope Ministries campus throughout the day and to stay multiple days.

Will the proposed site house homeless men?

- No. The proposed campus is for women and children, and will not serve or house homeless men. Only women and children who meet the guidelines established by Hope Ministries will be served at 3800 East Douglas Avenue.

Is there an intent or option to house homeless men at the proposed site in the future?

- No. Hope Ministries is seeking to zone 3800 East Douglas Avenue as a Planned Unit Development (P.U.D.) zoning classification. Any future changes in use would require Hope Ministries to obtain city approval to rezone the property or amend the P.U.D. Hope Ministries is using the P.U.D. provisions to help assure the neighborhood that this property will not be converted into a facility for homeless men.

Is this proposed site intended to be a shelter for battered women and children?

- No. The proposed site will be a campus for homeless women and children. There is currently a domestic violence shelter in Polk County, and Hope Ministries refers women to this shelter as appropriate. Homelessness is a complex issue, and women experiencing homelessness come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. Some have traumas such as poverty, hunger, addiction and abuse in their background. Hope Ministries' programs and services equip women to break the cycle of homelessness so they and their children can live safe, healthy and productive lives.

Where will school-aged children staying at 3800 East Douglas Avenue attend school?

- School-aged children will attend the school where they were originally placed prior to coming to the campus for women and children. Federal law mandates that the school district must transport children to their school of origin. This transportation typically occurs in school district vans, and potentially an occasional school bus.

How does Hope Ministries function in its current neighborhoods?

- Hope Ministries operates from six locations around Des Moines and works hard to keep all facilities safe, clean and well maintained. The organization collaborates with existing neighbors to address any questions or concerns raised.
- Safety is a high priority for Hope Ministries. Hope Ministries provides 24-hour staffing and a security system with cameras and alarms at our current women and children's center. In addition, on the new campus for women and children, Hope Ministries will have a centralized entry and exit point from the building with a structured safety approach of monitoring and intervening.