



Gateway Cottage and Aftercare Programs

Magnolia Awards 2008



A typical woman entering our programs...



- has truly hit **rock bottom**.
- She has a **debilitating drug or alcohol addiction** that has consumed her entire life, resulting in the neglect of her children's and her own physical, mental, and emotional health.
- She is **homeless** and has **lost custody of her children**.
- She may be a **victim of domestic violence** and is **on probation or just getting out of jail** for drug-related charges.
- She has **no income** because her substance abuse and related issues have made it difficult to find or keep a job.
- She has been **in and out of other treatment programs** without lasting success and **doubts** that she will ever truly recover.
- The Gateway Cottage and Aftercare Programs offer **HOPE** to women who have none.





Description of Programs

- **Gateway Cottage** is a residential facility that serves as a safe, caring, structured setting for homeless, substance dependent mothers and their children.
- Provides **shelter** and **sustenance**
- Promotes **recovery** from substance abuse
- Safely **reunites families**
- Prepares families for transition to **supportive** or **independent living**





Description of Programs

- The **Aftercare Program** provides intensive case management and supportive housing to families transitioning out of residential substance abuse recovery programs.
- Offers **subsidized rental housing** in good neighborhoods in Warner Robins (18 houses)
- Supports clients' **continued sobriety**
- Increases overall **family stability**
- Collaborates with **Habitat for Humanity**



Partnership with Habitat for Humanity

- Hodac's **Aftercare Program** assists clients in repairing their credit and gaining the skills needed for successful independent living.
- **Habitat for Humanity** of Houston County accepts applications from clients graduating from Aftercare, promoting home ownership.
- This partnership completes a **full continuum of care** for these women and their families, taking them **from homelessness to home ownership**.



Habitat for Humanity Basics

- Requirements for “Partner” families
 - the applicants' **level of need**
 - their **willingness** to become partners in the program (500 hours of “sweat equity” required)
 - and their **ability to repay** the no-profit, no-interest loan (decent credit – **Aftercare** helps with this)
- Standards for Habitat Houses
 - **Simple, Decent, and Affordable**
 - 2 Bedroom – approx. 900 square feet
 - 3 Bedroom – approx. 1070 square feet
 - 4 Bedroom – approx. 1234 square feet



Information adapted from www.habitat.org

Habitat for Humanity Basics

- Habitat helps the **community as a whole**.
 - Clears debris and builds houses on previously non-revenue bearing lots
 - Puts new homeowners in the area tax base with interest-free, no profit, affordable loans
 - Escrow taxes and insurance are worked into the affordable monthly payments.
 - Provides clients with mandatory homebuyer education to help them maintain self-sufficiency
 - Budgeting and responsibility
 - Home maintenance
 - Predatory lending



“From Homelessness to Home Ownership”
-Hodac and Habitat for Humanity



The Need for Our Programs

- Gateway Cottage and Aftercare work together to address the **well-documented need for comprehensive substance abuse treatment for homeless women** in our local and statewide community.
 - Incoming clients come from the streets, jail, detox centers, and/or some other **unstable or unsafe living situation** (i.e. with an abusive partner).
 - Intensive residential treatment followed by additional structured support, including the **crucial component of transitional and supportive housing**, maximizes chances of long-term success.





The Need for Our Programs

- To expect homeless women with **profound addictions** to suddenly recover and successfully transition into normal daily living with their families is **unrealistic**.
 - Job or school responsibilities
 - Rent and bill payments
 - Groceries and child care expenses
 - Stressful situations/people that can trigger relapse in the fragile early stages of recovery





Gateway Cottage & Aftercare

- **General Expected Outcomes** for Participants
 - Become **knowledgeable** about and **change attitude** about addiction
 - Establish a **healthy support system**
 - Maintain a **safe, stable, consistent environment**
 - Gain and use **coping skills** to maintain a drug-free life
 - Develop skills to achieve **mental, spiritual, and physical balance and health**
 - Improve **parenting skills**
 - Gain awareness of the real world, as well as the skills necessary to successfully function in it





Our success is measurable!!!

- 100% of Gateway Cottage graduates and Aftercare clients have been reunited with their children.
- 85.7% of Gateway Cottage clients have improved or are in the process of improving their education level.
- 100% of Gateway Cottage graduates and Aftercare clients have some form of income (compared to the 76.7% of incoming Gateway clients with NO income).



Hodac Internal Data 2006 - 2008



Our success is measurable!!!

- 100% of Gateway Cottage graduates successfully transitioned into **supportive or permanent housing**.
- 100% of Gateway Cottage clients demonstrated **increased knowledge of life skills** (pre/post tests).
- 91.9% of Aftercare graduates are **maintaining stable housing situations**.
- **Lengths of stay are far above average.**
(Cottage – 14-18 months, Aftercare – 2 years)



Hodac Internal Data 2006 - 2008

Community Impact



- Overall, these programs are **unique** in the length of stay and range of services offered.
- Combining essential housing support with other auxiliary services enables **long-term success**.
- Gateway Cottage maintains a waiting list of 18-20 individuals, illustrating our **stellar reputation** and the **continued need** for these programs.
- Through federal, state, and local grants, Hodac provides all of these services at **little to no cost to clients**, making them **fully accessible** to those who need them most and **maximizing their impact**.



Former Gateway Cottage/Aftercare clients are now...



- enjoying **sustained sobriety**.
- **rebuilding their relationships** with their children.
- giving their children opportunities to grow, thrive, and **escape the cycle** of abuse and neglect.
- attending **school** and/or maintaining **gainful employment**.
- married or involved in **healthy romantic relationships**.
- **avoiding** stressful situations/people that could trigger relapse.
- provide **stable, safe independent housing** for themselves and their families.
- **productive, contributing members of our community!**

