



## Our Story

Mission: Incarnation House prepares homeless and housing insecure youth for life success by providing access to educational, emotional, and other support services.

Vision: Transforming communities by equipping youth to end generational poverty.

Incarnation House was envisioned in 2012 when the Church of the Incarnation, in conjunction with DISD, created a Drop-in Friday program at North Dallas High School for homeless students or those in unstable housing. The need and temporal limitations of the Drop-in program quickly illustrated potential for the growth and development of a more comprehensive and focused program, connecting these students with much-needed resources to help break the cycle of generational poverty. Incarnation House was formed in December of 2015 and opened its newly renovated center on January 6, 2016.

Dallas County has the highest youth poverty rate in the state with 1 out of 5 children living below the poverty line. Living situations for these families range from motels, shelters, cars, doubling and tripling up, to Section 8 and HUD housing. Most of these families are one paycheck, sickness, or accident away from living on the street and often times fall through the cracks due to a lack of being identified. According to Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance, homeless families are the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population comprising nearly 40% of the total homeless.

At North Dallas High School, 94% of the students are economically disadvantaged and attend a school that, according to Children at Risk's 2019 school ranking report, is ranked 82 out of 85 high schools in Dallas with an "F" rating. Persistent childhood poverty, residential instability/homelessness and educational poverty (attending institutions with learning disparities) are factors that all but guarantee academic struggles and generational poverty. Most of the students attending North Dallas High School and its feeder schools are facing these problems.

Incarnation House offers a safe place for these teenagers to come after school, build relationships with caring adults and peers, and have access to essential services. Homelessness is more than a lack of housing and we are dedicated to closing the opportunity gap by ensuring these youth have access to academically enriching activities, as well as social and emotional support. With a team-driven approach staff, volunteers, and over 20 nonprofit community partners collaborate to deliver the following services: case management, counseling, medical, life skills, character building, social/emotional learning, educational and vocational support, as well as enrichment activities.

The students at Incarnation House learn, explore, and experience in ways that facilitate growth and change. These experiences help to prepare them for future life success. We focus on assisting our students in acquiring living wage jobs through which they can support a family. For many of our students, this path will include college, junior college, trade school, or the military.

Our hope is to permanently end generational poverty and change the course of our student's lives, putting them on track to reach their full potential.



## VISION

Transforming communities by equipping youth to end generational poverty

## MISSION

Incarnation House prepares homeless and housing insecure youth for life success by providing access to educational, emotional, and other support services.

## POVERTY IN TEXAS: AN OVERVIEW

- 1 in 5 children live in poverty
- Texas is #6 for children in poverty
- Dallas is #1 in Texas for children in poverty
- 19% of Dallas households are housing insecure
- Homeless families are the fastest growing segment of the population
- 40% of the homeless population in Dallas are families
- 94% of students at North Dallas High School are considered economically disadvantaged
- 1/5<sup>th</sup> of North Dallas High School is considered homeless under the McKinney-Vinto Act

## OUR STUDENT PROFILES

- Experience persistent childhood poverty, living below the federal poverty level for at least half of their childhood
- Experience food and housing insecurity on a daily basis
- Live in inadequate housing, with some students lacking running water and utilities
- Many live in hotels or are doubled or tripled up in their homes
- Bounce among family members and live in multiple places within a school year
- All have been homeless and/or spent time in a shelter
- All are one illness, paycheck, or rent increase away from being on the streets

## HOMELESSNESS: MORE THAN A LACK OF HOUSING

- Incarnation House services include:
- Basic needs
  - Case management and counseling
  - Social and emotional development
  - Medical services
  - Life skills
  - Educational support
  - Vocational support
  - Leadership and community building through unique educational & enrichment activities
  - Site visits to local businesses/corporations providing them with a unique opportunity to expand their horizons





## Partnerships

Incarnation House partners with more than 20 organizations to utilize existing and proven programs to provide the services needed to fill the identified opportunity gaps for our students and offset cost wherever possible.

- **Admission Aid:** A Dallas-based 501 (c) 3, provides Incarnation House students and student's families with a multi-layered approach designed to increase college access – from standardized testing requirements and procedures to resources for scholarship assistance and the support necessary to file the FAFSA, CSS profile, and other financial aid applications.
- **AT&T:** Provides volunteers and programming.
- **Big Thought:** We collaborate with Big Thought to incorporate their Creative Solutions model into Incarnation House programming.
- **Bubbl:** This Dallas-based car service run and operated by off-duty and retired police officers helps us ensure a safe ride home for all of our students every night.
- **Center on Research and Evaluation (CORE):** To help us better understand and carry out research and evaluation work for program improvement, we collaborate with CORE to provide research and evaluation services.
- **Children-At-Risk:** Strategic research, public policy analysis, education, collaboration and advocacy.
- **Church of the Incarnation (COTI):** A collaborative relationship with COTI through programming and leadership.
- **Dallas ISD:** DISD has a number of on campus drop-in programs at various high schools and middle schools around the district. Incarnation House works with them to provide food and volunteers. We work with the Principal, Homeless Liaison and counselors to identify students for our program in a collaborative effort to ensure their success in DISD and beyond.
- **Dallas Afterschool:** In an effort to ensure Incarnation House is keeping up with national quality standards, Dallas Afterschool is a resource in training, support, and evaluation of our staff.
- **Dallas Police Department:** Provides mentorship, guidance and supplies for our students.
- **Ignite:** Through Ignite, the young women at Incarnation House receive exposure to government and policy, in hopes of encouraging them to take an active role in their local government.
- **McCamey Counseling:** Dialectical Behavior Therapy is used to teach our students mindfulness and awareness, of themselves and the world around them.
- **Momentous Institute:** Provides professional training (Social & Emotional Health) for our staff/volunteers and "Experiential Learning" for our students.
- **Ntarupt:** Our students have such bright futures ahead of them and teenage pregnancy hinders young people from accomplishing their dreams. We partner with Ntarupt to bring a Goal Setting/Sex-Ed/Pregnancy Prevention program to our students.
- **Parkland Hospital:** Parkland Hospital provides medical services from their 40-foot, outreach, and mobile truck on a bi-monthly basis. Services include vaccines, prescription, and female wellness exams.



- **Roseland Community Partners:** The Roseland Community housing is home for many of the youth at North Dallas High School. In addition to helping close the bond with our students and their families, a partnership with the organization allows Incarnation House to link to a strong community network of other faith-based groups, service providers, and government agencies.
- **Shelters - Promise House, Family Gateway, Interfaith Transitional Living Program, and Salvation Army:** Some of the students we serve stay at these Dallas area shelters. Incarnation House works to maintain a collaborative relationship with each of these shelters.
- **SMU - The Budd Center:** The Budd Center completed a demographic study of the 75204 zip code. The findings of this study have been the foundation of our efforts to help provide support for the community around Incarnation House.
- **SMU:** Graduate counseling interns.
- **Spark:** Field trips to Spark provide our students with individualized learning experiences, which help our youth to embrace their full creative potential.
- **St. Luke's Episcopal Church:** Provides mentorship and meals for our students.
- **The School Zone (TSZ):** Modeling the Budd Center's flagship project with DISD West Dallas Feeder Pattern to ensure that the children of the North Dallas High School Feeder Pattern have the educational tools they need to exit poverty as adults. We are a member of the collective impact partnership between nonprofits, public and private schools, the Dallas Independent School District, and SMU.
- **Southwest Airlines:** Provides volunteers and guest speakers.
- **Tolleson Wealth Management:** Employees from Tolleson use interactive and creative learning tools with our students to help them learn how to be financially responsible by teaching them financial basics (banking, credit vs. debit cards, budgeting, school and auto loans, etc.).