

# Safe & Stable

*How Donors Like You  
Are Helping Us Solve  
Homelessness Here  
In Bellevue*

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In 2007, the Bellevue School District reported 58 Bellevue children whose families were experiencing homelessness. In 2014, that number rose to 228 children and today that number has increased to nearly 300 children. As the cost of living skyrockets here in Bellevue, so does the rate of families experiencing homelessness.

*“We ended last year having identified 286 students. It’s important to note that the actual count is always greater than what we report – because tremendous shame often accompanies being homeless and families are hesitant to reach out for assistance,”* shared Melissa Slater, the Equity Project Leader and National Board Program Coordinator for the Bellevue School District. *“You’ll also probably be surprised to learn that there are at least 3,500 children living in poverty in Bellevue. Again, those are the ones who have self-identified. We know there are more.”*

For families living in poverty, or close to it, even one financial setback or unfortunate circumstances – such as a medical emergency, unexpected car expense, or employment gap – can start a slide into homelessness. Thanks to the investment of Points community members, Bellevue LifeSpring is able to lend a helping hand and provide rental assistance for families with children who are facing eviction.

## **Fighting Homelessness with Wraparound Services**

When an eviction notice is served, a family is faced with the very real possibility of homelessness. Many of the families we serve are single-parent households or families that have resorted to living squeezed together in one- or two-bedroom apartments. Rising housing costs put these families at risk of ending up homeless.

Bellevue LifeSpring’s Rental Assistance Program awards one month’s rent payment so these families can focus their full efforts on achieving self-sufficiency. Ensuring that these children and their families avoid crises and homelessness is critical to keeping them safe, stable, and on the pathway out of poverty.

Thanks to the generosity of the Points community, last year we helped 202 children from 92 families stay in their homes. This year, we are assisting even more families.

## **Our Services**

Bellevue LifeSpring considers it vital to provide wraparound support services for children in order to create a more sustainable solution to poverty. Our programs are designed to promote stability in a child’s life by supporting their basic needs like food, clothing, housing, and education.

With the help of Points community members, our ambition is to ensure the benefits of our programs reach ALL children living in poverty in Bellevue so they have the support they need to graduate at the same rate as their peers and reach their fullest potentials.

## **Michael’s Story**

Michael’s family is an example of one who would have faced homelessness without your support. After his wife passed from a long battle with cancer, Michael became the sole provider for his two children. Faced with medical bills and only one income, Michael had tough choices to make for his family. There wasn’t enough money to cover the expenses, including rent and groceries.

With no family support in the local Bellevue area, Michael didn’t have a safety net to turn to. He turned to Bellevue LifeSpring and his community. Thanks to the generosity of our Points neighbors we were able to cover the rent for Michael, keeping his children housed and safe. We were also able to provide Michael’s family with food and household items from our basic needs pantry. Michael was able to catch up and situate himself to be prepared to cover the next month of expenses.

With the support of our Points community, we aim to end hunger and homelessness for children in Bellevue and keep families like Michael’s on track to stay safe, stable, and self-sufficient. To learn more please visit [www.BellevueLifeSpring.org](http://www.BellevueLifeSpring.org).