



A home where women can grow

The women who have had their lives changed for the better at Fresh Start know that the building and caring staff deliver on that promise of providing a “fresh start.” More than 1,800 women have improved their lives since Fresh Start began operating 32 years ago for women experiencing homelessness.

The positive environment inside the walls of Fresh Start has improved situations, reunited families and even saved lives.

Fresh Start's building began its life as a church around 90 years ago. The structure was last renovated just after Fresh Start purchased it in 2005. Now, Fresh Start is asking for your help to modernize the building to make it truly functional for residents today and in the future.

Funding the Future A public/private investment

When plans for this project began in 2020, Fresh Start's board of directors set a fundraising goal that included all renovations, furniture, technology, signage and fees, but also included the repayment of the existing mortgage of the building. This repayment occurred in 2021 thanks to generous gifts from a local charitable foundation and bank. Additionally, the board looked ahead and included the creation of a maintenance fund to continue to care for the beloved building, as well as a Vision Fund which will allow Fresh Start to continue to evolve to meet the needs of residents.

With current pricing and contingencies, today's goal is \$1.5 Million.

Thanks to an ARPA Grant of \$274,350, in-kind donations of services and products, and cash donations and pledges from generous funders and donors, more than \$1.2 million has been raised so far.

Fresh Start is asking for philanthropic support from the community, including individuals, foundations and businesses to fund the remainder of the project. The newly renovated spaces at Fresh Start will have a tremendous impact on the health and productivity of women we serve as well continue to reduce homelessness in the Lincoln community.

Fundraising for this public/private partnership is managed and governed by Fresh Start and its 14-member Board of Directors. Fresh Start is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

**Please consider a gift to support the women of Fresh Start.
Fill out the enclosed pledge/donation form to help.**

Fresh Start

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Lincoln, NE 68507
402-475-7777
FreshStartHome.org



Who and how we help

Fresh Start is a goal-directed program designed to support women who are homeless and working diligently to change the trajectory of their lives. The program offers a safe, structured, alcohol- and drug-free environment for women invested in attaining economic stability. Services are offered to women 19 years and older who are homeless for any reason. The target population is women without children or without minor children in their custody, because there is a gap in services for this population who often wait longer to receive services.

Fresh Start provides the home, hope and security these women need to recover and re-establish themselves in the community.

The most common causes of homelessness, as reported by the women served at Fresh Start are:

1. **Substance abuse**
2. **Domestic violence**
3. **Mental health**
4. **Financial crisis**

Most of the women experience more than one of these issues.

In addition to providing basic needs, Fresh Start offers case management and supportive services for up to a year. Women create an Individualized Goal Plan (IGP) to help them become healthier, stronger and more independent. Assistance is provided for such goals as acquiring life skills, maintaining sobriety, identifying personal strengths, addressing physical and mental health needs, family reunification, addressing transportation, employment and permanent housing. Fresh Start proactively works with other area organizations to connect residents with the services they need to find independence.

Current Challenges

The need remains great as Fresh Start has had an ongoing waitlist for over 15 years.

The heart of the building is the daily living area on the main floor. The large, spacious kitchen is in need of updates to address wear-and-tear, safety and aesthetic.

Reconfiguring cubicle and office space is also a must. Currently, residents do not have a private room to have telehealth appointments or online visits with their families. Instead, other residents are displaced from the multipurpose room if a private room is needed. Additionally, staff lack a private break room where they can recharge, an issue that affects employee retention and wellness. Most staff share an office, making phone calls and meetings difficult.

Unfinished space in the loft is inefficient and improvements would create better spaces for both residents and staff.

Outside, improvements are needed to the parking lot and driveway that has giant potholes. The patio space on the east side of the building has little seating and isn't very inviting.

A lot of opportunity exists to make the most of this beautiful building for the benefit of residents and staff.

Improvements

As programs evolve and the world around us changes, it is time to make major renovations to this cherished building to best meet the needs of Fresh Start residents.

This renovation project includes:

Kitchen:

- Replacing two standard stoves for safety and adding backsplashes to protect the integrity of the walls.
- Minor improvements like replacing aging countertops and some cabinets.
- Upgraded fire suppression system

Remaining First Floor Spaces

- Adding a private office for residents to have online telehealth or family meetings
- Creating a break room for staff
- Additional staff office space

Loft Space:

- Creating a computer space for clients to apply for jobs and access resources
- A new quiet resident lounge
- Adding two staff offices
- Reconfigure storage for efficiency of space
- Additional security cameras

Outside:

- New driveway/parking lot
- Improved outdoor courtyard for residents including a sun canopy, lighting, new level brick path, raised gardening beds and flower pots
- Masonry repairs

Furniture:

- New dressers needed in all bedrooms
- Add new living room and office furniture to new spaces
- Replace hand-me-down living room and office furniture as needed.
- Fresh paint throughout the main floor and loft

“Before coming to Fresh Start, I was lost and unsure where my life was heading. After the eight months of support they so freely gave to me, I have my own apartment, a decent job and hope for my future.”

-Mary, Fresh Start Alumna