United Way funds allow Family Resources to provide sheltering and housing services to survivors of crime in Clinton County, Iowa. Without funds from United Way, survivors of violent crimes would not have access to services.

Family Resources’ Sheltering and Housing Program is a component of our Survivor Services Department; providing a full array of comprehensive services to survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence, teen dating violence, stalking, sexual violence, human trafficking and other violent crimes. The mission of Family Resources’ Survivor Services Department is to create a community free from violence through education, counseling, prevention, and advocacy. The purpose of our Sheltering and Housing Program is to help stabilize individuals and families experiencing crisis as the result of violence by providing supportive services that meet their basic needs; beginning with shelter and housing first.

Family Resources’ Sheltering and Housing Program uniquely offers alternative ways of providing emergency shelter. Alternative sheltering includes utilizing hotel/motels, temporary housing with friends or family, and/or advocating to assist the survivor to remain in their own home if they determine it is safe. Family Resources’ Sheltering and Housing Program is committed to serving all survivors of domestic or sexual violence, human trafficking, and survivors of other violent crimes who are at risk of becoming homeless, or, already are homeless. All services provided are free, confidential and voluntary.

The intersection of homelessness and domestic violence is complex. Many women/men leave their homes and seek shelter to escape a dangerous partner. Others are evicted due to the batterer’s destructive or criminal behavior such as damaging property, harassing landlords, causing disturbances, etc. In other cases, the abuser, and likely primary income earner, has been criminally charged and removed from the home; leaving the survivor and her children unable to afford to remain in the housing unit. Still in other cases, the abuser may have taken action to potentially sabotage a survivor from gaining independence – failing to pay child support, damaging a survivor’s credit rating, etc.

By providing emergency sheltering options, housing advocacy, and financial assistance for housing, Family Resources’ Sheltering and Housing Program will continue to have a positive impact on Clinton County, Iowa’s United Way target issue of “Financial Stability;” increasing the number of low income individuals and families that become self-sufficient. We also will be here to address the following Clinton United Way “Community Goals”: Any survivors seeking sheltering and housing services can call our toll free hotline at 866-921-3354. Together we LIVE UNITED.

Ashley Odom, MCJ

Director of Survivor Services

Family Resources