What is the Program?
HEART House is a Transitional Housing program that serves homeless women and children. The program offers housing and supportive services to five families. Services support the family’s efforts to increase income, and to increase employment-related and life skills that will aid in the transition from homelessness to permanency within 24 months. The HEART House apartments are leased by Goodwill through HUD funding (US Department of Housing and Urban Development), and are scattered throughout the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. Participants pay an income-based Occupancy Fee which can also help the family transition from homelessness to permanency.

Who Does the Program Serve?
HEART House serves homeless women and children.

How Does the Program Benefit Participants and the Community?
Participants benefit from various program services including housing, employment and other family-related activities that strengthen families, support homeless transition and result in housing retention following program exit. While the program emphasizes employment as a primary goal to aid in this transition, other services are provided to decrease the trauma that impacts children experiencing homelessness.

Special Program Accomplishments:
The program has countless examples of accomplishments among those who have participated. For the past several years, 100% of the program participants have become employed and were employed at time of exit. Several clients have made educational gains, while other clients have gained citizenship. All families served have overcome the barriers that led to their homelessness and have exited the program to housing permanency. Many of the children served in the program have demonstrated academic success. Through communication with school district liaisons, all school age children have been able to sustain their enrollment in the school they attended prior to their homelessness.

A Personal Story:
“Challenges are opportunities in reverse.” - Jodi

Jodi started the HEART House program in late August 2013. She was interested in starting the program to regain financial stability and afford housing. At the time Jodi was homeless, and she was also soon to become a first-time parent. Having only one month in the HEART House program, Jodi had maintained her employment and received her GED® certification through Goodwill’s GED® Program. She wants to attend college to pursue a degree in Business Management and Communications. She also aspires to become a business owner in the fashion industry and hopes that she can inspire other single women who face tough life circumstances and adversity.