



OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY
OFFICE OF TITLE I FEDERAL PROGRAMS
1021 Marion Street, Saint Paul, MN 55117-5175
Phone: 651-632-3790, Fax: 651-632-3789
Website: title1.spps.org

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Support for Project Home, a shelter for families in Ramsey County.

I am the Supervisor of Project REACH for St Paul Public Schools, a program that supports educational attainment for all the students in St Paul Schools who are McKinney-Vento eligible and experiencing homelessness. Currently, we have 983 identified students that we serve every day.

Having the opportunity to partner with Ramsey County, Interfaith Action, and Project Home is incredible so that families have a safe and secure place to stay while experiencing an incredibly traumatic time in their lives. Project REACH partners with Project Home by providing transportation for our students in SPPS, weekly tutors who come to work with the children and support their educational attainment, a dedicated liaison to send referrals, and partnering for summer programming.

Project Home provides families with great staff, daily meals, activities, living space, and dignity during a time that can be so consuming. There is a generous nature about the staff that welcomes the families and provides them opportunities to exhale during this time. Children need the stability of a safe place to grow socially, emotionally, and academically; Project Home provides that, and children can still be kids with a playground, activities, areas to study, and tutors to support their academic needs.

Project Home is more than a shelter, it provides wrap-around services to families, which allows families the space to gather themselves together to move into a permanent place and to make their experience being homeless brief and ideally non-recurring. Project Home has a holistic approach of empowering and supporting families so that they are connected to the greater community when they leave and can lean into the opportunities outside of the shelter.

An investment in Project Home is an investment in our most vulnerable population, our children and their caregivers, that will do everything possible to keep them safe and housed. Project Home is a place where families can regain their strength and move forward into their future and toward long-term economic, housing, and educational stability.

Sincerely,
Heather Alden, MSW, LICSW
Supervisor Project REACH & Fostering Connections