

## Homes for Families Visioning Day

*An Opportunity to Elevate Families*

Homes for Families is a statewide organization that works in partnership with families, shelter/service providers, policymakers, researchers, and advocacy groups to address homelessness in the Commonwealth. Visioning Day is an annual convening of these stakeholders, and the **Children's Program** is a critical component of our Visioning Day programming in support of families that have experienced homelessness.

### Our Core Values:

- *Respect for every human being*
- *Defining and driving our work through the experiences, insights, and voices of families*
- *Providing a foundation for learning, a platform for sharing, and creating opportunities for leadership*
- *Reducing inequality through collaboration, advocacy, and community*

**Objectives:** Visioning Day is all about collective policy discussions with consumers and providers, engaging in solution-focused dialogue, *across diverse stakeholders*, to strengthen the Commonwealth's response to family homelessness and housing instability. The day especially honors the leadership and insights of parents.

### The Children's Program supports this collaborative work through:

- Creating a safe and fun play environment for children living in shelters across MA to engage in supportive activities with caring adults, allowing parents to fully participate in a day of dialogue.
- Raising awareness about family homelessness through seeking donations, recruiting volunteers, and doing public outreach about Visioning Day and the work of Homes for Families.

**Format:** Visioning Day adult programming is held from 9:30am-2:30pm, and includes breakout groups, panel presentations, table discussions, issue ballots, table activities, feedback forms, and an award presentation.

### The Children's Program includes:

- Distinct rooms for young children (age 5 and under) and older children
- A variety of age- and interest-specific activity stations and options throughout the day
- Snacks and lunch provided
- Pre-registration forms, check in and check-out procedures, and release forms
- Guidance and support from Homes for Families and shelter staff

**Participants:** Visioning Day is regularly attended by 250-350 adults, and 70-100 children. The range of stakeholders participating includes: families with experience of homelessness, non-profit shelter and service providers, representatives from various state departments, and other advocates and allies.

Our goal with the **Children's Program** is to provide a day of fun and new friendships for children in shelters, supported by a dedicated team of volunteers and child development professionals! Volunteers benefit from this day of service too, gaining an increased understanding of family homelessness and making a positive impact in this community gathering.

**See the below pages for our flier and form for our appeal for volunteers!**



## **Seeking Volunteers for the Visioning Day 2018 Children's Program!**

Tuesday, August 14, 2018, 9am – 3pm  
DCU Center, Worcester, MA

Homes for Families, a state-wide advocacy organization that works to end family homelessness, is seeking volunteers to support our 22<sup>nd</sup>-annual Visioning Day event to be held on August 14, 2018 at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA.

**Visioning Day provides families experiencing homelessness, nonprofit organizations, policymakers and the public with the rare opportunity to come together as equals to identify problems and develop permanent solutions to family homelessness in Massachusetts.**

We are in need of over 40 volunteers to help make Visioning Day a success by spending time and having a blast with this event's youngest attendees in the Visioning Day Children's Program! In past years, 70-100 homeless or formerly homeless children attended Visioning Day and this year we expect as many or more children in attendance. Our goal is to provide kids with a safe and fun experience while their parents participate in policy advocacy and voice their experiences and needs!

**Please know that volunteering for the Visioning Day Children's Program is much more than giving a day of your time; it is a contribution towards permanent solutions to the root causes of family homelessness.** Your contribution will support homeless and formerly homeless moms and dads to attend Visioning Day and make their voices heard. Without this children's program, many parents would not be able to attend and participate; your contribution makes our mission possible!

We hope that we can count on you to volunteer and support our efforts as we work in collaboration with families, providers, communities and the state to end family homelessness in Massachusetts. Please fill out the attached form and send it to [mcmillanildertongaither@gmail.com](mailto:mcmillanildertongaither@gmail.com) or fax it to 617-523-1553. If you have any questions, please contact McMillan Ilderton Gaither at 857-928-8298.

We look forward to connecting with you!

Visit our [website](#), like us on [Facebook](#), and / or follow us on [Twitter](#) for the latest news!

## Homes for Families: Visioning Day 2018

### Children's Program Volunteer Interest Form

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In the past year how often did you interact or work with children?**

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

Hardly Ever

Never

**Please describe your level of experience in working with children:**

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**Have you been CORI checked?** Yes  No

**Organization affiliation (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to McMillan Ilderton Gaither at [mcmillanildertongaither@gmail.com](mailto:mcmillanildertongaither@gmail.com), or fax to 617-523-1553. Please feel free to email McMillan with questions or call / text him at 857-928-8298.