



**Camillus
House**

Sponsored by the Brothers of the Good Shepherd
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Dear Friend,

There are many faces to homelessness in our community. Unfortunately, too often they go unnoticed by most people. This is particular true of homeless families because it's hard for many to believe that families can and do become homeless. Their faces, which include those of men, women, children and even babies, are becoming far too common among those seeking our help these day. Indeed, homelessness is a devastating experience for families. It disrupts virtually every aspect of family life, damaging the physical and emotional health of family members, interfering with children's education and development, and frequently resulting in the separation of family members.

Sadly, families with children are among the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population. According to the Conference of U.S. Mayors, 41% of the homeless are families with children, up from 34% in 2000. They are being displaced by poverty, high housing prices, low wages and other unfortunate circumstances. For many, the current economic recovery has provided little hope, as it has been a jobless one.

But there is hope as long as those with the ability to help are willing to do so. I know that you care and understand how important it is to provide real hope to those families who are hurting and have nowhere else to turn. Because of compassionate individuals like you, last year

*Detra and Children
are a family again.*

Camillus House helped more than five hundred families with children with a place to live and with opportunities for an optimistic future.



(over please)

Opening Doors to Homeless Families

One such family was that of Detra and her children, who came to Camillus more than a year ago. Detra and her children had lost everything, including each other. She became homeless in the summer of 2002. In poor health and unable to provide for her family she was eventually separated from her children. But with the help of some good people Detra found the miracle she was looking for, and was reunited with her kids. Today, she and her children are learning to be a family again, as they make a new life at Camillus. She attends parenting and money management classes, she provides for the needs of her children, and recently earned her high school GED. "Some day," she says, "I want to buy a house and live the American dream."



Mother helps son with homework at Camillus' Somerville Residence.

This is the type of hope that with your help we can provide to so many more families in our community who need a helping hand to get back on their feet. I urge you to consider helping Camillus House with your financial support. Enclosed is a "HOPE Card" that you can fill out and send back with your gift of support to help as many families as possible. Attached to it is a special thank you drawn by one of the many children living at Camillus. May it remind you that your support is helping to make a tremendous difference. It costs as little as \$ 34 to help move a hurting family off the streets!

Your gift of any amount will help.

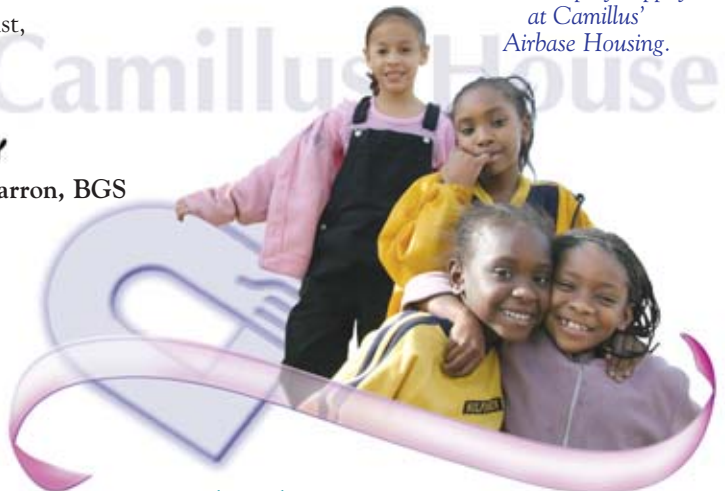
Thank you for sharing your compassion with others – together, we can make all the difference in the` many who are counting on Camillus, this may be the first step towards changing their lives and getting off the streets. *God bless you and your family.* Assuring you of my prayers, I remain,

Prayerfully in Christ,

Bro. Savio, BGS

Brother Savio Charron, BGS
President & CEO

Children play happily at Camillus' Airbase Housing.



Hope is Where the Heart is.