

Mission Moment - Incarnation House:

Mission:

Incarnation House prepares homeless and housing insecure youth for life success by providing access to educational, emotional, and other support services.

Vision:

Transforming communities by equipping youth to end generational poverty.

The concept behind Incarnation House emerged in 2012 when the Church of the Incarnation, in conjunction with Dallas ISD, created a Drop-in Friday program at North Dallas High School (NDHS) to provide resources and support for students in unstable housing. Student participation demonstrated the need for a more comprehensive program and Incarnation House was formed in December 2015. It opened its permanent center on January 6, 2016. Since that time, except for the shut-down period during the COVID19 pandemic, IH has served up to 35 teens per semester during afterschool programming.

In late 2021, the board of directors determined that the differences in approach to providing resources for teens between their goals and objectives and those of the former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and staff were significant enough to merit a hard restart. Existing staff were terminated, and an interim CEO was hired and tasked with restarting the organization and building a strong set of interventions to be offered to NDHS students. This task was accomplished and in mid-2022, a permanent CEO was hired.

Today, IH is a safe, caring, consistent afterschool respite for housing insecure and at-risk students. IH is a place to gather every afternoon - sharing meals with peers and participating in programming that helps teens become the very best version of themselves. But IH is more than a simple gathering place; it is a lever and a hub that acts in coordination with NDHS and local organizations and nonprofits to address the needs of the whole person. Through these partnerships, IH teens access food and toiletries, clothing, social and emotional skills development, counseling, leadership development, relational skills, sexual health and pregnancy prevention, financial management, enrichment through field trips to cultural settings, and local college visits. IH recently returned to its origins, restarting a breakfast drop-in program at NDHS to provide resources for students who do not wish to attend the afterschool program. These teens are invited on field trips and other experiences to help them become comfortable with joining the entire program.

Ultimately, Incarnation House prepares at-risk and homeless and housing insecure youth for life success by providing access to educational, emotional, and other support services. At Incarnation House, teens nourish their minds, bodies, and spirits as they grow into young adults equipped for life's challenges and joys.

Dallas County has the highest youth poverty rate in the state with 1 out of 5 children living below the poverty line. Living situations for these families range from motels, shelters, and cars to Section 8 and HUD housing. Most of these families are one paycheck, sickness, or accident away from living on the street. According to Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance, unhoused families are the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population comprising nearly 40% of the total homeless.

More than half of the teens who attend Incarnation House live in one of three public housing developments in the North Dallas High School feeder pattern, including Roseland Homes and Little Mexico. As many as 10% go home to cars, sofas or overcrowded extended-stay hotels. According to a 2017 report from UTD's Institute for Urban Policy Research, the average family income in Roseland (home to 2000+ people, including 30% of IH teens) is below \$15,000 – significantly lower than the federal poverty line of \$26,500.