

HSC Real Estate & Family Services Create Successful Housing Partnership



By: Walt Smith, *President of HSC Real Estate*

In 2003, HSC formed a partnership with Family Services housing program to provide rental units for homeless families. Reasons such as unemployment, poor credit, an eviction history or a criminal record are huge barriers for these families who desperately need housing.

Through the trust we've established with Family Services housing staff, we are able to look past some of these barriers, to get a family back into a home. Family Services staff works hard with these families to provide extensive support, counseling, and resources to help families stabilize so they can become self-sufficient in their new home. Many of these families secure rental subsidies and income so we do collect market rate rents. After four years, 30 out of 32 formerly homeless families have been successful tenants in HSC properties.

The partnership between HSC and Family Services has been a great experience for HSC staff and property owners too. When Family Services makes a commitment to place a family at an HSC property, that family truly gets the support needed to be successful residents of the property – and of the community.

When HSC staff hears the many success stories of these families getting back on their feet, it motivates them to be even more committed to the partnership. HSC plans to expand its relationship with Family Services over the next few years. It is truly a win-win relationship and a great example of how the private sector can get involved to cost-effectively reduce homelessness in our community.