

*Turning Tears to Smiles;
Despair to Hope*



Children arrive at Opportunity Place with tight, worried faces. A three year old asks, "will they let us stay?" An 11-year-old holds back tears, thinking he has finally come to the end of the world.

Just days later, the children are chasing each other down the slip-and-slide. Sidewalk chalk art decorates the walkways. Laughter rings from all sides. Excitement builds when it is time for the teacher to arrive each morning.

Watching children return to childhood must be the most amazing joy possible. It renews parental hopes, encouraging them to try one more time to get that job, find stable housing. Opportunity Place has become a true field of dreams.

Opportunity Place relies on private donations and business sponsorships in order to meet the needs of those who need the most. Some examples of our donors include:

Emerald Coast Association of Realtors (ECAR):
Donated proceeds of annual dessert auction

First Baptist Church of Fort Walton Beach: Provided supplies and stocked food pantry for first week

St. Simons on the Sound Episcopal Church:
donated meals for the first week

Seventh Day Adventist Church: Provided volunteers to organize clothes closet

First Presbyterian Church of Destin: Donated funds to pay one month's utilities

Pizza Hut: donates one meal each month

Building Industry Association: donated bathroom fixtures

Your help is also needed. Please go on-line to <http://www.okaloosawaltonhomeless.org> to see how you turn despair into hope.



**OKALOOSA WALTON HOMELESS
CONTINUUM OF CARE/ OPPORTUNITY, INC.**

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**OKALOOSA WALTON HOMELESS
CONTINUUM OF CARE/ OPPORTUNITY,
INC.**

*Opportunity
Place*

*Short-term Housing for
Women and Families*



850-226-7694

**Create an
Opportunity**

Opportunity Place



Opportunity Place is more than a shelter where homeless women and families may go for temporary housing. We are also a launching pad, where those in need find the resources to obtain jobs, housing, and life skills.

Services include:

- Partnership with JobsPlus to provide job skill training, and job placement
- Partnership with Okaloosa County School District for on-site summer and after-school programs
- Access to a referral network of churches, social service providers, mental health and substance abuse treatment

Opportunity, Inc.

Opportunity, Inc. provides resource and referral services to the community at large. Persons who are either homeless or in imminent danger of homelessness may come to the main building at Opportunity Place, where they can access the clothing closet, link to mainstream benefits, fill out an application for homeless prevention funding, and receive help in locating suitable, affordable housing.

Community Partners:

Opportunity Place is a proud member of the Sylvania Heights community, and grateful for the support of organizations including the Sylvania Heights Front Porch Council and the Burnette Harmon Wood Community Center. Without their help, we would not have been able to maintain our beautiful landscaping or exterior appearance.



Our Residents:

Opportunity, Inc. had scheduled our official opening for August 1, 2009. This changed on July 7, when a grandmother who had been living in the woods with her seven grandchildren asked for a night's rest. By the end of the day, we had accepted a family with a baby, and a mom with three children.

Residents at Opportunity Place range from infant to 65 years of age. Most are homeless due to job loss, family abandonment, or loss of health care. While here, each family works daily to find jobs, save funds, and regain self-sufficient lives.

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