

1. Organization Name: Rafael House
2. Organization: Non-Profit/Community
3. Additional Information: Oscar Lee – oscar@sftravel.com
4. Topics Addressed: Bay Area based and focused, Homelessness/Low Income, Youth and Family
5. Description of Program:

The mission of Raphael House is to help low-income families and families experiencing homelessness strengthen family bonds by achieving stable housing and financial independence.

Since 1971, Raphael House has been at the forefront of providing homeless and low-income families in the San Francisco Bay Area the personalized family-centered solutions they need to build brighter futures. Raphael House is a 100% privately funded and community-supported organization. Our success rate is unmatched: more than 85% of all Raphael House families go on to achieve long-term housing and financial stability.

6. Results/Impact:

Established in 1971, Raphael House began as an emergency shelter for single mothers and their children. A small group of committed volunteers rented a location from the city to serve the families. However, they quickly outgrew the limited space, and Mrs. Ella Rigney, the founder, was charged with finding a larger facility. Relocating to the former Golden Gate Hospital at 1065 Sutter Street, the facility was renovated to accommodate 51 beds in 17 bedrooms. Opening Thanksgiving week, 1977, Raphael House became the first homeless shelter for families in Northern California. Since its inception, Raphael House has provided over 20,000 families personalized family-centered solutions to build brighter, independent futures.

In 1991, Raphael House became incorporated. Shortly after, the staff formulated a comprehensive program designed to provide ongoing services to former resident families who had moved on to stable housing, AfterCare. In direct response to a growing need in the community, Raphael House eventually expanded to 70 beds in 23 bedrooms. Overtime, Raphael House also greatly expanded its educational and supportive [programming](#) for children.

With family homelessness increasing by at least 10% annually, Raphael House has now embarked on a plan to expand services to reach an additional 200 families over the next three years. That's 500 families—nearly 2,000 individuals—who will directly benefit from our program on an annual basis.

Private funding will drive our growth and allow us to adapt to the ever-changing needs of the community.

7. Website: <https://www.raphaelhouse.org/>