



## 25<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR FAMILY EMERGENCY SHELTER

(March 24, 2009) Louisville's Family Emergency Shelter celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a birthday party.



The Volunteers of America program was among the first in Louisville to recognize the need to serve homeless families and is the only one that allows both parents to stay with their children.

Since opening in 1984, the shelter has served almost 2,500 families and 5,000 children, providing safe, temporary housing. Today, homeless families are the fastest

growing homeless population. Because of space and funding, the shelter can accommodate only 25% of the requests it receives.

There were refreshments and games for parents and children currently in our shelter programs. The event was open to the public and to past clients of our shelter programs.

The special birthday ceremony featured remarks by President & CEO Jane W. Burks and Marlene Gordon, Executive Director of Louisville's Coalition for the Homeless. Donna Trabue, Vice President of Homeless Services with Volunteers of America, who started as a case manager at the shelter in 1984, shared stories from her 25 years. Guests included Regina Warren, Director of Louisville Metro Human Services, and Louisville Metro Councilman David Tandy.



The shelter is part of a continuum of care offered by Volunteers of America that helps families move into transitional housing and eventually into permanent housing. The program is designed to be both a safety net and a launching pad. Seventy-five percent of families have moved on to stable housing.