

Mission Statement:

Compass Family Services serves families confronting poverty and homelessness by supporting their efforts to achieve stability and self-sufficiency:

- Assisting families in securing and maintaining permanent housing
- Addressing barriers to economic self-sufficiency through employment services
- Supporting the healthy development of children and families through enriched childcare and parent education
- Addressing mental health and substance abuse problems through individual and group counseling
- Providing leadership for the investigation and amelioration of issues facing homeless and very low-income families

Programs & Services

Compass Family Services creates a strong safety net for homeless and at-risk families by providing a broad continuum of services that help our clients find and maintain stable housing and build strong families. Compass' six programs for families are:

Compass Connecting Point – The citywide access center for all families seeking shelter in San Francisco.

Compass Family Shelter – A homeless shelter for families with private rooms and baths, plus prevention and aftercare services.

Compass SF HOME - Compass' homelessness prevention program that provides qualifying families with short term rental subsidies and support.

Compass Family Resource Center - A family resource center providing counseling and education to support healthy parent-child relationships.

Compass Clara House – A two-year transitional housing program with individual family apartments, plus intensive support services and on site childcare.

Compass Children's Center – Compass' model child development and education center for children from homeless and very low-income families.

Success Story

"My children deserve to have the kind of mother that I didn't."

At age twelve, Erica was thrilled to be reunited with her mother. The two had been separated since Erica was six months-old when her mother came to the U.S. to try to make a better life for herself and her family.

The reunion, however, was not what Erica had imagined, and for her mother, the stress and responsibility of an instant family caused the relationship to turn violent quickly. After a particularly brutal encounter, Erica was removed from her mother's custody and spent the rest of her childhood in foster care.

Today, Erica is married and a mother to five children, ages 4-21. While she has always wanted to do her best for them, she found that her own issues of abandonment, history of abuse and the challenges of living in San Francisco on a limited budget colored her parenting decisions.

Erica had sought help before, but until she came to Compass Family Resource Center (CFRC) two years ago, she had never found the comprehensive services that her family needed under one roof.

CFRC made an immediate impact on Erica's family by providing them with the support and tools to alleviate stress, assistance with basic household items when they needed it and most importantly to Erica, an extended family upon whom she could rely.

Eager to make real change in her life, Erica signed up to take part in CFRC's Parenting Journey. The Parenting Journey is a 12-week workshop that helps parents whose own childhood did not provide them with a solid foundation for nurturing themselves or their children learn to make responsible and informed choices for their family. It was a transformative experience for Erica.

"It wasn't just another parenting class, it was more about self-discovery and self-healing, letting go of past hurt. The Parenting Journey helped ease the resentment."

With four children living at home, Erica still finds that life can be unpredictable and challenging, but she now feels prepared to make the best decisions for herself and her children.

"Discipline doesn't mean to hurt, it means to instruct and mold. We forget as parents that this is our job."



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