



Our Vision: To end the cycle of family homelessness and poverty.

Together with families, we transform lives by building relationships, well-being, and economic mobility.

WHO WE ARE

Imagine LA is a Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization formed in 2006. Our unique whole-family service and mentorship model enables vulnerable families to build solid pathways out of poverty. Guided by a dynamic Board of Directors and our President & CEO Jill Bauman, we are a staff of 13 with an operating budget of \$2 million. Our main offices are Mid-City, we have a satellite office in South LA, and our licensed affiliate is Imagine Whittier.

WHY WE EXIST

Los Angeles has the nation's largest homeless population: 66,436 people. One-third are families and young adults. Many have repeat episodes of homelessness and are mired in generational poverty. Imagine LA prevents first-time and repeat homelessness and equips families to maintain housing stability and thrive long-term. Imagine LA works with newly housed families, 89% of whom are woman-led, and families at risk of experiencing homelessness.

WHAT WE DO

Imagine LA's innovative Family Empowerment & Mentorship model combines clinical case management, economic mobility resources, whole-family mentorship, and links to critical resources.

- Our staff social workers help families to set goals and access resources.
- We recruit, train and guide volunteers as 1:1 mentors for each member of the family ages 5 and up.
- Using a proprietary curriculum and workbooks, we all work together to lay the groundwork for a family's stability and success in their community. Mentors average between 6-8 hours with their mentees each month.
- Our primary service areas are South LA, Metro LA, and the San Fernando Valley.
- Our families live in apartments and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).

OUR IMPACT

- Our results-driven approach is heralded throughout L.A. County as the most effective solution to breaking the cycle of family homelessness and poverty.
- All Imagine LA Families remain in housing; parents get on career tracks with higher incomes and savings; kids thrive in school, graduate and embrace secondary education; all get regular medical care and build crucial wellness habits and financial literacy skills.

OUR GROWTH

From 2008-2017, Imagine LA served 100 families. In 2018 and 2019, we served 100 and 104 families, respectively.

- In 2017, we became part of the coordinated LA County Initiative to End Homelessness and launched our first licensee, Imagine Whittier.
- Fueled by our high impact, increased funding and corps of volunteer mentors, Imagine LA is growing throughout LA County. Our strategic plan for 2019-21 details how we will reach our goal to help hundreds more families.

**To learn more and join us as a volunteer mentor, donor or partner visit
www.imaginela.org or call 323-944-0210**



At the heart of our work is a commitment to social and economic equity for families experiencing the adverse effects of generational poverty. The scope of the problem must be addressed in an impactful and sustainable way, requiring a cross-sector effort. Imagine LA's model is centered on the idea that one of the most powerful tools we have in the fight against homelessness is relationships: people of diverse backgrounds coming together, sharing stories, building trust, and supporting one another in achieving their goals.

Imagine LA's Family Empowerment & Mentorship (FEM) model works with families that have recently exited homelessness and are housed primarily in scattered site apartments and project based permanent supportive housing. The FEM model is a unique, whole-family approach that leverages a powerful combination of master level clinical case management, trained volunteer mentors from the community and financial wellness pathways to build strong family stability, economic independence, and overall wellbeing.

Our professional social work staff serve as clinical case managers for each family. They work with the whole family to stabilize in their new home, create goals, navigate the complex array of services for which families may be eligible, and train and oversee mentors assigned to each family.

Families receive individualized support in the areas of education, financial literacy, access to reliable childcare, and overall health and wellness so they can get on empowering pathways to stability. Families are provided workforce development opportunities (job training and job placement) that lead to living-wage jobs – and the reliable childcare that parents need to take advantage of these opportunities – to increase the family's income and create stability.

Once families are on their way with training for a workforce pathway, they are introduced to financial wellness and work 1:1 with a financial wellness coach. The families learn about the psychology of money and can go beyond the surface level of budgeting and savings conversations to truly change behavior. Every family is also enrolled in Imagine LA's family savings plan where Imagine LA will match up to \$500 for every dollar that the family saves while they are in the program.

Each family is matched with a team of trained volunteer mentors who collaborate with the family to identify and address the factors which undermine a family's ability to thrive. Each member of the family over age 5 is matched with a one-on-one mentor. Mentors become the hearts and hands of the social work staff, building relationships with their mentees and providing new perspectives, opportunities, and the emotional and logistical support, to build the skills and confidence each family member needs to achieve their goals.

**Since our founding, Imagine LA has worked with 200+ families and 600+ volunteers.
The results are undisputable.**

100% of families maintain housing stability, earned incomes and savings and use of the banking system increase, everyone is receiving regular health care, and kids are thriving in school – plus two families have become home owners!

