

The Ladder Project



Laura Miller (Chair)

Mindy Fagin

Jeff Hoppenstein

Marsha Lev

Kevin Libby

Melanie Morris

Nonie Schwartz

Andrea Solka

Harrian Stern

“
Climbing
The Ladder
To Success



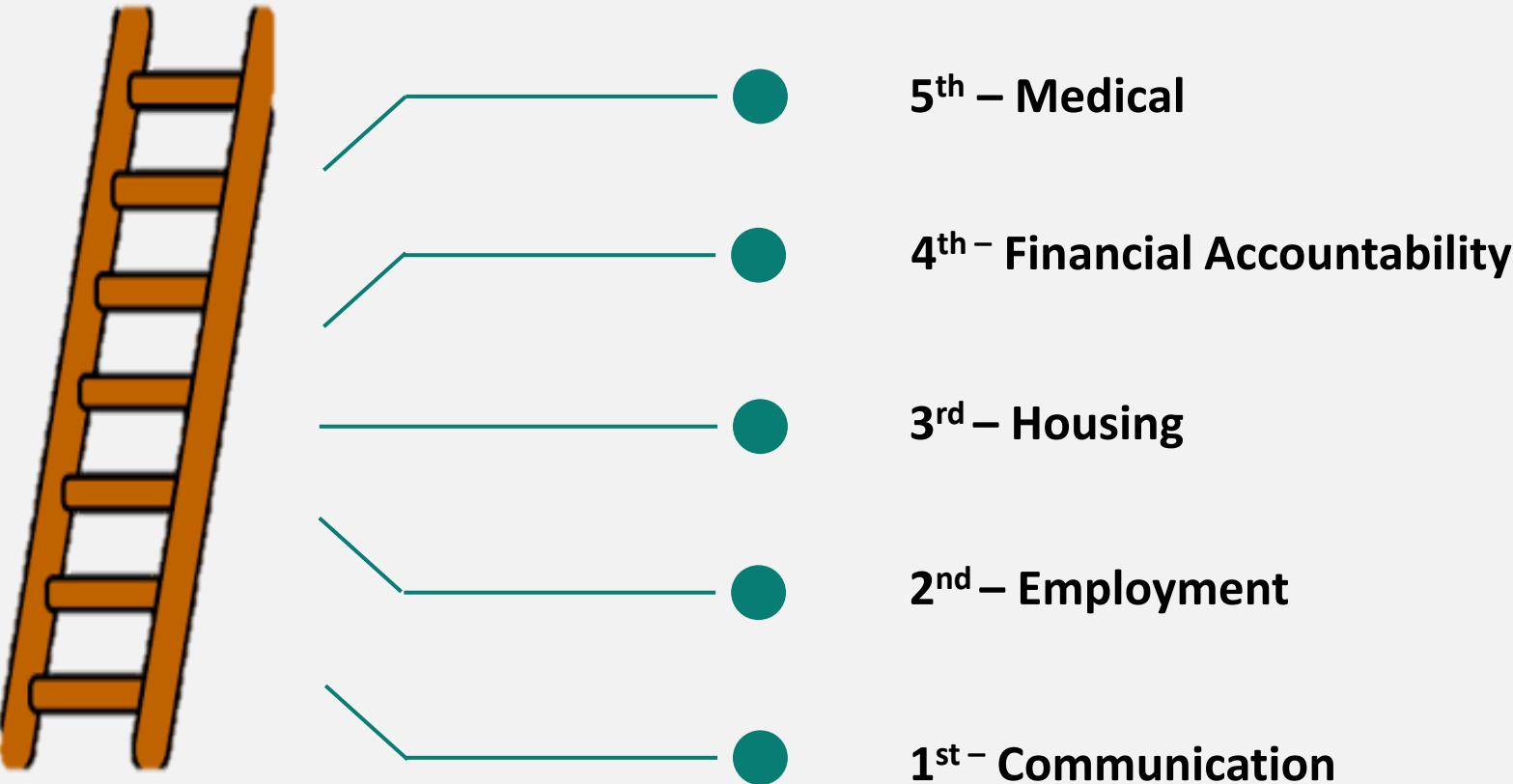
Congregation
Shearith Israel

The Mission

To help homeless individuals and families in difficult life situations get back on their feet until they become fully independent and able to support themselves.



The Mission – Rungs of the Ladder



LP Results Overview

- 77 homeless men, women and children (in 36 families) helped since 09-30-2018
- 50 of them (in 26 families) were fully accepted into our program and received job placement, housing, and any other support needed to attain financial and emotional self-sufficiency
- 40 of 50 (80%) still live on their own, most of them in the apartments the LP obtained and furnished (1 died in his apartment due to complications from diabetes)
- 6 of 50 (12%) are no longer in touch, and we do not know their status
- 4 of 50 (8%) returned to homelessness upon leaving our program

* Since June 2022, when we began our job placement partnerships with Presbyterian Hospital, UTSWMC and The Legacy Senior Communities, we have been experiencing the highest success in our mission of transitioning the homeless to self-sufficiency.



Stanford D.

- Single male, 60
- Referred on 06-08-22 by Presbyterian Hospital where he worked as a janitor while living in Austin Street Shelter
- Found him an apartment, paid application fees and renter's insurance, fully furnished and equipped apartment, stocked one month's worth of food
- Advocated for him in July 2023 when his online banking app, Chime, allowed his account to be hacked for \$9,500; led to a DMN article; six Dallas residents replenishing the lost funds; and a subsequent lawsuit settlement with CHIME for the entire loss plus attorney's fees
- Recruited a dentist to give him a full set of dentures at reduced cost
- Still living in LP apartment and thriving



Kathy W.

- Referred on 12/15/23 by The Stewpot
- 42-year single mom with 3 children, ages 14, 5 and 3, had been living on downtown streets and city parks
- Found her a \$16/hour waitress job with Legacy Senior Communities at Midtown
- Moved them into a 2-bedroom apartment, fully furnished and stocked; paid application fees, security deposit, rental insurance, two months rent, clothing, food, medicine, bus passes, new phone
- Enrolled children in DISD schools and secured free, after-school day care through Child Care Group; arranged, and transported children to, doctor checkups and vaccinations for school; took family to area food pantries
- Turnaround time of 23 days from homelessness to apartment move-in; mom was paying all bills within 2 months
- LP continues to help in emergencies



Kearstin H.

- Single mom, 36, with 11-year-old autistic son, referred on 4-2-2025 by Family Gateway
- Obtained a \$19/hour housekeeping job for her at Presbyterian Hospital, where she is a star employee
- LP found her a large, one-bedroom apartment in Vickery Meadow, paid all up-front costs, and fully furnished and equipped it - \$4,532.15 total spent
- LP paid for 9 weeks of summer camp at two City of Dallas recreation centers, with LP volunteers driving him round trip every day
- Kearstin was immediately financially self-sufficient, paying her \$875/month rent a month early and putting several thousand dollars into savings.
- LP found emergency medical care (through Medicaid) for Kearstin in November 2025, driving her to all appointments, including gynecological surgery that prevented her from working for 8 weeks. LP will help financially, if needed, until she returns to work



Steve H.



- Single man, 64, living in his truck for three years, referred by a private citizen on 11-7-24
- LP helped him negotiate a vacuum cleaner repair job at \$18/hour, found him a one-bedroom apartment, and paid all up-front costs (\$6,142 total)
- Free car donated by man who referred him; LP helped sell the truck; \$2,800 proceeds went to new savings account
- Steve was totally self-sufficient 25 days later, with continuing LP financial advice and payment reminders
- In June 2025, Steve began missing work due to pain; LP arranged medical care through Jewish Family Service. Steve was diagnosed with Stage IV metastatic prostate cancer that had spread to his pelvis, spine, ribs and skull
- When his estranged sister declined to help, the LP took on full responsibility for Steve's medical care: obtained financial assistance from Parkland (where he was hospitalized for 6 weeks, undergoing emergency tumor removal); enrolled him in Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid; and moved him to a nursing home in Pleasant Grove, where he will live for the rest of his life.

J.C.

- Single mother, 26, with a 16-month-old son, referred on 8-7-25 by OurCalling and living at Dallas Life after fleeing domestic violence in another state
- LP teamed up with Steve Hild, a recently retired homebuilder who wanted to replicate the LP as an individual
- LP and Hild helped obtain identification/SSN/DL papers; secure a \$25/hour job as a Certified Nurses Assistant (CNA) at local senior living facility; arrange free day care; and move into a Vickery Meadow apartment, which they fully furnished, in September 2025
- J.C. is learning money management from LP and Hild and just paid her first month's rent and utilities





Eligibility criteria for The Ladder Project

- #1 – Must be willing and able to work a full-time, 40-hour-a-week job so they can attain financial self-sufficiency (we will help find a job)
- #2 – Must not lie to our team – we do not judge; we've heard it all; but once lying starts, the trust is lost
- #3 – Must not have an active drug/alcohol addiction because we are not professionally equipped to help
- #4 – Must answer calls and emails from Ladder Project team in timely manner
- #5 – Must accept free financial management help if needed to attain or retain self-sufficiency

How to refer a client

- Email LP Chairwoman Laura Miller at laura.miller1@sbcglobal.net with a short synopsis of the circumstances of the client and how to reach them. Our team will interview them and let you know if they are a good fit for our program. Please include your phone number in case we need to ask you about your client.

Call Laura at 214-763-0600 with any questions, but please don't give this phone number to clients. (They'll have all our numbers when they are in the program and can call day or night.)

