



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact:**

Gretchen Hirt, Gambel Communications  
504.324.4242 | [Gretchen@gambelpr.com](mailto:Gretchen@gambelpr.com)

## **Baptist Community Ministries Awards \$238,560 Grant to New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter**

New Orleans, LA (January 22, 2016) – Receiving \$238,560 over three years, the [New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter](#) is a recipient of a grant from Baptist Community Ministries (BCM) .

“Funding from BCM is integral to the success of our Shelter because it helps us support our staff who are committed to seeing families go from homelessness to independence and stability,” said Dawn Bradley-Fletcher, executive director of the New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter. “Our staff's case-management work is key in making sure women and children escape homelessness by accessing important resources, finding jobs and securing housing.”

Since 2012, homelessness among women has increased by 66%. The New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter is the largest shelter for homeless women and children in New Orleans; its mission is to transition homeless families to sustainable and independent living. 80% of the families that the Shelter has served have accomplished this transition.

“Homelessness among women and children in New Orleans is persistent and growing. We are extremely grateful to Baptist Community Ministries for this grant because it allows us to continue to serve this most vulnerable and underserved population of our community,” said Dan Silverman, president and co-founder of the New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter.

According to Christy Ross with Baptist Community Ministries, “We are committed to supporting the work of the New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter and are very excited to partner with them to meet the challenge of helping families in our community overcome homelessness and remain independent.”

The New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter will use the funding from BCM to build a broader community awareness of homelessness among women and children and to support key staff positions within the shelter.

Since the relocation of the Shelter in early 2014 to the old Liberty House in Central City, New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter has more than doubled in size and now cares for twice the number of women and four times the number of children. The Shelter has served more than 900 women and children since 2007 and continues to stay filled to capacity.

To help homeless children and their mothers in New Orleans, visit <http://nowcs.org/support/>. For more information about New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter, visit [www.nowcs.org](http://www.nowcs.org) or find the organization on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) (@NOWCSshelter).

***About New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter:*** *The largest shelter for homeless women and children in the metro area, New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter has served more than 900 women and children since 2007. A large majority (95%) of the children at the shelter are under the age of ten. An amazing 80% of the families helped since 2007 have transitioned to sustainable, independent living.*

***Baptist Community Ministries:*** *Baptist Community Ministries (BCM) is one of the largest private foundations in Louisiana with a commitment to the greater New Orleans region and to the attainment of a healthier community. BCM funds programs in the following zones of interest: education, governmental, oversight, health, and public safety.*

###