

Hannah Horrigan

Agency - Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority

Department - Resident Services

Position - Child & Family Partner

At AMHA, we believe in our residents. The ultimate goal is self-sufficiency for our families, so our department is dedicated to supporting them in any way that we can while they work to achieve that goal. My position is specialized for families who are expecting, or have young children. I visit each family in their home once or twice a month, and during those visits we work on and discuss three main things – family well-being, the child's development, and a game or activity focused on the child's growth and development. Sometimes the visits are fun, light, and quick. Oftentimes, we spend the hour or so talking about the things that lead to the family's stay in public housing. And other times, we spend the hour finding solutions to food insecurity, eviction possibilities, or utility shut-offs. But regardless of the content of the visit, the goal is to leave each family a sense of empowerment over their own lives. We also host community events throughout the year, in addition to Maternal Depression Support groups. The goal of these is to create a network of social supports for families within their communities; to hold each other accountable and life each other up. This job has sent me home with laughter in my ears and pink-stained hands from spending the evening up to my elbows in homemade playdough – other days it has sent me home in tears, worrying for the families we serve, feeling helpless. But I have enjoyed every second, on either sort of day.

I do not have an updated professional photo, so please enjoy this photo of my family! My daughter (who was growing in my belly when I crossed the stage receiving my BA) is now 2 years old and brilliant and hilarious. My fiancé has graduated from UA's Police Academy last fall, and is working to secure a commission on a local police force. We are happy and healthy!

Wishing well to the Soc dept., I miss and think of you all often ☺

