

The Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program

**Creating a Legacy of
Academic Excellence
Two Generations at a Time**



**MISERICORDIA
UNIVERSITY.**

OUR HISTORY

Sister Jean Messaros, a Sister of Mercy and Vice President of Mission Integration, brought the tradition of empowering women through education and alleviating the barriers of poverty to the forefront in 2000 by establishing the Women with Children Program at Misericordia University. The Women with Children Program continues the mission of empowering the underserved by assisting single women and their children to realize their full potential through higher education.

OUR MISSION: MULIER FORTIS

BUILDING ON THE TRADITION OF VALIANT WOMEN

The Women with Children Program invites you to participate in our mission of empowering single mothers through educational achievement and personal growth, working toward future professional success only a college degree can provide. Through the gift of free housing, financial assistance, access to quality child care and an array of social, academic and family enrichment programming, Women with Children provides a comprehensive response to the needs of our families. Our students arrive ready to accept the challenge, demonstrate the courage to dedicate themselves to their educational goals, and ultimately, depart from Misericordia University a college graduate, ready to make an impact as a valiant woman, Mulier Fortis.

SISTER JEAN MESSAROS

“The women that have graduated from our program have become successful professionals. We are now witnessing the children of our first class of WWC participants entering college. When this happens, the circle, as we hoped, is complete.”



Pauly
House



THE WOMEN WITH CHILDREN PROGRAM

The Women with Children Program is situated within two homes on the University's lower campus. As a gift from the program, each family receives housing 12 months of the year for up to four years. Housing arrangements include 2 bedrooms for each family. Families share common living areas including kitchen and dining area, living room, playroom, laundry facilities, and study room. Safety and security is a priority and each home is equipped with card access only entries, child safe playground areas and a child safe perimeter fence. Space availability varies by semester and when at full capacity, students can request to be placed on a waiting list for the program.

A SINGLE MOTHER'S UNIVERSITY PROGRAM

The Women with Children Program (WWC) at Misericordia University is one of only eight programs in the United States. The program empowers economically disadvantaged single mothers by providing the opportunity to complete a college degree, creating brighter futures for themselves and for their children. The pathway to college and the completion of a four year degree may seem impossible right now. Through our program the roadblocks to higher education are removed and the completion of a college degree becomes a reality.

ASIA THOMPSON, WWC STUDENT

“Since becoming a part of Misericordia's Women with Children Program my life and the lives of my children have dramatically changed for the better. My children are responding well to having a stable home that is comfortable and safe. I have been able to become more focused on my academic success; the stresses of balancing rent and school have been lifted.”

PROGRAMMING & FAMILY ENRICHMENT

Extensive family enrichment programming is offered throughout the year for mothers and children alike. Mothers will receive support through individual goal planning, academic support and tutoring, career services, on-campus counseling, parenting and informational workshops. Mothers are given priority placement for on-campus work study opportunities and assistance with internship placements. Children are offered the opportunity to pursue extracurricular activities including sports camps, summer camps, swimming lessons, a children's garden and library and involvement in the Kids on Campus program during the school year. Numerous family events are offered both on and off campus including cultural events, the arts and children's shows.

CHILD CARE

Mothers are assisted by our Coordinator in securing childcare by providing information and case management services on state certified day care centers and eligibility requirements for childcare subsidies. The University also offers a 40% subsidy for child care to eligible families. School age children may attend the Dallas Area School District, with a convenient bus stop in front of the program houses.

APRIL LENNON, WWC STUDENT

“Being a part of the Women with Children Program, I have the support necessary to be a full-time college student as well as a full-time mom. This is an amazing opportunity for any potential student mother to take as their first step on their journey to success.”





REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAM

- Students must be applying for undergraduate admission only
- Transfer students are eligible for the program for completion of a first time, four year undergraduate degree
- Students must maintain full time student status (12 credit hours) to remain eligible
- Only single mothers with up to 2 children are eligible
- Children must be between the ages of 2 years to 8 years upon mother's admission into the program
- All students must have a reliable car

FINANCIAL AID

Each student in the Women with Children Program will be reviewed for eligibility for loans, traditional grants and scholarships through the Office of Financial Aid. Every woman and child is given free housing and children eat for free on campus when school is in session.

AUBREY WOOD, WWC STUDENT

“As a member of the Women with Children program at Misericordia University, new opportunities are constantly being presented in the social, educational and recreational aspects of our lives.”

HOW TO APPLY TO THE WOMEN WITH CHILDREN PROGRAM

If you are interested in applying to the *Women with Children Program*, please contact the Office of Admissions toll free at **(866) 262-6363**. The first step is to apply to Misericordia University for Full Time Undergraduate Admission. Upon acceptance to Misericordia University, you are then eligible to apply to the Women with Children Program. The application can be found at misericordia.edu/wwc along with further information on our program.

Applicants are notified of their status with the program following the completion of the interview process.

We look forward to hearing from you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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MARIA WILLIAMSON, GRADUATE

“Through the Women with Children Program, I found critical student employment, internships, scholarships, and networking opportunities that launched me into my career. This program helped me reach my full potential, all while raising my young daughter. I will forever be grateful for this opportunity.”





**“There is nothing of more value and of good to society
than the careful instruction of women and children.”**

- Catherine McAuley

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UNIVERSITY**

Founded by the Sisters of Mercy