

# THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY CARE



Building Blocks  
for Brighter Futures

## PROJECT TEAM:

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## PROJECT TYPE:

Interdisciplinary Project

## FUNDED BY:



## KEYWORDS

 App Development

 Gamification

 Inclusive Design

 Human Computer Interaction

 Social Impact

## MARILLAC PLACE: GAMIFYING THE “PRAISE WITH A RAISE” PROGRAM

Marillac Place is a community-based organization that provides residential support to mothers and mothers-to-be facing homelessness. During their stay, Marillac Place residents participate in the “Praise with a Raise” Program (PWAR) which helps them build essential life, parenting, and social skills for independent living.

MacArthur led an interdisciplinary research team of experts specializing in human-computer interaction, gameful and motivational app development, inclusive technology, social work, and trauma-informed approaches. Their combined expertise, alongside that of the Marillac Place staff, allowed them to adapt an existing analog social program into an interactive app to facilitate self-determination and to improve motivation for residents. The app also includes gamified elements to promote engagement and encourage task completion.

The residents can review or track their own goals and performance in the app, in contrast to the original analog program where data was accessible only to program administrators. By participating in the PWAR program goals, such as attending community programs, house meetings, skills sessions with staff, and reviewing their progress in the app, the mothers and mothers-to-be facing homelessness can reclaim their agency and control over their own data, actions, and accomplishments.

## INTERESTING FACT:

Marillac Place and the research team plan to release the app as an open-source resource so that it can be adapted and adopted by other similar community organizations and can have a greater community impact and support many individuals who face homelessness in the Waterloo Region and beyond.