



## **PARTNER Update**

Ending Homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community  
*Special Edition*

November 24, 2009

After months of combined efforts of hundreds of individuals from various nonprofits, county agencies and faith-based communities diligently working, collaborating, and producing a synergy of aspiration and hope, HOST has successfully launched as of November 16, 2009. We extend much appreciation for all of your efforts!

### **HOST HIGHLIGHTS**

*Housing Opportunities Support Teams (HOST) provide flexible and adaptive services needed to help individuals and families obtain or maintain housing. The primary function of HOST is to coordinate and manage prevention, housing placement, and supportive services for those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Members of the HOST team will serve as a liaison to his or her organization/system and will work closely with other HOST members to create a cohesive and seamless system of service delivery.*

### **Training and Communication**

It has been a busy two weeks since the last PARTNER Update. **Since that time three additional direct service trainings and three regional provider dialogues have been held.**

- **Direct Service Training** – The first in the series of several case management trainings was held on Thursday, Nov. 12, to prepare for the launch of HOST and the roll out of the use of the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) funds, and to clarify processes around the provision of community case management services. Many of the standardized forms were distributed and reviewed to ensure staff was prepared to get started. This training was hosted by the community case management task

group in partnership with the [Office to Prevent and End Homelessness](#) (OPEH). **Also on Nov. 12, the new intake process training was completed.** This is the third time the training has been offered for the largest audience as of yet. During the past month, members of the Community Case Management task group worked diligently to finalize forms to be used in the community case management process and to develop a procedure manual for using and completing the forms. **Both trainings on Nov. 12 were well attended with approximately 50 attendees at each!** The third direct service training was conducted for the **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)/ HPRP**, with representation from five different agencies.

Keep an eye out for additional case management process trainings, as well as skills trainings such as motivational interviewing, cultural sensitivity, working with survivors of domestic violence and many more. All of the forms that were distributed during the trainings will be made available to the larger community in electronic format in the coming weeks. **Anyone interested in obtaining copies of the forms may contact Toya Taylor at [toya.taylor@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:toya.taylor@fairfaxcounty.gov).**

- **Regional Human Services Meetings – Regional human service meetings have been held in Regions 1, 3 and 4**, with an average of 20 participants in each. **These informational meetings are a part of the continuous effort to educate local stakeholders about HOST**, as well as to engage the broader county around preventing and ending homelessness. Regional meetings offer an opportunity for local providers and interests groups to receive updates regarding HOST, and to participate in a collaborative process to inform the system and promote continuous improvement in service delivery.

**Sincere thanks go out to all of our partners** who worked so hard to provide high quality services to our clients here in the Fairfax-Falls Church community! Please keep an eye out for notices of upcoming regional meetings.

## **Up and Running**

**Reston Interfaith, Shelter House and New Hope Housing have all begun seeing clients using the additional case management resources provided through the HPRP funding.** Excellent work and congratulations in hiring, training and implementing so quickly! A fourth community case manager will be hired to serve the Region 2 area through Volunteers of America Chesapeake Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter. They will partner with Shelter House to provide these services in Region 2.

**Tom Barnett has accepted the position of a housing locator coordinator for our community through Good Shepherd Housing and Community Services.** Many of you will know Tom from his excellent work with Good Shepherd for the past several years. Tom has been a knowledgeable, hard-working and committed partner in the implementation of HOST, and we are very excited to continue working with him in this new role.

## **PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS**

*Below stories demonstrate our community's success with the Housing First approach - helping individuals and families access appropriate affordable housing and needed services to move them to self-sufficiency. These stories also highlight new partnership successes between nonprofits, county agencies and faith-based communities. Read about how local partners and providers diligently and collaboratively work to prevent and end homelessness.*

### **Perfect Roommates**

**Client A and Client B are two single females who found themselves in the singles homeless shelter program.** Client A had a long history of substance abuse and was a victim of domestic violence. Client B came to the Embury Rucker Community Shelter (ERCS) burdened by

an abusive family and job loss. Both women engaged the services of the shelter case managers and the Community Services Board staff, who are deployed at the shelter, allowing them to address mental health challenges and to develop service plans to address many other issues in their lives. Both women utilized the SHARE employment site at ERCS to search for jobs by using the Skill Source database. They were able to find employment with Reston area retailers. Even though they were both began to work, neither could afford to rent an apartment.

Both women were referred to the housing broker at ERCS who interviewed both women to assess any housing barriers they may have, income level, rental history, and then tried to match them with rental opportunities in the area. Knowing their challenges, the case managers and the housing broker spoke to each client individually and asked if they would be interested in sharing a two bedroom apartment. Both agreed that having a roommate is much better then being homeless or living in a shelter. The housing broker located a vacancy, contacted the apartment complex, negotiated the lease and assisted the clients in moving into the complex. **With financial assistance the clients were able to move into a two-bedroom apartment for a total of \$900 a month. Both of the women are happily sharing the apartment, paying a manageable rent of \$450 a month each while still working.**

### **Determined to Get the Degree**

Fairfax Area Christian Emergency & Transitional Services, Inc. (**FACETS**) partners with the **Fairfax County Government and local faith-based communities to provide the Hypothermia Prevention Response Program to homeless men and women in our community.** The program runs throughout the winter and provides shelter, hot meals and companionship for people who might otherwise be at risk of hypothermia while living in tents or in their cars during the cold winter months. Last year, this program sheltered more than 300 individuals, including Joe, a veteran from the Iraq/Afghanistan wars. Joe participated in the program last winter while also attending NOVA under the G.I. Bill. His goal was to attain an associate's degree and then become a certified electrician, so he spent much of his time in the program studying for his various classes. Working with FACETS' staff, Joe was urged to meet with a mental health worker, which helped him overcome some post-traumatic stress that he was suffering after coming back from the war. **Today, Joe is living in a supportive housing unit and he credits having the Hypothermia Prevention Response Program with helping him get his degree. Without the program he would not have had a place to study and he would most likely still be living in the woods in Fairfax.**

## **SIDEBAR**

### **Continuum of Care Update**

**The 2009 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care grant applications are being submitted before the Thanksgiving Holiday to meet the HUD deadline.** Notice of conditional awards for 26 renewal projects is anticipated in January, with notice on the new project application expected later in spring 2010.

### **2010 Fair Market Rent Amounts**

The fiscal year 2010 fair market rent amounts have been released from HUD for our area, which is the **Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD HUD Metro FMR Area.** HUD's fiscal year is defined as Oct.1 of the previous calendar year through Sept. 30 of the following year. Thus, the HUD FY 2010 is Oct. 1, 2009 – Sept. 30, 2010. The income limits for FY 2010 have not yet been released as of Nov. 18. They are:

### Final FY 2010 FMRs By Unit Bedrooms

	Efficiency	One-Bedroom	Two-Bedroom	Three-Bedroom	Four-Bedroom
Final FY 2010 FMR	\$1,156	\$1,318	\$1,494	\$1,927	\$2,522

## **EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Five-Year Consolidated Plan Forum – Final Session**

The Five-Year Consolidated Plan Community Forum on Nov. 6 was a success and provided input to the development of the new Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The forum was attended by approximately 60 people representing homeless persons, homeless providers, and both providers and consumers of services for other special needs populations, including persons with physical, sensory, mental, and intellectual disabilities. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova provided welcoming remarks as did Mary Kudless, deputy director of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. Summary notes from this and two other community forums held in October will be posted by the end of November at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rha>.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless) for up-to-date information on future and past events.

### **Housing Locator Training - Jan. 15**

The first in the series of housing locator training sessions will be offered on Jan. 15. Stay tuned for more information.

Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 561, Fairfax, VA 22035. For more information or to request this information in an alternate format, call 703-324-9492, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless). This is a Fairfax County, Va., publication.

