



[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless)

## **374 REAL PEOPLE ~ REAL RESULTS in 75 Days**

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*In the first 75 business days, the Housing Opportunities Support Teams (HOST) have prevented 374 people – 136 unique households – from becoming homeless. These are few of their stories.*

### **Hope after Many Losses**

A county resident came to the Falls Church Shelter. When he arrived he was not only stressed, but also depressed after realizing he had lost everything—his marriage, his job and most of his personal belongings. He only had a couple of day's worth of clothing and a couple of boxes of belongings that he left with a friend. The next morning he began looking for a job. Within three weeks, he found a job at a restaurant and began working. While at the shelter, he met with the case manager once a week to discuss what his goal would be for the next week and how to get help to reach that goal. The case manager also referred him to a housing locator who helped him find an affordable place to live. **He was able to accumulate savings of \$1,000 while at the shelter to help him move toward self sufficiency.**

### **Single Mother Saved from Homelessness**

A single mother of two children was faced with homelessness when her work hours were cut and she could no longer afford to pay rent. Near eviction, she put herself on the waitlist for a county shelter and was placed into FACETS' motel program. She worked closely with her case manager to take steps towards her goals of saving money for housing and continued to work on her degree in nursing while still maintaining employment. **She was quickly approved for funding from the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP),** which helped her pay the security deposit and first month's rent. Soon after, the family moved into a two-bedroom apartment.

### **Valuable Services Help Break Cycle of Homelessness**

**A hypothermia client got accepted to the Housing First program.** He had been chronically homeless for more than three years. He is illiterate and homeless service providers are working on assisting him with his education. Much progress has been made while working with the case management team and getting connected with the Community Health Care Network, which is operated by the Fairfax County Health Department. He has received dental services and is waiting for dentures. The county resident also received an eye exam and will be picking up his glasses this week.

## **HOST HIGHLIGHTS**

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*HOST provides 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.*

## Regional Updates

- **Northern Region** – In the past two weeks, North County HOST Team has prevented **4 households totally, 18 people from being evicted**; received 22 referrals for prevention and/or rapid re-housing; and spent \$18,500 in rental and utility assistance.
- **Central Region** – Shelter House’s newly formed partnership with Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) is opening the access point for our communities in need of homeless prevention services. Senior community case manager, Elisa Holden, will be spending several days a week serving at WFCM in order to meet the needs of those seeking services on a walk-in basis. Shelter House, WFCM and Fairfax County will be working together to bring more partners on board to join the effort of ending homelessness in Region 4. Region 2 has begun to process requests for HPRP funds. They have been serving clients for two weeks, and have worked with over 10 households in community case management in that short time. The housing locator started at the same time as the community case manager and has assisted many of the individuals who reside at the Bailey’s Crossroads Community Shelter with performing searches for affordable, safe and appropriate housing.
- **Southern Region** – While Region 1 continues to receive an extensive amount of referrals well over the capacity of assembled staff; **they are starting to see the fruits of their labor as some current clients are beginning to need less financial assistance each month.** Case management services have proven successful in helping clients budget more successfully, obtain additional benefits to further supplement their income, and access resources that many HPRP clients had no idea they were eligible for or that they even existed.

## Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Update

**Data Quality Day** – The next “data quality day” has been scheduled for **May 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Suite 364.** This time has been designated to review and correct HPRP data in a manner that optimizes the experience of other providers in a setting that minimizes interruptions. At least one representative from each agency is asked to be present; please confirm your attendance via e-mail to [monica.foote@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:monica.foote@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**The data quality day held on March 10 was especially effective** and we are continuing this practice of ensuring that the data that is entered into HMIS is regularly reviewed and verified. Here is what one staff person is saying about data quality day: **“It is great. Getting away from the office gives us a chance to concentrate and finish with minimum distractions. Working with colleagues encourages accuracy and team work.”**

## PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

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### Roundup from the Governing Board Chairman

In March 2008, The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the 10-Year Implementation Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community. In Feb. 2009, the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH) was established with the hiring of Dean Klein as director. **In March 2009, the Governing Board was established** and Michael O’Reilly, former Mayor of Herndon, was appointed chairman.

**“We have a Governing Board that is very engaged and energized by the 10-Year Plan and the work that has been done so far,” said Chairman O’Reilly.** “We have elected officials who are very supportive. We have a community that wants to help. And we have those hundreds of residents who worked so hard to prepare the 10-Year Plan and are now watching us to make sure it is implemented and that it works. **We are all anxious to see even more results in the coming years.**”

**The purpose of the Governing Board is to provide high-level policy direction, community visibility, overall accountability and resource development needed for the implementation of the 10-Year Plan.** A tremendous amount of planning was done prior to the establishment of the Board to identify appropriate businesses, faith-based groups, funders, government officials and others who could serve on the Board. With the help from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Hunter Mill District Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins, along with significant input from other participants, a number of individuals were identified, contacted and signed up to serve. **Please visit [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/governing\\_board.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/governing_board.htm) for the bios of the current Board members.**

**On June 17, 2009, the first monthly meeting of the Governing Board was held.** The first several meetings of the Board were focused on informational items about the plan, about various county programs and about the service providers in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. On Aug. 14, 2009, the Board members, along with county stakeholders, homeless organizations and affiliates and potential funders participated in the first **VIP homeless shelter site visit (“Funders’ Tour”)** conducted at the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter and Mondloch House Community Shelter. On Sept. 15, 2009, they received a presentation by HomeAid of Northern Virginia and had a good discussion on ways to utilize services offered.

**Through a strong partnership** with nonprofit organizations, county agencies, faith-based communities and businesses, **OPEH, supported by the Governing Board, has made huge strides in moving us forward with the 10-Year Plan**, including the development and implementation of the HOST (Housing Opportunities Support Teams) model. **The partnership’s collective efforts have already had a huge impact** through this new regionally based approach to prevention. However, the work continues to collectively refine processes and identify new resources and partnerships to build capacity. Beginning this year, the Governing Board began taking some further actions to support the work of the partnership, including the **adoption of the Annual Housing Goals for the 10-Year Plan and a related 4-Year Action Plan, collaboration on the countywide Housing Blueprint, and the establishment of a process to more fully engage the business community.**

### **Daniel Leaf Joins the Governing Board**

We are pleased to welcome Daniel Leaf, Vice President of Full Spectrum Initiatives with Northrop Grumman Information Systems, to the Governing Board of the Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness. **At Northrop Grumman, “Fig” (as he is fondly called) holds a key leadership role in shaping and developing new defense and joint forces opportunities, including a strong focus on homeland security, just to name one. Prior to joining Northrop in 2008, Fig completed 34 years with the Air Force, retiring as a lieutenant general** after serving as deputy commander, U.S. Pacific Command, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii. Prior to that, he served as vice commander, Air Force Space Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. Additionally, he acquired tremendous experience in directing operational requirements in various missions across our globe and has received numerous awards and decorations, including the Secretary of the Air Force Leadership Award, the Distinguished Service Medal, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit and Air Medal. We welcome Fig as he begins his work to further those most in need in our community.

### **Homeless System Enhancements**

**Housing Locator Program** – The Housing Locator Program is continuing to build a new network of professionals that provide housing search and placement assistance for people facing homelessness. **On March 19, the program led a roundtable discussion with 24 housing location professionals from various agencies and nonprofit organizations.** The meeting focused on brainstorming around best practices for landlord outreach and tenant screening.

Individuals interested in joining the Housing Locator listserv may contact Sarah Bridger at [staff@fairfaxhousinglocators.com](mailto:staff@fairfaxhousinglocators.com). And please do visit <http://www.fairfaxhousinglocators.com> for a growing list of additional housing locator resources.

## SIDEBAR

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### **Intersection of Domestic Violence and Homelessness**

There is a direct correlation to those who are being served in homeless shelters and those who have experienced domestic violence. **Depending on the region and type of study, up to 57% of women who are homeless report domestic or sexual violence as the immediate cause of their homelessness.** When a woman leaves an abusive relationship, she often has nowhere to go. This is particularly true of women with few resources. Lack of safe and affordable housing, as well as long waiting lists for assisted housing mean that many women and their children are forced to choose between abuse at home and homelessness. Moreover, shelters are frequently filled to capacity. For example, Artemis House, the county's only shelter dedicated to serving those affected by domestic and sexual violence has been full to capacity for the past two years.

As we continue to implement the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and the Housing Blueprint, **it is of best interest for the domestic violence service providers to address the range of risks that victims face throughout their life, including homelessness and the need for long term, safe housing options.** Homeless service providers are encouraged to continue to focus on the presence of domestic violence survivors in their shelters and be aware of the legal issues, safety concerns, and lingering trauma that survivors experience. It is important for domestic violence emergency shelter programs and homeless emergency shelter programs to coordinate supportive services for those plagued by abuse, poverty, homelessness, chemical dependency, and mental health issues.

For more information on domestic violence as it relates to homelessness please contact the Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services at 703-324-5730, TTY 703-324-5706 or visit the Web site at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofw>.

### **Point-in-Time Count Update**

The annual Point-in-Time count of homeless persons in the community was conducted on January 27, 2010. **The data is now being analyzed and a report is expected to be available in early April.**

## TRAINING & COMMUNICATION

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### **Communications Work Group (CWG) – Coordinating the Message**

With the inception of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH), leadership saw a need to **build upon the good work accomplished by the Communications Subcommittee of the Implementation Committee to Prevent and End Homelessness** during the development of the 10-Year Plan. In collaboration with the county's Office of Public Affairs (OPA), OPEH now supports a newly formed **Ending Homelessness Communications Work Group (CWG), which is charged with providing strategic support to the overall communications efforts related to the 10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.** The CWG meets monthly, is chaired by OPA and the membership includes community organizations, nonprofits, faith-based communities and county agencies. Currently, the CWG is working on developing targeted ways to communicate with partner organization and other stakeholders. For more information, contact Anna Nissinen, OPA, at [anna.nissinen@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:anna.nissinen@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### **Tier Training & Communication**

*In order to increase activity and efficiency in the Training and Change Management group, the group has been split into three tiers that each focus on training and communication at different levels. Tier 1 addresses community forums, Tier 2 addresses Regional Training and Communication and Tier 3 addresses direct service training and communication. A designated Training and Change Management Leader will lead the coordination of training and communication at each tier.*

**Tier 1 – The next Community Forum on Homelessness will be held on May 5 at the Jubilee Christian Center located at 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax.**

**Tier 2 – [Fairfax County Department of Systems Management](#) (DSM) regional offices serve as localized entities focused on strengthening our neighborhoods by **connecting individuals and organizations with information and resources, fostering and creating opportunities for collaboration, and facilitating community-wide efforts**, such as the 10-Year Plan to prevent and end homelessness.**

**The regional meetings hosted by DSM** provide a regional framework for planning activities, active problem solving, capture of feedback, and identification of emerging trends. **These meetings feature regular updates on the 10-Year Plan** to prevent and end homelessness, as well as updates on multitude of other related human services initiatives and projects. In order to increase communication and collaboration between all service providers involved in the 10-Year Plan, **it is important that the providers participate in these regional planning efforts**. To get linked in to the appropriate meeting, project or initiative in your region, please refer to the information below.

**Region 1** – This group meets on the second Monday of every other month from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at South County Center, 8350 Richmond Hwy, Suite 505, Alexandria. **For more information**, contact [Maria.Franco-Nativi@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Maria.Franco-Nativi@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703- 704-6354, TTY 711.

**Region 2** – This group meets on the second Monday of each month at the offices of DSM, 6245 Leesburg Pike, Suite 300, Falls Church, VA, 22044 from 10 a.m. to noon. **For more information**, contact [Jackeline.FernandezReyes@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Jackeline.FernandezReyes@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-533-5701, TTY 711.

**Region 3** – This group meets on the fourth Monday of every other month from 10 a.m. to noon at 11484 Washington Plaza West, Suite 140, Reston. **For more information**, contact Denise Taramasco [Isabel.Taramasco@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Isabel.Taramasco@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-787-4962, TTY 711.

**Region 4** – Region 4's meeting takes place on the last Friday of each month from 9 to 11a.m. **The meeting locations vary. For more information**, contact [Paulette.Whiteside@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Paulette.Whiteside@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-324-5285, TTY 711.

**Tier 3 – The Direct Service Tier met on March 2 at the Katherine Hanley Family Shelter to discuss specific training sessions needed for the general community and those providing direct services within the HOST model. The group identified the following training needs:** accessing the HOST System, the ideal and the reality; benefits of: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Fairfax County Office for Children, social security; managing mentors and volunteers (for case managers); community case management (for volunteers and faith community); responsible tenant, housing stability train-the-trainer (utilize Center for Housing Counseling Training); fundamentals of community case management; housing location.

**The county sectors targeted at this time will be:**

- Criminal justice (police; Opportunities, Alternatives, and Resources of Fairfax (OAR); detention centers)
- Medical – hospitals, mental health
- Homeless service providers
- Fairfax County Department of Family Services, Child Protective Services
- Schools – homeless liaison office, parent liaison offices, Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)
- Faith-based organizations

The Tier 3 group will be meeting this week to start prioritizing and scheduling these training sessions. If anyone in the community has specific needs or ideas, please e-mail them to Joe Meyer at [joe.meyer@shelterhouse.org](mailto:joe.meyer@shelterhouse.org).

## HMIS Training

All trainings are held at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 364 Fairfax, VA 22035. **Training registration is on a first-come, first served basis, with 12 seats available at each session.** Register via e-mail at [monica.foote@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:monica.foote@fairfaxcounty.gov). Refresher training topics are being solicited; please e-mail your suggestions to [monica.foote@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:monica.foote@fairfaxcounty.gov).

- **April 14** – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., New HMIS User Training (\*this class is FULL).
- **April 15** – 8:30 a.m. to noon, HMIS Refresher – Shelter Point Managing Bed Lists.
- **April 15** – 1 to 4 p.m. HMIS Refresher – Creating and Maintaining Households and Household Program Entries.

\* **Note:** Currently registrations have not been received for either session scheduled for April 15. **Please note that these training sessions will be cancelled if no registrations are received by April 8.**

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