



www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless

605 REAL PEOPLE ~ REAL RESULTS in 110 Days

In the first 110 business days, the Housing Opportunities Support Teams (HOST) have prevented or ended the homelessness of 605 people – 247 unique households.

In April alone, 115 households including 348 individuals received the services and financial support needed to prevent or end their homelessness. These are a few of their stories.

Outstanding Services Provided in Timely Manner

When a county resident was laid off earlier this year, a month later he was able to secure employment, but was shortly after laid off again. As a result, he and his wife were evicted from their apartment. **The day of their initial eviction they reached out to the Fairfax County Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) and were assigned to a diligent case worker at the Katherine K. Hanley Shelter, who was able to arrange them a place to stay within 24 hours.** With the outstanding guidance and resources provided by the case worker, this family was able to find a townhouse and will be moving in this coming weekend.

New Life in New Housing

A married couple found themselves living in their car after the husband lost his job and the wife became hospitalized due to a serious medical disorder. They both were in their mid 50s and were desperate for a stable environment, particularly so that the wife would be able to take her medication and seek treatment. A local shelter was able to provide the couple assistance and while the wife was recovering from her illness, the husband was able to find work nearby, thanks to an in-house job coach. Also, their credit had been heavily damaged by the loss of income, so **the couple met with a housing locator and developed a new strategy to identify and apply for market rate housing.** With this additional information in hand **they were able to find a landlord that was willing to work with their compromised credit. Shortly afterwards, they moved into a condo and have happily restarted their lives.**

Collaboration Saves Family

Single mother and her 13 year old daughter were prevented from having to move into a family shelter when the current landlord agreed to allow them to move into a less expensive unit. **Thanks to the collaboration of the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, Volunteers of America Chesapeake and the landlord, the family's back rent will be paid with the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing funding (HPRP).**

HOST HIGHLIGHTS

HOST (Housing Opportunity Support Team) 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.

Integration of Services with Deloitte Consulting

The HOST for Region 3 and Connections for Hope partners are working on integration of services with Deloitte Consulting. Since its inception in February, the partners of Connections for Hope have been working toward an integrated services model that would provide multiple services for clients of the HOST and partner organizations. To facilitate this integration, Deloitte Consulting has offered to provide an IMPACT day of training. Using their vast experience representatives from Deloitte will work with Connections for Hope partners to maximize shared resource opportunities and help the organizations to better support a more integrated approach, while maintaining the integrity of each program's mission. Connections for Hope partners include the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, the Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, Just Neighbors Immigration Legal Services, the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia, Reston Interfaith, Vecinos Unidos Homework Assistance, and Helping Children Worldwide.

Regional Updates

As the human services regions across the county continue to move us forward with the 10-Year Plan, here are some highlights to showcase their efforts in working with clients, partner organizations and the HOST system.

- **Central Region** – Within the last two weeks, Region 2 has **prevented 3 new households** – including 7 people from being evicted.
- **Southern Region** – With the recent addition of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding for basic needs, **New Hope Housing (NHH) has an additional resource to help provide valuable emergency assistance to eligible families.** NHH has already made use of the funds to assist **4 households**. They have also been effectively working with United Communities Ministries (UCM) to better inform their basic needs staff about HPRP funding and how the funds can be a valuable resource for households that are already receiving community case management from UCM.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Update

Data Quality Day – The next "data quality day" has been scheduled for **June 28, from 9:30 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 ensures higher data quality while doing so in a group setting with other service providers. At least one representative from each agency is asked to be present; please confirm your attendance via e-mail to monica.foote@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Great feedback was received during the "data quality day" held on May 3 and staff continues to benefit from the setting and the time spent reviewing the data. At the request of the HPRP staff, we are increasing the frequency and now will hold two data quality days per quarter.

HMIS Data Streamlining – Data elements to be collected at program entry and exit have been finalized. Review of HMIS core data elements and collection standards that support our reporting needs will continue during the month of May. We anticipate work to be completed and implemented by the end of spring, beginning of summer.

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Homelessness in Northern Virginia Report Released

The Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance (NVAHA) and the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH) has released "**Homeless in Northern Virginia: Local Communities Respond to Preventing and Ending Homelessness.**" This report details the policies and programs utilized by five Northern Virginia jurisdictions to prevent and end homelessness. Other topics that are addressed include:

implementing 10-year plans and the resources needed to sustain them; optimizing data management; developing political support and countering policy barriers; and identifying the chronic shortage of affordable housing options for households with extremely low incomes.

On June 15, NVAHA and VCEH will host a regional forum to evaluate the report's findings and highlight the challenges to ending homelessness that are common to all five jurisdictions.

To access the full report, visit <http://nvaha.org/pdfs/NVAH001VAHomelessnessReportWEB.pdf>.

Our Daily Veggies – Farmers Market Voucher Program

Our Daily Bread, Inc., (ODB) has established an innovative new partnership with the vendors of the Fairfax County Farmers Markets. For 25 years, ODB has been providing emergency food assistance to low to moderate income families in Fairfax County. They will be expanding this program to include gift cards or *vouchers* to local farmers markets. As a result of a recent grant, ODB will provide clients with up to \$60,000 in vouchers to be spent at local farmers markets this spring/summer/fall! This idea is a win-win for both clients and our local farmers as it will give ODB clients access to much needed fresh produce, and will bring a new customer base to the farmers markets. Almost twenty vendors in the Fairfax County Farmers Markets are participating; at least one vendor is located at each of the 11 market sites throughout the county. For more information about Our Daily Veggies Program, visit <http://www.our-daily-bread.org/OurDailyVeggies.php>.

Homeless System Enhancements

Housing Locator Program – The focus of the Housing Locator Program in April 2010 was the development of a *Housing Locator Network* of nonprofit professionals, including both dedicated housing locators and case managers, who provide housing search and placement services to people who are homeless. **To date, the program has signed a memorandum of understanding with 10 different community-based homeless service organizations sharing the common mission of preventing and ending homelessness and recognizing the importance of housing location services in that effort.** Several more organizations have expressed interest in becoming a part of the network and are exploring how they can become involved.

For some of you, the Community Forum on Homelessness on May 5 might have been the first time that you had the chance to hear about the Housing Locator Program and Network. The presentation by Tom Barnett and Sarah Bridger spoke to the role of the Housing Locator Program in the larger Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness. They talked about the Program's mission to enhance the capacity of service providers to move people out of homelessness through staff training, advocacy and facilitating community collaboration. The forum presentation generated a great deal of new interest in the Housing Locator Program and has initiated some potential new partnerships.

We encourage you to take a look at the partner organizations Web site at the www.FairfaxHousingLocators.com and take advantage of some of the Web-based resources that are available for Housing Locators. We look forward to talking to more providers of homeless services across the Community Partnership!

If you are interested in setting up a meeting to learn more about how the Housing Locator Program works, contact Tom Barnett at tbarnett@goodhousing.org.

SAVE THE DATES

***New* Family and Singles Homeless Services Program Managers Meetings**

The Office to Prevent and End Homelessness is pleased to announce that on May 19, OPEH will begin monthly meetings where program managers of emergency shelters and transitional housing programs and key staff from county agencies, including the Department of Housing, the Department of Family Services, the Community Services Board, Neighborhood and Community Services, Public Schools, Health Department and others can meet to discuss issues in homeless service delivery.

The meetings are geared toward an audience of program managers and the meetings will serve several purposes that will identify and resolve service delivery issues, identify and recommend policy changes for consideration by agency heads/OPEH, better integrate housing and service coordination, and communicate new programs and resources among interested stakeholders.

The plan at the present is to alternate monthly meeting times between family and singles providers as these populations have different service needs and connections with the human services delivery system. But there may be times when we have joint meetings around issues that overlap both systems.

The first meeting scheduled is for managers that serve family programs and that meeting will be on Wednesday, May 19, from 9:30- 11:00 a.m. in room 206B of the Pennino Building. Program managers at that meeting will discuss and decide on the best schedule for bi-monthly meetings for this group.

The first meeting of the singles program managers will be on Wednesday, June 23, from 9:30- 11:00 a.m. in room 206B of the Pennino Building. Program managers at that meeting will also discuss and decide the best schedule for future bi-monthly meetings.

SIDEBAR

The HEARTH Act and the Continuum of Care

On April 20, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published the proposed rule for the new definition of homelessness under the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act). This reauthorization of the McKinney-Vento law on homeless assistance programs makes significant changes in the way this funding stream operates. It consolidates existing programs and expands uses to include new eligible activities. The proposed rule addresses only the definition of homeless, which is also expanded. The comment period extends to June 21, 2010. The proposed definitions and the HEARTH Act can be found at www.hudhre.info/hearth. Comments are submitted to www.regulations.gov.

HUD has also published information on the new Annual Performance Report (APR) electronic reporting requirements that will apply to both HPRP and Continuum of Care (CoC) funded programs. There will be a transition period to the new requirement, which has additional questions; however, the data for those questions will need to be collected starting this year in order to be reported in 2011. The schedule and additional information on this requirement is at <http://www.hudhre.info/> under the "What's New" section. Information about the CoC grant application process is also on HUDRHE.info at <http://www.hudhre.info/esnaps/>.

TRAINING & COMMUNICATIONS

Tier Training

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 Community Forum on Homelessness took place on May 5 with roughly 140 people in attendance. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova helped open the meeting by acknowledging the progress the community has made in the first year since the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness was established and began implementing the 10-year plan. The meeting included reports on HOST, Point-in-Time, Continuum of Care, and Hypothermia Programs. In addition, the Fairfax-Falls Church Housing Locator Network was formally introduced by Tom Barnett and Sarah Bridger from Good

Shepherd Housing and Family Services to share information about the various resources that are available and accessible through the new housing locator network and online information.

The majority of the agenda was dedicated to a panel of experts who spoke on the topic of immigration and homelessness to help stakeholders better understand the challenges as well as the resources available to Fairfax County residents. The presenters included Lavinia Limón, president, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants; Seyoum Berhe, director, Catholic Diocese of Arlington Migration and Refugee Services; Mamadou Sy, director, Lutheran Social Service Refugee and Immigrant Services; Dr. Pary Karadaghi, president, Kurdish Human Rights Watch; Sabine Fajon, mental health counselor, Multicultural Human Services, Northern Virginia Family Service; Natalie Nanasi, senior staff attorney, Tahirih Justice Center; Christina Wilkes, legal director, Ayuda; and Sarah Milad, staff attorney, Just Neighbors. Credit for assembling this distinguished panel goes to Jennifer Schiller of Shelter House, the Shelter Director for Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter. More specific information from the presentations will be shared in a future partnership update.

Tier 2 – [Fairfax County Department of Systems Management For Human Services](#) (DSMHS) 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 DSMHS 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 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 or call 703-533-5701, TTY 711.

[Region 3](#) – *To be determined.*

[Region 4](#) – In order to avoid meeting prior to the long holiday weekend, the next meeting will take place on **Friday, May 21** from 9 to 11:00 a.m. at the West Springfield Government Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. **For more information**, contact Paulette.Whiteside@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-5285, TTY 711.

Tier 3 – Tier 3 Training and Change Management task group has heard your request to hold an introductory information and training session on the HOST model. **This session will be available via Webcast and in-person.** As we progress through implementation it is critically important to communicate where we are in the process, what is currently in the works and where we hope to be in the future with the HOST model (and other portions of the 10-year plan.) **An information and training session will be held in mid-June** that will give a brief explanation of the HOST model as it was designed, more information on where we are TODAY, and what effects reorganization and state and federal legislation and other factors have on the implementation of the HOST model. Please stay tuned for an announcement as to when this training will be held.

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. Refresher training topics are being solicited; please e-mail your suggestions to monica.foote@fairfaxcounty.gov.

- **June 2** – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., New HMIS User Training.
- **June 3** – 8:30 a.m. to noon, HMIS Refresher for System Administrators - User passwords and standard ServicePoint Reports.
- **June 3** – 1 to 4 p.m. HMIS Refresher – TBD - Looking for topic suggestions.

May 14, 2010 - Prepared by the [Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness](#) and the [Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs](#). To request this information in an alternate format, call 703-324-9492, TTY 711. A Fairfax County, Va., publication.