



*Ending Homelessness*  
in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community

**Snapshot 2011**

# Table of Contents



 Every child. Every family. **Every person.**  
We all deserve a safe and permanent place to call home.

Letter from the Chairman.....	2
Fairfax-Falls Church 10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.....	3
10-Year Plan Goals.....	4
Faces of Homelessness.....	6
Barriers to Housing.....	8
Doing Things in a New Way.....	9
Bringing People Home.....	10
Programs for People Who Are Homeless.....	12
Preventing Homelessness.....	14
Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing.....	16
Unsheltered Outreach.....	18
Shelters for Families and Single Adults.....	20
Survivors of Domestic Violence .....	22
Unaccompanied Youth.....	23
Transitional Housing Programs.....	24
Permanent Supportive Housing Programs.....	26
Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership.....	28
Faith Community Housing Engagement.....	30
Letter from the Director.....	31
Acknowledgments.....	32



We would like to express our appreciation to the Freddie Mac Foundation whose generous support made this report possible.

Quotes, success stories and many photos included in this publication are from actual individuals served in the Fairfax-Falls Church community; however, they are randomly placed.

# Succeeding Together

Dear friends and colleagues,

Last year in our Snapshot 2010, I wrote that it was unacceptable to have men, women and children who are homeless in a community as affluent as ours. Homelessness impacts every person in our community and each of us has a role in ending it. We talked about our 10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. This Snapshot highlights the progress made in the second year of our plan.

However, before I write about our progress I want to acknowledge a few of the folks who have been instrumental in our success. First, Congressman Gerry Connolly who was the chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors when the 10-Year Plan was discussed, developed and adopted by the board. His leadership helped to galvanize all of the energy and effort in the entire community. Next, our current chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Sharon Bulova. Chairman Bulova has been a tireless advocate for our plan and has been willing to pitch in at every level. Both Chairman Bulova and Supervisor Cathy Hudgins serve as active members of our Governing Board and we greatly appreciate their efforts. I would like to personally thank the members of our

Governing Board whose names can be found on Page 28 of this Snapshot. They have truly made my job an easy one because of their commitment and willingness to participate. Finally, I can't possibly name all of the remarkable people who work with the many nonprofit and religious organizations involved with homelessness. We thank each of you for your efforts!

We have continued in the development of the governance structure called The Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness. The Office to Prevent and End Homelessness is operating at peak efficiency under the guidance of Dean Klein. Our Governing Board, made up of business leaders, elected officials, builders, clergy, law enforcement and others, continues to meet on a monthly basis with several ad hoc committees also meeting to accomplish specific tasks. We are finalizing the creation of a new foundation to help fund our efforts.

The Partnership is working! The number of people who became homeless for the first time in 2011 was 1,376. This was a 16 percent reduction from 2010. The total number of people who experienced homelessness also declined for the categories of families as well

as individuals. Please take a few minutes and review the many success stories contained in this year's Snapshot.

However, we still have much to do to meet our plan's goals. This year we moved our collective efforts to the plan's goal of creating 2,650 new housing units. We supported and will continue to support efforts to amend the county's housing code to permit more individual housing options. We hosted a daylong outreach program for our faith-based communities that shows promise for increasing the housing stock.

Our approach to preventing and ending homelessness is predicated on us doing so in partnership with a broad coalition of nonprofits, faith communities, businesses and government. Working together allows us to do amazing things.

I thank you for your interest and commitment and look forward to our continued work together in the coming year as we strive to end homelessness in our community.

**Michael L. O'Reilly**  
Chairman, Governing Board of the  
Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to  
Prevent and End Homelessness

“Working together allows us to do amazing things.”

# Fairfax-Falls Church 10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

## Community Plan



In the past four years the Fairfax-Falls Church community has **reduced homelessness by 13.94 percent.**



### A true community plan.

In February 2007, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors endorsed the Blueprint for Success: Strategic Directions for the Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community. This strategic road map was created by the Planning Committee to End Homelessness, in partnership with the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church, local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, faith-based communities and businesses.

In April 2007, the Board of Supervisors appointed a 95-member Implementation Committee to develop the Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness based on the strategies outlined in the Blueprint for Success. The Implementation Committee included representatives from housing development organizations, business and financial institutions, health care and mental health providers, faith-based communities, employment services, nonprofit service providers and public agencies — the broad range of community partners that can prevent and end homelessness. On March 31, 2008, the Board of Supervisors officially adopted the plan.

### Housing comes first.

The Fairfax-Falls Church community adopted a new approach to ending homelessness, called Housing First. What makes this approach different from traditional

emergency shelter or transitional models is that people who are homeless are placed into permanent housing. This approach takes people as they are, in part because housing is a basic right. Put simply, housing comes first, with services.

Once in housing, people receive services according to their needs. Receiving these services is voluntary. They are provided by community-based Housing Opportunities Support Teams (HOST). These teams maintain contact with people who are placed into housing, even if they are not receiving services, to make sure that everything is going smoothly for the resident and the neighborhood.

### Making it work.

Preserving and increasing the supply of affordable, permanent housing resources is necessary to implement the Housing First approach. This involves working with landlords; dedicating some housing resources, such as assistance with rent, to individuals who are homeless; developing new housing types, such as small efficiency apartments; and increasing the supply of housing targeted to people with special needs. Changes also will need to be made to land use, zoning and tax incentive policies.



We can end homelessness. Go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless) to find out how and what you can do to help.

# 10-Year Plan Goals

## Progress

### Reaching our goal.

Our goal is that by Dec. 31, 2018, every person who is homeless or at risk of being homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community is able to access appropriate affordable housing and the services needed to keep them in their homes.

Even after homelessness has ended in our community, people will continue to experience crises that put them at risk of homelessness. There always will be some people who will choose homelessness over other options that are available to them.

Our community plan references three high-level goals and 10 strategies for ending homelessness. On the following pages you will see our community's progress toward the three high-level goals. For more information on our progress in our community plan, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/fy10-high-level-indicators.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/fy10-high-level-indicators.htm).



**Our ultimate goal:** By Dec. 31, 2018, every person in our community is able to access appropriate affordable housing.

## GOAL 1

The total number of people who are homeless and not in permanent housing decreases every year over the next 10 years, from 1,800 persons in 2007 to the goal of ending homelessness in 2018.

Decrease since 2007: **13.94%**

- On Jan. 26, 2011, there were 1,549 people who were literally homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. To read more about the annual Point-in-Time Count, go to Page 6.
- During the past year, the number of people who were homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community remained stable despite the current economic climate and lower levels of employment and income among people who were homeless. There were five more people counted who were homeless this year compared to 2010.
- Since 2007 we have seen a decrease in the number of people who are homeless. This represents the difference between the number who were identified as homeless in 2007 and those who were identified as such in 2011.

on who is homeless or at risk of being homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church housing and the services needed to keep them in their homes.

## GOAL 2

The number of people who are chronically homeless and not in permanent housing decreases every year over the next 10 years, from 372 persons in 2007 to the goal of ending homelessness in 2018.

Decrease since 2007: **30.65%**

- On Jan. 26, 2011, there were 258 people who were chronically homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. In general, a chronically homeless person is an unaccompanied disabled individual who has been continuously homeless for over one year, or homeless on four episodes over a time frame of three years.
- The number of chronically homeless persons counted in regular shelter programs **decreased from 2010 to 2011**. The count of chronically homeless increased from 242 in 2010 to 258 in 2011, however, a change in Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines included six people in the Safe Haven program this year who were not counted as literally homeless in 2010. The remaining increase of 10 people (4.1 percent) resulted from more people being counted in hypothermia prevention programs and a higher percentage of those being identified as chronically homeless (48 percent in 2011 vs. 37 percent in 2010).

## GOAL 3

The time it takes a person who is homeless to access appropriate housing is 90 days or less.

(For at least 90 percent of people who are homeless by year four of the 10-year plan implementation.)

Decrease from 2010: **16%**

- In Fiscal Year 2010 (from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010) the average length of time in homelessness for families and individuals was 322 days. This number includes both emergency shelter and transitional housing programs.
- In Fiscal Year 2011 the average length of time in homelessness was **reduced by 16 percent to 270 days**.

## Our Neighbors



### A point-in-time.

The 2011 Point-in-Time Count of Homeless Persons in the Fairfax-Falls Church community took place Jan. 26, 2011. This survey provides an unduplicated count of people who are homeless in the community and provides information for local, regional, state and national planning.

This annual survey follows the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reporting guidelines and covers people who are **literally homeless** — those who are in shelters, in transitional housing or unsheltered living on the street.

The count does not include people who live in temporary arrangements and do not face immediate loss of shelter; who self-pay to live in a motel; or youth who are staying

temporarily with others but do not have a permanent stable residence.

The numbers also do not include people who were formerly homeless and now live in permanent housing or people who live in permanent housing with supportive services to maintain housing stability and prevent a return to homelessness.

- The numbers on the next page show how many people were homeless in our community on a particular day in FY 2011 (Jan. 26, 2011).
- Page 13 highlights the total number of people in FY 2011 who experienced homelessness throughout the entire year.

“ I was feeling down, embarrassed and ashamed that I was in such a position. I have always worked hard for all that I earn, so asking for help was not easy.



 On Jan. 26, 2011, there were **1,549 people** who were literally homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. Of them, 666 were single individuals and 883 were people in families.

 During all of FY 2011, our community served **2,982 people** who were literally homeless.



## Families That Were Homeless on Jan. 26, 2011

Persons in families: **883**

- The number of families that were homeless has **decreased by over 17 percent** since 2009.
- Nearly 57 percent of all people who were homeless were in families.
- Close to 35 percent of all people who were homeless were children under age 18.
- 60 percent of adults in families that were homeless were employed.

## Single Adults Who Were Homeless on Jan. 26, 2011

Single adults: **666**

- The number of single individuals who were homeless **has increased slightly by 0.5 percent** since 2009.
- Single individuals who were homeless represented 43 percent of the total number of people counted.
- 60 percent of single individuals who were homeless suffered from disabilities, such as serious mental illness, substance abuse, chronic health problems and/or physical disabilities.

## Barriers

### Affordability

The fair market rent for a one-bedroom apartment in the Fairfax-Falls Church community is \$1,328 and for a two-bedroom apartment \$1,506 per month. To afford this, a household would need to earn over \$5,000 per month, and a single parent working full-time would have to earn nearly \$29 per hour.

### Disability

Many people who end up homeless have a disability that affects their ability to work and earn a living. Even if a person with a disabling condition receives Supplemental Security Income, their average monthly income is only \$674 or 15 percent of what he or she would need to make to afford a one-bedroom apartment.

### Income

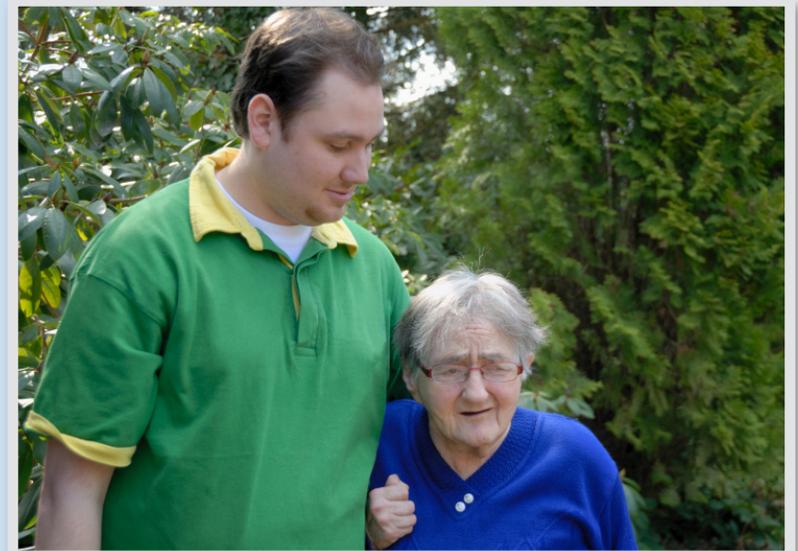
People earning minimum wage, which is \$7.25 per hour, earn only one-quarter of what a person would need to afford a two-bedroom apartment in our community.

### Credit

Many apartment complexes, landlords and owners require a renter to have a good credit record. Divorce, medical issues, poor decision-making and other factors can lead to deterioration of credit and prevent people from securing housing.

### Transportation

Lack of transportation can hinder one's ability to go to work, take one's children to day care or doctor's appointments or to other essential places that contribute to stability. The result is often catastrophic and can lead to homelessness.



## Housing Locator Network



Housing locators are an essential piece in the new Housing Opportunities Support Teams (HOST) model of homeless services delivery. The Housing First philosophy addresses urgent needs of homeless people by: conducting triage and assessment, engaging clients to determine their individual housing and service needs, and then rapidly moving clients into housing as quickly as possible. All activity and services must not only be coordinated but truly integrated. The delivery system must be flexible and focused on client needs — most importantly, housing.

The housing locator is trained to find and secure safe, suitable and stable housing for their clients. Housing locators typically have a professional background in property management, leasing or real estate and are then trained to work with people facing homelessness. Their knowledge of the local housing market is a tremendous asset to their homeless clients. Like a paid rental agent, a housing locator knows where to find housing that is affordable for their client and capable of engaging property owners to secure an apartment successfully. Partnering with housing locators is ideal for landlords who want to manage their property themselves but also want the security of having a vetted tenant with support from HOST staff.

Housing Locators in the Fairfax-Falls Church community are coordinated and supported via the Housing Locator Program through Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services. They coordinate the efforts of shelter staff and other public and nonprofit agencies who are involved in shelter diversion and rapid re-housing. The Housing Locator Program unifies this effort through establishing a systemwide approach, a cohesive marketing strategy, a common housing locator database and ongoing training.

The introduction of the Housing Locators Network has been an important factor behind the increase in the number of homeless people moving to permanent housing.

## Improving Our Data

During the past year, our community partnership focused on improving and monitoring our Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data quality. We wanted to ensure that our data was timely, reliable and met Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and our community partnership standards. We introduced a suite of data quality reports that evaluated compliance and helped providers monitor their program data. Currently 88 percent of the programs entering data in HMIS demonstrated a 95 percent plus compliance rate and 12 percent of our providers demonstrated a 90 percent plus compliance rate. Our joint data quality effort resulted in a tremendous reduction of the null values that are reported to HUD with only one category at 3 percent.



## Creating Housing

### Combining housing and services

The Interagency Housing Options Committee supports our community's effort to create 2,650 new affordable housing units for persons who are literally homeless or at risk of homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church community.

The annual housing goals are based on five housing options in two categories (permanent supportive housing and permanent housing). Support services associated with each of these options may include, but are not limited to: case management; housing locator services; medical, mental health, substance abuse treatment; vocational and employment services; money management assistance; and life skills training.

All of the housing units will reflect a variety of housing types including new construction, tenant-based vouchers

and private and public affordable housing resources.

Also, all units:

- Are affordable to homeless households earning less than 30 percent of the area annual median income.
- Will be associated with housing assistance guaranteed for more than two years.
- Were not occupied or designated specifically for homeless households during the previous 12 months.
- Will be counted as meeting a fiscal year target based upon the actual date of occupancy by an eligible homeless household.

### Housing Options

**Permanent supportive housing** includes supportive services for people with disabling conditions. There are three types of permanent supportive housing:

- Housing with 24-hour care.
- Housing with intensive supports (4-7 visits/contacts per week).
- Housing with moderate supports (1-3 visits/contacts per month).

**Permanent housing** is for persons with no disabling conditions. Some permanent housing units have time-limited support services. There are two types of permanent housing:

- Housing with time-limited supports (short-term, time-limited follow-up between 3-15 months).
- Housing with no supports beyond those typically available to any community member.

## 10-Year Plan Housing Targets

The FY 2012 ending homelessness housing goals are directly aligned with the communitywide Housing Blueprint, which was endorsed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on Jan. 26, 2010. The Housing Blueprint is a comprehensive affordable housing policy developed by nonprofits, builders, faith-based communities, government agencies and businesses. The 10-Year Plan calls for 2,650 housing units to be made available over the 10-year period in order to end homelessness in our community.

The target for FY 2011 was to secure 228 units; the community was able to secure 196 units that are now occupied. **The shortfall of 32 units** was added to the total for the 10-year cumulative housing targets.

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	
Units for Families	78	147	141	174	174	174	174	174	174	140	1,550
Beds for Single Adults	46	49	106	124	124	124	124	124	124	155	1,100



Of the 228 housing units identified as targets for FY 2011, our community was able to **secure 196 units**. A gap of 32 units remains.

## Housing for Families

## Housing for Single Adults

Total completed in FY 2011: **147**

- Permanent Supportive Housing.....33
- Permanent Housing.....114

Total completed in FY 2011: **49**

- Permanent Supportive Housing.....20
- Permanent Housing.....29

### *Bridging Affordability*

In June 2011 Fairfax County selected a nonprofit collaborative led by Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS) as the provider for the new Bridging Affordability program. The program is an integral component of the county's Housing Blueprint and over a three-year period will provide more than \$3.5 million in long-term rental subsidies to homeless individuals and families in Fairfax County as well as households on the county's affordable housing waiting lists.

The NVFS collaborative includes nine nonprofit organizations: Northern Virginia Family Service; Alternative House; FACETS; Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services; New Hope Housing; Reston Interfaith; Shelter House; United Community Ministries; and Volunteers of America Chesapeake.

Services offered through the collaborative will focus on populations of greatest need in the county with an emphasis on those who are homeless and persons with disabilities, including Community Services Board (CSB)-eligible households.



The Bridging Affordability program will provide more than \$3.5 million in long-term rental subsidies over a three-year period to homeless individuals and families in Fairfax County, as well as households on the county's affordable housing waiting lists.

## Working Together



### Serving the most vulnerable.

A network of providers from nonprofits, faith-based communities, businesses and local government agencies actively participate in providing the services and supports that are the life's blood of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness. Without the commitment of these partners, thousands of people in this community would face the hardship of dealing with homelessness alone.

By providing a range of services from homelessness prevention to those that make up the supportive component of permanent supportive housing programs, our community partnership prevents deaths from

hypothermia; helps to increase people's income; stabilizes children in the school system; and affects lives for the better in many other ways each day.

While faced with increased demand for services that help people who are homeless or on the verge of homelessness, the resources that our community works with are rapidly diminishing.

Unless otherwise noted, all of the data on the following several pages depicting the state of homelessness in our community during FY 2011 have been collected from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).



Our community partnership is facing **increased demand** for services to help people who are homeless or on the verge of homelessness while faced with **diminishing resources**.





Of the 2,982 people who experienced homelessness in FY 2011, **714 moved to permanent housing** from emergency shelters, transitional housing programs and permanent supportive housing programs. This is an increase of 232 people who moved to permanent housing, up from 482 last year.

People Who Experienced Homelessness During FY 2011: **2,982**  
People Who Experienced Homelessness During FY 2010: **3,076**

People in families: **1,424**

- 415 families: 549 adults, 875 children.

Single adults: **1,558**

People Moved to Permanent Housing During FY 2011: **714**  
People Moved to Permanent Housing During FY 2010: **482**

## Staying Home

### Keeping people in their homes.

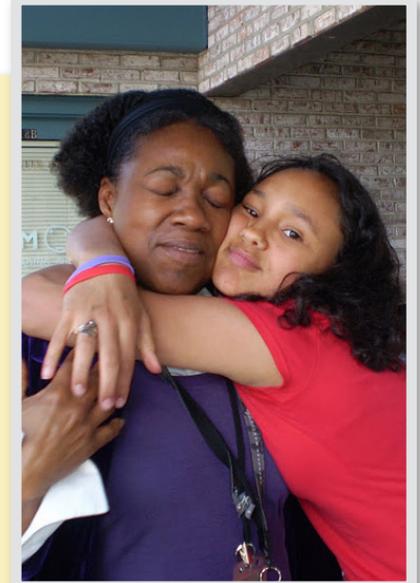
Prevention is the single most cost-effective and humane intervention for addressing homelessness. Many people who become homeless could have remained in their homes and returned to self-sufficiency with some limited assistance. Illness, job loss and other factors cause individuals and families to fall into a downward spiral that may result not only in the loss of housing, but also the loss of self-esteem, security, personal possessions and even relationships.

Rather than waiting for a person to lose so much, prevention efforts seek to intervene sooner and mitigate the damage that homelessness causes. For many years, our community has prevented homelessness by providing emergency housing payments for people experiencing a crisis and by providing ongoing housing subsidies to the most vulnerable in our community. This assistance

is available through a network of nonprofits, faith-based communities, the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) and other government agencies.

Since August 2006, the primary information and referral hotline for Fairfax County has experienced a prolonged increase in the number of requests for emergency assistance. Requests for emergency rental assistance went up 84 percent between FY 2006 and FY 2011.

Information on the number of people who received long-term housing and emergency housing assistance was provided by the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development; Department of Neighborhood and Community Services; Department of Administration for Human Services; and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.



 Since August 2006, the primary information and referral hotline for Fairfax County has experienced a prolonged increase in the number of requests for emergency assistance. Requests for emergency rental assistance went up 84 percent between FY 2006 and FY 2011.

## Emergency Housing Assistance

More Than **10,000** Occasions

- On more than 10,000 occasions, emergency housing payment assistance was provided, which often prevented families and individuals from falling into homelessness.
- This support was provided by a partnership of Fairfax County Coordinated Services Planning, community nonprofits, the Consolidated Community Funding Pool and other Fairfax County agencies.

## Long-Term Housing Assistance

**18,786** People Served in FY 2011

**17,747** People Served in FY 2010.

- 18,786 people received a long-term housing subsidy through the FCRHA (18,128 individuals) and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (658 individuals) to help them remain in their homes and often preventing them from becoming homeless.
- Those served include, but are not limited to, extremely low-income families with children, people with mental or physical disabilities and youth who are homeless and attend school.

### *Success Stories*

A couple and their young child entered temporary housing, with no income for permanent housing, while waiting for a vacancy to open in the shelter. By the time their names came to the top of the shelter wait list, FACETS had assisted this family. Both parents found employment, their child was enrolled in day care and the family was able to move to permanent housing. They used their savings and homeless program financial assistance to pay the first month's rent and security deposit.

# Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing

## HOST — Housing Opportunities Support Teams

The federal stimulus funds available in FY 2010 enabled our community to launch a new prevention and rapid re-housing model called HOST (Housing Opportunities Support Teams). As a community we are working to build additional capacity in HOST.

The HOST model is designed to be flexible to respond to community needs. The community case manager is at the core of each HOST to coordinate and manage all prevention and supportive services needed in a particular region of the community. Community case managers work with a team of partner service providers to rapidly and permanently re-house homeless/unsheltered individuals and families and to prevent precariously housed individuals and families from becoming homeless. Additional support service providers often include housing locators, benefit workers, employment or educational specialists, mental health providers and mentors, as well as members of neighborhood faith- and volunteer-based organizations.

The first job of a HOST is to identify and coordinate housing opportunities that are appropriate to the household's situation, including the services necessary to keep people in their existing homes. Once housed, services are once again coordinated and delivered. This provides homeless and at-risk members of the community with a more seamless experience.

Housing Opportunities Support Teams are often physically collocated in a site where multiple support services are provided and in parts of the community where potential consumers of HOST services reside or are frequent in number.



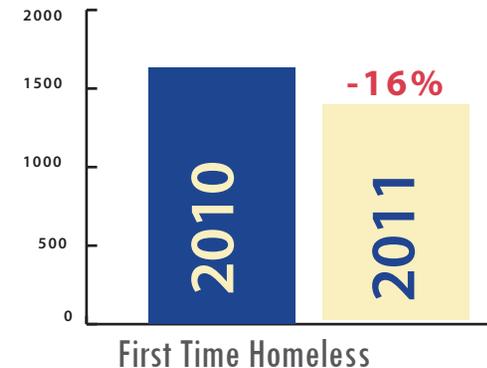
### *Success Story*

Life in their hometown was pretty good for Sherita and her daughter Jada. Sherita worked at a pre-school day care center. It wasn't her chosen career field, but it paid the bills and enabled her to set some money aside for the future. Then, in 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and forced mother and daughter to leave behind everything familiar and start over. Circumstances brought them to Fairfax County, and a new start.

With the help of Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, Sherita took the first step toward establishing a new life by volunteering at the Fairfax South County Government Center. A customer training course she took helped her land a job as a county customer service representative, a job she really enjoys. Sherita loves her job and the circle of friends she has at work and in her new neighborhood, and is especially grateful that the stable home life provided by Good Shepherd Housing has enabled Jada to join clubs like Girl Power, which teaches responsibility and making good choices.

# First Time Homeless

The number of people in the Fairfax-Falls Church community who became homeless for the first time **dropped 16 percent** from a total of **1,639** people in FY 2010 to **1,376** people in FY 2011. The increased efforts to prevent and divert people from homelessness was significant in reducing the first time homeless.



## Community Case Management

# 1,477 People Served

A total of 1,477 people in housing crisis during fiscal year 2011 received supportive services from a community case manager in order to prevent them from becoming homeless, divert them from shelter and quickly return them to stability.

- 879 of the 1,477 people in housing crisis also received short-term financial assistance through the federal Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP).
- 91 percent of those people who received HPRP financial assistance to prevent homelessness were able to remain in permanent housing.
- 47 of the 1,477 people in housing crisis received short-term financial assistance through local HOST (Housing Opportunities Support Teams) funds.

## *In From The Cold*

### Reaching out to the unsheltered.

Our community works every day to provide shelter, services and support to those who live unsheltered in the woods or on the streets. Most struggle with disabilities that make them unable to access the services, supports and housing that they need. A collaboration of faith-based communities, nonprofits, businesses and local government agencies has provided outreach, drop-in and hypothermia services in the Fairfax-Falls Church community for many years to ensure the health and safety of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Winter seasonal programs run from late fall to early spring and offer people who are unsheltered the opportunity to have a warm and safe place to stay. Because of the

collaborative efforts of the partnership, no unsheltered individuals died in FY 2011 due to hypothermia.

The Health Care for the Homeless program is a collaborative partnership led by the Fairfax County Health Department that provides critical medical care year round. Project to Assist Transition from Homelessness (PATH), operated by the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, provides mental health and substance abuse services. Each of these programs seeks to engage people in the services they need and ultimately, if they are interested, housed. Despite all the community's work and outreach, the effort needs to expand. Just this year, more than 1,000 people who were homeless were unable to access even an emergency shelter.



*“The experience of feeling like you have everything, then to have it all taken right from under you is indescribable. With that being said, I am humbled, grateful and am looking to pay it forward when I am back on my feet...”*





During the winter season in FY 2011, **more than 200 individuals** who were homeless lived outside in wooded areas in our community and **were at risk for hypothermia** during extreme weather.

## Highlights

- In FY 2011, 15 individuals moved from winter seasonal programs directly to permanent housing, **double the number from FY 2010.**
- The number of people who participated in winter seasonal program services **decreased by 150 from FY 2010.**

## Winter Seasonal Programs

## Health Care for the Homeless

## PATH Outreach

Number of people served: **1,026**

(Including the Hypothermia Prevention Program and winter seasonal overflow shelters.)

- Participants receive medical, mental health and substance abuse services, case management, information and screenings, life skills and other critical services.

Number of people served: **1,260**

- Participants receive physical and mental health care, transportation to medical care, mental health and substance abuse services and dental care.
- The Medical Respite Program served 47 individuals.

This data was not collected in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

Data reported in FY 2010 only captured the numbers from two of the four human service regions.

Number of people served: **207**

- Participants receive case management, assessment, diagnosis and treatment for mental health and substance abuse disorders, resource identification and assistance in obtaining benefits such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) and food stamps.

This data was not collected in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

## Success Story

The Falls Church Winter Shelter program successfully provided services during the hypothermia season in 2011 — serving 37 unduplicated individuals. More than 300 volunteers have provided shelter shift coverage, 700 meals and ensured food and other operating staples. The Lamb Center, First Christian Safe Haven, Unity Club and the Wellness Center, have provided local day services to residents. In addition to providing counseling and access to other social services, the program has helped two residents move into permanent supportive housing programs and two others with market-rate housing. Also, with the help of the program, three residents secured placement in local emergency shelters.

# Shelters for Families and Single Adults

## Not Alone

### Keeping families together and singles safe.

Four shelters for single adults and four shelters for families with children provide not only food and a place to sleep, but also services to help people begin to address some of the issues that contributed to their homelessness. Often lack of employment, underemployment, the absence of job skills, mental illness, limited income, substance abuse, prior time in institutions and bad credit make finding permanent housing extremely challenging. Ultimately, the lack of affordable and appropriate housing is the reason why all of the shelters in our community are always full to capacity.

On the next page are the number of people served in the emergency homeless shelters in FY 2010 in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. On any given day there is space for 54 families and 144 individuals.

Although there is quite a bit of turnover in the shelters, very few leave the shelter and move into permanent

housing due to lack of affordable housing options. Instead, possible outcomes may include:

- **Temporary housing**  
(emergency shelters, hotels or motels, staying with family and friends on a temporary basis)
- **Transitional housing**  
(any transitional housing program)
- **Institutional settings**  
(foster care, hospital, jail or substance abuse treatment facility)
- **Other places**  
(places not meant for habitation, or a person may be deceased)
- **Unknown destinations**  
(a person did not report where she or he moved)



Ultimately, the lack of affordable and appropriate housing is the reason why all of the shelters in our community are always full to capacity.



“ My kids have never had a place to call home before now. It felt funny to say ‘home’ at first. I say it a lot now...”

## Shelters for Families

546 people served exited the shelters.  
280 of them moved into permanent housing.

Number of people served: **780**

- 226 families: 313 adults, 467 children.
- Average length of stay was 111 days.

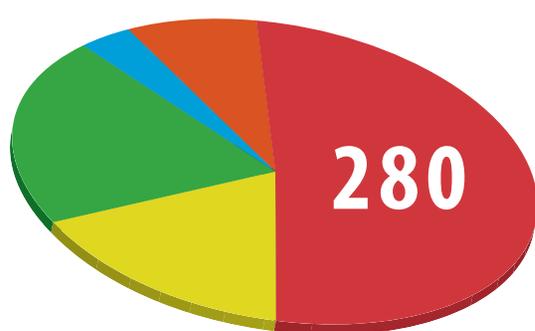
## Shelters for Single Adults

696 people served exited the shelters.  
131 of them moved into permanent housing.

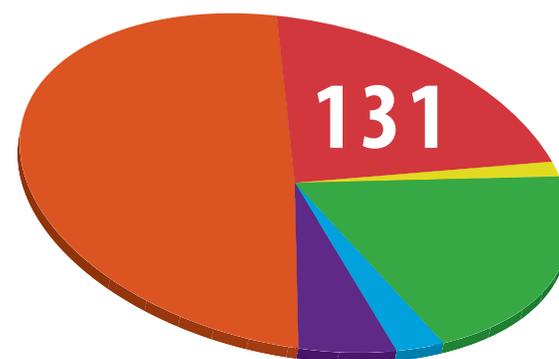
Number of adults served: **819**

- Average length of stay was 52 days.

### Exit destinations: Where did they go?



280	Permanent Housing	131
88	Transitional Housing	9
114	Temporary Housing	132
19	Other	19
0	Institutional Settings	38
45	Unknown	316



### *Success Story*

A county resident was laid off earlier this year, but a month later he secured new employment. Shortly after, he was 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 Fairfax County Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) and were assigned to a caseworker at the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter. She arranged a place for them to stay within 24 hours. With the guidance and resources provided by the caseworker, this family was able to find a home of their own.

# Survivors of Domestic Violence

## Overcoming domestic violence.

Two shelters and four transitional housing programs in the Fairfax-Falls Church area are dedicated to meeting the housing needs of survivors of domestic violence. However, many survivors end up in emergency shelters and transitional programs that are not designed to meet their unique needs. Even more survivors return to their abusers for reasons including an inability to access the shelter and housing they need.

Survivors of domestic violence often face a different set of barriers to overcoming homelessness than others who experience homelessness. For example, survivors of domestic violence often have physical injuries, such as permanent scars from physical violence, ulcers, high blood pressure, flashbacks, self-mutilation, drug and alcohol abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and psychological injuries including panic attacks, depression, phobias, denial, helplessness and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The number of people served in domestic violence shelters and domestic violence transitional housing (right) may seem low for a community of over 1 million people, but that reflects the limited space in domestic violence shelters and domestic violence transitional housing. Many survivors never get the housing support they need.

There is one domestic violence emergency shelter bed for every 31,000 Fairfax County residents — far fewer than other neighboring jurisdictions.



Programs for survivors of domestic violence **do not have the capacity** to serve the large number of people fleeing domestic violence.

## Survivors of Domestic Violence

Number of people served: **522**

- Total of 228 households: 231 adults and 291 children.
- 381 people were in domestic violence shelters.
- 141 people were in domestic violence transitional housing programs.
- 95 percent of people who participate in transitional housing programs for domestic violence survivors exited to safe and stable permanent housing.

These statistics include only those people who were served in programs designated specifically for survivors of domestic violence and may not be unduplicated numbers. These programs do not participate in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for reasons of safety and confidentiality.

## Helping youth who are homeless.

Youth who are homeless are often invisible in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. Yet there are youth (people under 18 or under 22 and still in school) in our community who do not have a permanent place to live, or a parent or a guardian who lives with them. Many drop out of school and are forced to take on adult responsibilities at a very tender age. In one of the wealthiest counties in the nation, is it okay for even one young person not to have a safe and stable place to call home?

The federal government's legal definition of homelessness, based on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, is anyone who is lacking a regular, fixed and adequate nighttime residence (sub-standard housing); sharing housing due to economic struggles (double-up); living in a shelter, hotel or motel; living in a public place not designed for sleeping (cars, parks); is an unaccompanied youth, a child or youth awaiting foster care placement; is a child or youth abandoned in a hospital; or is a migrant child who qualifies under any of the above.

The Fairfax-Falls Church community has three specialized programs for unaccompanied homeless youth (youth who are not living with a parent or a guardian):

- **An eight-bed emergency shelter** provides crisis shelter for up to three weeks for youth ages 13-17. Most youth return to their family or a relative once they complete the program.
- **The Homeless Youth Initiative for ages 16-22 who are homeless and still in high school** provides transitional housing assistance and other supports so that the youth can finish school without entering the shelter system.
- **Assisting Young Mothers** is an 18-month transitional housing program for ages 16-21 who are pregnant or have small children. The program provides housing and services to help these mothers become self-sufficient members of the community.



This past year, **all of the 64 students enrolled in the Homeless Youth Initiative (HYI) program graduated high school.** This is one of the three programs for unaccompanied youth. A total of 13 students were actually housed in the HYI program. A total of 11 out of the 13 went on to higher education after high school graduation.



As a community we are concerned about causes of youth becoming homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. We will be exploring over the next year possible actions and additional solutions to build upon efforts currently being directed to this challenging issue.

## Unaccompanied Youth

Number of youth served: **351**  
in the **2010-11 school year**

- During the 2010-11 school year, 351 young people were identified by the Fairfax County Public School's Homeless Liaison's office as experiencing homelessness without a parent or a guardian.
- A total of 232 youth participated in one of the community's three specialized programs for unaccompanied homeless youth. Of those participating youth, 202 exited the programs during the year with 172 youth (85 percent) moving into permanent housing.

These statistics include only those people served in programs designated specifically for unaccompanied youth. The youth who are served in homeless programs with an adult are reported in the appropriate category.

# Transitional Housing Programs

## Transitions

### On the way to permanent housing.

Transitional housing programs provide a period of time — up to two years — for families and individuals to address issues that create barriers to moving into permanent housing. Services focus on specific issues, such as domestic violence, language barriers, lack of education or job skills, poor credit, substance abuse recovery or establishing a stable living environment for a person with serious mental illness.

More than 200 families (with nearly 500 children) and 100 single individuals in our community participated in transitional housing programs this past year, and 82 percent moved on to permanent housing. In the future, our community will look

at how to use these more intensive programs to help those who can most benefit from time-limited intensive services, while providing ongoing support for those with long-term disabilities, and rapidly moving to permanent housing those able to achieve stability with less intensive support.

Although transitional housing is, by design, not a permanent place to call home, it is necessary for those in this community who face such high barriers to housing that transitional housing is the most appropriate option. Hundreds of people every year are assisted to become self-sufficient because of the high-intensity services available through transitional housing.



The 10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness identified a need to increase the supply of permanent supported housing for families who have highly disabled adults with histories of chronic homelessness and child welfare involvement. Responding to this need, in FY 2011 we transferred a 20-unit transitional program for families to **a permanent housing program for persons with disabilities** through the Reaching Independence through Support and Education (RISE).



82 percent of the people exiting transitional housing in FY 2011 **moved to permanent housing.**



People who participate in transitional housing programs are usually **struggling with barriers to self-sufficiency**, such as lack of employment or education, disability, limited English proficiency or poor credit.



# Number of People Served: 859

355 people served exited the programs; 292 of them moved into permanent housing.

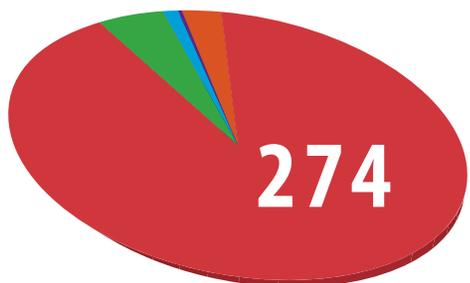
People in families: **751**

- 213 families: 279 adults and 472 children.
- Average length of stay in transitional housing was 563 days.

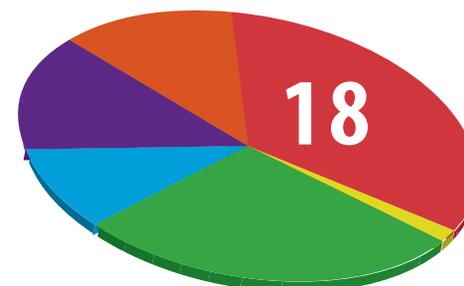
Single adults: **108**

- Average length of stay in transitional housing was 281 days.

## Exit destinations: Where did they go?



274	Permanent Housing	18
0	Transitional Housing	1
15	Temporary Housing	15
3	Other	5
1	Institutional Settings	8
8	Unknown	7



### *Success Story*

A working grandmother unexpectedly gained custody of her grandson after her daughter died. Her expenses increased to the extent that she was no longer able to pay the rent on time for her basement apartment. She contacted Coordinated Services Planning and received financial assistance to pay her back rent, preventing eviction. In addition, the grandmother and her young grandson were assisted in finding an affordable rental unit. They moved into their new home this month. She also was referred to the Ways to Work program and is buying a car with assistance. Having a reliable car will help her get to her part-time job more conveniently and also allow her to spend more time with her grandson.

# Permanent Supportive Housing Programs

## *Support at Home*



### Receiving support in your own home.

Permanent supportive housing provides long-term residential support and services. People served in these programs are no longer homeless, but require ongoing support to prevent them from falling back into homelessness. Most are single individuals with serious mental illness or co-occurring disorders. Making sure that they stay housed as long as possible is a priority. Although more than 400 people were served in permanent supportive housing last year, hundreds more wait for their chance to call someplace home.

The 10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness identified a need to increase the supply of permanent supported housing for families of adults with disabilities and histories of chronic

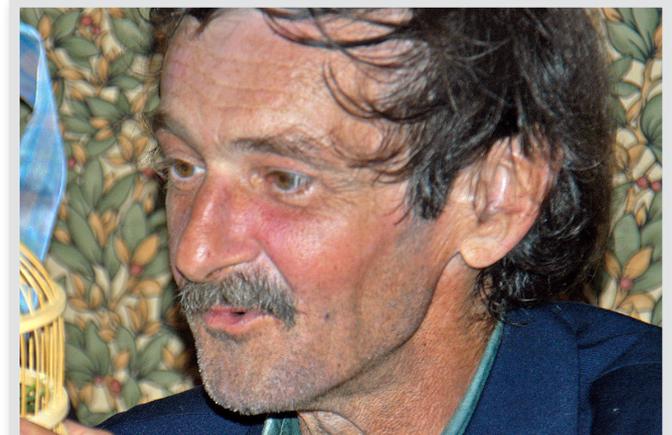
homelessness and child welfare involvement. Responding to this need, county agencies and nonprofit partners involved in administering a 20-unit transitional program for families agreed to convert the existing RISE transitional housing program to a permanent housing program for persons with disabilities.

This group met over several months to design new program eligibility and operating procedures, and asked the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for permission to replace the existing two-year transitional program with a permanent housing program. HUD approved the conversion and during the year, as existing two-year families graduated from the program, they were replaced with families who needed more intensive long-term stabilization and supportive services.

## *Success Story*

Like numerous military veterans, Henry became homeless after a series of traumatic events. In 2004 he began living in a makeshift camp in the woods while working part-time jobs and keeping in touch with family. Henry would come to Reston Interfaith's Embry Rucker Community Shelter (ERCS) to have a meal, shower, wash clothes and receive medical care once a week. ERCS outreach staff who visited Henry at his camp site offered opportunities to stay at the shelter, but he resisted. Eventually, due to increasingly serious health issues, he accepted assistance to locate housing. In collaboration with the Community Services Board, ERCS staff helped Henry obtain disability benefits and secure a housing voucher that went toward the rental of a one-bedroom apartment.

For the first time in years, Henry has been able to sleep on his own mattress. He says that it has taken him little time to adjust to living indoors and having a bed to sleep. Most of all, he wants to share his story so other unsheltered homeless people will be encouraged to ask for help.





Families and individuals who **enter permanent supportive housing** programs often face some of the most challenging barriers to self-sufficiency. Making sure that our community provides this type of housing with supports **plays a major role** in our effort to end homelessness.

# Number of People Served: 401

People in families: **99**

- 27 families: 35 adults and 64 children.

Single adults: **302**

## *Success Story*

A real estate owner and builder made a special gift to Homestretch that will go a long way to helping families who are homeless. He rented 10 apartments to Homestretch for only \$300 a month to house families who are homeless. Each of these apartments would be between \$1,800 and \$3,200 on the market — \$300 a month will just cover his costs. This special donation means that Homestretch can rent apartments at such a low rate, they can increase their capacity at a minimal cost and house more families who are homeless. For example, to rent a three-bedroom apartment for a homeless family at market rate, approximately \$1,300 a month, costs Homestretch \$15,600 a year; 10 of these apartments would be \$156,000 (not including utilities and maintenance). This donor's generosity means that Homestretch will be able to rent one apartment for only \$3,600 a year; 10 apartments would only cost Homestretch \$36,000. The savings to Homestretch are momentous.

# Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership

## Our Partnership

### Engaging our community.

The 10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness was written by the community, and all efforts to implement the plan belong to the community. With this in mind, nearly every step that has been taken has been made by a consortium of partners from the business, faith-based, nonprofit and local government communities.

To ensure that partners who do not actively participate in decision-making stay informed, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness hosts community forums that are open to the public and allow for information sharing and networking. An e-newsletter, Partner Update, is distributed to interested parties.

In addition to engaging the traditional service and advocacy community, the partnership is moving forward to begin more outreach and active engagement of businesses in the Fairfax-

Falls Church community. The effort is being coordinated through a subcommittee of the Governing Board, chaired by Kathy Albarado, President and CEO of Helios HR, and in partnership with various nonprofit organizations in the community.

Quarterly engagement and recruitment events have been scheduled and implemented to involve business leaders and employers to support our efforts through financial, volunteer and in-kind support.

If you would like to receive the Partner Update, please send a request to [opehprograms@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:opehprograms@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-324- 9492, TTY 711.

To participate in the business engagement events, please contact Dean Klein, director, Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness at [dean.klein@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dean.klein@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### Governing Board

Michael L. O'Reilly, Chairman, Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness

Kathy Albarado, President and CEO, Helios HR

Kristen J. Amundson, Former Member, Virginia House of Delegates, Former Chair, Fairfax County School Board

Ralph F. Boyd Jr., Executive Vice President Community Relations, Freddie Mac; President and CEO, Freddie Mac Foundation

Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Kathleen Kline Chesson, Senior Minister, First Christian Church of Falls Church

Conrad Egan, Senior Advisor, Affordable Housing Institute

Terri L. Freeman, President, The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region

Robin Gardner, Council Member and Former Mayor, City of Falls Church

Verdia L. Haywood, Former Deputy County Executive, Fairfax County Government

Catherine M. Hudgins, Supervisor, Hunter Mill District Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

William H. Lauer, President, Tetra Partnerships

Daniel P. Leaf, Vice President, Full Spectrum Initiatives Defense Systems Division, Northrop Grumman

Robert F. Lederer, Mayor, City of Fairfax

Rodney Lusk, Director, National Marketing, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority

Ted C. Lutz, Former Vice President, The Washington Post

Todd Rowley, Senior Vice President, Capital One Bank

Barry H. Schwartz, President, Schwartz Enterprises, Inc.

James F. Whitley, Lieutenant Colonel, Chief Deputy/ Administration Fairfax County Sheriff's Office

Rod Williams, Vice President, Community Affairs, Inova Health Systems





Ending homelessness requires a **true partnership** of the government, businesses, faith-based communities and nonprofit organizations to provide the essential coordinated and collaborative political, community and managerial leadership, policy direction, resource development and stewardship.

***NORTHROP GRUMMAN***

**Google™**

**Deltek**

**Enterprise™**

**Freddie Mac  
FOUNDATION®**



**HELIOS HR™**



The Office to Prevent and End Homelessness received the Best Government Housing Initiative Award from Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND) at their 20th Anniversary Annual Meeting and awards luncheon on May 26, 2011.

# Enhancing Partnerships

More than 200 faith leaders, housing advocates, elected officials, community partners and others came together at the first Faith Communities Housing Engagement on June 1, to discuss how faith communities can help provide affordable housing and housing resources for people who are homeless. The engagement was hosted by the governing board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness and Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. A collaboration of key county officials, agency heads, faith leaders, housing organizations and advocates, Enterprise and Office to Prevent and End Homelessness staff planned the engagement.



The goal of the event was to acknowledge the work of the faith communities and enhance the partnership that has been built between Fairfax County faith communities, fair housing advocates and developers. Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova founded Faith Communities in Action, a countywide network of faith communities that enables faith communities and charitable nonprofit organizations to work in partnership with local government to better respond to the needs of the community. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors presented a proclamation acknowledging the long-time work of the faith communities in providing services and support to people who are homeless. Hunter Mill District Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins challenged Fairfax County residents to contribute their property tax savings to help prevent and end homelessness.

The engagement focused on:

- How to leverage faith-based assets to provide housing subsidies and create affordable housing.
- How faith-based communities can make an impact.
- How the Housing Blueprint supports the 10-year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.

During the engagement, participants heard from key community stakeholders, official decision makers, clergy, developers and local and state government staff who are involved in developing affordable housing. They also heard a passionate and moving testimony from Luella Brown on her journey from being homeless to owning her own home.



# Building Momentum

### The year ahead.

Dear Partner,

The Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness has had an exciting year. It was filled with many opportunities and challenges as we continue to collectively move forward in preventing and ending homelessness. Although we have built a tremendous amount of momentum with notable accomplishments this year, we still identified and served 2,982 individuals in FY 2011 who were homeless. Our partnership of nonprofit, government, faith and business entities is more critical than ever. We have a remarkable group of community partners and leaders who decided and then clearly acted to alter their individual organizational priorities in favor of a collective approach to preventing and ending homelessness. I am more convinced than ever that together we can do amazing things!

Many nonprofit and county agency leaders in our community who help to prevent and end homelessness have recognized that fixing several key points on the homeless services continuum — our shelter system, prevention and diversion efforts and other efforts — wouldn't have as much impact without strengthening all of the continuum parts. We have been making numerous changes to our system that are necessary to be successful this year and in the coming years. No single organization, however innovative or effective, could accomplish this alone. Instead, participating organizations have agreed to collectively refine their priorities to coordinate enhancements at every stage of our continuum. This

has brought about huge changes in implementing a Housing First approach through rapid-rehousing and prevention. All of these changes have enriched services and accelerated progress toward reaching our 10-year plan goals.

This year's Community Snapshot highlights a lot of areas of progress preventing homelessness in our community, including our ability to identify and secure appropriate safe and affordable housing. We have made enormous strides to increase the number of individuals moving from emergency shelters, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing into permanent housing. The total permanent housing placements grew from 482 in FY 2010 to 714 in FY 2011, which shortens the length of homelessness. However, our collective ability to continue to identify and move individuals and families into housing quickly will become more challenging if possible federal housing funding reductions occur. Your continued assistance and commitment to help us identify and secure appropriate and safe affordable housing will be even more important.

Our partnership has emphasized the value of strong collaborations among nonprofits, government, business and faith-based organizations, along with The Office to Prevent and End Homelessness's centralized infrastructure that provides a dedicated staff and direction to set a common agenda, share data and outcomes measurements, coordinate systemwide communications and mutually reinforce activities among all key stakeholders. As we did last year, we are now setting baseline data points

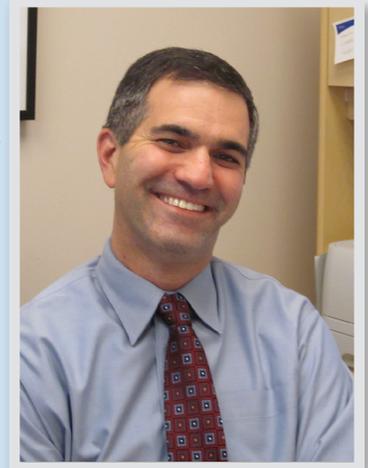
to measure against, which are critical for us to develop, then assess and finally use to make better and more informed decisions. Due to data limitations, we have never known until recently our systemwide recidivism rates — those who after being placed into permanent housing return to homelessness. We can now report that of those who entered homelessness this year, 118 people were placed into permanent housing within the previous 24 months. We are assessing more fully how we can limit the number of people returning to homelessness after being assisted by someone in our homeless delivery system.

For our Community Partnership to prioritize and embrace our collective goals through the 10-Year Plan requires increased transparency, data reporting and analysis of the progress we make each year. The level of commitment from the 19 organizations and 120 programs that agreed to participate in collecting, validating and sharing data and outcomes is thrilling. We hope our Community Snapshot 2011 will provide the community with tools to better understand our progress, challenges and see where they might engage to help us achieve our goals.

I extend my special thanks for all you have done and thank you in advance for helping to make this coming year a tremendous success.

**Dean H. Klein**

Director of the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness



“The level of commitment from the 19 organizations and 120 programs that agreed to participate in collecting, validating and sharing data and outcomes is thrilling.”

# Acknowledgments

# Thank You

The Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH) wishes to thank the following 19 organizations and county agencies for their diligent work in entering client information into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS); validating this client information and thus making communitywide data in this report available for the second year.



- Alternative House
- Christian Relief Services
- FACETS
- Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board
- Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development
- Fairfax County Health Department
- Family PASS
- Friends of Guest House
- Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services
- Homestretch
- Kurdish Human Rights Watch
- New Hope Housing
- Northern Virginia Family Service
- Pathway Homes
- PRS, Inc.
- Reston Interfaith
- Shelter House
- United Community Ministries
- Volunteers of America-Chesapeake

OPEH would also like to thank the following Fairfax County agencies for contributing data to this report:

- Fairfax County Department of Administration for Human Services
- Fairfax County Department of Family Services
- Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services
- Fairfax County Office of the County Executive
- Fairfax County Public Schools

Ending homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community takes the work of many partners, who are critical to our overall success.



*Make an Impact. Today.*



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

To request this information in an alternate format, call the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness at 703-324-9492, TTY 711, or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless). The printing of this publication was not funded by taxpayers. A Fairfax County, Va., publication February 2012.

