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## **948 REAL PEOPLE ~ REAL RESULTS in 226 Days**

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As of Oct. 15, the Housing Opportunities Support Teams (HOST) have served 948 people – 385 unique households. **This quarter, which began Oct. 1, 108 households totaling 279 individuals, received assistance from the HOST system.** These are a few of their stories.

### **Services and Support End Homelessness**

A county resident who previously had a steady career as a government contractor was laid off and found herself living in her car. During this time, her health started to deteriorate thus decreasing her ability to find employment. She traversed between being in the hospital, living out of her car and living with friends. Eventually she entered the shelter and found employment earning enough money to afford a one-bedroom market rate apartment. **A Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) community case manager and shelter staff were able to assist this client with acquiring rental application fees, a security deposit and first month's rent.** She was able to regain her self-sufficiency due to these supports.

### **Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Update**

Nearly \$1.1 of the \$1.45 million of the Fairfax County Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) funds allocated for financial assistance has been expended. **At the current rate of spending without accepting new clients, all financial assistance will be depleted within three months.** All remaining funds will be used to support existing program clients and those that need to be rapidly re-housed. Additional updates will be forthcoming as we look to maximize the use of all HPRP funds.

## **PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS**

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### **Hypothermia Prevention Sites Gearing Up for the 2010-2011 Winter Season**

The Hypothermia Prevention Program is an integral part of our community plan to prevent and end homelessness. **It incorporates the collaborative work of faith-based communities, nonprofit organizations, businesses and individual volunteers.** The Hypothermia Prevention Program represents a shining example of collaborative effectiveness in serving the critical needs of the homeless when they are in most danger of exposure to the cold and frigid weather.

**In the Winter Season of 2009-2010, the collaborative effort of the Hypothermia Prevention Program was able to serve 932 unduplicated guests.** Hypothermia sites are operated by the following providers with their volunteer faith-based communities:

- **FACETS'** hypothermia prevention season begins on Nov. 21, 2010, and runs through March 14, 2011. FACETS **served over 240 clients last season.** They are actively recruiting volunteers, faith-based communities and staff; the week of March 6-14 still remains for faith partners to sign up for hosting a site. Almost all temporary hypothermia prevention staff has been hired. FACETS is working on re-designing their case management program where clients will be placed on two different tracks and placed with a case manager based on their needs. FACETS rotates week-to-week between faith-based community hosting sites.
- **Volunteers of America (VOA) Bailey's Crossroad's** hypothermia program is operated under the management of Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter and it runs from Dec. 1, 2010 through March 31,

2011. Bailey's Crossroads Hypothermia Program **served over 470 clients last season.**

Hypothermia prevention guests assemble at the Bailey's Community Shelter each evening at 4:30 p.m. and have their evening meal at the shelter. After dinner, the clients depart the shelter for off-site hypothermia prevention shelter sites. Approximately 25 women and up to 35 men each night are taken to separate faith-based community hypothermia preventions shelters.

- **Reston Interfaith's** Embury Rucker Community Shelter (ERCS) operate three separate winter programs. ERCS Winter North County Program **served over 160 clients last season.** They offer 12 overflow cots for nine men and three women starting Nov. 1, 2010, at their main shelter during the hours of 5 p.m. to 9 a.m. daily. Beginning Dec. 1, 2010, they will open up floor space in the main shelter on a "no turn away" basis for anyone seeking shelter from the cold during the hours of 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. Also beginning Dec. 1, they will serve 25 individuals on floor mats at their hypothermia program at the North County Government Building. Each program is completely staffed by paid employees and each is supported by nightly volunteers. Bilingual staff is on site at each program and the nurse practitioner will visit the hypothermia sites two nights per week. Additionally, case management and housing locator services will be available for clients and they have managerial support available 24 hours per day throughout the winter season, which ends on March 31. Reston Interfaith is partnering with many agencies including the Fairfax County Fire Marshall, the Reston Police Department, Detox Diversion and Mobile Crisis Units as a way to safely manage emergency situations as they may arise.
- **New Hope Housing** operates the Ventures in Community Hypothermia Outreach Program (VICHOP), which opens its doors on Dec. 1, 2010, at Rising Hope Church. VICHOP **served over 124 clients last season.** New Hope Housing continues to receive quality volunteer support from community churches and local nonprofit organizations. Their first volunteer training session is scheduled for Nov. 13, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Bethlehem Baptist Church. Their volunteers continue to donate 100 percent of their volunteer time and effort to cover shelter shifts. Almost all shelter nights are covered, with the exception of three nights in January. In order to fill the gaps for this season, they have recruited one new church and two churches took on additional nights.
- **Falls Church Winter Shelter** opens its doors for occupancy on Dec. 1, 2010. The shelter **served over 48 clients last season.** The Friends of Falls Church have recruited an additional 48 volunteers for this upcoming season. New Hope Housing staff along with members of the Friends of Falls Church Board of Directors will host an open house for all volunteers on Nov. 14, from 2-4 p.m., at the shelter site. Their formal volunteer/staff training is scheduled for Nov. 16, from 7:30-9:30 p.m., at St. James Catholic Church.

**The Homeless Healthcare Program (HHP) has four nurse practitioners from the Fairfax County Health Department providing flu shots again this year for hypothermia prevention season.** Guests, volunteers and staff will be given the shots for free of charge thanks to a federal grant. A change to their usual training for staff and volunteers this year will include stool collection kits at each site in the event that there is a gastrointestinal (GI) outbreak. This will save time and allow us to treat appropriately sooner. Outreach workers should plan to visit each venue to enroll clients into the clinics Community Health Care Network (CHCN). Please feel free to contact the nurse practitioner in your area for any medical needs or questions. Contact Lorraine McLean for questions related to the Homeless Health Care Program at [lorraine.mclean@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:lorraine.mclean@fairfaxcounty.gov).

#### **Up and Coming Hypothermia Prevention Program Provider Planning Sessions:**

- Oct. 27 – 10-11:30 a.m. in the Government Center, Suite 552, large conference room.
- Nov.10 – 10-11:30 a.m. in Pennino Building, conference room 324.

For further information on the Hypothermia Prevention Program, please contact Debbie Scaggs at [debbie.scaggs@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:debbie.scaggs@fairfaxcounty.gov).

#### **Communities of Faith United for Housing – Change in Leadership**

**Tom Devine was recently elected as Chair of Communities of Faith United for Housing (CFUH).** Since 1999, Devine has been a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in the Mount Vernon area, where he chairs the Missions and Outreach Council and serves as a member of the Church Council. He has also helped Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church advocate for "the least, the lost, the lonely and the left

out,” particularly in the area of affordable housing. Devine serves as Vice Chair of the Route One Ministry Board that oversees Rising Hope.

Devine served on the Board of Directors of New Hope Housing (NHH) for six years and serves on NHH's Board of Trustees. In his career as an attorney, he has advocated before federal agencies and Congress on behalf of local governments, as well as families of 9/11 victims.

Along with other leaders of CFUH, Devine will help develop and carry out a vision to involve a broader spectrum of faith community members to support creative ways to provide housing and services for those in need including:

- Implementation of the Housing Blueprint.
- Initiatives of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH.)
- Zoning amendments to allow greater use of Single Resident Occupancy (SRO) units.
- Additional resources to replace critical federal stimulus dollars that are expected to diminish.
- Specific efforts to preserve and develop affordable housing, e.g. recently announced county plans to build low-income housing on the North Hill site on Route One.

**We extend our sincere thanks to Gerry Williams who formerly served as Chair of Communities of Faith United for Housing.** We look forward to Williams' continued participation and engagement in our community!

## HOST HIGHLIGHTS

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*Remember ~ if you are providing services including intake & assessment, case management, disability services, housing location and access to benefits that help people obtain or maintain housing, you are a part of HOST. Working together, huge strides are being made to prevent and end homelessness.*

### 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.*

- **Northern Region** – The Youth Employment program—initially funded with TANF stimulus dollars—continues in the Reston-Herndon region with 12 youth employed full and part-time through mid-November. **North County Network will be meeting on Oct. 25 from 10 a.m. to noon** with a full complement of representatives to discuss priorities in the region. There are several different exercises planned to determine the group's focus.
- **Central Region** – Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter has added a new staff member! **Charles Odom comes from another Volunteer's of America program in Washington, D.C. and is the new assistant director for the shelter program.** Please help us welcome Charles as he joins us in our efforts towards ending homelessness. October is a very busy time as preparations are underway for the coming hypothermia season. At this time, Bailey's continues to coordinate with faith-based partners in the community who are always an integral part of serving the overnight needs of those without shelter during our coldest months of the year.

In Region 4, **Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) has opened a second office located in Centreville.** This additional HOST site will be used for people needing HOST services in Region 4. Shelter House and WFCM will continue to partner together to provide HOST services.

- **Southern Region** – Region 1's activity has slowed quite a bit due to the exhausted TANF ECF (Emergency Contingency Fund) assistance. A review of the TANF clients resulted in a small number transitioning to HPRP funding. The work with HPRP clients are focused on how to increase client's financial commitment through improved employment income and reducing expenses. In addition, staffing is expanding to embrace the HOST model of addressing the housing, employment, education and life skills issues confronting clients.

## Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Update

**HPRP Data Quality Day** – The next data quality day is scheduled for Nov. 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center, Suite 364. This time has been designated to review and correct HPRP data to ensure higher data quality and is accomplished by working 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](mailto:monica.foote@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## SAVE THE DATE

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### Join Us for a Mini- Walk!

The 23rd Annual Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon will be held on Saturday, Nov. 20 on the National Mall. There are over 118 beneficiaries for this year's program. Some of the benefiting organizations working to end homelessness in Fairfax-Falls Church include Shelter House, FACETS, Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, Reston Interfaith, United Community Ministries, New Hope Housing, Volunteers of America Chesapeake, Northern Virginia Family Service, Homestretch, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries and others. For more information, visit [www.helpthehomelessdc.org](http://www.helpthehomelessdc.org).

## SIDEBAR

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### The Consumer Advisory Council Is on the Way

Planning for the Consumer Advisory Council—a key element to the Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness—has begun. **This Council will ensure that currently and formerly homeless persons will have a voice in our efforts to end homelessness in our community.** A planning team, including consumer representation, has taken on the task of reviewing the guidance included in the 10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness and establishing the structure for implementation. Stay tuned for more information about the Consumer Advisory Council, including application materials for consumers who are interested in participating.

### Continuum of Care

**HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) grant process is underway, with the final community application due to HUD in mid-November.** Renewal grant reviews and site visits have been scheduled and are in process. Two new project proposals for the Permanent Housing Bonus Project were received and will be considered by the CoC Committee of the Governing Board. **There is only enough funding for one new project to be selected for submission to HUD.** Renewal applications also need to be completed in the HUD on-line application system in order to be included in the overall community application. The target date for completion of these applications and project exhibits is Nov. 8. For additional information, contact [william.macmillan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:william.macmillan@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### HEARTH Act

Over the past two months several representatives from OPEH have attended the national conference hosted by HUD entitled "Flexible Resources, Data-Driven Solutions: Using HMIS and HEARTH to End Homelessness." At this conference a plethora of information was shared about how HUD and other federal agencies plan to work together to implement the McKinney-Vento Act as amended by HEARTH (also called the HEARTH Act.) HUD will be hosting further regional trainings, and providers are encouraged to attend. **Conversation and planning about how the HEARTH Act will affect services is under way as the community prepares to implement the new regulations.**

### FY 2012 Do-It-Yourself Budget Toolkit

Hold self-directed group discussions using the **Do-It-Yourself" Budget Toolkit!** The toolkit gives residents, community groups and organizations the opportunity to host individual group discussion sessions about **Fairfax County's FY 2012 budget.** You will learn of the big picture but you can also choose to focus on the issues that matter most to you. To get started, follow the **5 simple steps** outlined at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2012/diy/>.

## Fairfax County NewsWire

Check out the newly launched countywide comprehensive news and engagement website NewsWire at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news) that will promote new editions of *PARTNER Update*. Now you can get *PARTNER Update* via Listserves, RSS feeds, Twitter and Facebook as well! This new tool allows multiple ways for people to get information. Sign up today by visiting [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news).

### **CCFAC to hold Public Hearing for the Consolidated Plan**

**The Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee (CCFAC) will hold a public hearing on Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m., in the Fairfax County Government Center** to provide input to the development of the FY 2012 Consolidated Plan One-Year Action Plan. The Consolidated Plan includes significant resources that support the development of housing options to end homelessness. It also includes the county's formula funds under the Emergency Shelter Grant, which will be significantly revised when the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) implements the new Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act in 2011. **To view the full announcement and instructions on how to sign up to speak at the hearing on the Department of Housing and Community Development, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rha/2010-ccfacpublichearing.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rha/2010-ccfacpublichearing.htm).**

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