

*Make an Impact. Today.*



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 2011.





*Ending Homelessness*  
in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community

**Snapshot 2010**

# Acknowledgments

The members of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness wish to thank the staff of the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness and Office of Public Affairs for their dedication, commitment and professionalism in researching, drafting, editing and designing this report.



## *Thank You*

The Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH) wishes to thank the following 18 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 first time:

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



 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
Unsheltered Outreach.....	16
Shelters for Families and Single Adults.....	18
Survivors of Domestic Violence and Unaccompanied Youth.....	20
Transitional Housing Programs.....	22
Permanent Supportive Housing Programs.....	24
Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership.....	26
Get Involved.....	28
Letter from the Director.....	29
Acknowledgments.....	30



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 clients served in the Fairfax-Falls Church community; however, they are randomly placed.

# Succeeding Together

### Dear friends and colleagues,

Our Fairfax-Falls Church community is one of the most affluent in the country. Our schools are second to none. We are the home for many Fortune 500 businesses. Despite the state of the national economy our unemployment rate is among the lowest in the country. And yet there are people in our community who are homeless and live in their cars or camp in the woods. There are families with no place to sleep at night and children with no place to go after school.

It saddens me to report that during the past fiscal year, our community served 3,076 people who were literally homeless. It is unacceptable to have children, women and men who are homeless in our community. Homelessness impacts all of us and each of us has a role in ending it. For many years, through the good work of many nonprofits, faith-based organizations and government agencies, we have directed our collective efforts to managing the issue of homelessness. However, little was done to find long-term solutions to prevent and end homelessness. That has now changed.

With strong support from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and key stakeholders from the non-profit, government, faith-based and business communities, the Fairfax-Falls Church community came together to develop an impressive 10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. The plan recognizes the right of all people to have a safe and affordable

place to live. We have some very steep goals and lots of hard work ahead of us to reach our goal of ending homelessness by the end of year 2018.

This snapshot highlights the progress our community has made during the first year of the implementation of our plan. We have made huge strides in the development of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness. The Office to Prevent and End Homelessness was established within Fairfax County Government and we have constituted a Governing Board made up of business leaders, elected officials, builders, clergy, law enforcement and others. In 2011, a Consumer Advisory Council will be created to ensure that people who are currently homeless and those who were formerly homeless have an active voice in the implementation of our plan. We also will finalize the creation of a new foundation to help fund our efforts.

This past year, we were busy engaging many businesses, including Google and Northrop Grumman, who hosted our first two business engagement events. Target has provided support in helping raise awareness on the issue of ending homelessness and helped bring in much needed household items to assist over 200 of our most vulnerable neighbors. These collective efforts along with others have brought about a reduction in both our total number of people who are homeless as well as the number

of people who are chronically homeless in our community.

Our community has made huge strides in developing new strategies to strengthen relationships with landlords in order to help to move people who are homeless more rapidly into permanent housing.

This past year, through the work of our Partnership we have seen at least 482 people move into permanent housing from emergency shelters, transitional housing programs and permanent supportive housing programs. Many children and adults have been positively impacted. This can only be attributed to the commitment that many of you have made to ending homelessness.

Our approach to preventing and ending homelessness is predicated on us doing so in partnership with a broad coalition of nonprofits, faith-based 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 working 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

“It is unacceptable to have children, women and men who are homeless in our community. Homelessness impacts all of us and each of us has a role in ending it.”

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

## Community Plan



This past year, through the work of our partnership we have seen at least **482 people move into permanent housing.**



### 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 to prevent and end homelessness 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. This approach is 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 opportunity 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 Goal

## 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 the strategies outlined in our community plan, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless).



**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: **14.22%**

- On Jan. 27, 2010, there were 1,544 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.
- This decrease represents the difference between people who were identified as literally homeless in 2007 and those who were identified as such in 2010.
- The decrease since 2009 was 10.75 percent, from 1,730 individuals to 1,544.

# 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: **34.95%**

- On Jan. 27, 2010, there were 242 people who were chronically homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community.
- This decrease represents the difference between people who were identified as chronically homeless in 2007 and those who were identified as such in 2010.
- The decrease since 2009 is 18.51 percent, from 297 individuals to 242.

## 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.

### Data not available for FY 2010

- Data was collected during Fiscal Year 2010 (from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010) to establish a baseline measure of 322 days, including transitional housing participants. For more information on transitional housing programs, see page 22.
- Significant efforts have been made to reduce the time it takes for a person who is homeless to access permanent housing as noted in this report.



## Our Neighbors

### A point-in-time.

The 2010 Point-in-Time Count of Homeless Persons in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community took place Jan. 27, 2010. This survey is designed to provide an unduplicated count of people who are homeless in the community and provide information for local, regional, state and national planning. This annual survey follows the Department of Housing and Urban Development 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 but do not face immediate loss of shelter, who self-pay to live in a motel, or youth who are staying temporarily with others but who do not have a permanent

stable residence. The numbers also do not include people who were formerly homeless and who 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 2010 (Jan. 27, 2010).
- Page 13 highlights the **total number of people** who experienced homelessness during FY 2010.

“ I was raised not to ask for help — I felt like it was degrading. I was afraid, but my case-worker showed me such respect and such caring. He was so kind. I didn't feel bad about needing help anymore — I felt like I was a human being having a hard time.



 On Jan. 27, 2010, there were **1,544 people** who were literally homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. **652** of them were single individuals and **892** were people in families.

 During all of FY 2010, our community served **3,076 people** who were literally homeless.



## Families That Were Homeless on Jan. 27, 2010

Persons in families: **892**

- The number of families that were homeless decreased by over 16 percent since 2009.
- Nearly 58 percent of all people who were homeless were in families.
- 36 percent of all people who were homeless were children under the age of 18.
- More than 60 percent of adults in families that were homeless were employed.

## Single Adults Who Were Homeless on Jan. 27, 2010

Single adults: **652**

- The number of single individuals who were homeless decreased slightly by 1.7 percent since 2009.
- Single individuals who were homeless represented 42 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 \$1,318 and for a two-bedroom apartment \$1,494 per month. In order for this to be affordable, a household would need to earn nearly \$5,000 per month, and a single parent working full time would have to earn \$28 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 in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment.

### Income

People earning minimum wage, which is \$7.25 per hour, earn only 1/4 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 nearly perfect credit record. Divorce, medical issues, poor decision-making and other factors can lead to deterioration of credit and can 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.





In FY 2010, housing locators worked with an average of 20 households per month in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. Housing locators provide services such as application assistance, landlord negotiation and training to prepare people to maintain successful rental relationships, and helped hundreds of people find housing or stay in their homes.



## Transformation

### Realigning existing resources for results.

Every person who faces homelessness experiences a unique set of circumstances and responds in a unique way to their situation. In light of the needs of the people we serve in the Fairfax-Falls Church community, the goal of ending homelessness will be achieved by meeting people where they are and focusing on helping them quickly obtain and maintain appropriate permanent housing.

During the past year, several new initiatives have been piloted to enhance the responsiveness of the homeless services system in our community. Each of these initiatives has been implemented with the intention of more effectively addressing the needs of the people who are facing the trauma of homelessness.

As we strive to prevent and end homelessness, our com-

munity continues to demonstrate the flexibility required to serve our most vulnerable neighbors. Some of the initiatives launched in 2010 are:

- Housing Opportunity Support Teams (HOST).
- Housing Locator Network.
- Collaborative service delivery system design.
- Collaborative approach to housing development.
- Family emergency housing transition in place demonstration project.
- Integrated education and public awareness efforts.
- Business engagement initiative.
- Enhanced use of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to collect and track data.

### Success Story

During the past year, our community partnership has expanded the use of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Currently 18 organizations and 121 programs enter client information into the system. To ensure that the information entered is reliable and usable, HMIS data fields and collection standards were streamlined and defined. Quarterly and on-demand trainings were also established and data quality reports were implemented. HMIS provides information for federal, state and local government reporting, including the annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress and the annual Point-in-Time Count of Homeless Persons in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community.



## Creating Housing

### Combining housing and services.

One of the major accomplishments in FY 2010 was the establishment of a Housing Options Committee. The committee leads 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 target for FY 2010 was to secure 124 units; the community was able to secure 103 units that are now occupied. The shortfall of 21 units was added to the FY 2011 housing targets.

The annual housing goals are based on five housing options, which are broken into two categories (permanent supportive housing and permanent housing). The 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 that is 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 is housing with supportive services for people with disabling conditions. The following are the 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 housing for persons with no disabling conditions. Some permanent housing units have time-limited support services associated with them. The following are the 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.



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.

### 10-Year Plan 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	128	141	159	174	174	174	174	174	174	1,550
Beds for Single Adults	46	68	106	141	121	124	124	124	124	122	1,100



Of the 124 housing units identified as targets for FY 2010, our community was able to secure 103 newly developed units.

## Housing for Families

## Housing for Single Adults

Total completed in FY 2010: **61**

- Permanent Supportive Housing.....5
- Permanent Housing.....56

Total completed in FY 2010: **42**

- Permanent Supportive Housing.....13
- Permanent Housing.....29

### *Housing Blueprint*

The FY 2011 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. For more information on the Housing Blueprint, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless).



# Programs for People Who Are Homeless



## 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 2010 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 3,076 people who were literally homeless in FY 2010, **482** moved into permanent housing.

## People Who Experienced Homelessness During FY 2010: **3,076**

Of the 3,076 people who experienced homelessness, 482 moved to permanent housing from emergency shelters, transitional housing programs and permanent supportive housing programs.

People in families: **1,444**

- 425 families: 568 adults, 876 children.

Single adults: **1,632**

### *Success Story*

A family with a teenager with special needs had been sleeping on the floor of a relative's home in a verbally abusive environment. The father was employed and the mother was diligently working with an employment specialist to find a job. One of the community partners was able to negotiate a lease for the family in a local apartment complex. The family needed assistance with their security deposit. With some case management assistance on budgeting and employment services, they are living in a safe, happy and healthy environment.



## Staying Home

### Keeping people in their homes.

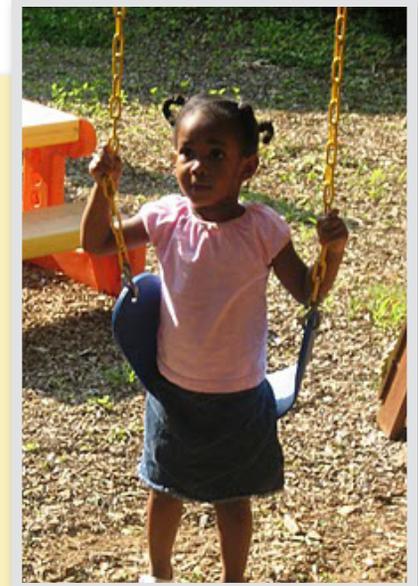
Prevention is the single most cost effective and humane intervention for addressing homelessness. Many people who become homeless could have remained in their homes and returned to self-sufficiency with some limited assistance. Illness, job loss and other factors cause individuals and families to fall 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. In 2009 alone, more than 100,000 people in our community were spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing, making them just one paycheck away from homelessness.

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, Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) and other government agencies. Since FY 2006, there has been a steady increase in the demand for resources.

On the next page you will see how our community prevented many people from becoming homeless in FY 2010.

The number of people served in the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) was collected from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The number of people who received long-term housing assistance and the number of occasions when emergency housing assistance were 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.



The federal stimulus funds made available in FY 2010 enabled our community to launch a new prevention and rapid re-housing model called **HOST (Housing Opportunity Support Teams)**. HOST allows our community to effectively intervene before people become homeless and to rapidly re-house those who have fallen into homelessness. More resources like this need to be cultivated in order for our community to continue to prevent many more of our neighbors from becoming homeless.

### 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.

### Short-Term Housing Assistance

**838** People Served

- 838 people received short-term housing payment assistance, paired with supportive services, through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HOST).

### Long-Term Housing Assistance

**17,747** People Served

- 17,747 people received a long-term housing subsidy through the FCRHA (17,275 individuals) and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (472 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 Story*

A young mother approached one of our community partners for rental assistance. She had delivered a baby girl two months premature and the baby was still in the hospital; no release day had been set due to medical conditions. The mother was spending all of her time in the hospital with her baby on short-term disability from her full-time job. However, her benefits were running out and she was close to being put on family medical leave without pay. Fortunately, the HPRP funds enabled our community to help her pay two months worth of rent and she was able to remain in her home and ensure that her daughter was receiving proper care.



## *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. Despite our efforts, one of our neighbors died due to hypothermia in FY 2010. His life is a reminder to each of us of the importance of winter seasonal programs, in addition to other outreach programs.

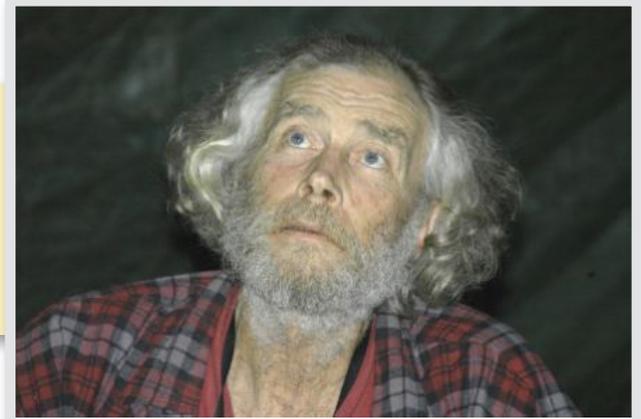
Most men and women who are unsheltered and live on the streets and in the woods in our community struggle with disabilities that make them unable to access the services, supports and housing that they need. A collaboration of faith-based communities, nonprofits, businesses and local government agencies has provided outreach, drop-in and hypothermia services in the Fairfax-Falls Church community for many years.

There are drop-in centers and specialized programs in our community to ensure the health and safety of our most vulnerable neighbors. Winter seasonal programs run

from late fall to early spring and offer the opportunity for people who are unsheltered to have a warm and safe place to stay. These programs are operated jointly by faith-based communities, nonprofits and government agencies. Health Care for the Homeless program is another collaborative partnership led by Fairfax County Health Department. This program 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 get anyone who is interested housed.

Nearly every day someone from the community asks, "Are there homeless people in Fairfax?" The answer is an overwhelming "Yes!" Just this year, more than 1,000 people who were homeless were unable to access even an emergency shelter.

*“New Hope Housing has helped me get back on my feet. My case manager has helped me the most since she has been there to listen to my problem when I needed it the most.”*





During the winter season in FY 2010, there were **more than 300 individuals who were homeless** and lived outside in wooded areas in our community and were **at risk for hypothermia** during extreme weather.

## Winter Seasonal Programs

## Health Care for the Homeless

## PATH Outreach

Number of people served: **1,178**

- Out of the total number of people served, the Hypothermia Prevention Program served 884.
- Participants receive medical, mental health and substance abuse services, case management, information and screening, life skills and other critical services.

Number of people served: **564**

- Participants receive physical and mental health care, transportation to medical care, mental health and substance abuse services and dental care.
- This data is for calendar year 2009.

Number of people served: **349**

- 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*

A woman who was chronically homeless lived in her car for two years and had psychotic symptoms. On a snowy, cold day last winter she went to the hypothermia shelter. Due to the high number of clients, the hypothermia staff asked her and others to move to a different room for the night. Instead the client left and stayed in her car. Outreach staff went out to talk with her about receiving services and provided her with clean clothing and toiletries. Although hesitant, she agreed to enter one of the community shelters. Both outreach and shelter mental health staff continued to work with her, and she agreed to begin taking medication. Her disability application was approved, and she was accepted into the Housing First program. The client continues to participate in the Housing First program and has successfully maintained her apartment for the past two years. This success story demonstrates the important principles of outreach, including visiting sites where people who are homeless congregate; focusing on long-term goals, including access to housing and social services, as well as mental health services; and flexibility in service provision. Outreach staff presence at the hypothermia shelter provided a window of opportunity for engagement with the client. Proceeding at the client's pace to develop a therapeutic relationship was the key to her continuing recovery.

# 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)



The majority of adults residing in family shelters **are working** but cannot find affordable housing in our community.



“

*The staff at the shelter taught me the basic skills of being a kind and loving mother, and my children to be respectful toward others and each other.*

## Shelters for Families

599 people served exited the shelters.  
158 of them moved into permanent housing.

Number of people served: **770**

- 251 families: 325 adults, 445 children.
- Average length of stay was 93 days.

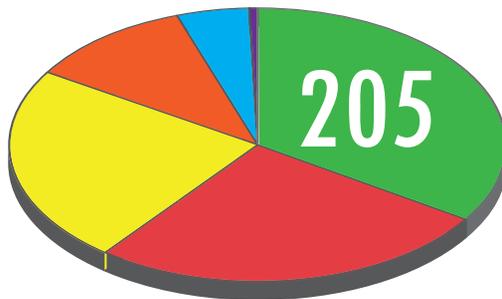
## Shelters for Single Adults

598 people served exited the shelters.  
85 of them moved into permanent housing.

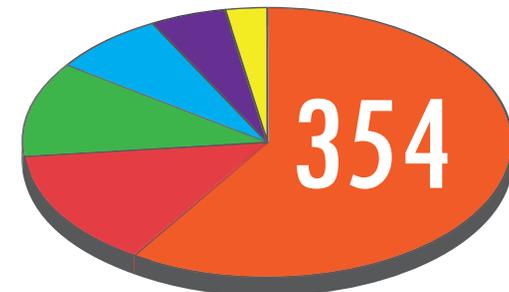
Number of adults served: **699**

- Average length of stay was 72 days.

### Exit destinations: Where did they go?



158	Permanent Housing	85
140	Transitional Housing	15
205	Temporary Housing	68
29	Other	45
2	Institutional Settings	31
65	Unknown	354



### Success Story

A county resident was laid off earlier this year, but a month later he was able to secure 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.

## Surviving Together



### 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, as noted on the next page, may seem low for a community of over 1 million people, but the reality is that the number is low. That is not because the need is low, but because there is very limited space in domestic violence shelters and domestic violence transitional housing. For this reason, many survivors never get the housing support they need.

### Helping youth who are homeless.

There are youth (people under age 18 or under age 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 of these young people drop out of school and are forced to take on adult responsibilities at a very tender age.

There are three specialized programs for unaccompanied homeless youth (youth who are not living with a parent or a guardian) in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. 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. Homeless Youth Initiative for people 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 women 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.

Youth homelessness is often invisible in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. However, 233 young people face the trauma of dealing with homelessness without a parent or a guardian. 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?

“ I like it here better because here nobody tells my mommy how to run her life and how to treat us. We get along a lot better because here there is nobody fighting around us and everybody is nice and we have a lot more fun together here. They play with us instead of yelling and fighting and picking on us. We listen to our mom a little better. We don't get yelled at when we want to see or talk to our mom. Nobody acts like they are better than we are. Nobody tries to beat us up.



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



**This past year, only one student out of 69** who enrolled in the Homeless Youth Initiative, which is one of the three programs for unaccompanied youth, dropped out of school.

## Survivors of Domestic Violence

Number of people served: **496**

- Total of 210 households: 212 adults and 284 children.
- 393 people were in domestic violence shelters.
- 117 people were in domestic violence transitional housing programs.
- More than 70 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 that are 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.

## Unaccompanied Youth

Number of youth served: **233**

- 208 people exited the three programs.
- 182 people (88 percent) who exited these programs moved into permanent housing.
- The number of homeless youth in our community, as defined by the U.S. Department of Education, is often over 2,000 per year. Included in this count are those who live in an unstable environment, often doubled-up with family and friends.

These statistics include only those people who were served in programs that are designated specifically for unaccompanied youth. The youth who are served in homeless programs with an adult are reported in the appropriate category. During FY 2010, these numbers were not collected in HMIS. A plan for inclusion of these programs in HMIS has been put in place.

# Transitional Housing Programs

## Transitions

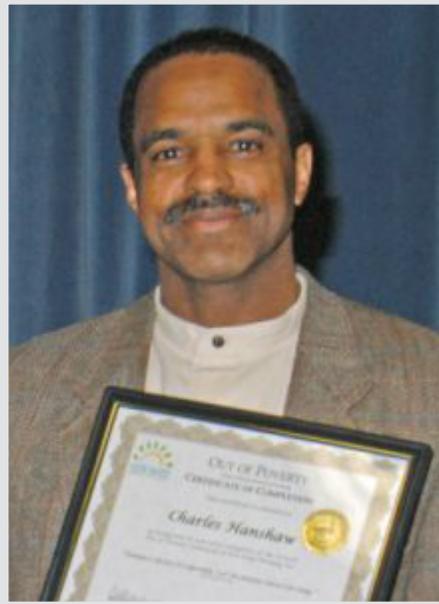
### On the way to permanent housing.

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 nearly 75 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 those to permanent housing who are 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 many 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.



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



# Number of people served: 881

305 people served exited the programs; 222 of them moved into permanent housing.

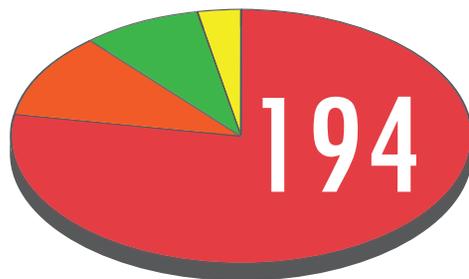
People in families: **774**

- 214 families: 288 adults and 486 children.
- Average length of stay in transitional housing was 567 days.

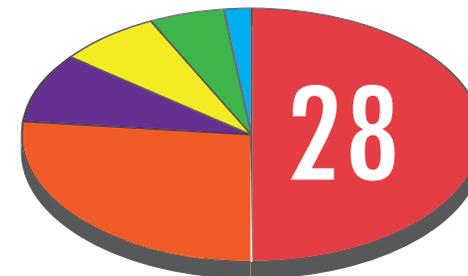
Single adults: **107**

- Average length of stay in transitional housing was 336 days.

## Exit destinations: Where did they go?



194	Permanent Housing	28
7	Transitional Housing	4
21	Temporary Housing	3
0	Other	1
0	Institutional Settings	5
27	Unknown	15



### *Success Story*

A young woman was admitted into the Journeys Transitional Housing Program in early 2008. She had fled from her abusive husband with her three children to a domestic violence shelter. She utilized all the service components of the program including the monthly domestic violence and life skills groups. She secured employment in a restaurant and enrolled in a licensed practical nurse program as a part-time student. She continued taking care of her children, school and work. When her work hours were reduced and she started receiving child support from her ex-husband, she decided to enroll full time in the LPN program. She completed and passed her LPN board exams and went straight into a registered nurse program. Her case manager encouraged her to apply for the Women Independence Scholarship Program (WISP), a scholarship fund for domestic violence survivors. She received the scholarship and continued to make significant progress. She and her children graduated from the Journey's program this past spring.

# Permanent Supportive Housing Programs



## *Never Alone Again*

### Receiving support in your own home.

Permanent supportive housing provides long-term residential support and services for persons with disabling conditions. 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.

More than 300 individuals were served in these programs this past year in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. 20 units, which will be occupied in the next one to two years, were secured to serve families

with an adult with disabling conditions caring for minor children. These families and individuals have extremely low incomes, often below the poverty line, so making sure that our community provides this type of housing with supports plays a major role in ending homelessness.

“A nation’s greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members,” said Mahatma Gandhi. Among those members are those who have disabilities; many of them are homeless in our community. Although more than 300 people were served in permanent supportive housing last year, hundreds more wait for their chance to call someplace home.

“*The most important objective for me was to be safe and have privacy. Thank you for caring.*”





Families and individuals who enter **permanent supportive housing programs** often face some of the most challenging barriers to self-sufficiency, so 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: 338

## People in families: 34

- Seven families: 9 adults and 25 children.
- All seven families remain in permanent supportive housing.

## Single adults: 304

- Average length of stay in permanent supportive housing was 924 days.

### *Success Story*

A county resident's health rapidly deteriorated when she went off her medication treating bipolar disorder. After being released from the local hospital for inpatient care, she was admitted to a two-year transitional housing program for adults coping with mental illness and/or substance abuse. After her health stabilized, the resident and the housing program counselor began the process of putting her life back together, including the commitment to stay on her medications. Highly educated and trained, she began to volunteer as an interpreter. After some time, a full-time position opened and she applied and was accepted. She soon graduated from the housing program and is now living on her own and her health continues to be stable. She loves her job and is thriving. The housing program counselor continues to check in with her on a regular basis to follow her progress.

# 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 quarterly community forums that are open to the public and allow for information sharing and networking. In addition to the forums, an e-newsletter called Partner Update is distributed to all 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 the businesses in the Fairfax-Falls Church

community. The effort is being coordinated through a subcommittee of the Governing Board, chaired by Kathy Albarado, 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**, 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

**Ronald F. Christian**, Chairman  
Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority

**Conrad Egan**, Senior Advisor  
Affordable Housing Institute

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

**Robin Gardner**, Former Mayor, City of Falls Church

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

**Rabbi David Kalender**, Rabbi, Congregation Olam Tikvah.

**William H. Lauer**, President, Tetra Partnerships

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

**Robert F. Lederer**, Mayor, City of Fairfax

**Rodney Lusk**, Senior Business Development Manager  
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.

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

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

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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.

 **TARGET®**

## Take Action

Homelessness is a real problem in our community.

You can make an impact. **Today.**

There are many ways you, your organization or your family can impact homelessness and advance our community's goal to prevent and end it in 10 years. Donate funds, organize a food drive or volunteer your talents and time. Anything you can do will help those most vulnerable in our community.

To find out more about how you can help, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless)



### DONATE

**Give as much as you can.**

Donate funds to the Partnership to End Homelessness/CFNCR fund.

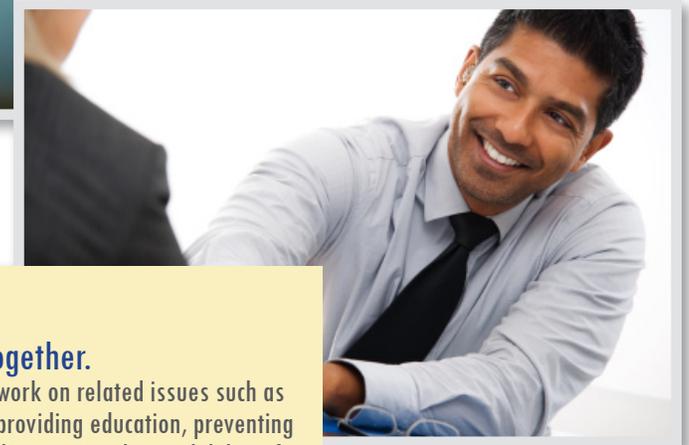
100 percent of your donation will impact our most vulnerable neighbors.



### VOLUNTEER

**Share your talents and your time.**

Offer support that would be most beneficial to local nonprofit organizations, faith-based communities and government agencies helping families and single adults who are homeless.



### EDUCATE

**Find solutions together.**

Discuss how you can work on related issues such as paying living wages, providing education, preventing domestic violence and increasing the availability of affordable housing.

# Building Momentum

### The year ahead.

It has been my sincere pleasure to lead the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. In moving forward into the new year, we look to build upon the tremendous momentum and accomplishments achieved by our community through our partnership of so many committed nonprofit, faith-based, business and government entities.

We are living in very challenging economic times and anticipate this upcoming year to be the same. It is my hope that through the increased commitment from our community, we will collectively be able to continue to leverage existing resources, to bring in new resources, as well as additional partners to continue the implementation of our collaborative and innovative approaches towards ending homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church community.

During the past year, we have successfully prevented and diverted hundreds of individuals and families from falling into homelessness through the use of new federal stimulus funds. Due to the enormous demand for immediate assistance with basic needs, such as food and shelter, we have fully expended more than \$1 million of these funds in just one year. More than \$2 million in additional funds from the TANF (Temporary

Assistance for Needy Families) emergency funds were also used to provide assistance to families in need. These types of resources help our most vulnerable residents and remain critical to our efforts to prevent homelessness, rapidly re-housing people at risk of homelessness, and thus effectively moving toward ending homelessness. To fill in the gaps, we are now actively exploring other options to secure similar types of resources from businesses, philanthropic entities, government agencies and faith-based communities.

In order to reach our goal of ending homelessness, we have committed to make more than 2,650 housing units available to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness over a 10-year period of time. This past year we made some strides toward this goal, however, in order to reach our goal we need to increase awareness and build support on the issue of affordable housing within our community. We welcome your support and involvement as we continue to work on this challenge.

We will be seeing some changes to our efforts as mandated by the McKinney-Vento Act as amended by HEARTH legislation. These changes will affect our community and others throughout the country who work on the issues surrounding

ending homelessness. These changes will impact our federal funding levels as well as the need for increased communitywide data collection, implementation of innovative strategies and decisions on reallocation of resources. However, these changes also will provide added energy, opportunity and attention to the issue of ending homelessness.

During the next year, we will rely upon our collective work to engage partners from all sectors of our community to be part of the solutions for preventing and ending homelessness. We need your help in reaching our critical goals and welcome your ongoing financial, in-kind and volunteer support. We recognize the importance of the role of each and every person in our community in the complex solutions to ending homelessness. I encourage you to visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/give](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/give) to find out how you can be part of our community partnership, how you can get involved and support our work as we move forward.

I extend heartfelt appreciation for all you have done and cheerfully thank you in advance for making this new year a tremendous success.

**Dean H. Klein**  
Director, Fairfax County Office to  
Prevent and End Homelessness



“ I extend heartfelt appreciation for all you have done and cheerfully thank you in advance for making this new year a tremendous success.