

Thurman Brisben Center



Thurman Brisben Center (TBC), Planning District 16's only programmatic shelter serving homeless individuals and families, has released its annual report of activities from July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010. The 80-bed facility provided shelter for 579 households comprised of 761 unduplicated individuals (596 adults and 165 children) during the program year. The breakdown of where each resident lived prior to entering TBC is outlined below:

Jurisdiction	Fredericksburg	Spotsylvania	Stafford	King George	Caroline	Other VA	Out of State
Individuals Served	242	252	182	33	37	9	6
Percentage of Total	32%	33%	24%	4%	5%	1%	1%

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WEBSITE TO PUSH FOR MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

There is a new resource for those who want to get involved in providing more affordable housing in Virginia. A new website has been created for Gov. Bob McDonnell's Housing Policy Advisory Committee. The website contains information about the initiative, including meeting dates and other information.

The committee is seeking comments and ideas on ways to provide affordable housing, promoting sustainable communities and addressing the needs of the homeless. An interim housing policy report will be presented at the Governor's Housing Conference in November.

Online: www.virginiahousingpolicy.com



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Save The Dates Save The Dates

Homeward's Regional Conference on Best Practices to Prevent and End Homelessness

Wednesday, October 20, 2010— 8am-5pm

Capital One Town Center

15000 Capital One Drive

Richmond, VA 23238

Registration Fee Applies

804-343-2045

www.homewardva.org

Summit on Family & Youth Homelessness

Thursday, October 21, 2010—9am-5pm

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

1800 Lakeside Avenue

Richmond, VA 23228

Registration Fee Applies

Meredith@vceh.org

www.vceh.org

2010 Annual Statewide Legal Aid Conference

Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2010—Friday, Nov. 5, 2010

Holiday Inn Koger Conference Center

1021 Koger Center Boulevard

Richmond, VA 23235

804-782-9430 ext. 10

www.vplc.org

2010 Governor's Housing Conference

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010—Friday, Nov. 19, 2010

Richmond Marriott

500 East Broad Street

Richmond, VA 23219

804-643-3400

www.vagovernorshousingconference.com



HOMELESS INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) award Quin Rivers, Inc. the Homeless Intervention Program (HIP) grant to prevent homelessness through the provision of supportive services, security deposits, and rental and mortgage assistance to individuals and families throughout Planning District 16. DHCD provided the awards through an appropriation from the State General Fund.

The objective of HIP is to provide grant funds for temporary rental or mortgage assistance and supportive services related to housing and financial literacy in order to achieve permanent housing.

To be eligible, applicants must be homeless or in imminent threat of homelessness. This must be verifiable by a five-day pay or quit notice, unlawful detainer notice, letter from a shelter, or 30-day notice from the mortgage company.

The family/individual must have an unavoidable crisis (illness, hospitalization, lay off from employment, loss of transportation, etc). The crisis must be temporary, unforeseen and not chronic.

The family/individual must have been self-sufficient prior to the crisis and be able to maintain self-sufficiency after receiving the assistance. Self-sufficiency is defined as having a steady employment history, stable rental/mortgage history, etc. A credit report will also be requested prior to approval.

All other resources must be exhausted before assistance can be given. Participation in the HIP program is limited to once per lifetime. Clients are required to attend a financial fitness workshop prior to receiving financial assistance.

Prescreening by phone is the first step in applying for the program. Prescreening interviews are conducted on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month from 10am – 1pm. The Prevention Call Center Hotline telephone number is 540-368-2484.

Tess Harris
Housing Counselor
540-368-2700



NOFA NEWS



On July 7, 2010, U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan announced nearly \$190 million in new grants to assist nearly 20,000 homeless individuals and families through 550 projects across the country. The funding was made available through the Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance Grant with the purpose to reduce the incidence of homelessness in CoC communities by assisting homeless individuals and families to move to self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

One of the beneficiaries of this new funding is Micah Ecumenical Ministries. The local non-profit organization was awarded \$63,264 over a two year period to support the Journey Program to benefit chronically homeless individuals living in the Fredericksburg region. Through this program, rental subsidies will be provided to open the door to permanent housing for at least 12 individuals who have been continuously struggling with homelessness for a year or more or who have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years (HUD’s definition of chronically homeless). In addition, Micah will leverage other resources to ensure that the newly housed individuals will have stability in their residence and work toward financial independence over the subsidy period and beyond.

Micah’s 2009 application (announced in 2010) is the first new HUD money that the Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care has been awarded since 2007 when it earned a grant for a new Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Since that time, the CoC has scored considerably below the funding line required for new projects. For the 2008 grant cycle, the CoC scored only 57.75 points out of 100 due to the large percentage of requested funding dedicated solely to providing services and no requests for funding dedicated to permanent housing. Following the scoring announcement, the Fredericksburg Regional CoC and its member agencies, consisting of local government, social services, and non-profit organizations, worked diligently to strengthen its membership, core elements, and focus on finding housing solutions. For the 2009 grant cycle, the considerable effort was finally recognized by HUD as the CoC earned 77.75 points, 6.5 points above the funding line.

2009 National Scoring Information

High Score: 91.25

Low Score: 43

Median Score: 75

Funding Line: 71.25

FR CoC SCORE: 77.75

2008 National Scoring Information

High Score: 92.0

Low Score: 35.75

Median Score: 78.5

Funding Line: 78.25

FR CoC SCORE: 57.75

Agencies are currently preparing for the 2010 CoC Homeless Assistance Grant cycle. On September 20, 2010, HUD released its Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) which establishes the funding criteria for the grant. HUD is making available approximately \$1.68 billion in Fiscal Year 2010 for the programs.

While nationally, the CoC applications are due to HUD on November 18, 2010, the Fredericksburg Regional CoC’s Grant Writing Committee has set an internal deadline of October 31, 2010, to receive applications (Exhibit 2s) from member agencies. **These applications must be submitted through HUD’s ESNAPS system by midnight on October 31, 2010.** This will enable the CoC’s membership to consider the applications for a formal vote at its regular meeting on **November 10, 2010**, prior to the national deadline.

3 For more information about the 2010 CoC application please visit: www.hudhre.info.



Spotsylvania Department of Social Services

Invites you to participate in

HOLIDAY HOPE 2010

A Campaign to Help Those in Need

Each holiday season the staff at the Spotsylvania Department of Social Services, with the help of many volunteers, coordinates the delivery of food baskets and gifts to needy families in Spotsylvania County. We served over 1,500 families last year, thanks to the generous donations from members of the Spotsylvania County Community.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

SPONSOR, individually or as a group, a needy family or families for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas

- **Donate new toys, books, gifts, food, new coats and/or gift cards**
- **Offer your business as a site to collect Holiday Hope gifts**
- **Please Contact:**

Lori Weresnick
Spotsylvania Dept. of Social Services
Holiday Hope Program
P O Box 249
Spotsylvania, VA 22553
540-507-7896
Lori.Weresnick@dss.virginia.gov



It's Holiday Hope time!! Even though summer has just ended and the kids have only been in school for a month. The Holiday Hope program is unique, it matches people willing to help (sponsors) with community residents in need. You know exactly how your money is spent because you are able to deliver the gifts to the family yourself, or donate an item through a church, the schools, or as a group (i.e. friends, book club, bowling league, co-workers, or neighbors). If you are interested in sponsoring a child or donating items, please call Lori Weresnick, the Volunteer Services Coordinator at Spotsylvania Social Services, at 540-507-7896 or e-mail Lori.Weresnick@dss.virginia.gov. The Department of Social Services with the help of Spotsylvania residents, businesses, churches and other organization was able to provide food and gifts to over 6,007 individuals in need last year.

REPORT PROJECTS THAT HOMELESSNESS AMONG ELDERLY PEOPLE WILL INCREASE 33% BY 2020; MORE THAN DOUBLE BY 2050

Article Courtesy of National Alliance to End Homelessness

In a report examining homelessness among elderly people released on April 1, 2010, the National Alliance to End Homelessness projects and increase in the number of elderly people experiencing homelessness in the decades to come. The Alliance predicts that the elderly homelessness population will increase by 33 percent by 2020 and more than double by 2050.

These predictions, as the report explains, are based on the existing data on homelessness among the elderly population, as well as data on the rate of poverty and deep poverty among elderly people, the current rate of homelessness among older adults, and the anticipated increase in the size of the elderly population. Also considered was the incidence of severe housing cost burden among the elderly population, the reliance of many elderly people on federal affordable housing programs, and the causes of homelessness among the elderly.

The report also provides a review of the research about homelessness among the elderly, as well as current federal housing and service programs targeted at the older homeless population. Findings suggests that, as the “baby boomer” generation becomes senior citizens, existing federal services—including Social Security, Medicare, and housing assistance programs for the elderly—will be critical for meeting the challenge of an increased elderly homeless population.

Policy recommendations include:

- Increase the supply of subsidized affordable housing for economically vulnerable elderly persons.

- Create sufficient permanent supportive housing units to end chronic homelessness.

- Advance research to better understand the needs of the elderly homeless population.

“Homelessness among elderly people indicates that our safety nets are failing some of our most vulnerable citizens,” said Nan Roman, president of the Alliance. “As our country forges ahead to improve the world for those who will come after us, let us not neglect those who have come before us. Let us honor their progress and perseverance by allowing them to age with dignity”.

The full report and corresponding information can be found on the National Alliance to End Homelessness website.

The disAbility Resource Center

409 Progress Street

Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

Phone: 540-373-2559 ■ Fax: 540-373-8126 ■ TTY: 540-373-5890 ■ Toll Free: 800-648-6324

Website: www.cildrc.org



*Join the
disAbility Resource Center
and other community organizations at*

*The 4th Annual
disAbility Resource Center
Community Information Fair*

*Saturday, October 23
9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Spotsylvania Towne Centre Mall
Food Court*

Find out what your community has to offer!

HOMELESSNESS IN VIRGINIA

Approximately 9,800 Virginians experience homelessness on any given night in Virginia
It is estimated 21,000 more Virginians will experience homelessness over the next two years
due to the recession if we do not intervene

For every 10,000 Virginians, 13 experience homelessness on any given night
12.93 percent of Virginians pay more than 50% of their household income on housing; putting
many at risk of homelessness

Over the course of a year, 40,000—50,000 Virginians experience homelessness

Veterans make up a disproportionate share of people experiencing homelessness



Source: Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness

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Another 526 individuals were denied shelter due to lack of space. The breakdown of prior address of the un-served is outlined below:

Jurisdiction	Fredericksburg	Spotsylvania	Stafford	King George	Caroline	Other VA	Out of State
Individuals Served	130	73	64	17	17	165	60
Percentage of Total	24.7%	13.9%	12.2%	3.2%	3.2%	31.4%	11.4%

Of those served, 483 individuals (63%) were experiencing their first episode of homelessness. The average length of stay for each resident was 33.6 days and upon exiting the facility, 43% of individuals returned to permanent housing.

A total of 25,559 bed-nights were utilized by residents at Thurman Brisben Center. The total number of possible bed nights available for the year is 29,200 (80 beds x 365 days). This gives TBC a total of 87.5 % bed utilization rate.

For July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011, TBC will provide many services beyond providing shelter. Many of these are carryovers or expansions of programs that were available during the 2009-2010 program year.

Specific Weekly Activities FY10/FY11

Sunday: NA (Narcotic Anonymous)
Job Help

Monday: Bible Study (switches between two different churches)

Tuesday: Life Skills *Organizations providing training are Rappahannock Legal Services, Central Virginia Housing Coalition, Rappahannock Council on Domestic Violence, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Fredericksburg Area HIV/AIDS Support Services, RappTapp (training on STDs), Child Protective Services, and Planned Parenting*

Job Help

Parenting

Children's Enrichment Activities *Activities such as cooking and nutrition, gardening, community service (children are making little bears to be given to hospitalized children and Christmas Cards for soldiers overseas), health (such as how to brush your teeth properly, the need to bath daily, etc) and Sumba class*

Home Depot Kids Workshop (once monthly)

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Wednesday: Job Help
AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)
Read Aloud/Bridge to Books
Second Step (promotes proper emotions for youth)

Thursday: Birthday Party (monthly)
GED
Bible Study
EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) in season
Bounce Back (Youth Resiliency Support Group)

Friday: Bible Study
Eligibility Worker from Fredericksburg Social Services
WIC worker from Stafford Social Services

Saturday: Bible Study

MISSION

To provide at-risk and homeless men, women and children of Planning District 16 with appropriate and essential shelter and services to affect positive life changes.

STRATEGY

Our vision and goal are to equip Center residents to return to productive and independent lives. Our strategy is to provide training, education, and referral to transitional and low-cost housing. Our doors are open to anyone without regard to age, gender, race, color, creed or national origin.

The above are the present standard activities. Beyond these, TBC has many Special Events during the year with such activities as professional photographers taking family portraits, professional hair dressers doing haircuts & styles, musicians performing, etc.

There is a holiday event for adults and children for Easter, Independence Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve. For Christmas, the children participate in making Angel Cookies, Shop with a Cop, Visit with the Snow Queen and Breakfast with Santa at Applebee's.

Children attend a 6 week summer camp with the Boys & Girls Club during summer break, which is sponsored in part by GEICO.

Additional information about the Thurman Brisben Center is available on by visiting the website: www.brisbencenterv.org.

Thurman Brisben Center

471 Central Road * PO Box 1295 * Fredericksburg, VA 22402

