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10 Year Plan success stories

INSIGHTS AND INSPIRATIONS FROM ARLINGTON'S 10 YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

Thanks to an innovative new partnership, women re-entering the community from incarceration have a new resource that helps them overcome one of their biggest challenges: finding stable housing while they work to put their lives back together.

Wesley Housing and Guest House Partner for Housing Program

Wesley Housing Development Corporation, Inc. and Friends of Guest House, Inc. have teamed up to create a four-person shared home for women in re-entry from incarceration. The single family Arlington home owned by Wesley Housing Development Corporation has been vacant pending re-development. With \$27,000 in assistance from Arlington County Community Development Block Grant funds, and Arlington County's Housing Grant Program providing rental assistance to qualified tenants, the home now provides shared housing for four women in the Guest House re-entry program.

Women who enter the community after incarceration for non-violent crimes typically make this critical transition with little or no income and limited job skills, and enter a leasing market that screens out tenants with criminal backgrounds. These challenges can be impacted

with a second chance approach and support from community groups such as Wesley Housing Development Corporation and Guest House. Wesley will continue its substantial financial contributions to the repair and maintenance costs of the home and Guest House will continue to link the women to community resources, employment, training and other necessary services for further self-sufficiency.

Wesley Housing Development Corporation goes beyond providing affordable housing by offering a range of supportive services for the children, adults, seniors and disabled individuals served by the organization.

Friends of Guest House and its programs have served more than 1,000 women since 1981. The group's board of directors and professional, dedicated staff are committed to making a difference in women's lives.



Friends of Guest House is a 501(c) 3 organization that offers structure, supervision, support and assistance to female ex-offenders who sincerely want to improve their lives and break the cycle of incarceration. Friends of Guest House offers the only program for women of its kind in Northern Virginia, and receives countless inquiries every year. Why? Because the program works, and residents leave with hope and a brighter future.



ABOUT THE 10 YEAR PLAN

Arlington is navigating the recession better than most localities, yet we still have many people struggling to feed their family or maintain stable housing. Arlington's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness was adopted by the County Board in 2006 as a blueprint for action. It engages all sectors of the community in a coordinated effort to prevent homelessness before it happens, to rapidly move people who do become homeless into housing, and to provide the "wrap-around services" necessary for people to maintain their housing and lead stable lives. Everyone can play a part in the fight to end homelessness in Arlington. Learn how you can help at www.arlingtonva.us; keyword: homeless.

2011 Point-in-Time Survey

Arlington County experienced a 13% decrease in the number of homeless persons counted on January 26, 2011. The reduction comes mainly in the number of street homeless persons counted and hopefully indicates that programs and services are working.

Additional factors may have affected January's count. The count was originally to take place the day a severe winter storm struck the region, but was pushed back a day. Neighboring jurisdictions did not experience similar drops in the number of homeless individuals despite battling the same weather conditions. Additionally, one site normally used in the count was not available.

ARLINGTON HOMELESS COUNT BY CATEGORY					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	% Change 2010 to 2011
Total Number Counted	410	527	531	461	13% decrease
Number of Singles	284	338	347	268	22% decrease
Number of Families	41	57	61	65	6% increase
Number of Persons in Families	126	189	184	193	5% increase
Adults in Families	45	71	76	81	6% increase
Children in Families	81	118	108	112	4% increase

Highlights from the Point-in-Time Count include:

- The number of chronically homeless identified increased by 33% from 2010 to 2011. A total of 154 persons were counted.
- Of the 268 homeless singles counted, 83% (223) were male.
- Of the total of adults in families (81) counted, 79% of the were female.
- Adults in families have a higher percentage (74%) of persons working compared to adult singles, with only 25% of persons working.
- 149 single adults had no income compared to 8 adults in families not having income.
- The number of persons being identified as chronic substance abusers, seriously mentally ill, or dually diagnosed has decreased over the past four years. In 2008, 189 persons were counted as having one of the above subpopulations compared to 117 in 2011.

FUNDING UPDATE

Arlington's elected officials appreciate and value the importance of human services. All together, the County Board added over \$1.5M in new human services funding to the FY 2012 budget. The Board also provided an additional \$1.5 million to the Affordable Housing Investment Fund.

Arlington Food Assistance Center – \$25,870 in one-time funding to meet increased demand for supplemental food

Child mental health services – \$327,003 in ongoing funds for a Juvenile Court liaison, contract manager, and two mental health therapists to improve services to children

Jail-based mental health – \$80,000 for a mental health therapist to serve persons with serious mental illness at the detention center

Job Avenue – \$100,000 in one-time funding for contracted services to expand supported employment opportunities for persons with mental illness

Doorways for Women and Children – \$163,054 to stabilize critical safety net provider

Vertical Village – \$30,000 in one-time funds for concierge two-year pilot program serving older adults

Partnership for a Healthier Arlington – \$130,000 for early intervention two-year pilot to combat adolescent substance abuse

Housing Grants – \$224,561 in one-time funds to meet demand for rental assistance

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program – \$250,000 for an emergency rental needs pilot for single adults leaving Arlington shelters

Arlington Free Clinic – \$40,000 in one-time funds for developer to raise funds to expand services to provide a medical home for clinic clients

Arlington Neighborhood Health Services, Inc – \$40,000 in one-time funds to offset grant reduction for primary medical care provided on-site at County behavioral healthcare facility

Arlington Street People's Assistance Network – \$70,000 for one and a half additional outreach workers

Northern Virginia Family Services – \$59,000 restoration of Healthy Families state budget reduction

10YP NEWS

Tony Turnage to Represent Arlington on Governor's Advisory Committee



Arlington County Homeless Programs Coordinator Tony Turnage has been named to the Governor's Homeless Outcomes Advisory Committee.

In November 2010 the committee presented Gov. Bob McDonnell a plan to leverage state resources more effectively; maximize the effectiveness of state services and resources for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; and realize efficiencies through enhanced coordination and shared resources among state agencies. The committee will now turn its attention to five key goals:

- Increasing the number of permanent supportive housing units in the Commonwealth.
- Increasing flexibility of funding to prevent homelessness and support rapid re-housing for individuals.
- Improving statewide data collection and system coordination.
- Increasing access to substance abuse and mental health treatment.
- Evaluating, developing and ensuring implementation of statewide, pre-discharge policies for the foster care system, hospitals, mental health facilities and correctional facilities.