

# Third Annual MORE THAN MONEY



NOVEMBER 4, 2008

*Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.*

**pcf**  
Portsmouth **COMMUNITY** Foundation

# Homelessness in America—a devastating but solvable problem

- The New Deal—1930s: the first large-scale federal initiative to aid the needy
- War on Poverty—1960s: Medicare, Head Start, expanded welfare roles

There has been a historic withdrawal of Federal support for creation and operation of low-income housing since the 1980s.

Part of the problem:

- The economy has shifted from manufacturing to the service sector
- Low-income men are more likely to turn to crime than women
- Having a poor parent is hard on children. Having an uninvolved, and often incarcerated, parent is worse.



10-30% of the general population and 70% of people living in homelessness have substance abuse or mental health issues

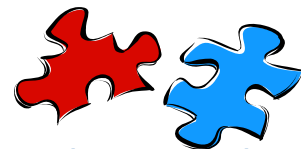
- Addiction inhibits a person's ability to work, destroys families, and ruins social relationships. It erodes self respect; it creates and sustains homelessness.
- Chronic drinking and drug use go hand in hand with homelessness. It often results in tuberculosis, AIDS, severe dental problems, and malnutrition.

# BEST PRACTICES

- Most people living in homelessness have full-time jobs
  - The cost of emergency shelter, Medical & Incarceration is \$40,000 per year per person
  - One in ten poor children and adults experience homelessness each year
  - 47% of workers say they always or usually live paycheck to paycheck, according to a nationwide survey by CareerBuilder.com
- On an annualized basis, at least 1.7 million youth run away from home due to severe family conflict, abuse or neglect, or are expelled from their home by a family member.
  - Children having lived in an unstable housing situation are more likely to live in homelessness as an adult
- Life expectancy of a person living in homelessness is 30 years less than for other Americans
  - 92% of women living in homelessness having experienced severe physical or sexual abuse. 60% of them have been abused by age 12, and 63% have been victims of intimate partner violence as adults.

# POINTS OF ENTRY

- Prison or Jail (number of prisoners in America has tripled in the last 20 years)
- Foster Care (20% of foster care children become homeless after high school graduation)
- Family Violence
- Chronic/Street
- Addiction or Mental Illness (Medicaid does not cover substance abuse or adult dental services)
- Financial or Personal Crisis (in 2005, 16.8% or 15,896 Portsmouth people were living below poverty (these people are a paycheck or illness away from homelessness))



Portsmouth's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness recognizes that moral, ethical, economic, opportunity, and human capital costs of not addressing homelessness are unacceptable.



## Federal definition of “homeless”

- An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
- An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is:
  - Supervised publicly or privately operated shelter providing temporary living accommodations;
  - An institution that provides temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized;
  - Or a public or private place not designed as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

**Chronic Homeless**—a single, unaccompanied adult with disabling conditions that has been continuously homeless for more than one year.

- Does not count people in hotels or motels, jails or prisons, or staying with family or friends temporarily
- There are less resources available for single adults

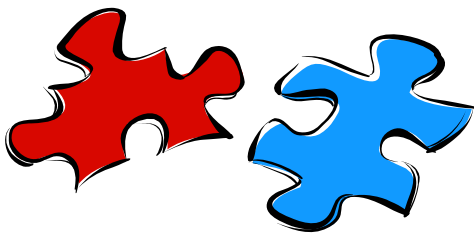
# BEST PRACTICES

- Housing First
- Effective use of Homeless Information Management System to project housing needs

Portsmouth's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness recognizes that moral, ethical, economic, opportunity, and human capital costs of not addressing homelessness are unacceptable.

The plan reflects Portsmouth's responsible commitment of resources, focus of leadership, and persistence of effort to eradicate homelessness in Portsmouth.

It engages the entire community to put into action the City Council's vision of Bold Leadership for the Future.



Point-In-Time Count January 2008 =222

(The actual number is often double or triple that of the Point-In-Time Count)

## Four simultaneous goals:

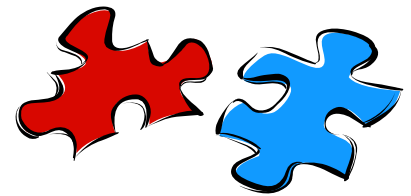
- Plan for Outcomes—using HMIS
- Close the Front Door—focus on prevention
- Open the Back Door—expand capacity for permanent housing and supportive services
- Build the infrastructure (navigating mainstream resources)

## Strategies:

- Prevent homelessness
- Increase availability and access to safe, sustainable, low-income housing
- Enhance coordination of service delivery
- Support self-sufficiency
- Increase access to medical, dental, and vision services
- Increase availability of mental health and substance abuse services
- Ensure provision of basic needs
- Expand services to “non-mandated” populations

# The Resources:

- Portsmouth Self Sufficiency Project (PSSP):
  - Portsmouth Area Resource Coalition (PARC)
  - Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless (PVH)
  - Portsmouth Christian Outreach Ministries (PCOM)
  - Oasis Social Ministry
- Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Department of Health (DH)
- Department of Behavioral Healthcare Services (DBHS)
- Help and Emergency Response (HER)
- Virginia Supportive Housing
- The STOP Organization
- The Planning Council
- Salvation Army Portsmouth/West Chesapeake



## Portsmouth's Plan is recognized by United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

Together Everyone Achieves More

- Emergency Shelter (132 beds)
  - PARC (30) - shelter for families
  - DBHS—hotel vouchers for single adults
  - PVH (60) - roving shelter for single adults
  - HER (42) - shelter for families and single adults
  - DSS - single adults and families

## Permanent Supportive Housing (58 beds):

- Portsmouth Area Resources Coalition (10) - single adults
- Portsmouth Department of Behavioral Healthcare Services (42) - families and single adults
- Virginia Supportive Housing: Gosnold Apartments (6) - single adults

Together Everyone Achieves More

## Transitional Housing (76 beds):

- PCOM (27) - families and single adults
- PARC (44) - families and single adults
- DBHS—voucher program for families and single adults
- PARC (10) - single adults
- Virginia Supportive Housing (6) - Gosnold Apartments—single adults

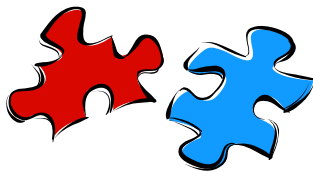


## Other services:

- Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia—rental assistance and supportive services for single adults and families
- The Salvation Army—rental assistance and supportive services for single adults and families
- Oasis Social Ministry—single adults

## Together **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore

- Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia—rental assistance and supportive services for single adults and families
- The Salvation Army Portsmouth/West Chesapeake—rental assistance and supportive services for single adults and families
- The STOP Organization—financial assistance
- The Planning Council—supportive services and rental assistance



## FUNDING PRIORITIES

- PARC—reduction of barriers to living independently
- DBHS—supportive housing for those with mental illness
- PARC—supportive family living program
- PVH—outreach and temporary shelter program
- Oasis Social Ministry—life skills and job skills training, and employment search

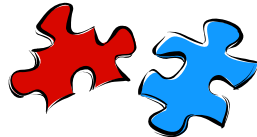
# NON-EMERGENCY HOUSING

Permanent Supportive Housing—39

Transitional Housing—87

Emergency Shelter—year round—72

TOTAL HOUSING AVAILABLE = 198



## FUNDING & RESOURCES

- Virginia Supportive Housing— Single Room Occupancy (SRO)
- PARC
- Oasis Social Ministry
- DBHS
- Commonwealth of Virginia—shelter support, child care, social services, Health, child services coordinator
- Local foundations
- Concerned citizens
- Civic Leagues
- Houses of Worship

## REGIONAL STRATEGY AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Comprehensive residential treatment for those with serious mental illness
- Residential substance abuse resource
- Permanent supportive housing



# STAR ACHIEVERS—Oasis Opportunity Center

**Robert Jones**—A one-year client of OOC, Mr. Jones is employed at American Sign and Flag Company. His philosophy is: “If you don’t want to climb a ladder, then you will crawl the rest of your life”

**Lorita Woodson**—A three-year client of OOC, Ms. Woodson has been employed by Tidewater Staffing for two years and is employed by Earl Industries Shipyard. Ms. Woodson’s philosophy is “The Golden Rule”: do under others as you would have them to do unto you”

**Hubert Whigham**—A one-year client of OOC, Mr. Whigham is employed at Tidewater Community College and the Portsmouth Commissary. His philosophy: “Living and trusting in God is the only way to survive and be successful”

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Volunteer your time and talents
- Stay informed and advocate
- Make homelessness one of your top three charitable giving areas
- Talk to your legislators about the issues
- Be conscious of your bounty and help harvest the good in everyone



# SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

*Judi E. Luffman, Executive Director, The Portsmouth Community Foundation*

*Suzanne Puryear, Executive Director, The Planning Council*

*Annie White-Guertin, Portsmouth Homeless Action Consortium*

*William Park, Executive Director, Portsmouth Department of Behavioral Healthcare Services*

*Reynold W. ("Rusty") Jordan, Jr., Director, Portsmouth Department of Social Services*

*The information presented today was not meant to address all aspects of dealing with fellow citizens living in homelessness. Today's purpose was to celebrate Portsmouth's progress toward helping people reach self-sufficiency and to garner support for the charities and agencies helping every person in the devastating position of living in homelessness. Together we can restore hope and build a strong and caring community.*

*Judi E. Luffman  
Executive Director  
The Portsmouth Community Foundation*

## Be a part of a caring community.

For information about how The Portsmouth Community Foundation can help you achieve your charitable dreams and share your legacy, call Judi E. Luffman, Executive Director. Phone: 397-5424

We have tools to help you decide: when to give, what to give, and to whom to give. 3 Easy Steps.

Donor Advised Funds—Scholarship Funds—Designated Funds—Field of Interest Funds—Memorial Funds—Unrestricted Funds.

We're here for you, for today, and for tomorrow.