

Plymouth Taskforce to end Homelessness
President's Report
2017

Overnights of Hospitality Program

We ended our thirteenth season of providing emergency sheltering in March, 2017. Over the 2016-17 season, we provided a total of 1,234 beds for 58 different individuals, averaging 9.8 guests per night. Our highest total was 19 just for one night and our season low was 3. There were over 200 volunteers from 25 different congregations and from the community at large who served as hosts and meal providers.

The Taskforce also provided hotel stays for 6 women for a total of 10 nights.

In the fall, we began our third season in collaboration with Fr. Bill's/Mainspring which provides us with one paid chaperone which we supplement with one volunteer chaperone.

Meal Train+ continues to be a valuable tool for signing up individuals to chaperone and prepare and serve meals. We were fortunate to gain six new volunteers to serve as chaperones.

For the past three years, the Taskforce has also been providing rental assistance to folks in danger of losing their housing. For 2017, 26 such individuals received help. We also provide gas cards and funds for securing ID's and prescriptions.

The weekly shower program continued when supervisors were available.

Next Step House

The Next Step was fully occupied with eight permanent residents and two house managers.

Next Step II

There are four formerly homeless women in residence with a house manager.

Government Housing Support

To date, with federal and state funding, including Section Eights, through Fr. Bill's/Mainspring and Taskforce support of the Next Step House, over 60 individuals have entered permanent housing.

Housing Solutions

The Taskforce is very fortunate to have been the recipient of Community Preservations funds which allowed us to buy Next Step I and II. We are in process of developing a proposal to present to Town Meeting for the purchase of a fourth property located in Manomet which will give us seven units – 2 of which are single bedrooms and 5 are double bedrooms.

In addition, the Taskforce is looking to buy a piece of land of about 2-3 acres, centrally located, on which to erect a building which would contain 12-15 studios, some commercial space for offices and a backdoor emergency shelter. A subcommittee, chaired by Rick Edwards and Barbara Wojtklewicz, was formed to investigate the possibilities.

Point in Time Homeless Count

During the annual homeless count on January, 2017 we were able to identify 21 individuals – 7 were in the shelter, 11 were known to be on the streets, staying in tents in the hospital or staying elsewhere for that night.

Grants/Fundraising

Our eleventh annual golf tournament raised over \$19,000.

Frank Mand, board member and Old Colony reporter, is planning a walk starting from California back to Plymouth, beginning in 2019. Whatever funds he raises he will donate to the Taskforce. Go to <http://www.walkinghome.us/author/frank/> for further information.

Taskforce Website (Plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org) and Facebook Presence

Our website includes links for AmazonSmile and GoodSearch. By going through our website for Amazon purchases and using GoodSearch for web browsing, the Taskforce earns a percentage of sales. It is also possible to make donations through the website.

Goals for 2017

- Continue to explore more property for purchase.
- Seek and apply for additional grants
- Seek new fundraising avenues
- Increase membership and/or to do a general fundraising campaign
- Work with Father Bill's/Mainspring to develop a Resource Center

In closing, I would like to personally thank all of our board members who, in addition to attending monthly board meetings, also assisted in other ways:

- Kathy Dayan for taking our minutes
- Alan Schwartz for overseeing our finances
- Ted Gwilliam and Scott Downie for chaperoning above and beyond
- Jack Ryan for serving as Property Manager of the Next Step Houses
- Barbara Wojtkiewicz, for co-chairing the Golf Tournament

Thanks once again to John Malloy for co-chairing the Golf Tournament. Also, I would like to thank all of the 2016-17 site coordinators – Ray Tompkins, Martha Zinger, Irene Caldwell, Mary Bell, and Lawrence Silverman.

A huge thank you to Ray Tompkins and the rest of the members of First Baptist for offering their church as a host site and serving as site coordinators for the 2017-18 season. Also thanks to Nancy Carini and her crew of Second Church for taking on the responsibility of doing the laundry at the end of every week.

Finally, the success of the Overnight program was due to the many, many other people who volunteered their time to host, to prepare a meal, to provide transportation, or who assisted in any other way

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Melahoures
President