

Plymouth Taskforce for the Homeless
President's Report
2006

Overnights of Hospitality Program

We ended our second season of providing emergency sheltering in March, 2006. Over the 2005-2006 season, we provided a total of 957 beds for 41 different individuals, averaging 6.2 guests per night. The Church of the Pilgrimage voted to offer their space, making a total of 6 participating in the rotation. There were 140 volunteers from nine different congregations and from the community at large who served as chaperones and meal providers.

In April, we held our second annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast.

We began our third season at the end of October. By the end of December we were seeing an average of 8 men per night, with sometimes as many as 14 on a given night. On Christmas Eve, the Taskforce put up 5 men at the Radisson.

Next Step House

Six men are currently living in the Step House. The use of volunteers to staff the house at night was becoming problematic. Fortunately, one of the residents was deemed capable to serve as house manager, thus providing a consistent presence in the house.

The Taskforce sought to develop a partnership with Father Bill's Place in Quincy with the hope that organization would help us to purchase the Nahill duplex, half of which we were using as a sober house for 6 men. After several meetings with John Yaswinski, the Executive Director, we learned that the purchase of the house was not feasible for his organization, but they were willing to continue to work with us in developing other resources.

Still being invested in the idea of using the house and its possible purchase, the Taskforce met with Dr. Nahill. He was agreeable to allow us continue to lease it to us for \$1,950 per month plus utilities on a month-to-month basis. This gave us some needed time to explore other possibilities.

Grants/Fundraising

The Taskforce applied for funding through the Community Preservation Act a second time and for the second time our application was refused. The Committee submitted a list of requirements it felt were not addressed in our application. We are hoping that a third try will lead to success.

On a more positive note, Eastern Bank was the source of a \$10,000 grant and Peter Gomes gave us another \$10,000. Other grants were received from the Rotary, the Lions, and the Polly Main Foundation.

We held our first very successful Golf Tournament in June which raised over \$5,000. The second annual Crop Walk brought in \$1,1000, an increase from last year's total. Thanks to Meg Bross and David Tassinari for chairing this event.

We are still awaiting confirmation of a HUD grant through McKinney-Vento.

In December, we learned that Father Bill's had been given a state grant (Home & Healthy for Good) to fund several units for homeless individuals in the Plymouth area, based on the Housing First Model. The Taskforce will work with Peggy Hall, a case manager employed by Father Bill's, to identify the individuals who would meet the guidelines of chronic homelessness and proven disabilities.

Peggy's job includes finding the appropriate apartments, getting them outfitted, and to monitor their progress.

Goals for 2007

Our goals for 2007 include:

- seeking and applying for grants, including re-applying for a CPA grant,
- holding fundraising events
- increasing membership and/or doing a general fundraising campaign
- recruiting more congregations to offer their space
- recruiting more volunteers to chaperone
- making use of volunteer social workers
- developing a website
- publishing more frequent newsletters,
- implementing the HMIS system for data collection

In closing, I would like to personally thank all of our board members – Judy Erikson for managing our funds, Jan Palmer-Tarbox for most often taking the minutes, Doris Johnson for producing publicity and attending meetings of the PCHA and other groups, David Tassinari, John Malloy, Jack Ryan, Pamela Daikh. all for their valuable insight and willingness to help with any thing that needed doing. Thanks to outgoing board members, Amy Palmer and Helen Evans and also to Helen for assisting with the nightly screening process. Finally the success of the Overnight program was due to the many people who volunteered their time to chaperone or to prepare a meal. Truly, God's work is being done!

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Melahoures
President