

Plymouth Taskforce for the Homeless
President's Report
2012

Overnights of Hospitality Program

We ended our eighth season of providing emergency sheltering in March, 2012. Over the 2011-12 season, we provided a total of 2,286 beds for 67 different individuals (the highest number in eight years), averaging 14.8 guests per night (also the highest average). One night, we had as many as twenty guests. There were over 174 volunteers from 19 different congregations and from the community at large who served as hosts and meal providers.

Beginning our ninth season, yet again we saw an increase in the numbers of individuals from the previous season coming to shelter.

We lost Beth Jacob as a host site as its Community Center was sold, bringing us down to five congregational host sites - Christ Church Parish, Zion Lutheran, First Parish Unitarian, Church of the Pilgrimage, and First Baptist. First Baptist was able to pick up another two weeks as it was no longer renting its space to a preschool program.

On Christmas Eve (2012), the Taskforce put up twenty-one men and two women at the Radisson. During the season, in emergency situations, we also put up a growing number of homeless women, each for a night or two in a hotel.

When available, John Malloy and Mike Watts supervised showers from once to twice per week.

Next Step House

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

The following renovations and repairs were completed:

368 Court St.– all bedrooms and kitchen walls were painted, new floor and cabinets installed in kitchen, bathroom remodeled with new tub installed.

370 Court St. – kitchen fully renovated with new cabinets and countertop and floor refinished, bathroom with shower installed.

Full house - Insulation was added, locks installed for bedrooms, the outside deck was painted, and the siding washed. Two refrigerators and one washing machine were replaced.

New Housing Initiative

The Taskforce identified an additional property to purchase. The process was begun to complete and submit an application for funding to Community Preservation Committee. It is expected that the Taskforce will receive necessary approvals for presentation to the spring town meeting in 2013.

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 forty individuals have entered permanent housing.

Unfortunately, no new subsidies became available in 2012.

Point in Time Homeless Count

During the annual homeless count on January 25th 2012, we were able to identify thirty-five individuals – seventeen were in the shelter, thirteen were known to be on the streets, staying in tents or staying elsewhere for that night. Five were double-ups or at risk. We continue to enter our data into the HMIS system as needed.

Grants/Fundraising

Our seventh annual golf tournament raised over \$14,000.

Through the Scrip Gift Card program, folks are offered the opportunity to buy gift cards from hundreds of companies. PTH earns a varying percentage of the sales. We hope that this program will continue to grow.

A series of three articles on homelessness in the Old Colony Memorial generated some donations and a few new volunteers.

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

Our annual volunteer breakfast was held in April.

Goals for 2013

- Complete purchase of second property
- Grow the Board of Directors
- Seek and apply for additional grants
- Seek new fundraising avenues
- Increase membership and/or to do a general fundraising campaign
- Recruit more congregations to offer their space
- Complete website
- Refine the organization of the Board

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:

- Jan Palmer-Tarbox for taking the minutes and helping with the Golf Tournament
- James Freedman for overseeing our finances
- Ted Gwilliam for chaperoning above and beyond and for doing work at the Next Step House
- Bob Hughes for help with the Golf Tournament
- Rich Pecorella for overseeing the Scrips program, chaperoning and driving,
- Jack Ryan for overseeing the remodeling at the Next Step House and for organizing the Annual Appreciation Volunteer Breakfast
- Pamela Daikh for help with the Golf Tournament
- Valerie Peck for driving
- Barbara Wojtkiewicz who has taken on the role of Assistant Coordinator for the Overnights program and for co-chairing the Golf Tournament

Thanks to John Malloy for co-chairing the Golf Tournament and supervising the shower program, Judy Erikson and Bill Corners for driving . A special thanks to Geroge Berardi who helps to transport gear every week. Also, I would like to thank all of the site coordinators – , Christine DeGowin, Jamie Cowen, Valerie Peck, Dell Hammond, Sarah Barnicle, Ray Tompkins, Lawrence Silverman, Dick Skinner, and Jim Wohlander.

Finally, the success of the Overnight program was due to the many, many other people who volunteered their time to host or to prepare a meal.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Melahoures
President

