

Plymouth Taskforce to end Homelessness
President's Report
2016

Overnights of Hospitality Program

We ended our twelfth season of providing emergency sheltering in March, 2016. Over the 2015-16 season, we provided a total of 1,717 beds for 43 different individuals, averaging 11.3 guests per night, another decrease from the previous season's totals. Our highest total was 19 just for one night and our season low was 5. There were over 150 volunteers from 22 different congregations and from the community at large who served as hosts and meal providers.

Beginning our thirteenth season, we actually have seen another decrease in numbers of those seeking shelter. This may be due to the fact that several have been housed or have moved on.

In the fall, we began our second 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 able to continue the weekly shower program supervised by Phil Izzo.

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 fifty individuals have entered permanent housing.

Five new MSRVP subsidies became available in 2016 which were used to house five in SRO's in town.

Point in Time Homeless Count

During the annual homeless count on January, 2016 we were able to identify 17 individuals – 7 were in the shelter, 10 were known to be on the streets, staying in tents or staying elsewhere for that night. For the first time, a summer count was performed in August. Twenty individuals were identified.

Grants/Fundraising

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

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:

- Jan Palmer-Tarbox for taking the minutes

- Phil Izzo or overseeing our finances and supervising showers
- 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 serving as Assistant Coordinator for the Overnights program and for co-chairing the Golf Tournament

It was with deep regret that we accepted the resignations of Jan Palmer-Tarbox and Philip Izzo from the Board of Directors. Jan was a founding member of the Taskforce and served as the Clerk since its inception. Phil served as our treasurer for two years. Thanks once again to John Malloy for co-chairing the Golf Tournament. Also, I would like to thank all of the 2015-16 site coordinators – Christine DeGowin, Leigh Lench, Martha Zinger and Lawrence Silverman.

A huge thank you to Ray Tompkins, Jeanne Hunter McCartin and the rest of the members of First Baptist for offering their church as a host site and serving as site coordinators for the 2016-17 season. Also to Nancy Carini 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