

Plymouth Taskforce to end Homelessness
President's Report
2022

Overnights of Hospitality Program

Our eighteenth season of providing emergency sheltering began in the fall of 2021 and continued up through the beginning of end of March 2022..

Statistics

2021- 2022	# of days	# of beds	Avg./night	Different
	127	1,232	9.7	54

For the 2021-22 season, three churches served as host sites – First Baptist, Christ Church, and St. Mary's Parish Center.

Meal Train Plus continued to be a valuable tool for recruiting individuals to chaperone and prepare and serve meals.

Preventing Homelessness

The Taskforce continued to provide rental assistance, gas cards, and funds for securing ID's and prescriptions. There was less need to put folks up into hotels as all three sites were able to accommodate women.

Laundry and Shower Programs

The Taskforce continued to provide funds for bi-weekly laundry supported by volunteers.

Next Step House – 368-370 Court St.

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

Next Step II – 366 Court St.

There were five formerly homeless women in residence with a house manager.

Government Housing Support

Over the last three years, FBMS through additional available state-funded subsidies, was able to move nineteen individuals from the shelter program into permanent supportive housing.

To date, there are approx.100 individuals who have been housed from the Plymouth shelter into supported units either in scattered site apartments or in the Taskforce-owned congregate housing units. Over time, many others have been able to move on into their own Section 8 apartments or into senior housing.

Housing Solutions

The Taskforce continued its search to buy a piece of land of about 1-3 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. There were a couple of promising properties that were investigated but unfortunately, became unavailable. Aside from looking for a major buildable project, the Taskforce continued to look for property similar to the ones it owns, but because of the tight housing market, as soon as property went on the market, it was sold the next day.

With the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), there is money available to develop affordable housing. It is critical that we find a suitable project as this money will be gone within three years.

Point in Time Homeless Count

During the annual homeless count on February 23, 2022 which was later than usual due to weather conditions, we were able to identify 25 individuals in total - 15 in shelter and 10 who were known to be on the streets, - staying in tents, in the hospital or staying elsewhere for that night. The Point in Time count only captures what we know to be true for that one night only. It does not accurately reflect the total number of homeless in the Plymouth area.

Grants/Fundraising

Fortunately, we were able to hold our annual golf tournament. We had 124 golfers, the most ever, participate and we raised almost \$25,300 through golf fees, sponsorships and live auction.

Donations continued to come in through institutions, grants, and individuals.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Since 2005, the Taskforce has been collaborating with FBMS on an informal basis. Areas of collaboration included the identification homeless individuals to qualify for subsidized housing, and the providing of support for our Overnights of Hospitality in the form of 1.5 paid staff people. The Taskforce continues to provide paid support of a part time outreach worker, employed by FBMS.

Goals for 2023

- Expand board membership to include people who have skills in fundraising, communications, grant writing, advocacy and who have connections to community resources.
- Continue to explore property for purchase.

Thank You

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:

- Alan Schwartz for overseeing our finances and for chaperoning above and beyond
- Jack Ryan for serving as Property Manager of the Next Step Houses
- Robyn Whittles for serving as Clerk
- Barbara Wojtkiewicz, for supporting the Overnights in many ways, and co-organizing the golf tournament
- Mike Byrnes for assisting with the golf tournament and for chaperoning
- Bob Hughes for helping with lunches

I would like to thank all of our donors , both large and small, some of whom are committed to donating annually.

Finally, the success of the Overnight program was due to the many, many other people who volunteered their time to chaperone, to prepare a meal, or to assist in any other way.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Melahoures
President