



The Hope Center, located at 32 Bells Hill Road in Stafford, was opened in the late summer of 2010. The Hope Center is located on a residential street two blocks from the Stafford Health Department, Stafford Department of Social Services, and SERVE.

For many in Virginia, keeping food on the table and clothes on the kids is difficult. Many people in Stafford and the surrounding areas are unemployed or underemployed. Families sometimes must choose between food and medicine, electricity or shoes. The all volunteer staff at the Hope Center meets the needs of clients in a warm and caring way. The Hope Center has three main objectives:

1. Assist people with weather appropriate clothing. In the winter, the Hope Center stocks winter coats and warm clothing. In the spring and summer, the clothing closets are re-stocked with summer clothes. The clothing is free to anyone in need. In the spring of 2011, the Hope Center invited approximately 300 children who are listed as homeless by the school system to come choose free summer clothing. To date, the Hope Center has given out more than 7000 articles of clothing. Through community partnerships with individuals and business owners, all clothing is donated.



*Article continued on Page 3*

### **COC RECEIVES HUD RENEWAL FUNDING**

 On December 20, 2011, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan  awarded \$1.47 billion to renew funding to more than 7,100  local homeless programs operating across the country. This  funding will ensure that housing and service programs remain  operating in 2012, which is essential to the Obama Administration's strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness.

 Locally, three Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care  (CoC) programs were awarded \$148,855 in renewal funding.  Hope House was awarded \$57,918 to provide supportive  services for homeless women and children residing at the  transitional housing facility. Micah Ecumenical Ministries will  utilize \$31,632 to provide permanent supportive housing  assistance to end the cycle of homelessness for thirteen  chronically homeless individuals. The George Washington  Regional Commission will receive \$59,305 to administer the  regional Homeless Management Information System  (HMIS).

 All grant exhibits are available for review on the CoC's web-  site [www.fredcoc.org](http://www.fredcoc.org). HUD is expected to announce the  awards for new funding applications in early 2012. 



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## Fredericksburg COC Prepares for AHAR Submittal

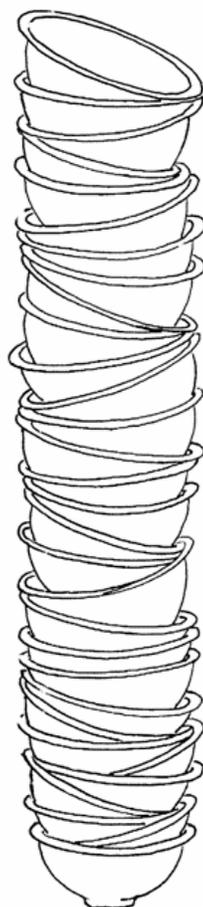
All HUD homeless program grantees are required to submit annual program reports to the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). The AHAR reports provide the latest counts of homelessness nationwide—including counts of individuals, persons in families, and special population groups such as veterans and chronically homeless people. The report also covers the types of locations where people use emergency shelter and transitional housing; where people were just before they entered a residential program; how much time they spend in shelters over the course of a year; and the size and use of the U.S inventory of residential programs for homeless people. The most recent AHAR publication is based on data collected over the period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. This full national AHAR report can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.hudhre.info/documents/5thHomelessAssessmentReport.pdf>

Due to problems with the data in the old MetSys HMIS system and its unsuccessful complete migration into the Pathways Compass HMIS, the Fredericksburg COC's submittal for inclusion in the most recent national AHAR (for the period Oct 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010) was rejected. With a full year of data for the current year (Oct 1, 2010 – Sept 30, 2011) available from the improved Pathways Compass HMIS; the COC and GWRC, as the HMIS lead agency, are hopeful to be included the next national report.

In preparing the annual AHAR data for submission, GWRC has discovered that a complete submission not only includes valid client and service history data results from the HMIS, but also getting program information (including units, bed counts, etc.) correctly stored in both the HMIS and the COC's Housing Inventory Count (HIC) maintained separately by HUD. GWRC is actively pursuing the final details to complete the electronic submittal of our COC AHAR data by the January 13, 2012 deadline.

We appreciate the cooperative efforts of all the HMIS user agencies to get all the information together for what we hope will be a successful data submission. In the next issue, we hope to report on our successful submission!

Kevin Byrnes, GWRC



# Empty Bowl

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser

Buy your **TICKETS** now!

Tickets go on SALE December 1, 2011

**\$40** - leave with an empty bowl and a full stomach.

To benefit the  
**Rappahannock Council on Domestic Violence**

**January 29, 2012**

5-7:30 pm  
Fredericksburg Elks Lodge, FR 22401

**Purchase tickets at:**

**RCDV**, 4700 Harrison Rd. Cat Rt 1 in Spotsylvania 373-9372)

**Sophia Street Studios**, 1104 Sophia St., downtown,

**Ten Thousand Villages**, 1937 Carl D. Silver Pkwy

**LibertyTown Arts Workshop**, 916 Liberty St., downtown Cold  
Fred Hardware Plumbing store)

**CALL Kathy Anderson or Tammy Appel at RCDV 373-9372 for more information.**



# THE HOPE CENTER

Article continued from Page 1

2. Help people feed their families. Feeding a family can be a challenge. Children who eat one or more meals at school may not have that available to them in the summer. With food prices rising, some families must choose between paying the bills or buying groceries. The Hope Center has partnered with the Fredericksburg Area Food Bank and the Treasure Valley Food Company (provider of the Good Faith Food Box) to help families fill in where their food budgets fall short. In 2011, the Hope Center distributed more than 13.6 tons of food to area families.



3. Education. The Hope Center has a small bank of computers with internet and printer access. Children can come in to do research and homework. People looking for work have access to online applications for employment.

The Hope Center maintains a list of available re-sources with phone numbers for low-cost or free healthcare services, dental services, and assistance with medications. Stafford Health Department, Stafford Department of Social Services, Fredericksburg Health Department, and Stafford County Schools all have information about the Hope Center they can share with their clients. Even Stafford County first responders know about the Hope Center!

The Hope Center is a ministry of Hope Chapel, and is funded by donations. This year we were privileged to be designated a Toys for Tots distributor, and we were able to give toys to 150 area children. To schedule a tour or make a donation, please visit our website at [staffordhopecenter.org](http://staffordhopecenter.org) or call (540) 720-FOOD (3663).

**the Hope Center - Bringing HOPE in a time of need**

[www.staffordhopecenter.org](http://www.staffordhopecenter.org)

(540) 720-FOOD (3663)

**WINTER CLOTHING, COATS, SWEATERS NOW AVAILABLE**  
Distributed over 11.7 TONS of food & over 6000 articles of clothing

**What We Offer** { Clothing  
Food assistance  
Computer access  
Support  
Guidance  
HOPE

**What We Need**

**URGENT!**

## 2012 POINT IN TIME COUNT

On January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012, members of the Fredericksburg Regional CoC will conduct its annual census of homeless residents located throughout Planning District 16. The PIT is an important tool in collecting good data on the number, characteristics, and service needs of individuals, families, and unaccompanied children experiencing homelessness. The resulting data is a critical component of local homeless planning and program development. Over a 36-hour period, service providers and volunteers will visit soup kitchens and outdoor locations to gather information from people who are homeless and near-homeless in Fredericksburg area. School Homeless Liaisons from the region will also coordinate with the CoC to calculate the number of school-aged homeless persons. If you would like to volunteer your time to assist with the Count, please contact Marne Sherman, Fredericksburg Community Development Planner at [mesherman@fredericksburgva.gov](mailto:mesherman@fredericksburgva.gov) or (540) 372-1179.

# ARE YOU HOMELESS?

HELP THE FREDERICKSBURG REGION UNDERSTAND YOUR  
NEEDS AND RECEIVE FUNDING FOR HOMELESS SERVICES

On Thursday, January 26th,  
check-in at one of the following locations:

**MICAH Hospitality Center**  
(10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Services)  
1013 Princess Anne Street  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

**MICAH Services Fair**  
(10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)  
Fredericksburg Baptist Church  
Farrell Hall  
1012 Caroline Street  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
*Sign up for services  
and receive other free benefits!*

**Fredericksburg Baptist Church**  
(5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)  
1012 Caroline Street  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
*Baked Potato Bar Dinner Provided*

**Thurman Brisben Center**  
(6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)  
471 Central Road  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
*Dinner provided*

**Cold Night Shelter**  
(7:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.)  
**Regardless of temperature**  
750 Kings Highway  
Stafford, VA 22405  
*Go to the Fredericksburg Baptist Church by  
6:30 p.m. for a ride to the Shelter.*



## HUD REDEFINES HOMELESSNESS

On December 5, 2011, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published its final rule outlining the new definition of homeless under the 2009 Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act. The final rule is entitled *Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Defining "Homeless"* and is available in its entirety at the following website: [http://www.hudhre.info/documents/HEARTH HomelessDefinition FinalRule.pdf](http://www.hudhre.info/documents/HEARTH%20HomelessDefinition%20FinalRule.pdf)

In summary, HUD's previous definition of homelessness remains as the first criteria, but the agency expanded the definition to recognize persons who will imminently lose their primary residence, homeless youth who are considered homeless by another federal agency, and persons fleeing domestic violence. These situations are further defined below.

(1) An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;

An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low income individuals); or

An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution;

(2) An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence provided that:

The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;

No subsequent residence has been identified; and

The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks needed to obtain other permanent housing;

(3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:

Are defined as homeless under section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a), section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832), section 41403 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2), section 330(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)), section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012), section 17(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)), or section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a);

Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of application for homeless assistance;

Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or

more during the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of applying for homeless assistance; and

Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse

# HUD REDEFINES HOMELESSNESS

Article continued from Page 5

(including neglect), the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or two or more barriers to employment, which include the lack of a high school degree or General Education Development (GED), illiteracy, low English proficiency, a history of incarceration or detention for criminal activity, and a history of unstable employment; or

(4) Any individual or family who:

Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence;

Has no other residence; and

Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing.

The Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care (CoC) will consider the changes in HUD's definition while surveying homeless persons during the upcoming 2012 Point-In-Time (PIT) effort. Since the survey will include persons not previously defined as homeless, the 2012 PIT count may reveal an increase in the number of homeless residents being counted as living in the Fredericksburg region. The CoC notes that it has been aware of the existence of the population for some time and has strived to serve their needs even though it could not previously include the need in the annual HUD report.

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## Save The Dates Save The Dates

### 2012 REGIONAL CONFERENCE TO END HOMELESSNESS

**MARCH 8, 2012 - 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.**

Old Dominion University - Webb Center, Norfolk

[www.theplanningcouncil.org](http://www.theplanningcouncil.org)

### 2012 NATIONAL COALITION FOR HOMELESS VETERANS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Theme: Halfway Home: The Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness**

**MAY 30, 2012— JUNE 1, 2012**

Washington, DC

[www.nchv.org](http://www.nchv.org)





Building all aspects of life



*Housing 1st is a coalition of area organizations representing a diverse group of interests that has come together around a common goal of advocating for affordable housing in the Fredericksburg region.*

**WHAT DOES HOUSING 1ST BELIEVE IN?**

- Housing 1st believes that housing should be adequate, available at a reasonable cost, and be close to employment centers.

**WHAT IS THE MISSION OF HOUSING 1ST?**

- Housing 1st wants to do more than just discuss the issues. The group strives to educate various audiences, including elected officials and the public, about the linkages between housing needs and many other aspects of life.

**HOW WILL THE MISSION BE ACCOMPLISHED?**

- Housing 1st will demonstrate the positive impact that quality, affordable housing has on healthcare, education, and many other vital aspects of life.
- Housing 1st will present research on the successes of other communities, host a regional summit to discuss the issues, and brainstorm ideas that may work for our region, as well as develop a resource guide for area organizations and consumers.

**SO WHAT'S OUR GOAL?**

- Housing 1st will nurture the development of strong, diverse, and healthy neighborhoods by promoting the creation of quality housing available at an affordable cost in close proximity to employment centers.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Affordable housing helps promote economic development
- Quality housing can contribute to lower crime rates
- Stable, affordable housing can lead to better educational outcomes
- Substandard housing greatly impacts health
- Virginians with the least amount of income face the largest housing burden
- Virginians spend about 40% of their income on housing
- Many area commuters spend over \$18,000 a year in transportation costs



**Member Organizations**

- Bragg Hill Family Life Center
- Central Virginia Housing Coalition
- Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care
- disAbility Resource Center
- Fredericksburg Area Association of REALTORS®
- Fredericksburg Area Builders Association
- Micah Ecumenical Ministries
- Project FAITH, Inc.
- Virginia Housing and Development Authority

**GET INVOLVED!**

*Want to become part of Housing 1st?  
Email: [kncclellan@faarmembers.com](mailto:kncclellan@faarmembers.com)  
to get on the mailing list for upcoming meetings.*



## VA-HUD: HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS DECLINES 12% IN 2011

Article courtesy of Veterans Administration

WASHINGTON – The Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development today announced that a new national report shows that homelessness among Veterans has been reduced by nearly 12 percent between January 2010 and January 2011. The 12 percent decline keeps the Obama Administration on track to meet the goal of ending Veteran homelessness in 2015.

“This new report is good news for the tens of thousands of Veterans we have helped find a home. Our progress in the fight against homelessness has been significant, but our work is not complete until no Veteran has to sleep on the street,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “We have been successful in achieving this milestone due to strong leadership from the President and hard work by countless community organizations and our federal, state, and local partners who are committed to helping Veterans and their families get back on their feet.”

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan added, “We’re absolutely headed in the right direction as we work to end homelessness amongst those who have served our nation. This significant decline tells us that the Obama Administration is on the right path, working together across agencies to target Federal resources to produce a sharp and measureable reduction in Veteran homelessness. As we put forth in the first Federal plan to prevent and end homelessness, there’s plenty of work ahead to reach our goal, but these numbers validate the work done by both HUD and VA to reach our nation’s homeless Veterans and get them into permanent housing.”

According to the 2011 supplement to the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) released today, 67,495 Veterans were homeless in the United States on a single night in January 2011 -- a significant reduction from last year’s single night count of 76,329.

Since 2009, working with over 4,000 community agencies, VA and HUD have successfully housed a total of 33,597 Veterans in permanent, supportive housing with dedicated case managers and access to high-quality VA health care. The complete 2011 Annual Homeless Assessment Report will be available in 2012.

VA also announced it will make \$100 million in grants available to community agencies across the country to prevent nearly 42,000 Veterans and their families from falling into homelessness or to quickly return them to stable housing. The funds are offered for fiscal year 2012 through VA’s Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, a homeless-prevention and rapid re-housing program.

The problems that lead to homelessness begin long before Veterans and their families are on the streets,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “By putting more resources into prevention services for those at risk of becoming homeless, we will continue to help more Veterans and their families turn their lives around.”

Last year, VA provided \$60 million through the SSVF program to community providers, which will affect nearly 22,000 people through 85 non-profit community agencies in 40 states and the District of Columbia. The program provides community organizations with funding for counseling, training, education assistance, direct time-limited financial assistance, transportation, child care, rent, utilities, and other services aimed at preventing homelessness or providing homes for participating Veterans and family members.

The available funds were announced in a message posted in the *Federal Register* and at VA’s website, [www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp). Private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives interested in the grants have until February 15, 2012 to submit completed applications.

In December 2011 and January 2012, VA will sponsor free workshops to review the grant application process. Community organizations interested in applying for funds under this program can use the website to find dates for workshops in Atlanta, Baltimore, Denver, San Francisco, and St. Louis. Community organizations seeking more information on the SSVF program can also contact VA at 1-877-737-0111 or at [SSVF@va.gov](mailto:SSVF@va.gov).

### Contacts:

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