



EMPOWERHOUSE HAS BEEN GIFTED WITH A 2ND TRANSITION HOUSE!

Article courtesy of the Free-Lance Star Newspaper

The little boy tugged gently on Kathy Anderson’s sleeve. In the middle of a party, Anderson didn’t notice at first.

The 5-year-old tugged again, and Anderson leaned down to talk with him.

“This house is everything I ever wanted,” he said.

Anderson directs Empowerhouse, an agency that helps families fleeing abusive situations. And the boy’s simple statement validated months of work raising money and renovating the house that became the agency’s first transition home.



Cathy Davis volunteers to decorate the new Empowerhouse in Fredericksburg. Because of an increasing need, Empowerhouse is opening a new transition home for families fleeing domestic violence. / Photos by Suzanne Carr Rossi.

That house gave the boy’s mother time to find permanent housing, which is often a challenge for women escaping abuse.

That transition home, opened in Fredericksburg last April, was so successful—helping 18 people in its first year—that Empowerhouse is opening a second.

Late last year, philanthropist Doris Buffett—who donated the first transition home—approached Anderson and offered a second home in the city.

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FREE WORKSHOP

*From Statistics to Story Telling: An Introduction to Census Bureau Data
Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.*

Where: The Foundation Center—Washington, D.C.
1627 K Street NW, Third Floor, Washington, DC 20006

Whether you're conducting a needs assessment, producing a community profile or program evaluation, or applying for a grant, statistics give you the ability to tell your story with more insight, credibility and creativity.

The U.S. Census Bureau is the leading source of quality, timely and relevant information about our nation’s people and economy. The Census Bureau releases statistics annually about communities for more than 69 indicators.

Space is limited. For more information, call 202-331-1400.

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Mark Doherty, co-owner of MacDoc Realty, offered to renovate the home, so that a basement suite became an efficiency. That allowed the home to accommodate two families at a time. For more than two months, Doherty led a team of volunteers who transformed the home. The agency also donated washing machines and dryers and other household items.

“They need a stable living environment to empower themselves, to get back on their feet,” Doherty said. “I’m honored to help and to be in a position to do so.”

Empowerhouse volunteers performed a variety of tasks getting the house ready for its first guests. Lori Canova oversaw the project and recruited her parents to help paint, clean and spruce up the home.

The house will give Empowerhouse clients some more time to get back on their feet; they can stay at the agency’s emergency shelter for two months. At the transition home, they can stay for six months.



Kathy Anderson, director of Empowerhouse, sits in the agency’s second transitional home in Fredericksburg.

During that time, the women will receive services to help them transition to permanent housing.

“The story is so much bigger than the housing,” said Cathy Davis, an Empowerhouse board member. “It’s coaching these women and children to overcome what’s happened in their lives.”

The transition house will also free up space in the emergency shelter. Last year, Empowerhouse turned away 56 families because they didn’t have room.

In that time, 141 women and 143 children stayed in the shelter.

“We’re finding more and more cases of domestic violence rising to the surface,” Davis said. “It’s wonderful to see the community stepping up to protect these women and children.”

If you would like to make a donation to EmpowerHouse, please call 540-373-9372 or send an email to office@empowerhouseva.org. If you would like to discuss a leadership gift or recognition opportunities, please email Kathy Anderson, Executive Director, at kathya@empowerhouseva.org.

Items needed: twin sheets, pillows, blankets, twin mattress covers, comforters, shower curtains, bath rugs, crib sheets, towels, wash cloths, hand towels and cleaning supplies.



Volunteer Denny Fallon installs decorations at the new Empowerhouse in Fredericksburg. The agency has experienced a steep increase in need for shelter in the past five years.



empowerHOUSE
SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Bags of Hope



A Hope House Benefit

March 20, 2014, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

at Courtyard Marriott

Admission: \$35

includes hors d'oeuvres and two drink tickets

Come carry on with us as we have fun and raise money for Hope House.

Our one-of-a-kind auction will include new and gently used purses, vintage handbags, celebrity clutches, luggage accessories, golf bags and more.

And our spirited wheelbarrow is not to be missed!

For tickets and information, contact Lisa Crittenden at 540-371-0831

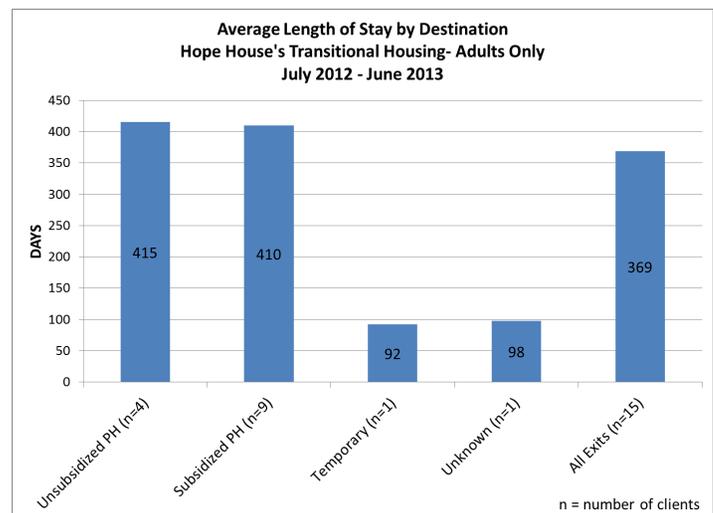
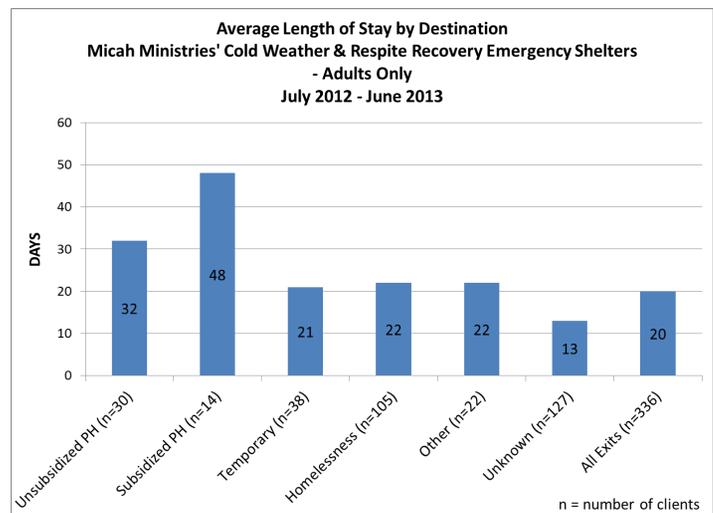
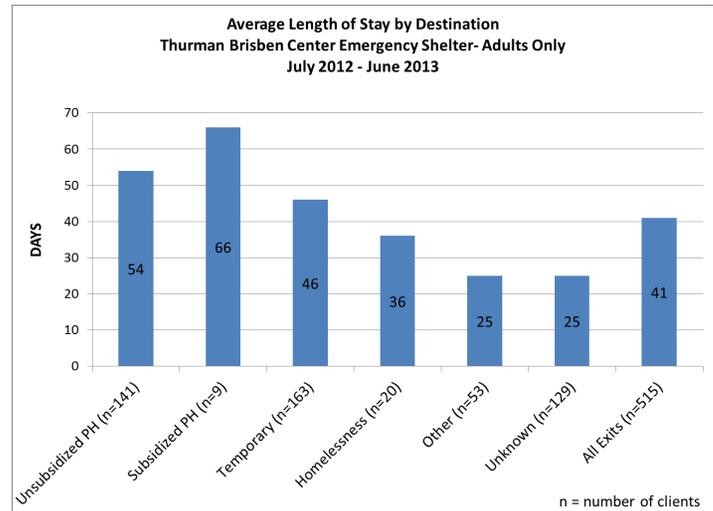
Length of Stay

Data is not only helpful to inform homeless program management, but tracking performance is now a federal funding requirement. The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act, signed into law in 2009, establishes a federal goal of ensuring that individuals and families who become homeless return to permanent housing within 30 days. “Length of Stay” in programs is one way to track homeless episodes. Every night that a household spends in a shelter means another household might be sleeping outside or in a car which likely has an emotional and/or mental cost to clients. Moving clients out of shelters and into permanent housing allows space to open up for those in need of shelter. Another length of stay consideration is the monetary cost a program may spend on a household each day. With looming budgetary constraints, the level of necessary assistance must also be considered. The Hope House agency, for example, has recently evaluated the average length of stay for Transitional Housing at its facility. As you can see in the bottom chart, the average for all exits is 369 days, around 1 year. On the other hand, the top two charts exhibit evidence that the longer the average lengths of stay, the more likely clients were to go to permanent housing. This could be because the process to set up permanent housing takes longer; those that leave shelters more quickly are transient or non-compliant with shelter rules, etc.

This data along with other data, such as where the homeless are coming from, returns to homelessness, and costs of permanent housing exits, will all be examined as part of the planning process for the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness that is currently ramping up.

If you have questions regarding this data please contact:

Jenna Evers (HMIS Coordinator)
evers@gwregion.org



| Subsidized Permanent Housing | Unsubsidized Permanent Housing | Temporary | Unknown | Homelessness | Other |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rental by Client, with Ongoing Subsidy | Rental by Client, no Ongoing Subsidy | With Family, Temporary Tenure | Don't Know | Emergency Shelter | Foster care |
| Rental by client, VASH Subsidy | With Family, Permanent Tenure | With Friends, Temporary Tenure | | Place not meant for habitation | Hospital |
| PSH for homeless persons | With Friends, Permanent Tenure | Hotel/Motel | | Transitional Housing | Jail |
| | | | | | Psychiatric facility |
| | | | | | Substance Abuse facility |
| | | | | | Other |
| (Death is not included) | | | | | |

Save The Dates Save The Dates

CSH EASTERN REGION SUPPORTIVE HOUSING CONFERENCE

March 27, 2014—March 28, 2014
Philadelphia, PA
DoubleTree by Hilton Philadelphia Center City
www.csh.org

2014 VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF HOUSING COUNSELOR'S SPRING CONFERENCE

April 28, 2014—May 1, 2014
Hampton, VA
Hampton Roads Convention Center
www.virginiahousingcounselors.org

2014 VAHCDO ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

April 29, 2014—May 1, 2014
Virginia Beach, VA
Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront
www.vahcdo.org

2014 NATIONAL COALITION FOR HOMELESS VETERANS ANNUAL CONFERENCE: BRIDGING THE GAP

May 28, 2014—May 30, 2014
Washington, DC
Grant Hyatt
www.nchv.org

2014 NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENDING HOMELESSNESS

July 29, 2014—July 31, 2014
Washington, DC
Renaissance Washington DC Hotel
www.endhomelessness.org

Habitat for Humanity

Ride in our Ride VA 2014 Poker Run:

Ride in our 7th annual Ride Virginia Poker Run on 4/26/14 – Rain or Shine. Start/Stop point will be at Quaker Steak & Lube, 1300 Central Park Blvd., Fredericksburg, VA 22401. All bikes welcome. Ride through areas of historic Fredericksburg, Stafford, Spotsylvania and King George, and visit the newest Habitat Build Site. On 4/26/14, registration will start at 9:00 am with last bike in by 1:30 pm for poker hand to be counted and prizes awarded starting at 2:00 pm. Guided rides begin at 9:30am. 50/50 raffle for \$5/ticket. Registration fee: \$25 for rider and \$20 for playing passenger; fee includes event T-shirt, Ride patch or bar for returning riders, meal ticket from [Quaker Steak & Lube](http://www.quakersteakandlube.com) and “goodie bag.” We look forward to seeing you there!

[Pre-Register](#) by 4/24/2014 to guarantee shirt, patch, and meal ticket

Register at Quaker Steak and Lube beginning at 9am.

Opportunities to support the Poker Run:

1. Sponsor: All sponsors will be included on our web site (with a link to your web site) and published in our on-line newsletter

- Platinum: \$1,000 – includes large logo on back of event T-shirt, two free ride entries and acknowledgement on the event flyer
- Gold: \$300 – includes large logo on back of event T-shirt
- Silver: \$150 – includes small logo on back of event T-shirt
- Bronze: \$50 – includes name listed on back of event T-shirt

2. Prizes: Donate a gift certificate or product that you sell in your business

If your business would like to sponsor the 2014 Poker Run email us at volunteer@fredhab.org for more information.



FREE Tax Preparation and Assistance Available This Tax Season



LET RAPPAHANNOCK UNITED WAY HELP YOU FILE YOUR TAXES FOR FREE!

If you worked in 2013 and your household income **was less than \$58,000**, you are eligible for free tax services and may be eligible to claim and receive the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) of up to **\$6,044**.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING

- **Income Forms** (W2's, 1099s)
- **Photo ID** (for each person filing)
- **Social Security Card** (for each person filing and all dependents)

LIVE UNITED



Rappahannock United Way

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THREE OPTIONS

- **FREE Full-Service Tax Preparation** – Provided by IRS certified volunteers at multiple locations.*
- **FREE Tax Filing Assistance** – File your own tax return with the support and guidance of trained volunteer tax coaches. *
- **FREE Tax Filing Online** – File your taxes online through www.myfreetaxes.com/fredericksburg It's simple, fast and secure. Let the online software do the math and thinking for you.*

*Income eligibility can vary - please call for details.

See the reverse side to see map of free tax service locations throughout the City of Fredericksburg and counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford.

Visit www.RUWFreeTaxes.org
for tax site locations and schedule
or call **(540) 373-0041 Ext. 300**