



# Thurman Brisben

*The House that Love Built*

## THURMAN BRISBEN HOMELESS SHELTER HIRES A NEW DIRECTOR



The Thurman Brisben Center Executive Board of Directors has selected Roger Trott for the Executive Director position of the Center. Mr. Trott fills a vacancy left when the former Executive Director, Bunny Melzer, retired.

Mr. Trott has an extensive management background in both the government and non-profit arena. He is a retired FBI supervisory special agent where he gained broad experience in leading the FBI's New Agent Training program and new initiatives which included establishing an experimental criminal task force and a new organized crime program.

More recently, Mr. Trott served as the Executive Director of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI, Inc., and their foundation, as well as the Executive Director of the FBI National Academy Associates, Inc. In his spare time, Mr. Trott has been involved with Fredericksburg area non-profits and community organizations, is a member of the American Society of Association Executives, and serves on the board of directors of the Justice Federal Credit Union.

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**SAVE THE DATE**  
**May 6, 2014**

**12:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.**

**The Community Give** is a 24-hour day of giving on Tuesday **May 6, 2014** from 12:00 a.m. until midnight. It is a day when everyone is asked to make a donation and show support for local nonprofit organizations that positively impact our lives every day. Whatever your passion: health and human services, arts and culture, children and families, education, animals, parks and recreation, historic restoration, and more - *this is your time for your gift to do the most good!*

This community-wide giving challenge will: Raise awareness of the current philanthropic needs and opportunities in our community. Build and strengthen relationships among local nonprofit organizations and caring citizens. Increase the capacity of local nonprofits to engage constituents and generate revenue. Inspire donors of all kinds to support the causes that mean the most to them.

For more information, visit [www.thecommunitygive.org](http://www.thecommunitygive.org).

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## *A Tribute to our Colleague and Friend, Ellyn Hartzler*



*Ellyn Hartzler has worked tirelessly for more than three decades as a homelessness prevention advocate fighting to end homelessness in the Fredericksburg region.*

*Highlights from her career include: obtaining three degrees: AA in Business Administration; BS in Business Administration; MA in Counseling Psychology. She was the founder, director and teacher at the Wholistic Resource Center. She worked as a staff psychologist at a training school for persons with severe mental and physical handicaps. She worked at Community Services*

*Board as a mental health therapist. She served as the Executive Director of the Thurman Brisben Homeless Shelter for five years. She worked at S.E.R.V.E. as a housing counselor for one year and worked as a homebuilder at RACSB for one year. Since 1999, Ellyn has been employed at Rappahannock Legal Services as a homelessness prevention paralegal.*

*In her current role at RLS, she gives monthly presentations at the Thurman Brisben Shelter on tenants' rights and remains available from 9 AM to 9 PM, 7 days a week, in order for homeless clients to have maximum access to her expertise and referral services. During her tenure with RLS, she has been involved with the annual update of the RLS Housing Guide, which provides a reference for tenants' legal rights and a comprehensive guide to local affordable housing options. She has been distributing that Guide in her monthly talks at the Shelter for so long that residents of the shelter, years later, call her and refer to dog-eared copies they still have as "Ms. Ellyn's Bible". She proudly accepts the title RLS has given her as RLS's "Oldest Paralegal".*

*Ellyn was instrumental in organizing the Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care. Ellyn's positive attitude and spirit of willingness to work with all of the agencies involved in the CoC are a testament to her unmatched perseverance and personal integrity.*

*Thanks for your hard work Ellyn, for your many contributions, for your unwavering dedication, and for your friendship. You will be missed.*

*Farewell Friend*



## HOPE HOUSE

*Keeping*  
**HOPE**  
*Alive*

Meet Glenda. She could be your neighbor. Nice house, stable family, everything seemingly going well – until her divorce.

Then, everything fell apart. Glenda was unable to find affordable housing for her and her four children. No help came from her extended family, and she could not longer count on the one person upon whom she always had depended: her ex-husband. She felt alone and disconnected, with nowhere to turn.

Enter Hope House.

For 26 years in the Fredericksburg community, this nonprofit has been a beacon of light for women like Glenda. Hope House fills a niche and meets a need: It takes homeless and hopeless women and children off the streets and puts them back on their feet. It provides not only shelter and support, it teaches women to live independently by helping them land jobs, learn about budgeting, and lean on others for emotional well being.

When her family of five was referred to Hope House, Glenda was making progress toward her EMS certification. She took on a part-time job while completing the certification. Then, she enrolled as a full-time student at Germanna Community College. In addition, with guidance from Hope House, Glenda began to aggressively pay off her debt and save for the future. Eventually, Hope House helped her find and move into a place of her own.

Glenda is a success story. Such stories abound at Hope House, because the goal is to teach women the skills to keep dire circumstances at bay. Women and their children can stay at Hope House for up to two years.

For most of its quarter century of existence, Hope House has relied on generous public funding for what is traditionally referred to as transitional housing. Because the latest trend is to get the homeless population into their own housing as rapidly as possible, public dollars are no longer going to longer-term programs like Hope House.

That's why Hope House needs community support now more than ever. We **know** our program works. By taking the time to fully get back on their feet and learn essential life skills, our women do not return. They flourish.

Glenda exemplifies a Hope House graduate. She now has completed all the prerequisites for her RN degree at Germanna Community College, works full time to support her family, and has paid the final note on the family van. She also makes sure her children are involved in extra-curricular activities and that they receive additional help with school work as needed.

Although this single parent of four continues to struggle, Hope House provided the safety net Glenda needed at a critical time in her life. She appears to have weathered the worst of the storm, and she has come out stronger than she was before.

Similarly, Hope House perseveres – even flourishes -- despite setbacks and funding cuts. Aware of its significance, the community rallies around Hope House, and supports its fundraising activities, especially its signature event, Trees of Hope, held annually in November as a herald to the holiday season. Membership in the Chamber has reinforced Hope House's community connections and galvanized support from area residents.

# S.E.R.V.E. S.E.R.V.E.

# Thurman Brisben

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Regretfully, S.E.R.V.E must make a change to their service area. As of July 1, 2014, S.E.R.V.E will be providing services for STAFFORD COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY. This is due to the fact that Stafford County is the only city or county to provide support through S.E.R.V.E for emergency needs. For many years S.E.R.V.E has managed to provide for those throughout Planning District 16, however, this is no longer financially possible. Clients will be given a resource list for services in their own county or the City of Fredericksburg. NOTE: Senior Citizen (age 60 or over) and/or "Food For Life" recipients are exempt from this policy change. Nothing will change in our services to those clients.

## FOR THE LOVE OF LIFE

The first annual KARLA HENDRIX SPRINT TRIATHLON AND GOLF TOURNAMENT is an event where everyone can find a place to participate and benefit three very worthy causes.

The event is in honor of Karla Hendrix, who has MS, to celebrate LIFE. It will be a day of friendly triathlon and golf competition, music, a Health and Wellness fair, vendors, and food (healthy, of course). Proceeds will support the NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY, WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT AND S.E.R.V.E. - STAFFORD EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY.

JUNE 7, 2014

## CURTIS PARK AND THE GAUNTLET GOLF CLUB

Visit the website at: [www.staffordtriathlon.org](http://www.staffordtriathlon.org) and for more information email Myklind Messinger, Chairman and Race Coordinator at: [forloveof-life@live.com](mailto:forloveof-life@live.com).

For more information about S.E.R.V.E., please call 540-288-9603.

According to Thurman Brisben Center President, Christen Gallik, "Roger's extensive experience combined with his commitment and dedication to our community, particularly the homeless, will be a great asset to the Center and those we serve".

Roger resides in Stafford County with his wife and will begin his work with the Thurman Brisben Center on May 5, 2014.



The Thurman Brisben Center is a full service residential emergency homeless shelter in Virginia's Planning District 16, which includes the City of Fredericksburg and the counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford. Our Center offers homeless individuals and families an on-site safe and structured program to help them achieve and maintain self-sufficiency and independence. We provide those experiencing homelessness in our community the hope and tools necessary to break the cycle of homelessness and do wonderful things with their lives.



## 2014 PIT SUMMARY

On January 30 and 31, 2014 members of the Fredericksburg Regional CoC conducted its local PIT count of the homeless population. Over a 36-hour period, service providers and volunteers visited soup kitchens and outdoor locations to gather information from people who are homeless and near-homeless in the Fredericksburg area. McKinney-Vento homeless liaisons from the region's School Districts also coordinated with the CoC to calculate the number of homeless children enrolled in schools.

Over 227 individual survey questionnaires were completed. After a review of the surveys and removal of duplicates and those completed by non-homeless persons, 163 unique surveys were available to evaluate homeless adults living in Planning District 16 (PD16), which includes the City of Fredericksburg and the Counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford. An additional 64 surveys were completed by adults who were not homeless the night of the count, but are considered at-risk of future instances of homelessness.

In addition to counting homeless individuals and families, the survey also provides information on the needs and characteristics of the population to better provide services in the future. Engaging homeless persons to provide personal information can be challenging, but in 2014, the CoC was able to offer incentives for completing the surveys through the generosity of the community. These gifts included free FRED Bus tickets donated by FREDericksburg Regional Transit and assorted toiletries and blankets supplied by Hope House. The CoC sponsored a Services Fair offering intake and referral information from CoC agencies and other outside homeless services providers. A representative was even on hand to provide information on registering for the Affordable Care Act, and set appointments with a number of homeless participants to complete the registration process.

<b>Fredericksburg Regional CoC 2014 Point-In-Time Count Results - January 30, 2014</b>				
Persons in Households with at Least One Adult and One Child	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Number of Households	18	10	0	28
Number of Persons (Adults and Children)	52	31	0	83
Number of Persons (Under age 18)	30	21	0	51
Number of Persons (18-24)	3	1	0	4
Number of Persons (Over age 24)	19	9	0	28
<b>Persons in Households with Only Children</b>				
Persons in Households with Only Children	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Number of Households	0	0	0	0
Number of Persons (Unaccompanied Children Only)	0	0	0	0
<b>Persons in Households without Children</b>				
Persons in Households without Children	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Number of Households	88	0	30	118
Number of Persons (18-24)	6	0	3	9
Number of Persons (Over age 24)	82	0	27	109
<b>All Households/ All Persons</b>				
All Households/ All Persons	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Total Households	106	10	30	146
Total Persons	140	31	30	201
Number of Persons (Under age 18)	30	21	0	51
Number of Persons (18-24)	9	1	3	13
Number of Persons (Over age 24)	101	9	27	137

## 2014 PIT SUMMARY

Homeless Adult Subpopulations			
	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Chronically Homeless Subpopulations			
Chronically Homeless Individuals	25	17	42
Chronically Homeless Families (Total Persons in Households)*	1 (3)	(0)	1 (3)
Other Homeless Subpopulations	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Veterans	10	8	18
Severely Mentally Ill	35	16	51
Chronic Substance Abuse	19	4	23
Persons with HIV/AIDS	1	1	2
Victims of Domestic Abuse	19	1	20
Unaccompanied Children (Under 18)	0	0	0

## Funding Opportunities

The U.S. Department of Labor is accepting applications for "[Stand Down](#)" grants that will provide an estimated 10,000 homeless veterans with opportunities to reintegrate into society. The grants are being awarded under the department's Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program.

[Wells Fargo Homeownership](#) grant program to help local nonprofit housing organizations create sustainable homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate-income people.

The Surdna Foundation offers funding to nonprofit organizations that seek to help communities build wealth in a sustainable manner. Letters of Inquiry are accepted year around. For more information, click [here](#).

Kresge Foundation is accepting applications for funding for its [Advancing the Effectiveness and Resilience of Multi-Service Organizations](#) grant program.

Kresge Foundation is accepting applications for funding for its [Healthy Environments](#) grant program.

The [Coca Cola Foundation](#) offers grants to support programs that focus on: water stewardship; healthy and active lifestyles that lead to physical activity and nutritional education programs; community recycling; and education.

The [Macy's Foundation](#) provides grants to organizations that are focused on women's issues.

*Life may not always be fair, but housing opportunities must be!*



# FAIR HOUSING SEMINAR

**June 5, 2014**

9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Central Rappahannock Regional Library Headquarters  
1201 Caroline Street (Theatre)

Please attend a **FREE** informative and interactive seminar covering the following fair housing topics:

The History of the Virginia Fair Housing Law

The Exemptions in the Law

What Is A Protected Class?

Race, Color, Familial Status, Sex, National Origin, Religion, Elderliness

Fair Housing For Persons With Disabilities Unlawful Discriminatory Housing Practices Restrictive Covenants and Group Homes

Fair Housing and Housing Providers

Other Regulated (Housing Related) Transactions

Sexual Harassment, Domestic Violence Disparate Impact in Fair Housing

Examples of Actual Fair Housing Cases Question and Answer Session

Conclusion and Certificates of Completion

(Participants must be present in order to receive the certificate.)

## WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM THIS CLASS?

Developers – Builders – Architects – Engineers – Real Estate Agents & Brokers  
Leasing Agents – Landlords – Mortgage Companies – Insurance Companies – Appraisers  
Manufactured Housing Providers – Homeowners' Associations – Housing Grant Recipients  
Counselors – Case Managers – General Public

**Individuals who complete the class are eligible for Fair Housing Professional Certification or Real Estate continuing education/post-licensure credit requirements.**

**Please contact Kevin Koziol at [kkoziol@cildrc.org](mailto:kkoziol@cildrc.org) or call 540-373-2559 to pre-register by May 23, 2014**

This event is presented through coordination of: City of Fredericksburg, disAbility Resource Center, Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care and Virginia Fair Housing Office (DPOR).



# COMMUNITY FORUM

## Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care's 10-Year Strategic Plan to End Homelessness

**May 12, 2014**

**9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Central Rappahannock Regional Library Headquarters  
1201 Caroline Street (Theatre)  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401**

The Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care is in the development phases of its 10-Year Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. Please plan to attend a Community Forum to engage with CoC members around shared strategies to combat homelessness over the next decade. Hear about how the CoC plans to approach its goals through a focus on:

### **Homeless Systems**

*Creating synergy through a systematic approach to homeless services*

### **Community Outreach**

*Partnering with the community's public systems to break destructive cycles that contribute to homelessness*

### **Housing First**

*Quickly moving individuals off of the streets, out of shelters and into housing*

### **Supportive Services**

*Re-envisioning how supportive services are offered through interagency collaboration*

### **Data Orientation**

*Collecting and analyzing data to track successes, and directing resources toward proven solutions*

**Take this opportunity to speak one-on-one with our strategic planning working groups, homeless service providers, and community leaders about how we can focus our efforts and resources to eliminate homelessness in our community.**

For details contact, Hunter Snellings at 540-372-1179, or [hasnellings@fredericksburgva.gov](mailto:hasnellings@fredericksburgva.gov)



The **Housing Communications HUB** is a free online community that connects you to an incredible resource: colleagues from across the country who share your challenges, uncertainties and successes in communicating about affordable housing.

Whether you work at the **local, state or national level**, as long as you're interested in communicating effectively about affordable housing, the HUB is for you. The HUB allows you to **download resources** that will help you plan and execute your communications work, as well as to **share your own successful communications work**. It also provides **discussion forums** that allow for dialogue and exchange about housing communications issues with others who are doing this work across the United States.

## ABOUT THE HOUSING COMMUNICATIONS HUB

Are you hoping to launch a housing communications campaign but aren't sure where to start? Do you want to learn what other groups have done to successfully advance housing policy initiatives? Would you like to connect with your peers in housing organizations across the country to help each other think through communicating effectively about the benefits of affordable housing?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, I encourage you to join the National Housing Conference's **Housing Communications HUB**, where housing communicators from across the U.S. connect, collaborate, and share what works to promote affordable housing in our communities.

Connect with others in our field by [creating a profile](#), identifying your interests and seeking out others who care about the same issues as you. Visit the [Discussions](#) section to ask questions and share your knowledge, or dive straight into the [Resource Library](#), where you'll find examples of successful communications tools and strategies from NHC and the Center for Housing Policy, as well as our members and partners nationwide.

Have housing communications work you're proud of? [Share it!](#) HUB users can upload tools, campaigns and other resources you've created to provide examples to others of communications techniques that work.

For more information, please visit: <http://hub.nhc.org/home>.