

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

The [Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness](#) is a collaboration among service providers, local governments, faith-based and other community groups, local businesses, the UNC-CH community and volunteers to end and prevent homelessness in Orange County. We are working together to increase access to:

Housing ❖ **Employment** ❖ **Services**

HOUSING

2011 Accomplishments:

- Five (5) disabled, homeless individuals were housed in [CASA](#) apartments and received needed services;
- Three (3) disabled, homeless individuals received Shelter Plus Care rental vouchers through the [OPC Area Program](#) and found apartments with private landlords;
- The [Inter Faith Council for Social Service](#) provided emergency shelter for 368 men and women and transitional housing for 67 women and children;
- Through [Housing for New Hope](#):
 - 263 homeless people were “outreached,” or engaged by case managers;
 - 126 mentally ill homeless people were enrolled in the PATH program; 44—including 10 families with children—were housed and 90 were referred to mental health, substance abuse and/or healthcare providers.



Housing for New Hope Outreach Nurse Marigny Manson with client

A Life Changed

“I don’t want to die outside,” my friend said as he lay on a gurney in the emergency room. I had grown accustomed to visiting him here. When I could not find him in his usual spots in downtown Chapel Hill, my first call was to the hospital. For nearly a year, we talked about him getting off the streets. We filled out applications for housing programs with waiting lists longer than his life expectancy. Everything was a long shot. I was not sure it was possible; he expected nothing.

It was about four months ago when we stood a few steps back as he unlocked the door to his apartment for the first time. He was overwhelmed; we all were. A widespread collaboration of friends, service providers and community partners brought together the housing, rental subsidy and supportive services that made this possible. His gratitude for even the most basic comforts puts things in perspective. To him, a pillow is an unnecessary luxury and, when it rains, he reminds me that just having a place to stay warm and dry is a blessing.

- Emily Clark, December 2011

100,000 HOMES

For 100,000 homeless Americans by July 2013



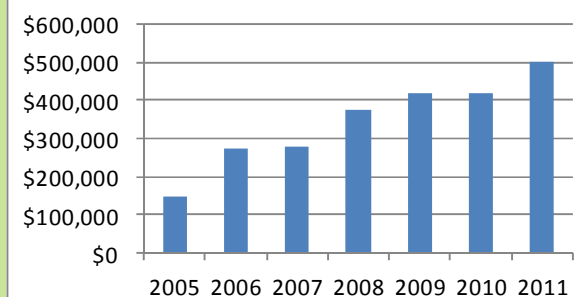
In 2011 the Partnership—including law enforcement, Emergency Management Services, Veterans Affairs, affordable housing providers, service providers & others:

- Mapped locations where homeless people sleep outdoors;
- Began lining up a supply of housing and health, mental health and substance abuse services;
- Planned “Registry Week” (January 2012) to survey the homeless in shelters and on the streets and to prioritize the most vulnerable for housing and services.

HUD Continuum of Care Grant

Orange County was awarded nearly \$500,000 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to house those who are homeless and have a disability, including a new grant awarded to the UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health for two (2) additional units.

Continuum of Care Funding



Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP)

The [Orange County Department of Social Services](#) (DSS) received a HPRP grant from HUD in 2009 for preventing homelessness and providing rapid re-housing assistance to people experiencing homelessness; high demand resulted in all funds being committed by the end of 2011.

- \$611,557 in assistance prevented 131 adults and 142 children from becoming or remaining homeless.
- The overwhelming majority of the funds (75%) was spent on rent; the remaining 25% was spent on utilities, security and utility deposits, moving costs and motel rooms.
- Two-thirds of recipients needed assistance for nine (9) months or less.

100,000 Homes Campaign

The Orange and Wake Partnerships to End Homelessness and the United Way of the Greater Triangle participated in this national initiative to provide housing and services to chronically homeless people who are likely to die on the streets.

2012 Housing Goals:

- 100,000 Homes Campaign: house eight (8) of the most medically vulnerable chronically homeless people in Orange County;
- Engage private landlords to be flexible on rental criteria and reduce rents for people at risk of homelessness.

EMPLOYMENT

2011 Accomplishments:

- Implemented the Job Partners job-readiness program for people who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness;
- Recruited nine (9) local employers to hire Job Partners graduates;
- Extensively researched social enterprises for employing the homeless;
- Developed a “Ban the Box” proposal to local governments to eliminate questions about criminal convictions from initial employment applications.

2012 Employment Goals:

- Establish a Job Partners Steering Committee to oversee the program;
- Graduate ten (10) people from the Job Partners job-readiness program;
- Recruit fifteen (15) Job Partners employers;
- Help six (6) Job Partners graduates find employment;
- Develop a feasibility study for a social enterprise to employ the homeless;
- Build community support & petition local governments to “Ban the Box.”

A Life Changed

Reggie Thomas was released from Orange Correctional Center (OCC) in December 2011 after serving a 5-year sentence. Reggie would most likely have become homeless if not for the help with housing, furnishings, food and medication he received from members of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. They also connected Reggie with the OCPEH Job Partners program where he developed an Individualized Employment Plan, took the Work Keys assessment tests through JobLink and completed a Job-Seeking Skills Workshop at Durham Technical Community College.

Reggie had a background and interest in food preparation and was hired in February 2012 at Mama Dips Restaurant in Chapel Hill. He is now preparing Mama Dip’s famous cobbler and under her tutelage is learning to make her other wonderful dishes.

Reggie says, “It was a real struggle transitioning back into society and trying to find work in this tough economy. A lot of guys end up going back to prison because they don’t have family support or the help I got from agencies, sponsors and volunteers.”



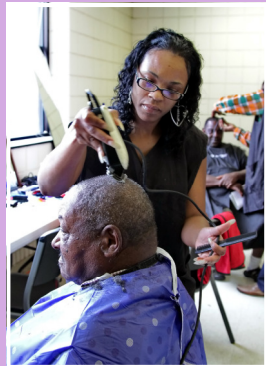
Reggie Thomas at Mama Dip’s

SERVICES

2011 Accomplishments:

Held the 5th annual [Project Connect](#):

- Over 50 service providers participated including healthcare, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, legal services, housing and employment agencies;
- 230 people experiencing or at risk of homelessness were served;
- 2,344 client contacts between guests and service providers were recorded –an average of 11 service provider visits per guest.



Photos by Laura Hendley Shmania
Photography www.ButterFlites.com

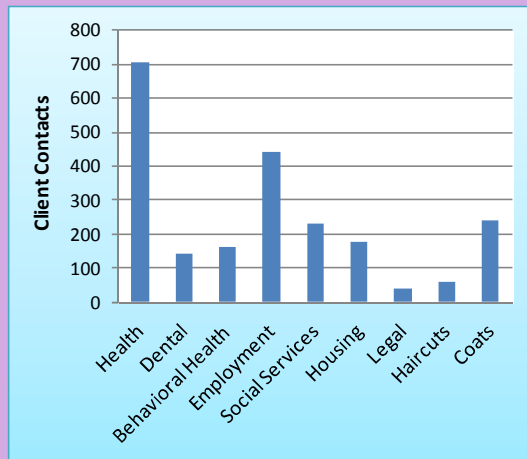


Implemented **Transition Court** at the Orange County Courthouse in Chapel Hill which allows homeless people charged with minor crimes to follow mental health and/or substance abuse treatment plans instead of going to jail. Transition Court is a collaboration among the Orange County District Attorney’s office, UNC School of Law Pro Bono Program, Legal Aid of NC—which provides these clients free legal assistance—and Freedom House Recovery Center.

Emergency Services provided by local agencies

Orange Congregations in Mission	2008	2009	2010	2011
Number of people that received food, clothing and/or financial assistance for rent, utilities or medications	6,812	7,777	7,292	8,138
Hot meals served to the homebound	7,460	6,392	5,528	5,209
Neighbor House of Hillsborough	2008	2009	2010	2011
Dinners served week nights at Fairview Baptist Church & Southern Country Inn	18,000+	18,500+	19,500+	23,000+
Orange County Dept. of Social Services	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Number of households that received emergency financial assistance (duplicated count: maximum \$200 annually per household for housing, utilities, food, gas and/or medicine)	3,969	4,963	4,926	2,773*

* The decrease from 2009-10 to 2010-11 is primarily due to changes in eligibility criteria to only serving households with children, elderly and/or disabled members and to a decrease in available funds



Featured Partner



For nearly half a century IFC has helped community members in crisis by providing shelter, food, clothing, financial assistance and a myriad of other services. IFC is an invaluable part of the safety net that catches those who are experiencing or are at risk of poverty and homelessness and is a key founder and partner of the OCPEH.

- Since 1985 IFC has operated an emergency shelter program, now called **Community House**, which has 50 permanent beds for men, a medical clinic, mental health services, job coaching, social work, community resource referrals, partner agency projects, laundry & postal services.
- The **Community Kitchen** serves breakfast, lunch and dinner 365 days a year for everyone who comes.
- **Homestart** opened in 1998 and provides emergency, short & longer-term housing & services to 50 homeless women & children at a time.
- **Community Services & Food Pantry** provides financial assistance, groceries, clothing vouchers, Hispanic outreach & information about community resources.

Inter-Faith Council for Social Services	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Meals served at Community House and HomeStart shelters	87,553	91,899	87,288	78,566
Bags of groceries distributed at Community Services food pantry	11,507	14,201	15,701	17,278
Households that received emergency financial assistance for rent and utilities at Community Services	760	897	967	804
Adults & children sheltered at Community House (emergency shelter for men) and HomeStart (emergency shelter & transitional housing for women & children, unduplicated count)	760	683	587	504
Adults and children sheltered (cumulative number of nights people were sheltered, duplicated count)	31,852	33,508	33,781	32,722

2012 Services Goals:

- Work with service providers to increase the number of designated homeless disability benefits workers;
- Arrange for services to be provided to the homeless people housed through the 100,000 Homes Campaign;
- Continue to develop mental health/substance abuse treatment plans for the chronically homeless;
- Publish a How-to Guide for Obtaining ID;
- Publish a mental illness/substance abuse brochure and distribute to people experiencing homelessness.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

2011 Accomplishments:

- Developed the Orange County Support Circle Program after researching successful models in other communities;
Support Circles are teams of 8-10 volunteers who partner with individuals and families transitioning out of homelessness into permanent housing. Support Circles function as a support network providing their Partners assistance with everything from job searching and financial planning to goal-setting, child care, and emotional support. They empower individuals and families with the skills necessary to live independently and improve the quality of their lives.
- Held the “Summit on Support Circles for our Homeless” at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in November 2011 to educate the community about the Support Circle Program.
- Created program guidelines and forms and planned Support Circle training.
- Appointed a volunteer Support Circle Program Coordinator who will oversee the program with the assistance of the Advisory Committee.



2012 Community Participation Goals:

- Hold two (2) Support Circle trainings;
- Form at least four (4) Support Circles; the first ones in spring 2012;
- Work with Freedom House, UNC Horizons, IFC and the Orange County Department of Social Services to identify the first Support Circles Partners;
- Work with the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership to strengthen the Real Change from Spare Change program that raises money for homeless street outreach, educates the community about the issues of homelessness and encourages people not to give money to panhandlers.

Join our efforts:

- **Form a Support Circle;**
- **Help Plan Project Connect 2012;**
- **Join the Job Partners Steering Committee**
- **Help us create a social enterprise to employ the Homeless;**
- **Donate household items to a person moving into independent housing;**
- **And more...**

For more information about the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness visit: <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/housing/endinghomelessness.asp> or call Jamie Rohe, Homeless Program Coordinator, at 919-245-2496

2011 Executive Team Members:

Terry Allebaugh, Housing for New Hope (HNH)
Roger Badrock, Orange County Resident
Frank Cohen, New Goloka Hare Krishna Temple
Rowell Daniels, UNC Health Care
Hank Elkins, Pre-Release Committee, OCC
Tish Galu, St. Thomas More, Justice United
Jacquelyn Gist, Carrboro Board of Aldermen
Sally Greene, Chapel Hill Town Council
Eric Hallman, Hillsborough Board of Commissioners
Barbara Jesse-Black, PTA Thrift Shop
Aaron Nelson, CH-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce
Vanessa Neustrom, OPC Area Program
Jeff Nieman, OC Assistant District Attorney
Sylvia Novinsky, UNC-CH School of Law
Bernadette Pelissier, OC Board of Commissioners
Jamie Rohe, Homeless Program Coordinator
Mary Jean Seyda, CASA
Laurie Tucker, Inter-Faith Council for Social Service
Briggs Wesche, A Southern Season
Michael Wood, Community Empowerment Fund