



Brick By Brick

The Haven Newsletter

Goals From The Director's Desk

Emily Lowery, Executive Director

Most people that know me, know that I am a transparent person. That makes me vulnerable, and I acknowledge and recognize that – although in doing so it also lets others know that what they have gone through, what they think or do, are not so original and they are not isolated and alone. In saying that, I used to be a person that never set goals for myself. Now, it has become a part of life. I have to. I have people depending on me to keep the doors of our shelters open. I have a wonderful husband and family to care for. I also want to set the best example I can for those that are watching me as a person who has the lived experiences I do.

In looking back at the last year, The Haven identified needs such as improved privacy for case managers and intake workers to be able to best serve our people so the office area has been expanded to accommodate this need (it was designed that this could be more family rooms down the road). This project is nearing completion and dreams do come true. We collaborated this year with city officials to ensure that people experiencing homelessness were directed to services, and ordinances were passed to uphold this very important strategy to get people off the streets and connected with services. We held our first in-person fundraiser since before the pandemic (and man, that was fun!). In collaboration with Sharing House and Mayor Copelof, we had our first annual World Homeless Awareness Day. These are all great things, but to me the greatest 'thing' we did, was to provide shelter to 119 people including 35 children from last October to this one. It had gotten to a point where people were scared to come in because they were afraid of getting sick during the pandemic, and now people know that shelter is more important than anything.

We are still looking to meet a huge fundraising deficit for this year to accomplish our goals, and we need your help to do it. I urge you that if you can give above what you already do, that we will be able to meet our community needs.

Know that I see what the real world is like out there, and I have plan, but I need your help to accomplish it. WE CAN DO IT. I have faith. Thank you for all your support, prayers, and encouragement this far, now let's keep going!

FALL 2023 • VOLUME 19

This Issue:

Goals From The Director's Desk
Page 1

The Board President's Message
Welcome Our Newest Board Member
Thank you
Page 2

Guest Highlight
Ways You Can Help
Page 3

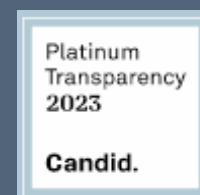
The Hard Facts About Homelessness in the United States
Page 4

Donate:
www.havenoftc.org



Contact Us:
Office: (828) 877-2040
admin@havenoftc.org
Fax: (828) 877-4407
Mailing address:
Post Office Box 25
Brevard, NC 28712

Guide Star





Board President's Message

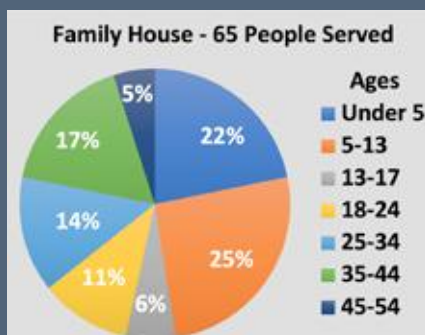
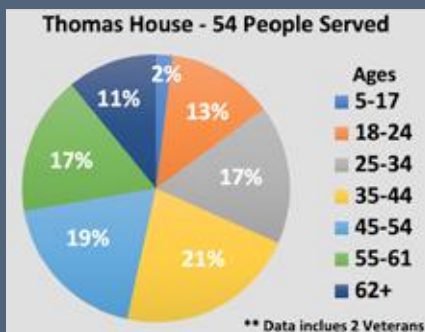
Jay Farrell

The Haven's mission – helping those who struggle to find housing in our tight economy – touches many individuals and families each year. I know my donations are well spent. The Haven has a capable, experienced, caring staff, some of whom have experienced homelessness themselves. They understand the needs of those around us who are struggling, providing much more than housing. The staff accomplishes a lot with the funds received.

I also know that my donations support people whose struggles are beyond their control. When I first encountered The Haven, I learned that many of our guests have jobs, but in our county, housing is unavailable or much too costly for their means. I've wrongly assumed that people can just work harder and get more education, and things just work out.

The Haven is a key part of Transylvania County's care infrastructure. When I donate, I consider where the guests would go without the Haven. With all the good done, would you please consider donating to the Haven? We have not only ongoing financial needs, but also volunteer opportunities. You will find, elsewhere in this newsletter, how to do so. As you enjoy plenty during the holiday season, please remember those who struggle just to get along.

October 2022 – October 2023



The Haven served 119 people experiencing homelessness. Including 35 children, 24 families, 2 veterans.

Our Thomas House serves up to 18 adults.

Our Family House serves up to 4 families or 16 people.

Welcome Our Newest Board Member

Colin Pelton, our newest Board Member came to The Haven when he moved back to Brevard. Formerly homeless, The Haven provided a warm and caring environment until he was able to get back on his feet and obtain permanent housing. After moving into his apartment, Colin felt inspired to volunteer at The Haven to give back to those who had helped him get his life back.

Thank You to Our Donors

The Haven has many faithful supporters and donors. Without the support and generosity of our community, we could not accomplish our mission. Your kindness helps us care for people that have no place to lay their head. They feel your love and compassion as you support The Haven.

We are very grateful to the many recent grants that fund day-to-day operations and programs: The Women of St. Philips, Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the Church of the Good Shepherd Cashiers

Guest Highlights

Nikki came to us after being forced out of her long-time family home. She had nothing but her car and the clothes on her back. Her young daughter, Tinley has special needs, requiring constant care and she was afraid they would be sleeping in her car. With Tinley on a feeding tube, feedings are necessary throughout the night, Nikki didn't know what she was going to do.

She was at the hospital with her daughter, who was having surgery. Once she recovered and was ready for release from the hospital, they had nowhere to go. Her only income was her daughter's disability, and she knew she couldn't afford a hotel, even for a night! It was late June, it was hot, and she was facing the glaring possibility that she would be wandering around trying to find a place to park her car to sleep for the night. She called the shelter looking for a place to stay. Her call was taken, and you could hear the panic in her voice. All she wanted was a safe haven for her and her daughter.

Thankfully we had an opening coming up in our Family House, and we were able to schedule an intake for her immediately after her hospital release. She was able to stay in the shelter while caring for her daughter's health condition, where both were safe and sound while waiting for an apartment.

The big day came for Nikki in September. She moved into her very own apartment – something she had never had – and just in time to celebrate her daughter's 4th birthday in their own place! Nikki and Tinley were both excited to tears!



Calling All Volunteers!

We are working to bring back volunteers to help out in a hands-on way.

Ways you can help:

Evenings from 4 pm – 8 pm.

Volunteers help by answering the phone, fulfilling individual needs of guests and overseeing guest check-in.

Sundays from 12 pm – 4 pm.

Volunteers assist with individual guest needs, answer phones.

Administrative – Answer phones, greet guests, watch cameras

Gardening – Volunteer to help tend to our garden with our guests.

Painting – Opportunities to paint rooms and spaces.

Cooking – Come and teach/share a meal.

Provide Weekend Food – On the weekends when the Bread of Life is closed, church groups, civic groups, and friends put together meals for The Haven Thomas House.

Landscaping – Help keep the facility beautiful by weeding, trimming, and maintaining flower beds.

Items always needed:

- he laundry detergent unscented
- ZipLoc brand freezer bags – quart and pint
- Two-ply toilet paper
- Bounty select-a-size paper towels
- Lysol disinfectant spray – crisp linen scent
- 33 gallon commercial trash bags
- Disinfecting wipes

If you would like further information on volunteering, please call the shelter at 828-877-2040 or email the shelter at: emily@havenoftc.org

You can also download a copy of our volunteer application on our website.

Our Board

Jay Farrell – President

Dick Benson –
Vice President

Nancy Watts – Secretary

Ruth Falck – Treasurer

Jill Beach

Susan Brorein

Desmond Duncker

Tyree Griffin

Elly Leidner

Colin Pelton

Craig Zimring

Richard Zollinger

Our board members come from very diverse backgrounds including past lived experience.

The Hard Facts About Homelessness in the United States

Jill Beach, Board Member

Homelessness has been steadily rising since 2017, experiencing an overall increase of 6%. In 2022, unsheltered rates trended upwards as well, affecting most racial, ethnic, and gender subgroups. Homeless services continue to expand the availability of both temporary and permanent beds, but these resources fall short of reaching everyone in need. Homelessness is primarily a function of the broader housing-unaffordability crisis exhibited by how difficult local governments have made building new housing in places that need it the most.

According to a January 2022 HUD point in time count (1), 582,462 people were experiencing homelessness across America. This amounts to roughly 18 out of every 10,000 people. Counts reached record highs and included the chronically homeless – 22% (people with disabilities who have experienced long-term or repeated homelessness), people living in families with children (28%), veterans 5% (distinguished due to their service to the country), and 5% were unaccompanied youth under 25 (considered vulnerable due to their age). On any given night, the homeless services system provides shelter for approximately 350,000 people. Despite these efforts, 40% of people experiencing homelessness continue to live unsheltered, which means their primary nighttime residence is a place not suitable for human habitation (city sidewalk, vehicle, abandoned building, park, etc.). The unsheltered population has grown yearly since 2015, amounting to a 35% increase over the seven-year span. Significantly, living unsheltered impacts a person's health and safety.

Before the pandemic, the nationwide poverty rate decreased for five consecutive years, but in 2021 when nearly 41.4 million people, or 12.8% of the U.S. population, were counted in this group. People living in poverty struggle to afford necessities such as housing, food, and medical care.

1) Data for this article was Collected from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Report using HUD's 2022 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count data, as well as Housing Inventory Count data.

