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Sharing Shelter Statistics

The Haven has served 400 residents since it opened in 2011, including 33 families before we opened the Haven Family House.

The average stay at The Haven is 44 days. There is a capacity for 18 residents comprised of men, women, and unaccompanied youth.

The percentage of residents that have obtained permanent housing is 36%, 70% of which are permanently housed.

The Haven Family House has served 26 families with a total of 95 people served since opening in June 2014. Current resident count is 15 with a capacity of 16.

The average stay in the Haven Family House is 137 days.

SAVE THE DATE!

Hoedown for The Haven
August 27, 2016
NEW VENUE -
Brevard Lumberyard!

Haven has an Assistant Director Meet Mark Fields

Mark is a North Carolina native, recently returned to the mountains of his birth after too long in the lowlands. He has always felt great passion and empathy towards others. These feelings turned to interest in career in a service oriented field, which was further reinforced through volunteer work at Warren Wilson College, study of the social sciences, and a summer internship at CooperRiis Healing Community in Mill Spring, NC. After graduating from Warren Wilson, Mark had a busy decade which included teaching in China, working in the mental health field, a brief stint working in politics, traveling, struggling, and generally gaining life experience. Then Mark settled down and started a family.

In part inspired by his desire to set a positive example for his son, Mark decided to leave his most recent career in sales and distribution after several years to return to his early passion for a career in helping others. Mark graduated from Wake Forest University with a Masters of Arts in



Clinical Mental Health Counseling before relocating with his wife and son to Brevard, NC. As they intend to make Brevard their permanent home, Mark hopes he may use the skills and knowledge he has gained through his education and diverse life experience to help The Haven make a positive impact on the community he now calls home. Mark knows The Haven is not just here to provide a bed, but also to provide dignity, respect, and support to our neighbors in need.

He will be working directly with the residents 4pm - 8 pm at both shelters, Monday - Thursday.

He's a great addition to staff!

President's Corner

Change. It's a word that evokes trepidation in some ("No! Don't change that! It's perfectly fine the way it is!"). For others change may be welcomed ("Yes! That needs to be redone."). Sometimes the need for change simply hits us in the face. This happened when The Haven was confronted with a number of families – parents with children, Infants crawling on the floor, older ones trying to do homework, a baby crying in the night – those situations just didn't work in the shelter set up for 16-18 adults. Hence, the change – the establishment of The Family House. Now staff had twice the number of residents to oversee as well as a second structure to maintain. Change was needed: another person to help ease the workload of our staff. So, we hired Mark Fields to be our Assistant Director, working evenings Monday - Thursday.

If you have ever met with our Director, Jennifer, in her office, you know this space closely resembles a walk-in closet. Only one person can join Jennifer

*To improve
is to change;
To be perfect is to
CHANGE OFTEN*
-Winston Churchill

for any business. To address the need for space, two small rooms at the rear of the Family House have been converted into offices for the Director and Assistant Director. The "old" office will serve to store sheets and towels and a small meeting area.

Our website address was compromised– thus another change. Our new web address

is HavenOfTc.org. Staff emails are: Jennifer@HavenofTC.org
Mark@HavenofTC.org
Emily@HavenofTC.org
Kai@HavenofTC.org

One thing that has not changed is our need for volunteers willing to work the night shift (8pm to 8am). As I've said many times, this is one situation in which you can sleep on the job! Two volunteers can be provided with cots and bed linens. Should you be reluctant to make this change in your life, I should tell you I am an established (meaning well into Medicare age) senior citizen who does this alone. Try it first with an experienced night volunteer, then decide if it's something you would be willing to do once a month. Anyone agreeing to explore this should simply call The Haven at 828.877.2040. Your involvement will help alleviate the need to schedule other volunteers for more than one night a month.

2016 Goal for The Haven

The Haven purchased and renovated the Haven Family House in 2014 after realizing the increasing needs of homeless families in Transylvania County. Families needed a place they could stay for an extended period of time, and where they could stay in during the day when children are sick or not in school. That need was met with the opening of the Family House.

Now there is a need to buy or build a facility for unaccompanied youth in Transylvania County. During the current school year there were over 125 homeless children, over 40 of them are unaccompanied youth. In many cases this is the result of multi-generational poverty, substance abuse, or abandonment.

Therefore our goal is to pay off the \$90,000 mortgage on the Family House in order to buy or build a facility for youth. We are currently working with the school system and other Agencies that work with these youth to design a program and to determine what type of facility is needed. If you would like to contribute please call 828-877-2040 or mail your donation to PO Box 25, Brevard NC 28712.

Improving The Haven -

Daytime Office Moving

At the time of writing, our work moving the daytime office to the Haven Family House is all but complete. This move was approved by the Board of Directors both to better serve the Haven Family House residents and to offer staff more working space. We hope the increased space will give us more "elbow room" and provide a better environment for meeting with residents and our partners in the community.

The theme of this newsletter seems to be change. Being able to recognize when and what changes must take place is essential to the ongoing success of The Haven. As our residents must make positive changes to move forward in their lives, so must The Haven always strive to improve.

The Haven staff, now larger by one, hope to be able to work more closely with residents of the Haven Family House while remaining equally dedicated to the needs of our Emergency Shelter residents. Families have a unique set of



challenges when faced with homelessness. Being in a new environment and worrying about an uncertain future is particularly hard for children. The Haven staff and Board of Directors hope the relocation of the office may allow us to offer more structured services to improve the experiences of our Haven Family House residents.

Phone numbers will remain the same and availability to the community the same, just a new and improved office and structure for the Haven Family House.



Volunteer Meeting Coming Soon!

Save the date!

June 18, 2016, spend an hour or so of your time to refresh your volunteer expertise. This will be an interactive session with other volunteers discussing guidelines and boundaries of your service to The Haven and its residents.

Resident Success!

There are many challenges in working with persons who are in a housing crisis. How did this individual get here? How can we help this person get on the right track? Each success story is unique, and we strive to help our residents each follow his or her own path to success.

"Alex" is a resident who found that path. Alex came to the Haven after completing rehab, feeling that all had been lost. After coming to the Haven, Alex began making positive changes in his life.

With the help of our staff and our partners in the community, Alex began developing new life skills, focusing on personal wellness, and facing both internal and external challenges.

Although Alex's generosity had sometimes been a weakness in the past, we all recognized it as part of Alex's gift for connecting with and helping others. When a job with an organization dedicated to aiding those in need came open it seemed a perfect fit... and he got the job!

With a new job, haircut, and new clothes from our partners in the community, Alex was feeling like a new person! After working the new job for a little while, Alex was next on the waitlist for housing. With deposits paid using ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) funds courtesy of the Transylvania County homeless Coalition, Alex is now living independently. We are now grateful to you, Alex, for giving back to the Haven as one of our dedicated volunteers!

From Eyes of a Volunteer

I started volunteering in January 2012. I had just lost my job and really needed to fill my time with something good, as they say, "idle time is the devil's playground" in my Book.

When my folks found out I would be volunteering in a homeless shelter, they were against it. They had a certain stigma about the homeless. What they forgot is that their own daughter had been homeless. The perception of what they thought the homeless looked like, acted like, and lived like actually sat right in front of their faces. I am a typical homeless person that The Haven would serve. I held prestigious positions; I had children; I was well groomed; I brushed my teeth; I didn't dress in dingy clothes or have bad breath.

One of the most meaningful moments working with Jennifer, the Director, was in a church. She asked the congregation to look to the person to

their left and look to their right. Jen had strategically placed several of the homeless from The Haven in the audience. She asked if they could pick out the homeless sitting around them. Needless to say, there were some embarrassing accusations!

As I see folks come through the program at The Haven, **I see change**. Some of our folks come in and they do have dingy clothes, but that changes. I see folks come in that do not brush their teeth, but that changes. I see children that come in without shoes, but that changes. I see folks come in without teeth, but that changes. One thing that changed for me, was striving to be the professional on the other side of the desk rather than the person sleeping in bed 14. Although, I never actually stayed at The Haven, I have often wished it had been here when I was in my situation. Actually, I am not sure that I was ready for the structure and accountability that The Haven requires. I am so grateful it is here today and get to witness the transformation that takes place daily.

From my time volunteering, I was soon offered a job by the Board of Directors and have been here since. My name is Emily, your Administrative Assistant at The Haven.

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The Haven of Transylvania County, PO Box 25, Brevard, NC 28712

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